

**BROWNSVILLE BOROUGH  
FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**MARCH 13, 2019**

The Regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Brownsville was held this evening in the Council room at the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to by **President-Jack Lawver** at 6:00 P.M. by reciting the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The following members were present: **Jack Lawver, Robert Kovach, James Lawver, Ronald Bakewell and Paul Synuria**,. Also present was: **Jeffrey Wilhelm**-Borough Secretary, **Sam Defalso** –Solicitor and **Ross Swords, Jr.** –Mayor.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

**Joe Terry**-Joe commented that CEO Myron Nypaver inspected and gave an occupancy permit to the Antique Bar and Grill and he would like the same consideration for his hot dog stand instead of all the updates that K-2 Engineering is requiring.

**Jacqueline and Frederick Lapisardi**-Mrs. Lapisardi states how happy they have been renting here in the borough building for the last six years. When they entered their rental space last Monday they discovered their items have been taken out of the garage except for a black medal bookcase that now has cleaning supplies and traffic cones on it. It would have been fine if they would have known and they would have moved items so they would know their placement instead of being scattered in a jail cell. I haven't done a complete inventory but I did notice two bins with arts and craft supplies are missing. She noticed their Kindermusic studio had been entered presumably by the hallway. We always kept it locked and it was opened when we came in that day. There is definitely evidence that someone had entered the area that was not authorized. We believed the area would be safe since we kept the rental area locked. Nothing had ever been disturbed prior to this incidence. We didn't have a complete inventory because we didn't believe anybody would be in there except for emergency access. We do know there were at least two items missing because they were used frequently and very sentimental to us. There may be other things missing but I wouldn't know until I would need a particular item. I would like to have these items returned in good condition but if this doesn't happen we will contact another law enforcement agency. **Ronald Bakewell**-Was the stuff removed to make room for the police car. **Ross Swords**-I will take responsibility for that. I removed the items from the garage and put them in the jail cell when we purchased the new police car. I had a discussion with a council member to utilize the garage for the new car. **Paul Synuria**-That itself is wrong. You cannot go into a rented property and remove people stuff. **James Lawver**-I agree. **Mrs. Lapisardi**-The bookcase being used in the garage is ours. **James Lawver**-I personally apologize to you both for this unfortunate incident. **Jack Lawver**-We will get it straightened out. **Mr. Lapisardi**-There were many books and some very valuable that had been moved. There were also pictures that my oldest daughter took before her death. These were very important to me. **Mrs. Lapisardi**-The studio should have never been entered. **Robert Kovach**-I did enter the studio to get estimates for the pipe repairs. I did notice the lock had been pried when I entered. **Mrs. Lapisardi**-We understand it being entered for that reason. That is fine but to have the other things happen is not normal. **Robert Kovach** makes a motion not to charge Mr. and Mrs. Lapisardi rent until the items have been located, returned and secured. They will also have physical control of the rented space. **Paul Synuria** seconds the motion. Motion carries. **Mrs. Lapisardi** also included the following memo to each council member:

" Dear Members of Brownsville Council:

On 4 March, 2019 when my husband Frederick and I checked the downstairs space which we continue to rent from Brownsville Borough, we were disheartened to discover that not only had our possessions (except our black industrial shelving unit now filled with borough cleaning supplies, and traffic cones) been removed from the garage area with no prior notification but also that someone had entered our former Kindermusik-studio space (presumably through the hallway door which we kept locked but found open) and ransacked the area, damaging some items and stealing others.

Based on the condition of our studio (books-some with torn dustjackets, bent corners, and one turned cover-to-cover randomly shoved on bookcase shelves; puzzle boxes torn with puzzles pieces scattered through books and in with balls; finger puppets left out of their storage area; items not where they had been stored;

crayon marks on wooden food and storage units: (these two items were not used at the same time in studio classes plus we no longer had crayons stored in the studio); puppet bin rummaged through with some puppets missing; and a Kindermusik neighborhood cardboard block torn open with a block placed inside.) I believe a child was also involved. These may not have been severe, but certainly indicative of unauthorized entry into our locked, rented space.

