The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lacock Dwellings Community Center, East Rochester, Pa.

PRESENT: Joyce Gordon, Joe Seminick, Cathy Hutsky, Kendra Hill, and Jim Simon.

ABSENT: Mayor Bob Knox

ALSO, PRESENT: Solicitor Paul Steff, Chief Mercier (arrived at 7:10 pm), Engineer Jeff Frye, Code Enforcement Officer John Clay, Deborah Ahern, Tax Collector, Rochester Borough Fire Chief Mike Mamone and James Dunn

CITIZENS REPORT: Mike Mamone introduced himself as Fire Chief for Rochester Borough. He said he came to the meeting to introduce himself and see if the Borough had any questions for him. He read the fire report for the month of January and indicated that 36 calls were answered during the month of January. There was one chimney fire on Spruce Avenue in East Rochester.

He said that the Rochester Fire Department ("Department") spends a lot of time helping other towns under mutual aid. Mike indicated that in 2017 and 2018 Rochester Fire Department applied for FEMA grants and was fortunate enough to receive $150,000 to upgrade the mobile radios for the fire trucks. Since Beaver County will be changing their radio system. He said that bids were received and awarded and that the Department should be getting the radios shortly.

He also indicated that $26,000 was awarded to the Department which was used to purchase turn out gear and thermo imaging equipment. He said that the Department applied for a federal grant in the amount of $975,000 for the purchase of a new ladder truck and they also applied for a $41,000 micro grant for fire fighting equipment for mid-rise apartment complexes (such as Jefferson Street and Gordon Camp apartment buildings). Mr. Mamone said that the Department currently has 8 trucks and is looking to downsize to 4 truck. They have trucks housed at the Downtown (Lacock Avenue), Northside (California Avenue) department and at the Noss Plan department.

He said the Department is currently preparing Buck-A-Month letters to the residents of Rochester Borough asking for $2.00 a month donation to be used towards fire fighting activities. He mentioned that the Department will be working with the residents of Lacock Dwellings this summer to give them the knowledge about fire preplanning.

Mr. Mamone inquired of council about purchasing any of the equipment from East Rochester Fire Department. It was mentioned that he should contact Pat Duffy, President of the East Rochester Fire Department.

Cathy Hutsky brought up about the insurance for the East Rochester Fire Department that is currently being paid by East Rochester Borough and that she feels the East Rochester Fire Department should reimburse this Borough when any of the fire trucks or equipment is sold. Joyce Gordon indicated that when Brian Yorke of Yorke Insurance Agency attended the January, 2019 council meeting this was discussed and he was asked to remove the fire trucks from the insurance policy. Mr. Yorke indicated that if needed (whenever a truck was being purchased by someone else), he could provide coverage for a 48-hour period during the process of selling the truck. At the January council meeting, Mr. Yorke also provided council with a breakdown of what is being paid for Fire Department vehicles and what is being paid for the Fire Department building. Mr. Steff said he recommended that

insurance not be dropped on the Fire Department building. He said the building needs to be insured for the protection of the general public. He said this issue was previously addressed by Brian Yorke. Mr. Steff said the Fire Department building is the largest asset of the Fire Department to settle.

Mr. Steff indicated that the fire department has to balance out its debts and that he is not sure anything would be left to reimburse the Borough. He said that money has to be accounted for under their debts and obligations. No one can answer any questions about if there will be anything left to reimburse the Borough.

Ms. Hutsky said she feels that as a taxpayer that the Borough should be reimbursed by the Fire Department.

Mr. Steff said that the Fire Department is a separate entity and the Borough council cannot control the assets of the Fire Department. Kendra Hill said it is up to the Fire Department on how the assets are distributed. Mr. Steff said the Fire Department is a separate corporation and any questions addressed to the Fire Department should be answered by them. It is not up to council to bring up matters that involve the Fire Department at a council meeting. It was suggested that Pat Duffy as President of the Fire Department be asked to attend a council meeting to discuss the status of the winding down.

