

**Borough of New Stanton**  
**Borough Council**  
**January 2, 2018**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

**Welcome by Mayor Ronald Echard**

Mayor Ron Echard welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He stated that this was the 2018 Reorganization Meeting of the Council of the Borough of New Stanton.

**Oath of Office administered to newly elected council members**

Mayor Echard, who had been sworn in prior to the meeting, asked all of the newly elected council members: Joshua Bennett, Linda Echard, Scott Sistik and Raymond Strosko to stand and he proceeded to have them recite of the Oath of Office

**Newly elected council members take their seats**

After taking the Oath of Office, Joshua Bennett, Linda Echard, Scott Sistik and Raymond Strosko assumed their positions on the New Stanton Borough Council.

**Nominations for President of Council**

Mayor Echard asked for nominations for the position of President of Council.

Tom T. nominated Ray Strosko for the position of President of Council.

Ron asked for a roll call vote on Scott Sistik. There were two “Yes” votes: Todd and Josh; four “No” votes: Tom S., Tom T., Linda and Ray and one abstention: Scott. The nomination did not pass.

Ron asked for a roll call vote on Ray Strosko. There were four “Yes” votes: Tom S., Tom T., Linda and Ray; three “No” votes: Todd, Scott and Josh. The nomination passed and Ray Stroko was elected as the new Council President.

**Nominations for Vice President of Council**

Ron asked for nominations for the position of Vice President of Council.

Tom S. made a motion nominating Linda Echard for the position of Vice President of Council. The motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Linda who abstained.

**Mayor Echard turns over gavel to Council President**

The Mayor turned the meeting and the gavel over to Raymond Strosko.

**Attendance**

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Joshua Bennett, Linda Echard, Scott Sistik, Tom Smith, Ray Strosko and Tom Theis. Mayor Ronald Echard. Also: Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Emil Bove and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin.

### **Call to Order**

President Raymond Strosko called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

### **Invocation**

Linda recited a prayer.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was recited.

### **Approval of Bills**

Scott made a motion seconded by Todd approving the bills in the amount of \$17,492.76. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Josh and Ray who abstained.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd to accept the December 19, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Josh and Ray who abstained.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda**

Ray asked if there were any public comments on items not on the agenda.

### ***Alan Wagner***

Alan Wagner stated that he was invited to speak by Council Member Tom Smith regarding the Recreation Board. He pointed out that the Recreation Board received the short end of the stick and that Council and the Recreation Board should be working together. He stated that council members couldn't name all of the members of the Recreation Board. He stated that council did not have all of the information about the Recreation Board's activities; that they are more than a baseball and softball group, helping a lot of area families in need including a woman who was in motorcycle accident, a young boy that had cancer and also somebody that needed a heart transplant. He stated that the Recreation Board is not just teaching baseball, but how to help people in need. Council doesn't see all of that work. He stated that members go to Sam's Club 3-4 times a week to get supplies for the concession stand. They never ask for mileage. He mentioned that council members do have to put up with a lot but they are paid and he mentioned that Councilman Clark has done a lot. He stated that the Recreation Board gets \$6,000 from council but they do a lot of fundraising and have never gone back to council for additional money. He pointed out that members made a great deal of sacrifices to operate holiday parties instead of spending the holidays with their children and that council should be helping with fundraisers and activities like Halloween so that Recreation Board members could enjoy the holiday with their children. He mentioned that only one council member occasionally buys items at the concession stand.

### ***Dean Clark***

Dean introduced himself stating that he is a former council member and spent 22 years on the Recreation Board. He stated that there are only 3 people living today that started the Recreation Board, 4 years before the formation of the borough. He stated that when he was on the Recreation Board every dime was noted and tracked and a budget was turned in every year. He also mentioned that every year the Recreation Board had an election of officers to ensure that everyone had an equal say. He said that there were two keys: accountability and transparency. He pointed out that every meeting council gets reports from its solicitor and engineer council. He stated that council did not use to get a monthly report from the fire department but this has changed and Tom T. gives a detailed report to council every month. He stated that the Recreation Board does not do that -- give a monthly financial report. He stated that he was speaking in defense of the borough's decision.

Alan said that former Mayor Nick DeSantis was the Recreation Board's liaison to council and they thought he was relaying messages to the council. He said no one from council contacted them stating that they weren't getting a report and that no one from council would attend the Recreation Board's meetings.

### **Council Additions to Agenda**

Ray asked if there were council additions to the agenda. There were none.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only**

Ray asked if there any public comment on agenda items only. There were none.

## **Agenda**

### **1. M/V on President Pro-Tem**

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Linda to nominate Tom Smith as President Pro Tem. Motion passed with 4-3 and 1 abstention, the Mayor voted "Yes" to break the tie: "Yes" votes: Tom T., Linda, Ray and Ron; "No" votes: Todd, Scott and Josh; one abstention: Tom S.

### **2. M/V on Appointment of Solicitor**

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Linda appointing John Campfield as the Borough Solicitor for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

### **3. M/V on Appointment of Engineer**

Tom S. made a motion that the appointment of the engineer and the vote on the pay resolutions be tabled until the first meeting in March to allow the new council members an opportunity to get up to speed. In response to questions from John, Tom S. stated that the present wage rates would be frozen until the decision was made in March and that the decision made at that point would be retroactive to January 2, 2018. The motion did not proceed due to a lack of a second.