Although I have a comprehensive list of items we donated through Brownsville Area Ministerial Association and St. Vincent de Paul when we initially closed the studio last year and very recently to The Village. I did not have a complete inventory of the remaining items. We had no reason to expect that anyone would have access to our rented studio space other than for emergency purposes. Our daughter Emily was getting established in her new job at West Point before deciding if should teach Kindermusik classes there so we thought all the remaining things would be secure stored in the Borough Building, particularly since the Police Department is also housed there. Obviously, we were wrong.

We are continuing our inventory, and some things may have been stolen that I would not realize until I need them for a particular unit, but these are items that I know are missing from our studio area:

A Folkmantis full-bodied, light gray wolf puppet, at least 36" in length. The Folkmantis Customer Service Representative had to research past catalogs to find this item as it is no longer available. Item #2101 \$48.00 + tax and shipping/handling.

A handmade red, green, peach and brown felt leprechaun had puppet approximately one foot long with white yarn looped hair and beard purchased during one of trips to Ireland. This cannot be replaced. We have not begun to sort through the items that were in the garage. A cursory check did not reveal either of two plastic bins with arts and crafts materials which had been there as festival items.

I would appreciate your speaking with me if you have any knowledge of the concerns. Although I would prefer to have the items returned in good condition, I am prepared to contact another law enforcement agency. Thank you. Jacqueline R. Lapisardi (724) 785-7931."

**James Lawver** makes a motion to approve the February 13, 2019 minutes. **Ronald Bakewell** seconds the motion. Motion carries.

**Mayor's Report:** No Report

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:**

Chairman, **Lester Ward**-Not present. **Ronald Bakewell** reads the Financial Report for March 2019: Department Bills \$26,822.74, Utilities \$20,073.46 for a total of \$46,896.20. Account balances as of 02/28/19. Spendable Accounts: Money Market \$1,428.05, Liquid Fuels \$28,114.53 and General Fund \$33,814.92 for a total of \$63,357.50. Accounts allocated for Specific Projects: Payroll \$11,314.59, Police Pension Fund \$30,285.48, Fire Escrow \$227.42, K-9 \$3,725.09, Northside Park Project \$11,112.85 and Act 13 \$23,797.05 totaling \$80,462.48. **Paul Synuria** makes a motion to use the money in the K-9 fund for the officer's safety equipment. **James Lawver** seconds the motion. **Mayor** says he has an issue since it was raised for a K-9 with donations going toward the dog. **Paul Synuria**-We had already ask the Solicitor and she said as long as it is spent for safety toward the police officer's. **Jack Lawver**-We no longer have the dog. Motion carries. **James Lawver** makes a motion to pay the bills. **Robert Kovach** seconds the motion. Roll call: **Paul Synuria**, yes; **Ronald Bakewell**, yes; **James Lawver**, yes; **Robert Kovach**, yes and **Jack Lawver**, yes. Motion carries.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Chairman, **James Lawver**- We have had complaints about the Jake Braking on upper Market Street. **Jack Lawver**-If the trucks are going the speed limit of 15 miles per hour, they do not need to use the jake brakes. It posted all the way to the center of the bridge. **Robert Kovach**-I didn't make the complaint but it is all through the night with this well traffic. They are in a convoy and going 50 to 60 miles per hour. **Jack Lawver**-Maybe we can call the DOT team to do a speed trap. **Robert Kovach**-I contacted PennDot about two and half years ago, they said they would post it if we would adopt an ordinance. **James Lawver** makes a motion to authorize the Solicitor to create an ordinance against Engine Braking. **Ronald Bakewell** seconds the motion. Motion carries. **James Lawver**-We had a meeting with Columbia Gas about the citations that were issued for not complying with our street opening ordinance. We drove around the area and they seem to understand.

