

New Stanton Borough Council meeting  
January 3, 2013

Council President Thomas Smith called the January 3, 2013 Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Municipal Building, 451 North Center Avenue, New Stanton, Pennsylvania. A Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

Council members present were Thomas Smith, Linda Echard, Wilbur Bussard, Brandon Clawson, Todd Bartlow, Dean Clark, and Scott C. Sistik. Also present Mayor Nicholas DeSantis, Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Emil Bove of Bove Engineering, and Code Enforcement Officer Melvin F. Steele.

Councilman Bussard said that before we start our meeting, some Councilmembers would like to reorganize and at this time I would like to nominate Scott Sistik as President.

**Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to reorganize and nominate Scott Sistik for Council President.** Motion carried with Brandon Clawson, Todd Bartlow, and Wilbur Bussard voting yes. Linda Echard and Thomas Smith voted no and Dean Clark and Scott Sistik abstained.

Council President Scott Sistik stated that he would like to thank Tom for his service as Council President for 2012.

Council President Scott Sistik stated that we need to have good leadership in place and I hope that someone will make a motion to reaffirm Linda Echard as Council Vice President.

**Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Brandon Clawson to reaffirm Linda Echard as Vice President of Council.** Motion carried with Thomas Smith voting no and Linda Echard abstaining.

Council President Scott Sistik and also at this time I would like someone to make a motion reaffirming Wilbur Bussard as President Pro Tem.

**Todd Bartlow made a motion second by Brandon Clawson to reaffirm Wilbur Bussard as President Pro Tem.** Motion carried with Wilbur Bussard abstaining.

*Approval of Bills & Minutes*

**Thomas Smith made a motion second by Dean Clark to pay the bills in the amount of \$9,504.50.** Motion carried.

**Brandon Clawson made a motion second by Wilbur Bussard to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2012 Council meeting.** Motion carried with Todd Bartlow, and Dean Clark abstaining.

**Dean Clark made a motion second by Wilbur Bussard to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2012 Council meeting.** Motion carried with Linda Echard abstaining.

**Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Dean Clark to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2013 Vacancy Board meeting.** Motion carried with Linda Echard abstaining.

***Council Additions to Agenda***

Councilman Smith asked Council President if he had the Borough booklet, Selling the 1986 Chevy with or without the plow, and the Salt Contract for the 2013 – 2014 salt season on the agenda.

Council President stated that right after Public Comment, we have the Citizen of the Year Award to present and Chris Cap Executive Vice President of PSAB would like to say a few words.

***Public Comment-Agenda items only***

There was no public comment.

Mayor DeSantis presented the Citizen of the Year Award to Susan Reese. Sue thanked everyone.

Chris Cap Executive Vice President of the PSAB stated that he wanted to stop and commend Scott Sistik for his work as Chairman on revising the Borough Code, and present him with a photograph of the members along with Governor Corbett at the signing of the Borough Code.

***Reports***

***Code Enforcement Officer***

***Melvin F. Steele, Jr.***

Mr. Steele stated that there were no completed permits for the month of December.

***Solicitor***

***John Campfield***

Mr. Campfield stated that I assume that Mr. Bove will address Council about the Speedway that may be coming to New Stanton. Mr. Campfield stated that there is something that I would like to bring up in Executive Session. As you know the receiver for Centax would like to destroy all the records. There are some issues that have not been resolved.

Council President added litigation to executive session.

***Engineer***

***Bove Engineering***

***Emil Bove***

Mr. Bove addressed Council about the plans for the Speedway Convenience Store/fueling station. Mr. Campfield explained to Council about Conditional uses.

Mr. Bove addressed Council about the bridge that Council would like to put across the creek to connect the two sections of the Park together.

Mr. Bove addressed Council and stated that he spoke with Matt Dickun about Chanticleer and the eighteen (18) month maintenance bond.

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***Committees***

Council President stated that he will be working on committees.

***Finance***

***Scott C. Sistik***

Council President read the following financial report for December 2012.

Checkbook	\$211,775.49
Savings	\$246,419.73
Taxes	\$ 45,485.16

Councilwoman Linda Echard stated that she has nothing new to report from any of the three committees that I have been on except for the Safety Committee and we are reviewing our goals for 2013.

Councilman Bussard stated that the trees have not been cut down yet. I have talked to him.

Councilman Clawson stated that prior to the February 7, 2013 meeting, the Human Resources Committee is intending to submit to Council an overview of topics that were discussed, and our recommendations on some changes that we feel are necessary.

Mayor DeSantis stated that we spoke about the bridge. We are having Night at the Races.

Council President stated that there are a couple of items that we are working on strongly for this year and one of them is and I know there are rumors around and this is my preference and that is hiring a Borough manager and hopefully by the end of the first quarter we will have all the items in place and getting all the requirements to do so. The other item is we are strongly going to make renovations to the new borough building. Those are our two major goals.

Mayor DeSantis stated that he is still working on records management, and I would like to commend Mel for the time he put in this past weekend on snow removal.

Mr. Lilley addressed Council about his vacation and stated that he spoke to Mel about Mr. Moore.

***Agenda***

Council President stated that I am asking everyone on Council to put in writing the committees that they were on and I would like every Council person to chair a committee. I am going to combine Personnel with Human Resources and the Ms4 committee with Public Works.

**Thomas Smith made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to appoint Melvin F. Steele, Jr. as the Chairperson of the Vacancy Board. Motion carried.**

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Council had some discussion about a part-time person for snow plowing and the application that they received.

**Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Linda Echard to give the Personnel Committee the authority to hire a part-time person for snow removal.** Motion carried.

Councilman Thomas Smith brought Council up to date on the newsletter–booklet. I suggest the booklet be laid out with a signoff sheet for Council to take a look at and make changes if needed.

Mr. Campfield addressed Council about the contract that was done with Keystone for the collection of Per Capita and LST taxes, but the collection of delinquent taxes was over looked. Everyone has a copy of the contract from Keystone Collections for the collection of delinquent taxes. Take a look at it for the next meeting.

Council had a brief discussion on the sale of the 1986 Chevy and they asked Mr. Steele to talk to the gentleman about putting the truck on Munici bid.

**Thomas Smith made a motion second by Brandon Clawson to sign the Sodium Contract for the 2013-2014 Winter Season with COSTARS for 550 ton of salt.** Motion carried.

Council President stated that he has a candidate for the alternate delegate to the Westmoreland County Tax Collection Committee.

**Wilbur Bussard made a motion second by Todd Bartlow to approve Resolution 2013-761 appointing Jude Abraham as the Boroughs Alternate Delegate to the Westmoreland County Tax Collection Committee.** Motion carried.

***Announcements***

Recreation Board – Night at the Races – New Stanton Fire Hall – Jan. 26, 2013 – doors open 5:30 p.m. – races start at 6:30 p.m.

***Public Comment***

Councilman Thomas Smith stated that the people that own the storage units on Stan Avenue stated that the gentleman that plows snow for the apartments is pushing the snow on top of the drain.

Councilman Thomas Smith stated that we received a thank you from the Greensburg/Hempfield/Youngwood Library for our donation.

Councilman Thomas Smith stated that he enjoyed his time as Council President. I put a lot of time in; what I don't understand is that nobody came to me and said that I was not doing a good job, nobody came to help me except Linda; and since nobody came to me I look at it as a stab in the back.

Councilwoman Linda Echard stated that I would like to add to that and I realize that this is not an election year and you can reorganize at any time but coming here this evening, I feel I

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am the only person here that did not know we were going to reorganize tonight and that everyone around this table knew that this was going to take place.

Mrs. Morgan stated that she and her husband were in politics in Washington County and this was extremely out of order and I feel that you are all sincere but I feel that this was extremely out of line.

***Executive Session***

***Personnel – General***

***Litigation – Centax***

**Thomas Smith made a motion to go into executive session at 9:04 p.m.**

**Thomas Smith made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:49 p.m.**

**Linda Echard made a motion second by Brandon Clawson to accept Mr. Campfield's recommendation in the Centax Receivership litigation that the Borough engage a Law Firm of Meyer, Unkovic, and Scott to prepare and intervene in that Receivership litigation on behalf of the Borough and to present a motion not only to intervene but also to oppose the motion to destroy the records of Centax unless and until the Borough obtains the information in those records in some form that is acceptable to the Borough and to our collector and Meyer, Unkovic, and Scott be engaged at \$175.00 an hour not to exceed \$2,000.00 for the work subscribed and this effort be undertaken collectively and cooperatively with Penn Township and the City of Jeannette on an equal cost sharing basis. Motion carried.**

**Brandon Clawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Mary Ann Roll*

Mary Ann Roll  
Secretary