

The Tamaqua Borough Council held its Reorganization Meeting followed by a Regular Council Meeting on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at the Tamaqua Municipal Building, 320 East Broad Street, Tamaqua, PA.

Present were Councilmembers Thomas Cara, Brian Connely, Micah Gursky, David Mace, Justin Startzel and John Trudich Jr. Absent was Councilman R. Daniel Evans. Officials present were Mayor Christian Morrison, Borough Manager Kevin Steigerwalt, and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Georgia Depos DeWire. Absent was Solicitor Michael S. Greek.

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Christian Morrison.

Mayor Christian Morrison administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Justin Startzel.

Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge of District Court 21-3-06, administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers David Mace, Micah Gursky and John Trudich Jr.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Morrison. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Stephen J. Bayer, Magisterial District Judge. The invocation was given by Councilman Cara. The roll was called with six councilmembers present and one absent.

Mayor Morrison called for nominations for President of Council. Micah Gursky was nominated for President by Councilman Connely and seconded by Councilman Trudich. With no other nominations, the nominations for President were declared closed and Micah Gursky was elected as President of Council, and approved by a 5-1 vote with Councilman Startzel opposed.

Mayor Morrison called for nominations for Vice President of Council. Brian Connely was nominated for Vice President by Councilman Mace and seconded by Councilman Cara. With no other nominations, the nominations for Vice President were declared closed and Brian Connely was elected as Vice President by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Morrison relinquished the chair to President Gursky.

President Gursky called for nominations for President Pro Tem to preside at the meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President. John Trudich was nominated for President Pro Tem by Councilman Mace and seconded by Councilman Startzel. With no other nominations, the nominations for President Pro Tem were declared closed and Councilman Trudich was elected as President Pro Tem by a unanimous vote.

A Tamaqua Borough Council 2014 photograph was taken.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order by President Gursky.

President Gursky called for nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board. Raymond Bonetsky was nominated for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board by Councilman Cara and seconded by Councilman Mace. With no other nominations, the nominations for Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board were declared closed and Raymond Bonetsky of 652 East Broad Street was appointed as Chairman of the Tamaqua Vacancy Board by a unanimous vote.

A recommendation was made to appoint the Appointed Borough Officials to their respective positions.

The Appointed Borough Officials for 2014 are as follows:

Borough Solicitor	Michael S. Greek
Chief of Police	Richard Weaver
Borough Manager	Kevin A. Steigerwalt
Public Works Director	Robert D. Jones
Borough Secretary/Treasurer	Georgia Depos DeWire
Assistant Borough Secretary	Karen M. Davison

Assistant Borough Treasurer	Eileen Barron
Borough Engineer	Alfred Benesch & Company, Pottsville, PA
Zoning/Health/Code Enforcement Officer	Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA
Sewage Enforcement Officer	Barry Isett & Associates, Hazleton, PA
Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer	Carl Wolfe Jr., Lehighton, PA
Appointed Auditors	Maillie, Falconiero & Company, Oaks, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Berkheimer Associates, Bangor, PA
Appointed Tax Collector	Schuylkill County Tax Claim Bureau, Pottsville, PA
Fire Chief	Thomas Hartz Jr.
Emergency Management Coordinator	Robert D. Jones

There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Appointments for the Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions members, President Gursky stated that there is one vacancy on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission vacancy term expires January 1, 2016.

Under Other Appointments, a motion was made by Mace and seconded by Cara, to appoint Philip C. Houm of 414 Hazle Street to the Tamaqua Area Water Authority (TAWA). After some discussion, the motion and second was amended as follows: A recommendation was made to appoint Philip C. Houm of 414 Hazle Street to the Tamaqua Borough Authority (TBA). The TBA term is a five-year term. Council recognized Cathy Miorelli of 163 Owl Creek Road and a former Councilwoman, who asked if the borough advertised for this position and if it is a paid position. Councilman Connely stated that stipends are \$25 per month for the TBA and \$50 per month for the TAWA. Councilman Startzel asked how the borough gets people interested in the position. President Gursky explained that the borough is always accepting letters of interest and persons interested in serving should submit letters of interest. President Gursky stated that the media may also publish the vacancies. There was no one else from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Mace, seconded by Cara, and approved by a 4-3 roll call vote with Councilmembers Cara, Mace and Gursky voting in favor and Councilmembers Connely, Startzel and Trudich opposed and Mayor Morrison casting the tie-breaking vote in favor of the motion.

Under Other Appointments, Councilman Startzel asked if the TBA submitted a letter recommending any appointments. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under Other Appointments, a recommendation was made to appoint Philip C. Houm of 414 Hazle Street to the Tamaqua Area Water Authority. The TAWA term is a five-year term. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Mace, and approved by a 5-1 roll call vote with Councilman Startzel opposed.

Under Other Appointments, there was some discussion about Larry Wittig serving on the Police Pension Fund Committee. Secretary/Treasurer DeWire read a letter that was received from Larry Wittig of Wittig Certified Public Accountants of Tamaqua agreeing to serve on the Police Pension Fund Committee from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. A recommendation was made to appoint Larry Wittig to the Police Pension Fund Committee. Mayor Morrison stated that two citizens serve on the committee, one represents the borough and the other one represents the police. Mr. Wittig fills a vacancy on the Police Pension Fund Committee and he is recommended by members of the Police Department. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Cara, seconded by Startzel, and unanimously approved.

