

**Town Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 11, 2013 – 7:00 pm**

**Attending Commissioners:**

Keith Hughes, President	Y	
Kathy MacDonough, Secretary	Y	
Ross Logan	Y	
Gary Rauso	Y	
Glenn Suter	N	No Call, No Show
Curt Nass, Treasurer	Y	

**Other Attendees:**

Rick & Tina Betz, Dave Brenner, Carmine Casper, Sue Ellen Creech, Brian Donovan, Stu Evans, Thomas Finocchiaro (BHFC Chief), Rep. Debra Heffernan, Denny Hehman, Frank Holodick, Miroslaw Kostyshyn, Scott MacKenzie, Jordan Seemans (aide to Rep. Heffernan), Andrew Shackelford, Jeff Spevak, Valerie White, Robert Williams

**1. Call to Order (Keith Hughes)**

President Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Special Guests / Public Comments (limit of 2 – 3 minutes per person)**

Valerie White of the Bellefonte Arts Festival spoke. The date is Saturday May 18 with a rain date of Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be 56 vendor spaces. Stu Evans will launch a Farmers Market with fresh produce on that day. Valerie wants to encourage festival-goers to use satellite parking at nearby schools. She is looking for bike rickshaws or pedicabs to shuttle people back and forth. Sue Ellen Creech (proprietor of Garages Aux Trois, formerly Sacks Thrift Avenue) said that the shop owners are exploring renting space for a sign about Bellefonte businesses from St. Helena's Church. It would be located at the "T" where Washington St. Extension meets Philadelphia Pike and have high visibility. Guests Rick and Tina Betz of Fat Rick's BBQ introduced themselves and said they are looking for space to operate a new BBQ restaurant. Ideally it would accommodate outdoor tables. They will keep the Commission posted.

Rep. Heffernan introduced Denny Hehman of the Delaware Department of Transportation, who gave a presentation about a traffic study that was done at the Town traffic signal at Marion and Brandywine Blvd. DelDOT has reviewed 1100 signals statewide and compared them to new federal standards, including twelve criteria used to determine if a signal is warranted. Our signal itself does not meet the standards (e.g. 12" wide lenses). Replacement and upgrading of the equipment would cost well over \$100,000. However, other conditions at the intersection dictate that a signal is not warranted. A four-way flashing light (similar to the one at Hillcrest and Marsh) would be equally expensive and that is also a methodology that is no longer considered effective by DelDOT. Thus, no further maintenance will be done on our traffic signal. In the near future the intersection will be converted to 4-way Stop signs. There will be a multi-phase educational period during the transition; for example, temporary additional signage reading "signal under study for removal," "stop ahead" or "new traffic pattern ahead," a period where the signal flashes red combined with the new stop signs, etc. Thomas Finocchiaro spoke about Fire Dept. concerns. Jeff Spevak said that the 4-way stop would remove the need for "no turn on red," which would be an improvement. Frank Holodick emphasized the safety issues created by the current status – where cars accelerate to beat the light – particularly the risk to pedestrians. Ways to keep parked cars away from the intersection were discussed, including a concrete "bulb-out" design.

A second issue was speed limits on Brandywine Blvd. from Edgemoor Road to Duncan Road. Edgemoor to Rodman Road is 35 mph; going north it decreases to 25 mph. A section near the Mt. Pleasant Elementary

School now marked as “30 mph” will be eliminated. Mr. Hehman said that the old Transportation Enhancement Program (which funded Bellefonte’s lampposts and brick sidewalks) is now called “Transportation Alternatives.” Dave Brenner reported that a stop sign at Bellefonte and Highland was down. Mr. Hehman said the best place to call for traffic signal and stop sign problems is the Transportation Management Center, at #77 on a cell phone. He mentioned that the green panels on the street name signs are called “street blades.”

Carmine Casper of H. L. Robertson Inc. civil engineers accompanied his client, Robert Williams of R.W. Williams Company. Mr. Williams has submitted a plan for 13 one-bedroom apartments and 1 efficiency at 906 Brandywine Blvd. They have communicated with DelDOT and other appropriate agencies. The soil is clay with poor drainage so they will be using cisterns to collect rainwater off the roof. There will be parking for 10 cars underneath and two along the curb line. The projected rent range is \$900-1000. There will not be an elevator. Kyle Bandler has approved the plans and no variance is needed.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Kathy read the minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting. *Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as read; Gary seconded. Motion carried.*

**4. Treasurer/Tax Collectors Report – (Curt Nass)**

**a. Financial Reports; Assessment Changes; Property Transfers; Tax Issues**

Curt read the Treasurer’s report. *Kathy made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Gary. Motion carried.*

**5. Board of Elections – no update**

**6. Building Inspector Report – No report**

**7. Plumbing Inspector Report – No report**

**8. Board of Adjustment Report - (Brian Donovan)**

No new applications for variance.

**9. Planning/Charter Commission Report – Scott MacKenzie**

No update.

**10. Reading and Approval of Bills**

Kathy read the bills for payment. See Attachment B. *Ross made a motion to approve payment of bills as read, seconded by Gary. Motion carried. Kathy made a motion to correct and confirm the amount from the January meeting that was approved for the Fox Point Babe Ruth. It was raised from \$300 to \$350 due to a miscommunication. Gary seconded and the motion carried.*

**11. Old Business**

- Charter Review – Public hearings are scheduled for Wednesday, February 20 at 7 p.m. and Wednesday March 27, also at 7:00 p.m. The March 27 event will be designated “Public Hearing/Special Meeting” and it will also serve as the First Reading of the proposed Charter. If all goes well the regular Town meeting on April 8 will serve as the Second and Third Reading.
- Status of alarm system and camera installation – Keith to follow up with Security Instrument on gift certificate.

- Status of misc. electrical work in town hall complex – no change.
- Gutter clean-out – to be scheduled by volunteers as time permits
- Decision was made not to accept New Castle County economic development grant for Bellefonte Arts Festival. Original plan for funds is no longer viable, and bookkeeping and flow of funds would be burdensome and problematical.
- Status of park landscaping clean-up and gazebo repair – gazebo repair is completed
- Oktoberfest – Kathy will request cost of an alcohol rider on our insurance policy.

**12. Public Comments/Questions (2-3 minutes per person in turn; each person may speak up to 3 times on the same topic)**

**13. New Business**

- Solicit Board of Election members for 2013 election. Kathy will ask current members if they will serve again.
- Next Commission Meeting Date – Monday, March 11, 2013

**14. Public Comments/Questions (2-3 minutes per person in turn; each person may speak up to 3 times on the same topic)**

**15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathleen MacDonough  
Secretary

**Town of Bellefonte**  
**Monthly Bills Presented for Payment**  
**February 11, 2013**

<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
<b>Acct or Inv #</b>	<b>Invoice Date</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amt Due</b>
2761 2079 9974	1/28/13	Delmarva Power	Street lights	1,397.60
3016 5229 9960	1/30/13	Delmarva Power	School util. (gas)	34.32
3106 5229 9986	1/31/13	Delmarva Power	Town Hall util.	516.42
2516 9059 9997	1/31/13	Delmarva Power	Traffic signal	20.06
302 761 9638 417 64Y	1/13/13	Verizon	Town Hall telecomm	112.89
0015875664	1/31/13	IDS – Waste Industries	Trash/recycle	11,366.65
	1/15/13	Hollywood Inc.	Gazebo repair & gate hinges	1,000.00
	1/29/13	Jos. Finocchiaro & Bros.	Salt/sand	1,110.00
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				

Town of Bellefonte  
 Monthly Treasurers Report  
 February 2013 Report

	Town Account	MSAF Account	Property Transfer Account	Town Accounts Sub-Total	
1	Balance 02/01/13	\$171,716.64	\$2,968.52	\$57,353.80	\$232,038.96
<b>Receipts</b>					
2	Town Tax	938.47			938.47
3	Cable Franchise Fee	10,355.77			10,355.77
4	Property Transfer Tax		9,058.50		9,058.50
5	Plumbing Inspection Fees	300.00			300.00
6	Interest	12.98	0.20	4.63	17.81
7	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>11,607.22</b>	<b>9,063.13</b>		<b>20,670.55</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>					
8	Trash Collection	11,366.65			11,366.65
9	Snow Plowing	1,110.00			1,110.00
10	Park Maintenance	1,000.00			1,000.00
11	Town Utilities	663.63	1,417.66		2,081.29
12	Plumbing Inspections	150.00			150.00
13	<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>14,290.28</b>	<b>1,417.66</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15,707.94</b>
14	Ending Balance 01/31/13	\$169,033.58	\$1,551.06	\$66,416.93	\$237,001.57

15  
 Feb. Properties: 1114 Talley Rd  
 1004 Grandview  
 1201 Brandywine Blvd

Curt A. Nass  
 Treasurer/Tax Collector