The barricade on Hollow Road has been put in place and it is now one lane. **Robert Kovach**-I have three bids for the repairs on Bowman Avenue: Lee's Plumbing is \$19,750.00, Maud Industries, \$21,275.00 and MAG Trucking, \$27,750.00. **Robert Kovach** makes a motion to accepting Lee's Plumbing bid of \$19,750.00 for the repairs on Bowman Avenue. **Ronald Bakewell** seconds the motion. **Jack Lawver** states this is one the roads we had on our priority list. Roll Call: **James Lawver**, (Jim ask the Solicitor if he can vote on this since he lives on the street. The Solicitor replies yes since it is effecting him as well as other so he can vote) yes; **Robert Kovach**, yes; **Jack Lawver**, yes; **Ronald Bakewell**, yes and **Paul Synuria**, no, but only because of Lee's Plumbing.

**PUBLIC SERVICE:**

Chairman, **Paul Synuria**-The yearly pistol qualifications are coming up and Chief Jablonsky and Lieutenant Brant need to qualify. Officer Mammerella will either qualify on his own or when he comes back to work. Chief Manches is asking a check be made to Luzerne Township for the amount of \$50.00. **Paul Synuria** makes a motion for the training to be paid. **James Lawver** seconds the motion. Roll call: **Paul Synuria**, yes; **Ronald Bakewell**, yes; **James Lawver**, yes; **Robert Kovach**, yes and **Jack Lawver**, yes. Motion carries. Calls for service: Township-4, Borough-54, Out of Town-9 Total 67; Citations: Township-3, Borough-33, Out of Town-0 Total 36; Incidents: Township-0, Borough-16, Out of Town-1 Total 17; People arrested-2 and Transport of Prisoners-0. Unit #1-453 miles and Unit #3-551 miles. Total miles placed on vehicles: 1004. Chief Jablonsky would like to get the timing marks painted as soon as weather permits.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS:**

Chairman, **Robert Kovach**- On your report it shows we have a sewage leak in the meter room. I went down and checked and it seems to be water leaking from the hose behind the police car. The extra phone the police department asked for has been installed for prisoner use. **Jack Lawver**-The Redevelopment Authority is putting our heating system out for bids.

**UTILITY SERVICES:**

Chairman, **Ronald Bakewell** –No Report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Chairperson, **Tracy Zivkovich** – Not Present. **Jack Lawver**-The Iron Crossing Apartments now have 20 tenants. Paul, Jim and Lester met with a gentleman who wanted to look at property at the old B-Bob Lumber. **Paul Synuria**-John Walters was the gentleman's name. He has a couple other businesses and he wants to lease to own the property. He is working with the Redevelopment Authority and Vince Vicities. We told him that we would need to see the plans and money before council would approve the venture. He wants to store salvage materials that he has collected from tearing down other buildings. **Jack Lawver**-I have met with this guy previously and was not impressed. **Paul Synuria** makes a motion that we send a letter to the commissioners and the Redevelopment Authority that we are not in favor of this until we see plans and money and that we would like to have a council member sit in on any meetings. **James Lawver** seconds the motion. Motion carries. Woody's Report: Complaints, 23; Inspected Houses, 3; Court Hearings, 1; Citations issued, 52; and Letter Sent, 4.

**LIBRARY:**

Representative, **Paul Synuria**- Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, they are having One Book for pre-school and elementary aged children. March 12<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a Mobile Career Links Day. We still do not have a library at this time.

**FIRE COMPANIES:**

Representative, **Jack Lawver**- Last year the legislators adopted Act 176 to help volunteer fire departments in tax reductions. There were many trees were blown down during the recent wind storm. Our truck was damaged by a fallen tree.

**TAX BUREAU**

Representative, **Lester Ward**- Not present.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

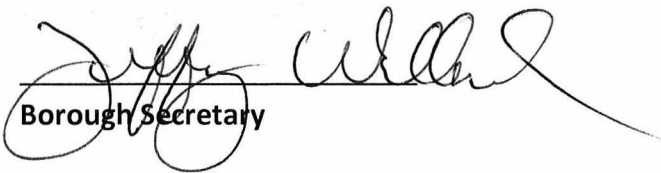
Tri-County Boroughs Association / POM / Zoning Hearing for Water Street (The zoning was denied for the halfway house)/ Mon Valley Alliance

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**James Lawver** makes a motion to support the Tri-County Boroughs Association Resolution to amend the Pennsylvania Highway Law. **Robert Kovach** seconds the motion. Motion carries.  
**Solicitor** discusses issues with the Rental Ordinance and will have corrections made and the ordinance available by the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion to adjourn by **Ronald Bakewell** and second by **James Lawver**. Motion passes.

