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**SPECIAL MEETING
February 24, 2009**

President Linn Auman called the special meeting of the Millheim Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Linn Auman, Kay Brown, Alan Ilgen, Lauralee Snyder, Sharon Heckman, Nicholas Barger, Trooper Petucci, Jim Artley, Erich Berger, Ann Bowers, Richard Casper, Cyndy Engle, Jeanne Ishler, Carl Rote, Mike & Gwen Slack, Carolyn Steffen, Georgia Steffen and Wayne Weaver.

Absent: Marlene Corl, Tom Strelbel and John R. Miller, III

President Auman dispensed with Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Nicholas Barger, an 11th grade Penns Valley High School Student, requested permission to replace the flood gates at the Race during the summer of 2009 as a combination Eagle Scout and Senior Class Project. Nicholas explained that he needs Council approval and signature for this project. He explained that there would be four or five young men on site to do the work but the gates would be built off-site. The water would need to be diverted when the new gates and mechanical devices are installed. President Auman explained that he has agreed to oversee this project. He also explained that the gates would be built of white oak purchased with funds in the Borough Budget for this project. No DEP permits are required. A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Alan Ilgen to accept the proposal to replace the floodgates at the Race as presented by Nicholas Barger. Motion carried.

Trooper Petucci presented a short power point presentation on a Neighborhood Crime Watch. He explained that the success of this program would hinge on community involvement. The police facilitate but they do not run the program. The Trooper explained the five steps to building a crime watch:

1. Organize citizens – He explained there was a level of interest because of the good turn out for this meeting.
2. Coordinate with Law Enforcement – someone should be identified as a Watch Coordinator and that person would have a Police contact person.
3. Identify problems and develop strategies – let the citizens know what is expected from them and let the Police know what concerns the citizens have. The Trooper explained there are three different types of crime watch.
 - Passive Observation – residents interact and exchange information (example: tell a neighbor when you are going on vacation).
 - Walking Patrols – done in pairs during times when crimes are likely to occur.
 - Mobile Patrols – these are not very common.
4. Train – Trooper Petucci explained that enforcement action is always left to the Police. This is not a vigilante program and individuals could face prosecution if they go to far. The purpose of this group is to be the “eyes and ears” and would be taught how to report suspicious activity.
5. Take action steps - Trooper Petucci gave some suggestions such as: hold a kickoff event, post signs, do a newsletter, maintain communication with Law Enforcement. He explained there are no rules just guidelines. Some groups meet monthly, some meet every two months or quarterly. Trooper Petucci could do a program or run numbers of crimes. Citizens share information. The meetings are very informal.

The Trooper explained that residents become more aware of what is going on around them and typically the number of calls to the State Police increase after a crime watch starts. He explained that he prefers calls be made if a person thinks something is suspicious. This is not an over night process.

The following information was given in response to questions:

- If a crime is in progress, call the police. You can call 911 or 355-7545. Be a good witness without putting yourself in harms way.
- If kids are out past curfew time, the police can't act on ordinances but Glenn Ripka should be called to enforce this.
- If the kids are running or skateboarding across Rt. 45 repeatedly, the police should be called. The Trooper explained that the person making the call must be willing to testify and they must be able to identify the kids so the police can file on information received.
- The State Police would identify crime times and locations for the Crime Watch Group and would provide a hard copy of the power point program presented.
- Trooper Petucci explained that all calls are prioritized.

- Video surveillance is an appropriate tool but in the case of speeding vehicles you must be able to identify the driver. The Trooper said he would need to check on the rules about video acceptance for road issues.
- Concerns were raised about retaliation if reports are filed. The Trooper explained that this is a tough call. He explained that the issues discussed here are similar to those of other municipalities.
- Trooper Petucci explained that the more people that are involved the better off you are.

President Auman introduced Wayne Weaver from Aaronsburg. Mr. Weaver is retired and has offered his law enforcement expertise to work with this Crime Watch Group. A suggestion was made about having crosswalks placed by the Bridge on Rt. 45 with signs that say drivers must yield to pedestrians. The Borough can request PennDot to look at this. Mr. Weaver requested everyone interested in the Crime Watch put his or her name and telephone number on the sign-up sheet. The next Crime Watch meeting will be held Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room and the meeting date is to added to the Borough website. President Auman thinks it is imperative that Glenn Ripka speaks at a meeting to let people know what ordinances he regulates and how to get in touch with him.

The Downtown Business District Sidewalks were discussed. Cyndy Engle expressed confusion as to who was to get prices from contractors. Everyone present explained that at the January 27, 2009 meeting she had volunteered to do a letter and get quotes from three contractors to the Council by this meeting. President Auman stated that he would speak with Curt Bierly about this. He also explained that the Borough could get money if the Borough does the project. He explained that this was done when the sewer was originally put in and it took many years to recoup the money. Council is not interested in doing this. The information must be brought to Council for the next meeting on March 10, 2009.

The Secretary reported on the special meeting of the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency she attended. She explained that the other municipalities wanted additional information to take to their regular municipal meetings but one area of concern was that Millheim had not paid the \$4,000 requested. Mrs. Heckman explained that she had neglected to add to the February 10, 2009 meeting the request from the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency for \$4,000 and apologized for the oversight. Carl Rote raised a concern about what happens later. Mayor Snyder explained that this is to get through this year and the situation would be evaluated at budget time. Alan Ilgen explained that if the other municipalities would support the proposal it would cost less to operate. A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Kay Brown to pay the \$4,000 to the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency as requested. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Alan Ilgen to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer