



OFFICIAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL

February 4, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

1. The President calls the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
3. President offers a non-denominational prayer.

ROLL CALL

Barb Zerfoss
Thomas Fisher
John Harding, Jr. was absent
Eric Glotfelty
Charles Rhodes
Roger Clarke
President Brett Custer
Mayor Joseph Krause

Also in attendance were:

Terry Metzgar, Borough Executive Secretary

Members of the public:

See Attached Roster

Citizen Comments:

Minutes of the January 4, 2016 Reorganization Meeting and Regular Borough Council Meeting are attached for your review. (Exhibit P6)

Motion by Tom Fisher and seconded by Roger Clarke to approve and accept the minutes of Regular and Reorganization Meetings of the Berlin Borough Council dated January 4, 2016.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

President's Report

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by Charles Rhodes to continue the Itron Radio Read yearly maintenance cost of \$2435. This cost split equally between the Borough and Municipal Authority.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

Since our existing call-out system charges us 10 cents per call plus a \$2000 modification fee, and is not compatible with our Muni-Link Billing Software, we could realize a cost savings by changing to the Swift Reach Automated Call-Out System. The set-up cost for the new system is \$100 with an annual subscription cost of \$895. This program has unlimited call-outs and texts at no additional charge.

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by Barb Zerfoss to adopt the Swift Reach Automated Emergency Call-Out System with the cost split equally between the Borough and Municipal Authority.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

BVFD has invited the Council and their guests to their Banquet on 021316 and would like to have a head count of those who plan to attend?

Barb Zerfoss (will call Lois)

Thomas Fisher (undecided)

John Harding, Jr.

Eric Glotfelty (No)

Charles Rhodes (No)

Roger Clarke (No)

President Brett Custer (2)

Mayor Joseph Krause (No)

Terry Metzgar (2)

BBSD is requesting permission to hold a 5K race in the Borough of Berlin on 060416 for the benefit of the Class of 2019 and the Humane Society. This would require the approval of both the Council and Mayor along with some measure of traffic control.

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Tom Fisher to approve and support the Berlin Brothersvalley School District Class of 2019 request to hold a 5K race on borough streets on 060416. Mayor Krause also concurs in this approval.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

We have a bit of a safety issue up in the kitchen that could easily be resolved by moving the gas shut-off to a more accessible location. The cost would be roughly \$200. Would the Council wish to authorize this expenditure?

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by Charles Rhodes to authorize moving the gas shut-off valve in the Borough Building Kitchen if the BVFD agrees to split the cost.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

Informational Item:

The Customer Portal is now open for Berlin Borough utility customers @ <https://berlinboro.authoritypay.com>. Customers can sign up using their account number and their CID # which is located on the bottom of the stub of their bill. This information about the Customer Portal will be posted at the top of customer's bills.

Customers will be able to view and print their bill, sign up for eBill, view billing and usage history and pay their bills via electronic payment (for a small fee). Payments online can be accepted from credit (Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express) or debit cards.

Customers are also able to pay with a credit or debit card over the phone or at the Borough Office at 700 North Street.

Note: New bills are posted by the 15th of each month.

During the 030316 Meeting, Barb Zerfoss asked that the following narrative addition be placed on the February 4, 2016 minutes: "Discussion regarding the purchase of the Motorola APX 4000 radio voted to purchase for \$2,388.80 at the June 4, 2015 meeting has now been turned over to the Berlin Police Department."

Mayor's Report: Mayor Joseph Krause

Police Report January 1, 2016 to January 27, 2016.

Officers worked 190.5 hours
Officers appeared in court 3 times for a combined time of 7 hours.
Officers were dispatched for 30 calls.
Officers have investigated 20 incidents.
18 of these incidents are closed.
3 Non-Traffic citations were issued.
17 Traffic Stops were conducted.
10 of the stops resulted in citations being issued and 7 warnings given.

Motion by Barb Zerfoss and seconded by Tom Fisher to approve and accept the Police Report as presented.

Ayes: 6
Nays: 0
Motion Passed

Committee Reports:

Electric: Chair Eric Glotfelty
Internal Generation Update / Received Bids

Mr. Glotfelty provided the following narrative:

When we consider borough financials as it relates to the current economy, we may wish to bear in mind the following:

Previous Councils have done very well by stuffing money into the bank and accumulating interest income. This worked right up to the point where interest rates plummeted to less than the rate of inflation. When that happened, the value of our money in the bank began to shrink in proportion to that ratio between bank interest and inflation.

This brings to mind that famous saying “The most dangerous phrase in the English language is ‘We’ve always done it this way.’”

If we continue to handle our borough finances “the way we have always done it,” in the face of zero or negative interest rates, our 5 million dollar nest egg is going to blow away in the winds of inflation.

That’s why we might want to adapt by moving at least part of the portfolio into tangible assets. And if you can find a tangible asset that produces a greater than inflation return-on-investment, that’s even better.

Fortunately for us as a Municipal Electric, we are uniquely positioned to take advantage of regulatory changes that encourage peak shaving generation.

Hence the generation proposal.

If the Council elects to proceed with the Generation Project, the low bid of \$2,234,274 would yield a return-on-investment of roughly 10.7%.

PPA Discussion:

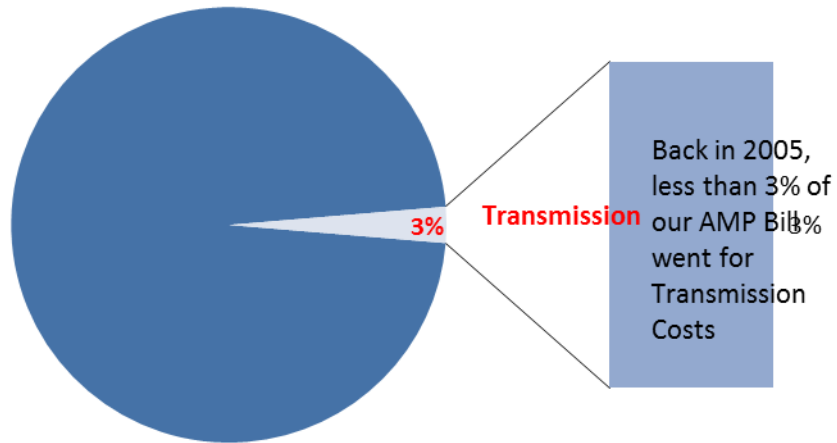
It is probably worth noting that even with the PPA in place, our 9.55 cent per kWh rate is the least expensive of any Municipal Electric in the state.

Now the question is:

Should we reduce the PPA or maintain it in anticipation of another polar vortex type event?

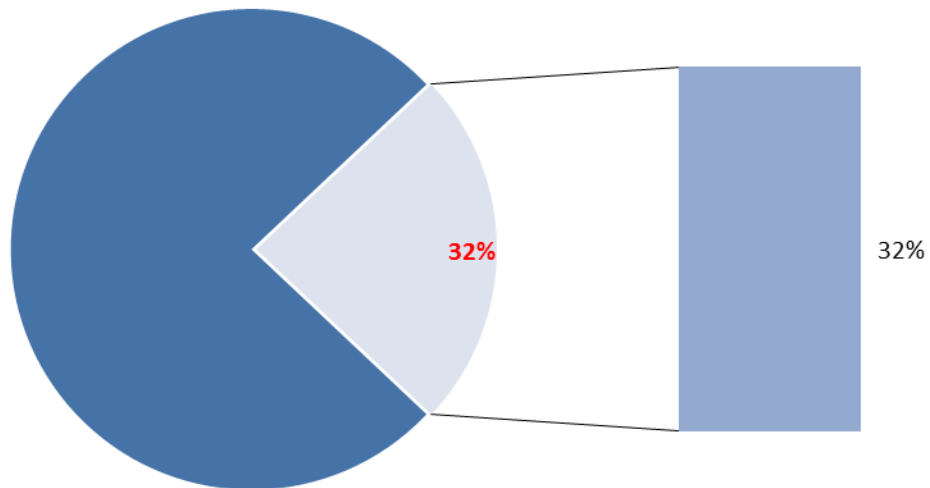
2005 Transmission Cost % of Total AMP Bill

