



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 22, 2015 @6:00 PM  
159 MONROE STREET  
PROSPECT, PA 16052

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Bill Marciniak called the special meeting of the Prospect Borough Council to order @6:00PM with a salute to the flag. The following Council members were present: Mary Harmon, Sam Wagner, Dave Stellfox and Pete Bryan. Bob Boice, Glen Gitzen and Mayor Jim Butler were absent. Our Solicitor and Engineer were not present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There was no changes to the September 8, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Wagner made motion to approve the September 8, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes; Mr. Bryan 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Bryan made motion to advertise Ordinance 2015-01 naming Municipal Code Association as our new Zoning Officer; Mr. Wagner 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner made motion to purchase Carhartt's, bib overalls for out maintenance workers for a cost of \$99.00 per pair; Mr. Stellfox 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Mr. Wagner made motion to purchase a Pole Saw from Smardt Equipment for a cost of \$599.95 to trim limbs from trees; Mr. Stellfox 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Keith Gabage from PA American Water discussed the growth of opportunities they had to offer to extend our waste waters (sewage) collection within our community. PA American was here for information purposes only. They are regulated by the PUC; Public Utility Commission. Mr. Gabage went over the attached presentation. Mr. Gabage explained that our fee of \$62.50 would remain the same for possible three to five years or until the next rate case is filed. Mr. Gabage also said that this \$62.50 included the debt service. He referred to the benefits; purchase price, rates and the potential to employees. They have developed a relationship with DCNR. A resident mentioned if they were exploring public water. Mr. Gabage said they be more than happy to explore this with us and to show the economics in having both. Mr. Wagner wanted to know if they could expand the waste waters beyond Prospect Borough and the answer was yes they could be extended but would have to pay for their own lateral; the economics would bring them into the fold. Mr.

Gabage explained there are loan programs for the residents to help finance the lateral and there are also grants available for service lines but needs further research. He will be sending packets of the presentation to the Prospect Borough office for any resident who would like a copy. Quite a few of the residents had questions but were told again this was for informational purposes only. Some questions were if there would be a mandatory tap in whether sewage or water and Mr. Garage explained the Borough would have to get with their solicitor and draw up an ordinance and fashion it however they wanted. Many residents who have well water are against the water coming into the Borough as they recently have drilled new wells. Ms. Debbie from PA American said that the water is tested daily and weekly as they follow DEP regulations; most wells are only tested once a year. Mr. Gabage said that this should be a community decision as this is an investment but you need more customers to generate more revenue. Ms. Harmon said that this meeting was for to be for waste water only and that maybe later on we could add water into the mix but this is a plus for the whole community and would keep costs down. Someone asked how Franklin Township paid for their water and it was stated the well drilling companies did. Mr. Stellfox asked who does the feasibility study and Mr. Gabage said the council needs to do an investigation. Mr. Marciniak stated three years ago PA American Water approached Prospect Borough to add water to the Borough by the well drillers driving force. They came here and gave us a proposal which was cost prohibitive to the residents. Aqua American came to us two years ago but have not gotten back to us yet with final numbers or to see exactly what they are proposing. Mr. Marciniak also said we cannot get Block Grants as they are based on the 2000 Census so we are ineligible based on our income. At that time our income was very high and now we have more retired employees or passed away so the income has dropped. This is one reason we could not get a million dollar grant for the EQ Tank, the other is our delinquency is too high. We tried twice for a Grant and even paid someone to go out door to door with no luck as residents just flatly refused for various reasons. Mr. Marciniak said that no one wants to see the tax mileage and/or sewage rates increased. He stated if we sell the Sewage System and get out of our \$2,000,000 debt let them take it then we would not have to raise rates. Mr. Gabage said that you can collect all information and either way it will not please everyone. It was further discussed that any further information would be conducted at a Town Hall Meeting and that the Council would take the direction of the residents in the final determination

**ADJOURN:** 7:16PM. No further business at hand, motion made by Mr. Wagner to adjourn; Mr. Bryan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.