Tom S. mentioned a concern about the language in the pay resolutions regarding the number of people who are authorized to call out the Public Works employees for snow removal and

emergencies. He stated that this could be confusing and needs to be changed. He also was concerned about a clause in the Seasonal Park Maintenance pay resolution, which it could result in too much work without allowing for a pay raise.

Scott made a motion seconded by Josh appointing Emil Bove as the Borough Engineer for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. M/V on Appointment of Auditor**

Jeff reported that Henniger quoted a price of \$4,700 to perform both the Borough and Tax Collector audits.

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda appointing Henniger Accounting Services as the Borough Auditor for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. M/V on Appointment of the Chair of the Vacancy Board**

Jeff reported that Donna Bailey who was the previous chair of the Vacancy Board has stated that she is willing to continue in that position.

Linda made a motion seconded by Scott appointing Donna Bailey to another term as Chairperson of the Vacancy Board. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. M/V on Appointment of Sewage Enforcement Officer**

Scott made a motion seconded by Tom T. appointing Emil Bove as the Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. M/V on Appointment of Animal Control Officer: Hoffman**

Jeff stated that Hoffman Animal Control Services quoted a figure of \$100 a month.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Tom T. to pass Resolution #2018-865 appointing Hoffman Animal Control as the Borough's Animal Control Officer for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

**Planning Commission Appointments**

**8. M/V on Appointment to Planning Commission**

Jeff reported that Jay Gomolak has stated that he would be willing to serve on the Planning Commission for another term.

Todd made a motion seconded by Scott to pass Resolution #2018-866 appointing Jay Gomolak to a 5 year term on the New Stanton Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. M/V on Appointment to Planning Commission**

Jeff reported that Tim Seale has stated that he would be willing to serve on the Planning Commission for another term.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to pass Resolution #2018-867 appointing Tim Seale to a 5 year term on the New Stanton Planning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Zoning Hearing Board Appointments**

#### **10. M/V on Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board (Full Term)**

Jeff reported that Bud Moore is willing to stay on the Zoning Hearing Board for another term.

Linda made a motion seconded by Tom S. to pass Resolution #2018-868 appointing Bud Moore to the Zoning Hearing Board for another term. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **11. M/V on Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board (1 Year term)**

Jeff stated that the Zoning Hearing Board does not have an alternate at present and he asked if council had any ideas for the position. No one was nominated.

### **UCC Appeals Board**

#### **12. M/V Appointing the CWCOC to serve as UCC Appeals Board**

Jeff reported that council voted last year to have the CWCOC serve as the borough's UCCB Appeals Board.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Linda to adopt Resolution #2018-870 appointing the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments to serve as the borough's UCC Appeals Board. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **13. Discussion on 2018 Budget – M/V to reopen or keep closed**

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to keep the budget for 2018 closed. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **14. Appointments to Committees of Council by Council President**

Ray decided to not select committees at this point, but rather to have council members submit their preferences to him within the next week or so.

#### **15. 2018 Pay Resolutions**

- a) **M/V on Assistant Secretary: Resolution #2018-871**
- b) **M/V on UCC Inspector: Resolution #2018-872**
- c) **M/V on Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer: Resolution #2018-873**
- d) **M/V on Borough Manager: Resolution #2018-874**
- e) **M/V on Public Works Team Leader: Resolution #2018-875**
- f) **M/V on 1<sup>st</sup> Class Laborer – Humes: Resolution #2018-876**
- g) **M/V on 1<sup>st</sup> Class Laborer – Sever: Resolution #2018-877**
- h) **M/V on Part-Time Public Works – Seasonal (Park): Resolution #2018-878**
- i) **M/V on Part-Time Casual Snow Plow Operator: Resolution #2018-879**

Todd asked if the pay resolutions could be voted on as one motion.

Tom S. made a motion to vote on the pay resolutions separately, but the motion died for a lack of a second.

Todd made a motion seconded by Scott to adopt all of the Pay Resolutions 2018-871 through 2018-879. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Tom S. who voted no.

#### **16. Discussion on New Stanton Park Signage**

Jeff stated that as part of the Canoe and Kayak Access grant the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association would be willing to pay for a new sign for the park. He referred to the two sign design choices in the agenda packet.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to approve the rustic sign design developed by the Westmoreland Conservation District for New Stanton Park. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **17. Discussion regarding Mayor's veto of Ordinance 2017-260**

The Borough Council received a memorandum from Mayor Nicholas DeSantis dated December 22, 2017 regarding his vetoing of Ordinance 2017-260. The following is the entire body of the memorandum:

*Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Borough Code § 3301.3 Enactment, approval and veto, I am vetoing ordinance 2017-260 which repeals ordinance 2003-200. The objections to the ordinance are as follows:*

- 1) I believe it is a waste of taxpayer dollars to create a position to run a recreation program when there are volunteer citizens willing to perform the tasks.*
- 2) If council did not think the volunteer citizens are able to perform the duties to their satisfaction I believe a concerted effort to assist the volunteer citizens in reaching councils goals should have been executed.*
- 3) I believe that this ordinance will ultimately have a negative effect on the children of New Stanton Borough.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Nicholas DeSantis  
Mayor, New Stanton Borough*

Scott made a motion seconded by Todd acknowledging the receipt of the letters of resignation from the remaining Recreation Board members and to send them letters thanking them for their contribution to the borough. Motion passed unanimously.

