

Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: June 6, 2016 2 to 3 pm

Location: Hershey Convention Center

Presiding: Randy Riddle

1st VP: Dick Starliper

Solicitor Marshall

Executive Committee Members in attendance: Deb Bargo, John Dorin, Ron Evanko, Jim Gallucci, Bruce Hockersmith, Chuck Mummert, Tom Oliverio, Dave Perruso, Tom Reenock, Lester Ward, Gerry Yob and Matt Marshall.

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Riddle who introduced Vice President Starliper and Atty. Marshall.

President Riddle noted for the membership that 10 mayors were now on the Board of PSAB and 45 mayors were in attendance at the conference. These numbers indicate that the Mayors of AMBP are not only an integral part of PSAB but have a strong voice on behalf of the mayors as well as their boroughs in PSAB. Approximately 8 newly elected mayors were in attendance.

Attorney Marshall then gave a brief introduction of the history of AMBP and the need to occasionally revisit and update things like by-laws to have them accurately reflect current procedures that have evolved through the years. He proceeded to read through the by-laws highlighting corrections/changes that had been proposed, accepted and were now being recommended to the General Membership by the Executive Committee. He clarified the changes being made to the districts. Upon completion a motion was made by Ron Evanko to accept these changes, seconded by Dave Holewinski. Motion was passed unanimously.

Question and Answer period followed:

Question: Whether or not a retired mayor can perform marriages.

President Riddle indicated that the mayor must send a letter to council indicating that they intend to perform weddings. This is required whether your services are at no charge or if up to the \$150 fee is charged. You must also report quarterly on any weddings performed along with fees charged.

This is laid out clearly in the Borough Code. Only mayors who have been removed from office for cause or who have lost an election lose their right to perform marriages.

Attached at the end of these minutes is a sample letter which you may use to inform council of your intention.

Question: Tammy Gore brought this subject to the attention of the group. Has any borough thoroughly investigated the ramifications and consequences of using body cams – going from a

“public” area to perhaps an area where consent is needed for taping – and what have their police and DA’s said about it.

Discussion. This is clearly unsettled law at this point. Many borough mayors reported that their DA’s were ‘for’ using it, some were as equally ‘against’ using it. Many of the questions to be considered were raised: ie

- does it fall under traditional wiretap law?
- how long should you keep the tape
- how do you move from “outside” to “inside” at say – a domestic disturbance
- who may have access to this tape and what laws of evidence cover it.

Attorney Marshall recommends that the boroughs seek to establish a strong policy ahead of time and get the recommendations not only from the DA and police, but the input of the state legislators as well. Allentown supposedly has established strong policies and is possibly going to serve as a model for other boroughs. Anyone with information that they would like to share should send it to the secretary at DianeSmith.AMBP@gmail.com. She will continue to compile research.

Question: How is legislation progressing? Mayor John Dorin, our legislative lobbyist, reported on the progress of the Radar Bill which our association has been working on for some time and was instrumental in its proposal. Mayor Dorin says that the bills are now supported by the State Police, Township Supervisors, the PSAB and the AMBP, the PSMA, and the State Chiefs Assc. We are not sure if there is anyone left to oppose the measures at this point.

All legislative items are posted on the AMBP website at www.paboroughmayors.org. ALL mayors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these resolutions, to discuss it with their constituents and most of all, contact their state legislators and urge them to act on them. The AMBP is fortunate to have Mayor John Dorin who spends countless hours advocating on behalf of the mayors of the state and appreciates the work done on our behalf.

Question: Can liquid fuel money be used to repair alleys.

We believe you can, however, you would be doing so if you accept it as a borough street. If it is now a street you will be responsible for maintaining it (such as plowing and paving) as you would a street.

Question: concerning matching grants being a larger part of a small boroughs budget than a grant matched in a large borough. It seems unfair, but probably a grant that meant something to a small borough would hardly be noticed in a large borough. When applying for grants, it is always good to show how it will positively affect the most people possible...even those who do not live directly in the borough. There are people who know how to write grants...ask around!

MAYOR OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

Mayor Bruce Hockersmith, Shippensburg, is head of the Mayor of the Year Committee for the AMBP. It is his duty to read through submitted nominations from various boroughs who feel that their mayor is worthy of the award. He – along with his committee comprised of Dave Perruso of Wilson, and Deb Bargo of Lewistown decide who they feel should recommend to the Exec Committee as Mayor of the Year. This year’s award winner was Mayor James Gallucci of

West Leechburg. President Riddle will arrange to have a presentation to his council at some future date.

Executive Committee Vacancy

The Association's Executive Committee is looking for one new member to fill a vacancy left by the passing of Mayor Joan Derco. To be eligible for consideration on the Executive Committee, a mayor must have completed one full term in office.

A letter of interest with basic information and time served are required for consideration, which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the AMBP. Serious candidates should consider attending the Fall Conference in October. Information is requested no later than September 30th, 2016.

Interested candidates may send their inquiries to Diane Smith, Association Secretary/Treasurer, 428 North McKean St., Butler, PA 16001.

Meeting concluded with the following reminders by the President Riddle:

There is a scholarship available to family members of mayors in good standing. It is on our website at:

<http://www.paboroughmayors.org/scholarship%20application.pdf>

Please also send photos/articles to Diane for use in the newsletter.

If any mayor has specific questions, please forward them by email to the secretary at DianeSmith.AMBP@gmail.com. Questions can often be answered by a reading of the borough code, talking with another mayor, a phone call to DCED, or a clarification by our attorney. We are here to help.

Minutes submitted by Diane Smith, Secretary AMBP

Date:

Council President
Borough
Borough Address

Re: Notification of Intention to Perform Marriage Ceremonies Under
Section 1005-A(b) of Act 43 of 2012 Amending the Borough Code

Dear Council President:

Please be advised that it is my intention to perform marriage ceremonies. I understand that this notification shall remain in effect during my term of office as Mayor including any re-elections or until such time as this notification is rescinded by me in writing.

If I receive a fee for performing a marriage ceremony, I acknowledge that I must keep an accurate account of such fee and provide Council with a report of all fees received each quarter. I will provide that report by the end of the month following every calendar quarter in which I received a fee, using the format specified by the revised Borough Code. If I do not submit an account by the end of a reporting month, Council may assume that I performed no marriage ceremony or I performed marriage ceremonies, but did not receive any monies for doing so.

Sincerely,

Mayor

cc: Borough Manager or Secretary