

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH  
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 12, 2008**

620 West Chestnut Street  
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:

Marty Gahman  
Eadie Burke  
Ray Conville  
Bill Delaney (left at 10:15)  
Richard Hendricks  
Harry McGonigal (absent)  
Chris Nicolosi  
Jim Purcell  
Maria Slowik  
J. Robert Hunsicker  
Daniel P. Olpere  
Heather Van Horn  
Andrea Brody (arrived at 10:30)  
News Herald  
Morning Call  
Daily Intelligencer  
Bucks County Herald

Mayor:

Borough Manager:

Finance Director:

Park & Recreation Director:

Press Representatives:

Chairman Marty Gahman convened the meeting at 9:36 AM. Mr. Gahman announced that committees weren't assigned for 2008 and the meeting would continue as a committee of the whole.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

None

**2008 BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Gahman explained that the purpose of this meeting is to give the new council members an opportunity to review the 2008 budget with staff and ask any questions that they may have. Mr. Gahman also spoke about the upcoming electric contract negotiations and the need to prepare a plan of action to prepare for the impending electric contract renewal and respond to the expectation of large rate increases and the impact they will have on the Borough as well as its residents. Discussion ensued among Council members about raising the electric rates.

Manager Olpere gave an overview of the highlights of the 2008 budget. Manager Olpere stressed the need for council to adopt a transfer and fund balance policies in conjunction with preparing for the electric rate increase. Manager Olpere discussed the pros and cons of adopting an electric rate increase now.

Ms. Slowik asked Manager Olpere to see if other communities with electric companies have transfer policies in place. She also proposed creating a fund that would offset the rate hikes for the electric rate payers, including the possibility of Council members not accepting salaries to start the fund.

Ms. Burke stated that she did not feel that the electric rates should be raised until the Borough's rates were raised and that the previous council controlled the budget by cutting expenses such as with the trash and recycling program instead of raising rates.

Mr. Gahman explained that the Council had four possibilities to help offset the increase; cut expenses, dip into reserves, raise electric rates or a combination.

Mr. Hendricks stated that the Borough should have a plan similar to the road plan to manage all of the Borough's assets ensuring future expenses were properly planned for. Mr. Hendricks also stated he would like staff to look into the possibility of raising the pool membership fees for non residents.

Manager Olpere gave Council an overview of the three vacant positions the Borough currently has.

Mr. Conville stated that he would like to see the Borough hire an Assistant Manager/Zoning Officer.

Mr. Hendricks stated that he would like to see the Borough promote from within to fill the electric and public works department vacancies.

Mr. Olpere announced that he had asked Ms. Brody, Parks and Recreation Director to come to the meeting to discuss the Menlo Aquatic center portion of the budget.

Mr. Hendricks asked Ms. Brody about the possibility of raising the pool membership fees for non residents and about pool staffing.

Ms. Brody explained that she did not include an increase to any pool membership fees for 2008, but instead hoped to increase pool programs and promotion of the pool to increase the number of membership's in turn increasing revenue.

Ms. Brody explained the improvements she is planning for the bathhouse including new flooring, counters, showers and fixtures.

Mr. Hendricks asked if the Architect that the Borough hired for the pool construction had included any plans for the bathhouse.

Manager Olpere said he would do some research and call the architect and report back to Council.

Mr. Nicolosi stated that he did not see any economic development money in the 2008 budget and that is something he thinks is important to the community and would like to see the Borough and Perkasio Olde Towne Association work together for the betterment of the community.

## **PRESS FORUM**

Questions from the press were received and answered.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM. to the Menlo Aquatic Center.

## **RECONVENE**

At approximately 11:30 AM. reopened the meeting at the Menlo Aquatic Center Council members Gahman, Hendricks, Conville, Nicolosi and Purcell were present along with Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Brody and Manager Olpere.

Ms. Brody reviewed the improvements that she is recommending for the bathhouse with council.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

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Daniel P. Olpere  
Borough Manager/Secretary