

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Pres. Bodish. In attendance were Burker, Eisenhower, Luckenbach, Molitoris, Royer and Sodl. Solicitor Preston was also present. Mayor Bundra was absent. Pres. Bodish led pledge of allegiance.

Minutes from special meeting of December 14, 2015 and reorganization meeting of January 4, 2016 were approved as presented to council by secretary – carried.

Committee appointments for 96th Council were assigned by Pres. Bodish: Finance & Administration – Eisenhower chair with Bodish & Sodl; Emergency Services – Sodl chair with Luckenbach & Eisenhower; Public Buildings – Royer chair with Luckenbach & Molitoris; Parks & Recreation – Burker chair with Molitoris & Luckenbach; and Public Works – Bodish chair with Royer & Sodl. Liaisons – Eisenhower for Library and Kilns; Sodl for school district and alternate for intergovernmental; Royer for CWSA, Intergovernmental and alternate for school district; Bodish for Recycling coordinator. PSAB delegates are Bodish with Royer as alternate. Safety committee representatives and liaison positions are currently held by Mayor Bundra and will be discussed at February workshop meeting.

Hearing of persons present:

Jenna Fliszar, 35 E. Elizabeth Ave., Bethlehem, representing Mr. Newhart, owner of Sugar the cat, copy of letter provided to council members that was submitted to Northampton County DA Morganelli and led to the opening of an investigation. Understand Coplay hired Officer Purcell pending background checks, council should not wait until investigation into animal cruelty charges is complete to retract offer of employment due to his obvious lack of good judgment, discharging a weapon in a residential area, poor reasoning and poor decision making skills. Many comments and petition by many concerned citizens on social media at this time. Following through on the hiring process shows you, as Coplay Borough Council members, do not care about your residents.

Tom Newhart, 733 Hunter St., North Catasauqua, owner of Sugar the cat, commenting that he has family members who reside in Coplay. He is embarrassed as a resident of North Catasauqua that they have not done anything about this situation and does not want to see Coplay go through the same circumstance by hiring this individual.

Susan Kline, 17 South 5th St., Coplay, here in support of Sugar, requests council does not hire this officer for Coplay Police Department. She will not feel safe with this police officer. Pres. Bodish requested Solicitor Preston response. Solicitor Preston stated advising council to await results of DA investigation to take any action, at that point can agree or disagree with DA assessment of situation but should await final determination. Officer has rights as well, and if council rescinds offer of employment could result in negative consequences for the Borough.

At this time, Pres. Bodish stated will only entertain a couple more comments on this topic, preferably from Coplay residents.

Sheila Archer, 705 Main St., Northampton, moved from Allentown to Northampton for a quieter, safer community environment. It is upsetting to see the lack of judgment on the part of Officer Purcell to shoot a pet; at a loss for words. Council should not consider hiring this individual, requested members do the right thing in this instance.

Susan Sacks, 42 North 3rd St., Coplay, originally part of Coplay Feral Cat Committee which is a responsible trap/neuter/and release program. Feels Officer Purcell would not be good fit for Coplay. Requests council exercise good judgment for their constituents and do not hire this individual.

Marc Maulucci, 3327 N Hobson St., Whitehall, stated animals need a voice in this situation. Why would Officer Purcell shoot this house cat if his life was not in danger. Who is to say he would not treat a human being the same, shoot first and ask questions later. This is why I believe police officers should receive psychiatric evaluations every two years.

Anne Killeen, 32 South 4th St., Coplay, preliminary drawings for new public works building should include shower facilities, and clothes washing machine as well. Sodl and Pres. Bodish assured Ms. Killeen that these amenities have been considered and will be included in new building.

Reading of correspondence:

Jeffrey P. Deutsch, Tax Collector re: requests for Exoneration from Per Capita taxes.

Theresa Landis re: Officer Leighton Pursell.

Mayor Bundre re: resignation as Coplay Mayor effective February 2, 2016.

Mayor Bundra was absent, no report.

Solicitor Preston had no report.

Engineer, no engineer appointed at this time, no report.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:

Sodl reported gazebo installed at civic plaza site. Read Whitehall-Coplay Press article in Al Recker's "Coplay" column regarding positive police officer interaction with resident. Health report for December, 2015 read, 2 new reports with 14 ongoing and 2 resolved. Fire department requesting use of building at 1 Bridge Street for training, think of any concerns for discussion at February workshop.

Royer reported locker room for police department being worked on by public works employees, will include separate areas for men and women.

Burker reported discussion at last evening's Park & Recreation Board meeting regarding language/wording needed in Balliet Stadium lease agreement for Legion Baseball/Balliet Stadium Inc 501(c)3 organization; also Balliet Stadium Inc in discussions with Coca Cola and LV Iron Pigs for donation of new scoreboard at stadium. Burker read agreement submitted by Coca Cola to Legion for signature. Solicitor Preston stated working on wording to protect Borough in lease agreement, awaiting response from Legion commander to finalize same, also requesting copy of Coke agreement to review to protect borough. Same provided to Solicitor Preston by Burker. Sodl commented feels past should be protected and lease should ultimately be with Legion. Further discussion with Sodl, Solicitor Preston and Legion representative Larry Gutleber, in audience. Solicitor Preston, based on discussion, able to word agreement properly for both Borough, Legion and Balliet Stadium Inc. Burker invited members to attend next meeting with representatives of Coca Cola on Wed., 1/13 at 10:30 am at Balliet Stadium. At this time, Larry Gutleber from Legion Post 426 Coplay stated originally Coke had stipulations in agreement requiring a certain quota of products to be sold, etc. however were told there was no way a guarantee of the amount of product sold could be included in the agreement. Coke then came back with this agreement which does not include any quotas. Burker stated Coke agreement does state only Coke products may be sold at Balliet Stadium which would include any special events held by the Borough on that property. Both Sodl and Burker agreed that with the receipt of this amount of funds for the scoreboard, etc. Borough would be willing to fulfill that obligation. Burker added, rumors are circulating regarding the team name and the name of the stadium. Samuel Balliet Stadium name will NOT be changing. Fullerton Legion team will be incorporated into Coplay and although no final decision has been made on what the team will be called, has been guaranteed that "Coplay" will always be first in the name, i.e. Coplay-Fullerton Legion. At this time, there was discussion by Mr. Gutleber, Pres. Bodish and Sodl regarding districting by American Legion of the baseball program and what areas will be included with Coplay.