The Appointed Authorities, Boards and Commissions for 2014 are as follows:

Board of Health

Randolph Gormley, President
James Gormley, Vice President
Shirley Becker, Secretary
Earl H. Boettger

Citizens Advisory Committee

John R. Handler, Chairperson
Harry Snyder, Vice Chairperson
Thomas Starry, Secretary
Andrew Leibenguth
Benjamin Beckett
Daniel Schroeder, Community Dev. Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Historic Architectural Review Commission

Dale Freudenberger, Chairperson
Daniel Schroeder
Tammy Swinburne, Secretary
Antonio Rodrigue
Linda Yulanavage
Mark Conville, AIA, RA
Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Planning Commission

Antonio Rodrigue, Chairperson
Timothy Stahl, Vice Chairperson
David Kupchinsky
Mark Conville
Andrew Kane
Pam McCullion
Vacant
Pam McCullion, Secretary
James T. Barron, Zoning Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Tamaqua Borough Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
Richard Hadesty Sr.
Paul Fridirici, Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Jack Kulp
Philip Houm
Jeffrey P. Bowe, Solicitor
Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

Employee Pension Committee

Richard Baddick (Sewer Dept.)
Robert Jones (Office)
John Steele, Secretary (Street Dept.)
John Trudich, Councilperson
Tom Cara, Councilperson
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission

Borough of Tamaqua representatives
John Handler
Dave Mace

Board of Health (continued)

Dr. Joanne Calabrese, D.O.
Judy Hadesty R.N., Health Officer
Barry Isett & Associates, Health Enf. Officer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Civil Service Commission

Herb Curvey
Raymond Bonetsky
Kathy Kunkel
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Zoning Hearing Board

Richard Clemson, Chairperson
Frank Kane, Vice Chairperson
Christine Hartung
Alfred Hadesty
Karl Smulligan
Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer
Robert Fryklund, Solicitor

Board of Appeals

Vacant (Real Estate)
Jay Hollenbach Jr. (Plumbing & Heating)
Frank Kane (Building Supply)
Daniel Poncavage (Registered Architect)
Herman Zeller (Electrical)
Pam McCullion, Secretary
Barry Isett & Associates, Zoning Officer

Tamaqua Area Water Authority

Brian Connely, Chairperson
Jack Kulp
Pat Davison, Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Philip Houm
John Tracy, Treasurer
Jeffrey P. Bowe, Solicitor
Gannett Fleming Inc., Authority Engineer

Police Pension Fund Committee

Chris Morrison, Chairperson
E. Franklin Griffiths, Vice Chairperson
Larry Wittig
Patrolman Tom Rodgers
Patrolman Michael Hobbs
Tom Cara (Finance)
Brian Connely (Public Safety)
Kevin Steigerwalt, Borough Manager
Georgia DeWire, Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Greek, Borough Solicitor

Eastern Schuylkill Planning Commission
Borough of Tamaqua representative
Karl Smulligan

Tamaqua Public Library Board
Borough of Tamaqua representative
John Trudich Jr.

Owl Creek Reservoir Commission

(All Members are appointed by Borough Council)

Bungalow Park Commission

(All Members are appointed by Park Commission)

President Gursky reported that the Regular Council Meetings for 2014 would be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Other exceptions would be election days and holidays when the meeting would be the following day. President Gursky also stated that if there were no motions or business for the first meeting of the month, the meeting can be cancelled.

President Gursky stated that the Borough Council Committees and its members for 2014 have been selected.

The reading of the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held on December 17, 2013 was ordered suspended, and with no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written on motion of Mace, seconded by Connely, and unanimously approved.

Secretary/Treasurer DeWire stated that the communication that was received from Larry Wittig was read earlier in the meeting.

Communication was received from Philip C. Houm expressing an interest in serving on the Tamaqua Borough Water/Sewer Authority.

The meeting was opened to the floor.

Michelle Mehallic of 313 Orwigsburg Street expressed her concerns about councilmembers working together as a team and that council is here for us. President Gursky agrees with Ms. Mehallic and stated that councilmember should treat each other with respect and dignity and they have the work of the borough to do.

Ryan Miorelli of 163 Owl Creek Road expressed his concerns about Councilman Cara commenting that Mr. Houm is a good man during a roll call vote and that when Councilman Startzel also asked a question during that roll call vote, President Gursky advised him that council is voting. President Gursky stated that Councilman Startzel's questions were answered.

Cathy Miorelli of 163 Owl Creek Road asked if Councilman Startzel is the youngest person to ever to serve as a councilman. It was not known if there has ever been a councilman as young as Councilman Startzel.

With no one else wishing to address council, the meeting was closed to the floor.

Under Other Business, Councilman Cara reminded residents that the sewer authority is working on the Swatara Street project and the road would be closed from West Broad Street to Rowe Street. Councilman Cara stated that this closure would affect the St. Jerome Church parking lot. Manager Steigerwalt stated that St. Jerome Church and the Tamaqua Area School District have been notified of the closure. There was some discussion about this matter.

Under Other Business, a recommendation was made to hire Corey Herring as a part-time police officer, effective immediately. Officer Herring had previously worked as a part-time officer for the Tamaqua Police Department and Chief Weaver is requesting that Officer Herring return to active status. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Startzel, seconded by Cara, and unanimously approved.

Under Other Business, a recommendation was made to approve a two percent discretionary bonus and an additional holiday of March 17th for Chief Weaver. There was no one from the floor wishing to address council

about this matter. The recommendation was so ordered on motion of Connely, seconded by Mace, and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m. on motion of Connely, seconded by Mace, to meet again at the call of the President.

ATTEST:

Georgia Depos DeWire, Borough Secretary/Treasurer