

**Borough of Pitcairn
Council Meeting
Minutes
December 10, 2018
7:00 pm**

**Meeting called to order by President Michael Tobias
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Council held an Executive Session at 6:00pm to discuss a legal matter.

Due to the unexpected large turn-out, Solicitor Mike Witherel explained under the Sunshine Laws we must accommodate everyone who wants to participate. Council decided to relocate the Meeting to the Park Building on Broadway.

Roll Call:

Doug Crothers
Kevin Dick
Cammeo Farally was absent.
Dona Galia
Lorraine Myers was absent.
Jim Rullo
Michael Tobias was absent.
Mayor Stevick

Dona Galia wanting to clear up some misinformation on social media. The discussion to have one fire company started in 2014, discussed at multiple meetings including a town hall meeting, Council has met numerous times with the Fire Chiefs asking them to come up with a plan to form one company which has not happened. Fire Co 1 expressed interest in a merger; Fire Co consistently said they would not. On August 13, 2018 a unanimous vote of Council was taken to begin the process of having one fire company. Mrs. Galia invited Brian Spudy and Tom Dick to speak about a meeting held this past week. Mr. Spudy said it was a discussion about joining Fire Co 1 and the issue of life membership. He doesn't want to start at the beginning after 38 years of service to this community. That is a big sticking point. Tom Dick thought it went well, discussed ways to have those who served Fire Co #2 to join us, make the company better. He thought the attorneys are looking into a few issues. Mr. Spudy asked if Council received the letter from their Attorney asking for 120 days. Mrs. Galia said they had.

Citizen Comment

Before public comments, Mrs. Galia asked everyone to be respectful, state name and address, to be sure everyone has time to speak, comments will be limited to three minutes. Clarence Edwards said Council made a unanimous decision to form one company, how can members associated with the fire companies vote. Solicitor Mike Witherel explained they cannot vote when a family member or they themselves receive a pecuniary benefit. When it is a non-profit entity like a volunteer fire company and there is no pecuniary benefit, he is unaware of any legal conflict. Mr. Edwards heard that one of Council abstained. Mrs. Galia: of those who voted, it was unanimous. Todd Cain, 571 Sixth St., Captain at Station 2 for 30+ years, assistant chief at Monroeville, listed his training, commendations. Mr. Cain said he will not prove his dedication to join the other fire company. He felt Council should make a merger that benefits both companies. He will go to another town but he'd rather stay here. Audrey Bussard read a speech, owns a salon in town and lives here. She agrees one fire co is best but not at this time. Our current situation with Center and Hillside are not safe for fire trucks and in freezing rain she said Fire Co 1 may not make the hill in a timely manner and someone could die. Ms. Bussard continued: it only costs \$26,000 a year to keep Fire Co #2 operational. The public safety fund generates about \$100,000 a year. She said the time is now for action. She is asking for more time for preparation and new negotiations to keep the ten fire fighters from Fire Co 2. Jack Bova spoke next. Stated his address, that he's been part of this conversation for a decade. He has heard these ideas before with no mechanism to make it happen, many residents think there is only one company. Council met years ago in this building, instituted a fund to support public safety including the fire fighters. Pitcairn is only ½ sq mile and for 40 years this battle between two fire companies has occurred. He has heard them say over the years, they are close to a solution but never do. You work together to fight a fire and then hold battling fund raisers, who will deliver Santa and it is counterproductive. Mr. Bova continued: he thinks the feuding prevents some people

from volunteering. This Council has been put in a difficult position because no one has come up with the solution to this problem everyone agrees must be solved. Elsie Edwards asked Council not to shut down Fire Co 2, asked that a fire truck remain on the hill where her grandchildren live. She said Center Avenue may be closed for some time when it is repaired. She said both companies have good fire fighters, the feuding has gone on for over 50 years but they fight fire together; she thought it should stay that way. Matt Ruby has been a member of both, current member of Fire Co 2. He felt members should stop attacking each other on social media. When we have a house fire both companies come together. Mr. Ruby questioned how Chief Farally was appointed liaison while being a member of #1 and recommending to shut down #2. Mr. Ruby: it is in the town's best interest to have one co, but unfair if one or the other current chiefs is made chief. It should be an outside person, voted on by the members. He said there should be more meetings. Kim Lang, 917 Brinton, volunteer for over 20 years as member of Fire Co 2, said it has been misstated that Fire co. 2 refused to join together. She referenced an article in the Tribune Review, March 5, 2014 that stated Fire Co #2 would not join at that time and take on the debt of Fire co #1. Since the Borough started the \$5 fund, it paid off the debt. Ms. Lang said Fire Co 2 was planning financially for equipment it knows it will need, has no debt. She asked the future plan for Fire Co 1, and why not have them join Fire Co 2.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Pitcairn Police worked 143 complaints, collected \$215 in Borough fines, \$1,206 from the Magistrate, \$50 Quality of Life tickets.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mr. Crothers motioned to adopt ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 917 AS AMENDED AND FIXING THE SALARIES AND RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR THE APPOINTIVE OFFICERS, AND MONTHLY AND HOURLY EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA BEGINNING JANUARY 2019. Mr. Rullo seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Streets – Mike Tobias

After discussing that Council would like to maintain the current meeting dates, Mr. Dick motioned to establish and advertise the dates for monthly Council meetings in 2019 as the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Crothers motion to adopt AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT, OF THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN CODE, SPECIFICALLY PART 8, SECTIONS 801, 802, 803 AND 804, AS TO THE RECOGNITION OF THE PITCAIRN HOSE COMPANY #1 AS THE SOLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OF THE BOROUGH, AND REMOVING THE PITCAIRN RELIEF FIRE COMPANY NUMBER 2 AS A RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY OF THE BOROUGH. Seconded by Mrs. Galia; no questions on the motion. Roll call: Mr. Rullo no, Mr. Crothers yes, Mrs. Galia yes, Mr. Dick abstained, motion carried. Mrs. Galia added that all of Council are residents, would not put their own families at risk.

Parks and Recreation – Cammeo Farally

Mr. Crothers motioned to make the following appointments: Fred Mendicino to the Vacancy Board, Nick Turner, Debbie Freeman, Samantha Dick, Lisa Petrosky and Brenda Tessler to Park and Recreation Board. Joseph Pedulla to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Finance and Economic Development – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo motioned to pay bills as presented. Mr. Dick provided the second; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to adopt ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ENACTING FIXING AND LEVYING THE REAL ESTATE TAX RATE OF 8.75 MILLS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF PITCAIRN FOR THE YEAR 2019. Mr. Rullo explained the millage rate is the same as last year. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo motioned to adopt the 2019 \$3,670,575 General Fund budget. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo reported the Manager has completed the following end of year transfers: from Sewer Agency Fund to Sewer Capital Fund \$100,000. From General Fund to Capital Improvements Fund: \$100,000 and to Electric System Capital Improvement Fund: \$50,000.

Health and Welfare – Doug Crothers

Mr. Crothers motioned to authorize EADS to submit the Borough's 2018 Waste Load Management Report to ALCOSAN. Seconded by Mrs. Galia; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Crothers reported Council is in receipt of the monthly Code Enforcement Report. Mrs. Galia thanked Mr. Prucnal and Mr. Turner for the report.

Electric – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick commended Debbie Freeman who collected and distributed 600 blankets to the homeless. Mrs. Freeman thanked Pitcairn residents for their support, it was very rewarding, and the people were very grateful.

Public Safety – Lorraine Myers

Mr. Rullo motioned to adopt Resolution appointing Allegheny County Fire Marshal Office as official Fire Marshal of Pitcairn Borough, clarifying that Alvin Hussey will no longer be the appointed Fire Marshal. Mr. Rullo explained this is for better consistency, using the County. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Engineer's Report

Don Black in addition to his monthly report, the new borough building project has broken ground. You will see a lot of construction activity.

Solicitor's Report nothing

Mr. Witherel: nothing in addition to prior business.

Police Chief Report

Nothing tonight.

Mr. Dick motioned to adjourn at 7:51 pm. Seconded by Mr. Crothers; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Dietz