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to go into Executive Session later in the meeting for purposes of personnel. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Reports**

### **Administrative**

#### **Borough Manager – Jeffrey McLaughlin**

##### *CWCOG Membership*

Jeff asked if council if it would be willing to consider paying our 2018 membership dues with the CWCOG in the amount of \$195 for 2018.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Tom T. to pay our 2018 membership dues with the Central Westmoreland Council of Governments in the amount of \$195 for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

##### *PSAB Membership*

Jeff stated that our PSAB membership is up for renewal as well as our subscription for the Borough News magazine.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Scott to renew the borough's membership in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs for 2018 for a cost of \$787. All voted in favor with the exception of Tom S. who voted no.

##### *WCTA Assessment*

Jeff asked if council would be willing to renew The WCTA assessment for \$850.50. Scott stated that he thought this was approved at a previous meeting. It was decided to pass a motion just to ensure that the item was addressed.

Tom S. made a motion seconded Scott to pay our assessment to the Westmoreland County Transit Authority for 2018 in the amount of \$850.50. Motion passed unanimously.

##### *Other Items*

Jeff reported that the Westmoreland Conservation District will be holding its annual Municipal Roundtable on January 26, 2018 and that the PSAB's Boot Camp for newly elected officials is coming up.

Linda made a motion seconded by Tom S. to authorize payment those who from council and the mayor who desire to attend the PSAB's Boot Camp. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff also reported that the New Stanton Fire Department will hold a 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Council members are invited.

Tom S. asked about the Nite at the Races. Council discussed whether to proceed with the event.

Scott made a motion seconded by Tom T. to cancel and reschedule the Nite at the Races, possibly for some time in March. Motion passed unanimously. As part of this decision it was decided to refund everyone's money that had purchased tickets.

### **Solicitor's Report**

John Campfield reviewed a memo that he put together regarding the snow removal on streets that had not yet been accepted by the borough. This issue came up in light of the proposed Broadview Estates. John said that there is nothing in the borough's subdivision and land development ordinance to require the borough to handle winter maintenance on roads in a development that haven't been accepted by the borough.

John reviewed the recent Get Go filings: a lot consolidation plan that will be reviewed by the Planning Commission, a conditional use application which will have to go before council and a variance request which will go to the Zoning Hearing Board.

### **Engineer's Report**

#### *Chanticleer Drainage Project*

Emil stated that the contractor, Nagy Construction, is looking for a payment in the amount of \$48,402.78 for the Chanticleer drainage project. All of the work is done with the exception of installing 20 tons of backfill, top soil, seed and mulch. Given the weather it was thought to hold off on that work until spring.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Tom T. to pay Nagy Construction \$48,402.78 for the work done to date on the Chanticleer drainage project. Motion passed unanimously.

#### *Sell Subdivision Extension Request*

Emil stated that the Executor of the Sell estate is seeking a 90-day extension on their subdivision application. The present extension expires on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Todd granting the 90 day extension to the regarding the Sell Estate Motion passed unanimously.

Tom T. asked whether the developer of Broadview Estates would be making any improvements to Broadview Road. Emil stated that their preliminary plan states that they will improve the portion immediately adjacent to their proposed development.

### **Business**

#### **Fire Department Liaison**

Tom T. reviewed the Chief's monthly report. He pointed out that the fire department would like to meet with the Finance Committee to discuss a new truck. Tom S. stated that he thought they should meet with all of council instead of just a committee.

#### **PennDOT Project Liaison**



Former council member Dean Clark was in the audience. He reported that he met with Emil and reviewed the outstanding issues regarding the project.

Tom T. asked about the status of the Citizen of the Year placards. Jeff stated that he wanted direction regarding

### **Financial Report**

Ray reviewed the financial report: Checkbook balance \$694,185.95, total all savings accounts: \$273,738.12 and taxes remitted from December 4, 2017 through January 2, 2018 \$18,023.31.

### **Public Works**

Todd reported that he saw Charlie cleaning the sidewalk along Center Avenue. Tom S. said they clean it every time it snows.

Jeff stated that the sign that PennDOT wanted to install, which was discussed at the last meeting, was one of the blue welcome signs. The interchange drawings called for it to be installed near the Capri Trailer Court. The sign has been installed.

Jeff also reported that a question came up about the short dead end road at the entrance to the Capri Trailer Court. He stated that the road is a state road.

Todd made a motion to go into executive session.

Todd made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:37.

Todd made a motion seconded by Scott to advertise to amend the Recreation Board ordinance reducing the number of members from 9 to 5 with all members having one year terms. Motion passed unanimously

### **Adjournment**

Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin  
Secretary