■ 1 ■ 2



2015 Transmission Cost % of Total AMP Bill

■ 1 ■ 2



Note how transmission costs have ballooned from less than 3% to over 32% since 2005. It's this slice of the pie that can be largely eliminated through the generation project.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE: Chair Tom Fisher

Treasurer's Report and Bills:

Discussion ensued regarding that portion of the Barbera Legal Invoice pertaining to Mr. Rullo's consultation with Barb Zerfoss. A secondary motion was introduced to exclude that portion of the Barbera Legal Invoice from approval.

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Roger Clarke to approve the bills (excluding that portion of the Barbera Legal Invoice pertaining to consultations with Barb Zerfoss) and Treasurer's Report as specified on Exhibit P16.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 1

Motion Passed

ROLL CALL

Nay: Barb Zerfoss

Aye: Thomas Fisher

Aye: Eric Glotfelty

Aye: Charles Rhodes

Aye: Roger Clarke

Aye: President Brett Custer

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Tom Fisher to review legal bills from 2014 and 2015 and direct those items related to Barb Zerfoss personal legal consultations to Barb Zerfoss for her payment.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 3

ROLL CALL

Nay: Barb Zerfoss

Aye: Thomas Fisher

Aye: Eric Glotfelty

Nay: Charles Rhodes

Nay: Roger Clarke

Aye: President Brett Custer

Aye: Mayor Joseph Krause breaks the tie

Motion Passed with the tie broken by Mayor Krause

REFUSE: Chair Roger Clarke

BUILDING PERMIT & PROPERTY: Chair John Harding

CCIS Activity Report. (Exhibit P17)

HOUSE: Chair Barb Zerfoss

EQUIPMENT: John Harding

Status on Trucks 1 and 16.

STREETS & SIDEWALKS: Chair Eric Glotfelty

POLICE: Chair John Harding

All is well with our Police Force operating in an exemplary fashion.

BEAUTIFICATION: Chair Charles Rhodes

As part of our effort to improve the esthetic qualities of the borough, we would like to devote \$_____ along with the borough labor required to plant trees and flowers at locations selected by the Council in concurrence with interested citizens. This planting should be at locations that will not inhibit or interfere with best utility maintenance practices.

Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to appropriate the sum of \$_____ toward the planting of trees and flowers in the borough. The labor for this effort will be supplied by borough crews.

Aye:

Nay:

Motion

This motion was tabled for further study.

At 8:54 PM the council adjourned to executive session to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Roger Clarke to adjourn to executive session.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by Charles Rhodes to reconvene the regular meeting.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

At 10:43 PM, the council reconvened the regular meeting.

Brett Custer offered the following narrative:

As you know, we have a slot on the Municipal Authority to fill and the Authority Chair has asked that we re-nominate Brian Walker for that position. I can personally attest that Brian is a fine young man and a worthy candidate.

Motion by Barb Zerfoss and seconded by Eric Glotfelty to reappoint Brian Walker to a five year term on the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Berlin.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

Motion by Charles Rhodes and seconded by Eric Glotfelty to adjourn this Meeting of the Berlin Borough Council at 10:43 PM.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Note: The next regular meeting of the Berlin Borough Council is scheduled for Thursday March 3, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Berlin Borough Council conference/meeting room, 700 North Street, Berlin, Pennsylvania.

Terry L Metzgar

Terry L. Metzgar
Executive Borough Secretary
February 4, 2016



Guest Registry

Berlin Borough Council Meeting

February 4, 2016

Please print

Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Nancy Glotfelty			
Chelsea McCarty			
Susan Tugwell			
Robbie Tugwell			
Curt Glotfelty			

If you would like to address the Council, please enter your name and the subject that you wish to discuss here:



Thank You for attending the Berlin Borough Council Meeting.

Your input is both welcomed and appreciated.