Ms. Hutsky asked Mr. Steff as attorney for the Borough on guidance as to how to get money from the Fire Department. Mr. Steff indicated that there does not exist or ever have existed an agreement between the Borough and Fire Department regarding reimbursements. Mr. Steff said there is no means to do anything about the Fire Department as this time.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mrs. Gordon call for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the prior month's meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Secretary read a letter from Traffic Control Equipment & Supplies Co., Inc. regarding the traffic signal maintenance contract. It indicates that our service calls will be now billed on a "Per Call" Basis and that the Borough will no longer receive a monthly bill and will only be billed if Traffic Control is called out to an intersection. Chief Mercier indicated that Rochester Borough had received the same communication. It was decided that the Borough would not renew the traffic signal maintenance contract and that the Borough would use them on a "Per Call" Basis.

MAYOR and POLICE: Chief Mercier provided a copy of the Police Annual Report for 2018, and the report on Police Calls in January and report of calls to date. Under the Annual Report for 2018, there were 782 calls for the Borough of East Rochester. It was mentioned that the light is out on Route 65 Northbound at Maple Street. Chief Mercier said that Duquesne Light was notified but evidently has not repaired it yet. Mrs. Gordon asked for motion to accept police report. Jim Simon made motion to accept police report, Joe Seminick seconded. By roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Simon was asked if the salt storage building has been repaired and he responded that it has been. Salt has been ordered and delivered. Cathy Hutsky asked about applying for grants to pave roads in the Borough. Joyce Gordon indicated that Columbia Gas is still tearing up roads within the Borough to install new gas lines and will be back in the spring to complete work on more streets. It does not make sense to pave roads and then have them torn up by Columbia

Gas. Joe Seminick said that Columbia Gas does not notify the Borough when their contractors are tearing up the streets. Chief Mercier said they do not notify the Borough either. Mr. Frye said Columbia Gas was specifically told to contact the Borough.

Mrs. Gordon said we will not be able to get grants. Ms. Hutsky asked about using liquid fuels money. Mrs. Gordon said the money we have in liquid fuels would not be enough to cover the cost of paving. Mrs. Gordon said that Columbia Gas is supposed to come back and pave the roads in the Borough once the new gas lines are completely installed throughout the Borough. Jeff Frye said that street grants are hard to come upon. He indicated that usually most grants require 20% match by municipality.

Mrs. Gordon mentioned that there was a problem at the pump station with a blockage due to items flushed into the system. Fortunately, situation was handled and everything fine now. Jeff Frye said we are required to have a certified operator. Sam Landis does a check of the pump station daily.

BUILDING PERMITS: Mr. Clay said he received calls about permits, but no permits have been issued in last 2 months. He said that El Paso Restaurant is still planning on opening the restaurant in the Borough and construction should start in early March. He said that the liquor license process was part of the hold up for the restaurant. Mr. Clay was asked is Code System handles all commercial matters and he responded that they do.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: The Secretary reported the tax collector collected $4,838.95 with a commission of $216.24. The total bills paid for the month were $31,583.13. Motion was made by Jim Simon to accept the tax report and pay all bills. Kendra Hill seconded the motion. By way of roll call vote. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: None

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: None

BOROUGH ENGINEERING: Jeff Frye informed council he did speak with the contractor for Columbia Gas about the repair to Case Street and that the Borough needs to be notified when working in the Borough. Mr. Frye said he will complete the Waste Water Report. He also indicated that the Borough received from PEMA information regarding the Flood Plain Act. A Flood Plain administrator needs to be appointed. Mr. Frye will act on behalf of the Borough as Flood Plain administrator. Joe Seminick made motion to replace Flood Plain administrator with Mr. Frye, the Borough Engineer. Kendra Hill seconded. Motion carried.

RECREATION: Ms. Hutsky inquired about applying for grants for the 5th Street playground. It needs repaired and maybe if fixed up, it would be used more. Mr. Frye indicated that volunteers can donate their time and this process could be used toward the 20% fee for a grant for the playground. He suggested to Ms. Hutsky that the Department of Economic Development ("DCED") may have more information on various playground grants. He said this can be found online.

Mr. Simon mentioned that mulch is needed at the playground around the equipment there now. Ms. Hutsky said she would like the Borough to have a whole new playground (i.e. new swing sets and shelter). Kendra Hill said that Ms. Hutsky should present all the paperwork and information regarding a playground grant to the Borough council for their review and approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: It was mentioned that a Spaghetti Dinner is going to be held on February 16, 2019 at the Rochester Township Firemen's Club from 5:00 to 8:00pm for the benefit of a Tony Marchitelli, an East Rochester resident who was injured this past summer in a motorcycle accident.

A motion was made by Kendra Hill to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Joe Seminick. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer