

*New Stanton Borough Special Council Meeting
July 09, 2008*

Council President Sistek called the Special Meeting of Council to order at 8:00 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.

Members present: *Council President Scott Sistek, Councilman Kelly Moore, Councilman Wilbur Bussard, Councilman Rob Quinn, Councilman Jim Mack & Councilman Todd Bartlow.* Also present *Mayor Joseph Kazan.*

Members absent: None

Guest's present: Lee Todd, John Hathaway, Denise Smyda, Stella Morgan, Mary Quinn, Carol Umber, Ronald Umbel, Jim Fox, Ryce, Willy Bitar, Douglas Cook, Nick DeSantis, Linda Edward, Henry Moore, Tom Smith, Ray Strosko, Tom Theis, Frank & Elaine Balistreri, Jerry Ilgenfritz, Bob Mavretish & Cheryl Kazan.

Council President Sistek said "This evening this meeting is called to appoint a new Council Member to replace Michael Arthurs, who resigned effective June 19, 2008." "This meeting was advertised in accordance with Borough Code, all discussion this evening will be limited to the appointment of a council member only." "At the next meeting being held July 17, 2008, all other issues will be addressed at that time. *Council President* said "On the agenda, the first item will be the discussion on the appointment of a new Council Member. There are five (5) candidates and all have complied with the clause of filling a financial ethics form on time. All the applicants' applications were received on time and names were read in the order submitted by date and they are as follows: Thomas D. Smith – 422 S. Center Ave, New Stanton, PA 15672, Sara Kintigh – 215 N. Main St, New Stanton, PA 15672, Wail William Bitar – 113 Edgewood Dr., New Stanton, PA 15672, Raymond Strosko – 128 Melrose Dr., New Stanton, PA 15672 and Thomas Theis – 216 N. Main St., New Stanton, PA 15672.

Council President then opened it up for discussion requesting that only one person speaks at a time, the applicants can speak; Council would be more than happy to hear what they have to say, why they want to be on Council and what they plan on doing for the community. Council will ask questions as relevant, and please try not to be repetitive. He then cautioned Council that it is an application process and there are certain questions we can't ask according to the HIPPA laws. All candidates were present except Sally Kintigh, Councilman Bussard said "She called and wanted to know if it was necessary to be here and I said it wasn't."

Audience Comments

The audience was asked to comment with the discussion of candidates.

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Agenda Items

Discussion on the appointment of a New Council Member

Tom Smith spoke first and stated where he lived and that he lived in New Stanton about ten (10) years, and has been attending Council meetings 4 or 5 years. Was glad to see the turn out of people the past few meetings and hopes it continues. If appointed he would like to work with the people instead of arguing. He is interested because he did run in the last election. Councilman Mack said "You said you were not against raising taxes if it went to increase certain employee's salaries or buying more equipment, are you still in favor of raising taxes?" *Mr. Smith* said he is not in favor of raising taxes although there may come a time when they have to be raised. Nobody wants to see them go up, but there may come a time you have to. He is also in favor of a grocery store, feels there is a need for one. *Mayor Kazan* planned to ask each candidate the same questions, first one: What are some of the issues facing New Stanton today? *Mr. Smith* said his opinion is taxes, because everything else is going up and that's going to take your take home pay down a little. The main thing is try to come to the meetings see what's going on and then you can vote them out or retain them at the next election. *Mayor Kazan* asked the next question, what are some of the challenges this Council faces in the coming years? *Mr. Smith* said "Number one I think is getting along as well as the increase of everything." *Mayor Kazan*, What are your thoughts on the Borough pursuing a new Municipal and Public Works building? *Mr. Smith* said "I don't know everything about this and how big of a building we need. I'm open minded about it but I need other questions answered." *Councilman Mack* asked if he held any managerial positions. *Mr. Smith* said no.

Willy Bitar was next; he has lived in New Stanton for 3 years, he moved here from Pittsburgh. Would like to be the mouth of the people, background of politics is slim, known as the Mayor of the neighborhood. Would like to see New Stanton grow and that is the main reason why he is applying for the position. *Councilman Mack* said "You must like the area." *Mr. Bitar* said "Absolutely that's the reason I'm still here. The closest place to compare it to is Cranberry, PA, now do I want it to grow that much? I'm 50/50 because I know growth means better roads, traffic lights, etc." *Mayor Kazan* asked "What do you think some of the issues are facing the residents of New Stanton today?" *Mr. Bitar* said "The roads and taxes are a big concern; there are businesses here that we can add an occupancy tax of 1% to get more revenue instead of raising taxes." His expertise is working with bigger companies and groups of people. *Mayor Kazan* asked the next question, "What are some of the challenges this Council faces in the coming years?" *Mr. Bitar* said "One of the big challenges right now is unifying everyone. As Tom said there are a lot of arguments and bickering amongst each other. We need to find a medium and listen to what the people have to say. I'm sorry but there are a few things the people have said and you guys are pretty much ignoring it. It's like your not even considering any of their concerns or comments." *Mayor Kazan* asked "What are your thoughts on the Borough pursuing a new Municipal

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and Public Works building?" *Mr. Bitar* said "I'm for a new building, we're going to grow. We need to show we have the ability to grow in all areas."

Raymond Strosko spoke next, has lived in New Stanton for 14 years and served on Planning Commission for 6 years. *Mayor Kazan* asked "What do you think some of the issues are facing the residents of New Stanton today?" *Mr. Strosko* said "The economy is a big facture; the cost of everything is going up. You need to look to the future and plan for the future." *Mayor Kazan* asked the next question, "What are some the of challenges this Council faces in the coming years?" *Mr. Strosko* said "Like everybody else said is respect is a lot of it and plan or look to the future. We need to do everything we can to bring more into this community and with the new highway coming in let's hope that helps bring people in, companies. I'm here to do whatever I need to do, move New Stanton forward; it's a nice little town." *Mayor Kazan* asked "What are your thoughts on the Borough pursuing a new Municipal and Public Works building?" *Mr. Strosko* said "We do need a new one; I have an idea and about 35 years of construction background, being a construction foreman and building all kinds of houses and buildings. I have an idea on how to work that out; I'm not going to get into details now. If I get on Council I'll submit my ideas and see what we can do from there." *Councilman Mack* said *Mr. Strosko* you said you are a foreman, are you now? *Mr. Strosko* said well I was a construction foreman for about 35 years; I've built houses all around the area and buildings. *Councilman Mack* so you have managerial skills and economic background? A resident asked *Mr. Strosko* why we would have to wait to submit his ideas for a building. He said he didn't want to explain it now but at a later date.

Thomas Theis was the last candidate, he has lived in town about 51 years, was on Council within the past six months, and said "I pretty know what has been going on in the past. Even since I've been off Council I've already had people tell me they still needed help with things, and I still did whatever I could do to help them. I'm still up with what's going on now; I still talk with some members of Council. My feelings about raising taxes, I'm not really in favor of doing it at all, people here are on a fixed income, and they can't raise their money. I also was on Planning for 8 years and pretty much know the lay out of the town. *Mayor Kazan* asked Council President "May I ask my questions?" Council President said "sure" *Mr. Theis* said "The people in-front of me have already answered the same way I feel, I can't answer anymore other than my opinion about a Borough building, the building that we're in here was donated by Mellon Bank, we've been a Borough here since 1972 and the town has never done a thing for itself. It's time to find something. *Mr. Theis* said he missed very few meetings and stayed till the end of them. *Mayor Kazan* asked "What do you think some of the issues are facing the residents of New Stanton today?" *Mr. Theis* said "a lot of people have moved into this town and would like it to be harmonious. It's a tough one to answer. *Mayor Kazan* said "What are some of the challenges our Council face in the immediate future?" *Mr. Theis* said probably trying to get along. *Resident Stella Morgan* asked *Mr. Theis* "where did you place on the ballot when you ran." "How many votes did you get?" *Mr. Theis* said he was next in line with votes. He then said

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good luck to everyone who applied and even if he doesn't make it he's open to helping wherever he can.

Council President Sistik said "We have four (4) candidates here, one not present, four fine presentations, John correct me if I'm wrong in any of this proceedings. The next item, this is not a nominating position this is a motion and vote position by Council. So I want to let the candidates that are here know that if your name is brought up and you get a no vote from any of the Council members it's not a, it's nothing personal against you in particular that person might have another preference of the group. Because the names have to be brought up one by one starting with the first one who is nominated or who is brought up as far as a motion is concerned. So if your name is brought up and a no vote, please do not hold it against Council people for their vote. Because like I said they might have a preference with someone else and at this time I'm going to open it up the discussions to the Council for a motion and vote for a new Council member whoever it might be for Resolution 2008." *Councilman Mack* said "One clarification since John is here, Kelly broached the subject at the last meeting, "The person who resigns should be replaced with a person of the same party." *Councilman Moore* said "No I said do they have to?" *Attorney Campfield* said "No there is no requirement for that." *Council President Sistik* said "That was verified by the P.S.A.B." *Resident Linda Echard* asked to make a comment, "I would like to say to Council that I know you have an awkward task ahead of you here as you're preparing to fill the vacancy. I know that's very awkward for you because you have the candidates here. I'm very much sensitive to that and what you're going through. I sincerely hope that you consider each person and their qualifications and their experience level. And that you are able to put your personal opinions aside and the fact that you may have differences of opinions on certain issues, and make the best decision possible to represent us in the Borough, Thank you."

Councilman Mack aid "Since Scott said this is an issue of a motion and vote, I'll make my statement and you can proceed from there." Due to what Linda just said, experience and involvement I make the motion to replace Mike Arthurs with Tom Theis; can I get a second on that? Since he has four (4) years on Council and eight (8) years on Planning and fifty-one (51) years in-town I make that motion. Can I get a second on that?

Councilman Mack made a motion second by Councilman Quinn to nominate Tom Theis.

The motion did not pass, with Councilman Quinn and Councilman Mack voting yes and Council President Sistik, Councilman Bartlow, Councilman Bussard and Councilman Moore voting no.

Councilman Bartlow made a motion second by Councilman Moore to nominate Tom D. Smith to replace the vacancy for Mike Arthurs.

The motion passed with Council President Sistik, Councilman Bartlow, Councilman Bussard and Councilman Moore voting yes and Councilman Mack and Councilman Quinn voting no.

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Council President said “With motion and vote it has been decided that Thomas D. Smith will be the next appointment for New Stanton Borough Council, at this time we’ll move to the Mayor for the swearing in please.” *Mayor Kazan* asked Mr. Smith to step forward while he administered the Oath of Office. *Mr. Smith* asked to speak after he was sworn in, he said “I don’t know if everybody’s happy, I will do the best I can and I invite anybody to come back here, what Tom said he has a lot of experience, Jerry, Councilman Mack, Todd, the rest of them. Anybody that can help me that has anything that I need to know maybe, I’m more than happy to sit down and listen. Because there’s a lot of years of experience here, and I am new, a greenhorn you call it what you want. The office will have my address and phone number so if somebody wants to call me we can talk.” *Council President Sistik* said there is one announcement, there will be a public hearing before the next meeting on July 17th, and it will be at 6 pm on the zoning ordinance changes.

A motion was made by Councilman Mack second by Councilman Bartlow to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita L. Hoffman

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Assistant Secretary