Eisenhauer reported recap of 2015 Library fundraisers and programs copy to all members for their review. Thanked board for their continued support of the Library. Sodl complimented her leadership at the Library for their success. Eisenhauer will have report on finance at February meeting.

Bodish reported this Friday will be last Christmas tree pick up and reminded residents to move vehicles in order to help plows remove snow from roadways.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Motion by Eisenhauer, second by Luckenbach to exonerate 54 from the collection of the 2015 Per Capita taxes for the reasons as indicated by Tax Collector Jeffrey P. Deutsch – carried.

Motion by Luckenbach, second by Sodl to accept resignation of Joseph J. Bundra as Coplay Mayor effective February 2, 2016 – carried.

At this time there was a discussion by members regarding advertising for the Mayor vacancy. Pres. Bodish questioned Solicitor Preston as to when vacancy must be filled. Solicitor Preston responded within 30 days from date of council accepting resignation, or 30 days from tonight. Secretary stated advertisement cannot be placed in Whitehall-Coplay Press until January 21st issue. Discussion by

members regarding when to accept letters with decision of January 21 thru February 2, 2016 at 3 pm. Sodl stated motion includes request for applicants to attend February 2nd workshop meeting to be interviewed by council in open meeting, questioned Solicitor Preston if discussion on applicants could take place in executive session. Solicitor Preston responded no, executive session cannot be held for that type of discussion. Members will still include interview information in motion and advertisement.

Motion by Sodl, second by Royer to authorize Secretary to advertise to accept letters of interest for Coplay Mayor vacancy from January 21 to February 2, 2016 at 3 pm, include in ad need for applicants to attend February 2, 2016 council workshop meeting for open interview process – carried.

Motion by Sodl, second by Luckenbach to authorize preparation of preliminary drawings/plans of new public works facility at 1 Bridge Street by DWG Designs at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00 – carried.

Prior to motion to appoint Borough Engineer, Pres. Bodish asked for any comments or questions from members. Molitoris stated reviewed all proposals, Acela Engineering provided best rates and discussed Dan Witczak with privately known Engineer who gave good recommendation. Also, Keystone Consulting Engineers Frank Clark represents neighbor, Whitehall Township which could be conflict of interest depending on situation. Pres. Bodish stated with joint project, could split costs and reduce fees, doesn't see it as conflict. Royer agreed. Sodl stated have had issues with KCE, still awaiting bid package for roof repair work from storm of June 30, 2015, seems long time to prepare a bid package. Sodl questioned Mr. Witczak in audience as to level of service he provides. Mr. Witczak responded, engineer in area over 20 years looking to get into more municipal work, thought Coplay would be a great opportunity to begin that process. Firm understands will be working for Borough Council, but will also work for Coplay residents; premium service is what they strive toward on all aspects of a project. No further questions by members.

Motion by Molitoris, second by Royer to appoint firm of Acela Engineering Co. as Coplay Borough Engineer for 2016 – carried.

Building inspector report for December, 2015 read by Secretary. 4 zoning, 26 residential building, 4 plumbing, and 7 certificate of occupancy permits issued for total amount of \$2,241.00.

Motion by Sodl, second by Luckenbach to approve police, building, fire, and health inspector reports – carried.

Motion by Eisenhauer, second by Luckenbach to accept treasurer Sandra Gynecsek's report for December, 2015 as presented to council – carried.

General Fund	\$ 109,249.63	General Fund MM	\$ 303,961.77
Garbage Fund	\$ 29,953.92	Garbage Fund MM	\$ 63,271.54
State Fund	\$ 32,982.65	Police Pension Fund	\$ 6,315.75
Street Opening Fund	\$ 103,336.72	Recreation Fund	\$ 59,375.83
Emergency Services Fund	\$25,302.34	Garbage Truck MM	\$ 90,842.17
Capital Projects Fund	\$ 0.00	Dept. Projects Account	\$ 281,103.26
Payroll	\$ 6,108.10		

Motion by Royer, second by Eisenhauer to pay all approved bills as submitted to members of council by secretary – carried.

Resolution and Ordinances: (roll call vote) None.

At this time, Sodl questioned if new committee list will be provided. Secretary Gynecsek responded will update and provide to members.

Luckenbach stated would like to have Engineer review curb and sidewalk repairs provided by BCO Helman to residents in conjunction with North/South Front Street road construction project. Further discussion included cost to involve engineer and that road repair has life of more than 20 years and need to repair curb and sidewalk that is even slightly problematic, etc. Mr. Witczak in audience suggested he familiarize himself with this project and bring findings to February workshop. Council agreed, Secretary will include on February workshop agenda for discussion.

As there was no further business, motion by Sodl, second by Molitoris to adjourn meeting until workshop meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 7 pm and regular meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 7 PM.

Attest
Borough Secretary