  
Borough Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### REGULAR GENERAL FUND

|                    |          |                  |
|--------------------|----------|------------------|
| BANK BALANCE       | 02/28/19 | 33,814.92        |
| Outstanding Checks |          | <u>1,100.00</u>  |
| BANK BALANCE       | 02/28/19 | 32,714.92        |
| CASH BALANCE       | 02/01/19 | 11,590.20        |
| Receipts           |          | <u>60,864.12</u> |
|                    |          | 72,454.32        |
| Expenditures       |          | <u>38,639.40</u> |
| CASH BALANCE       | 02/28/19 | 33,814.92        |

### MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

|              |          |                  |
|--------------|----------|------------------|
| BALANCE      | 02/01/19 | 36,427.43        |
| Interest     |          | <u>.62</u>       |
|              |          | 36,428.05        |
| Transfers    |          | <u>35,000.00</u> |
| CASH BALANCE | 02/28/19 | 1,428.05         |

### FEBRUARY 2019 RECEIPTS

|                             |                               |              |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Mayor Ross Swords           | (Fines/Forfeits)              | 1,249.29     |
| Code Enforcement            | (Fines/Forfeits)              | 1,751.69     |
| Brownsville Police          | (Parking Violations)          | 40.00        |
| Brownsville Police          | (Police Report)               | 105.00       |
| Various                     | (Occupancy Permits)           | 120.00       |
| Various                     | (No Lien Report)              | 60.00        |
| County of Fayette           | (Delinquent RE Tax)           | 2,131.36     |
| Clerk of Courts             | (Fines)                       | 118.15       |
| Recorder of Deeds           | (R.E. Transfer Tax)           | 1,473.86     |
| SWRTB                       | (EI Tax)                      | 8,894.14     |
| SWRTB                       | (Corp. Tax)                   | 74.76        |
| SWRTB                       | (LS Tax)                      | 236.16       |
| Money Market Account        | (Transfer to General Fund     | 35,000.00    |
| West Brownsville Borough    | (Reimbursement for Tri-County | 417.50       |
| Railroad Museum             | (Rental)                      | 1.00         |
| German Township             | (2009 Crown Vic)              | 1,200.00     |
| Hiddles                     | Gaming Permit)                | 1,800.00     |
| Bridgeport Young Men's Club | (Gaming Permit                | 1,840.00     |
| Atlantic Broadband          | (Franchise Fee)               | 3,912.00     |
| Market Street Academy       | (Rental)                      | 250.00       |
| First National Bank         | (Account Adjustment)          | 172.00       |
| Interest Credit             |                               | <u>17.21</u> |
|                             |                               | 60,864.12    |

# MONTHLY BILLS FEBRUARY 2019

## FINANCE

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Deluxe | 725.91 |
| Quill  | 117.96 |

## BUILDING

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Terminex   | 40.00 |
| Do It Best | 70.36 |

## CODE ENFORCEMENT

## RECREATION

## POLICE

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Bevard        | 276.65 |
| Fayette Parts | 62.40  |
| RPM Signs     | 650.00 |
| Lexis Nexis   | 236.97 |

## STREET

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Bevard             | 616.96    |
| K-2 Engineering    | 3,680.00  |
| PA One Calls       | 5.92      |
| American Rock Salt | 2,767.17  |
| J.G. Services      | 31.63     |
| Fayette Parts      | 1,992.00  |
| US Municipal       | 297.60    |
| Do It Best         | 66.84     |
| Gillespie Coalyard | 183.00    |
| KS State Bank      | 14,720.79 |

## FIRE

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Center Independent North Side Fire | 37.92  |
| Center Independent South Side Fire | 242.89 |

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| Total | \$26,822.74 |
|-------|-------------|