

**BOROUGH OF CRAFTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Minutes of January 8, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Levasseur called to order the Discussion Meeting of Crafton Borough Council of January 8, 2018 at 7:15 pm, in the Community Center of the Municipal Building. The Flag Salute was led by Ms. Perry.

ROLL CALL, by Manager Scott, recorded Seven (7) Members of Council present as follows: Mr. Amendola, Mr. Crouse, Ms. Perry, Ms. Glaser, Ms. Damits, Mr. Rosario and Mr. Levasseur. Also present Mayor Bloom, Solicitor Gladys and Manager Scott.

**BILL LIST APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Perry*) to approve the Bill List dated January 8, 2018 as presented.

MOTION #1 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Glaser*) to approve the Ratified Bill List dated December 27, 2017 as presented.

MOTION #2 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

**ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Amendola/Damits*) to approve the Minutes for the December 11, 2017 Meeting as presented.

MOTION #3 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Vote (7-0).

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Mayor Bloom presented Jeff Tremblay, a Proclamation honoring Mary Tremblay, the retired Borough Secretary who passed away on December 14, 2017. Jeff thanked the Mayor and Council for the Proclamation and remembering Mary in a special way.

James Gladys, Borough Solicitor, made the following statement, prior to the Audience Agenda. He noted, most may be in attendance this evening to speak regarding Crafton Library and recent issues. The Borough of Crafton and this Council are separate from the Crafton Library, which have their own Board and adopted by-laws. The Borough has two collaborations with the Library; Borough Council may appoint two members of the Library Board and Council budgets each year an annual donation for operating expenses.

He noted, other than these two matters, the Borough has no other mechanism to address concerns citizens may have on other matters.

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL/Agenda Items Only:**

Mr. Levasseur reminded the audience, we were meeting in the Community Room this evening to provide everyone an opportunity to speak, who wanted to speak before Council. He asked that everyone speak clearly for the camera, and to state your name and address for the record.

- Tracey Vogel, 315 Newkirk Street, noted she is a former employee of Crafton Library. She stated the current Library Board made some drastic changes in the day to day operations of the Library, she was not in agreement with. Over time, they found a way to terminate her from her position. She wanted to make sure Council and the Community were aware of how much she loved that job and Crafton Library. She asked that Council get involved with the Library Board and to hold them accountable for their decisions.
- Jason Ryan, 102 S. Grandview Avenue, he wanted to reiterate the importance of Council working with the Library Board and thanked Council for taking the time to listen to the residents of the Community.
- David O'Brien, 55 Bradford Avenue, noted it appears that the Library Board isn't sure if they are a Public Entity serving the Community or a Board that is in existence to serve themselves as Members and their own ideas. They want the public to communicate with them, but don't provide the public the opportunity to do so. Council, tax dollars and volunteers all support the library.
- Courtney Bonnet, 1709 Crafton Boulevard, she noted she is a Children's Librarian for Northland Public Library, she knows Tracey both personally and professionally. She supports Mr. O'Brien and everyone else in the audience this evening. She noted the last Library Board Meeting in December was a disaster. She hopes that with this turmoil brings the necessary changes to the Library.
- Bradley Boldt, 212 Ewing Road, Treasurer for the Library Board, he noted that he and everyone else who serves on the Board realize the last meeting was not up to residents expectations. He noted every monthly meeting held, there is never an audience in attendance and they weren't prepared for the number of attendees at the December 11 meeting. The Board has discussed, reducing the number of board members to 7, Council appointing 2 members, reinstating the art program and preparing written policies and some of the other issues presented at the meeting. Going forward, the Library Board, Borough and residents want to work together.

- Judy DiGiacomo, 60 Duncan Avenue, stated the biggest mistake the Library Board could have done is terminate Tracey Vogel. She did more for the Library than anyone on the Board. She noted the Art Program Tracey started was enjoyed by all patrons. She inquired as to why the art program was cancelled, and wanted to be sure Council was aware. She inquired how Board Members were selected.

Ms. Perry stated the Board welcomes anyone interested in being a Member should complete an application.

- Suzy Cozy, 29 McMunn Avenue, noted she has volunteered for numerous years at the Library and utilizes all of the resources offered there. She is a pre-school teacher, and Tracey has assisted her over the years with developing programs for the children, offering book ideas, videos, puppets, and countless other items utilized in these programs.
- Megan Grabowski, 11 Emerson Avenue, stated she wanted to provide Council insight of some of the actions of the Board. She stated President O'Connell asked her to sit on the Strategic Planning Committee as a Community Member. She attended the meeting, prepared to provide information on the Library, her thoughts, ideas and hopes as a resident. Instead the Trustees represented, opted to utilize a plan from another library, no data was utilized, simply changes to a few sentences and they made the plan their own. No other Community Members were present at the meeting. The other issue happened when setting up for the most recent Book and Bake Sale. She witnessed Board Members throwing donated books in the trash, concerned over content, just by looking at the title of the book. She noted a self-perpetuating Board with personal biases and agendas is not fitting for a Community Library.

Mr. Levasseur inquired if there were any additional comments, no one responded, he therefore closed Citizens Comments for this meeting.

### **SOLICITORS REPORT**

Mr. Gladys noted, he had nothing new to report at this time.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Bloom noted a bank robbery occurred at the Crafton Ingram Shopping Center, police suspect it is the same person who recently robbed the Commonwealth Bank in Green Tree. Police are asking if you have any information to please call 911 immediately. The FBI is involved in the investigation.

**BUSINESS AGENDA*****ADMINISTRATION***

Mr. Levasseur announced the Council Meeting Schedule for 2018, will remain the same, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday beginning at 7:15 pm, the schedule has been advertised and the building posted. Any special meetings will be advertised in the Post Gazette and on the website.

***PUBLIC SAFETY***

Mr. Levasseur announced that the Council is accepting Letters of Interest through January 17, 2018 for appointment to the Civil Service Commission as an alternate member.

***FINANCE***

Mr. Levasseur noted the 2017 Year End Cash Balances are strong and will be carried forward to 2018. Verification of balances will be completed through the Treasurers Report and the 2017 Financial Audit. The estimated balance for all funds is \$3,045,136.

***ZONING & PLANNING***

Mr. Levasseur announced Local Government Academy will be holding a Blight Seminar on Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at Ingram (Time to be announced). No cost to attend.

Mr. Levasseur noted the Borough of Crafton maintains a Board of Appeals Committee to hear Uniform Construction Code (UCC) violations. Ingram is interested in perhaps a joint appeals committee. An Intermunicipal Agreement would need to be entered into by both Communities. Ingram is taking the lead, once a draft is prepared, Council can review and discuss.

***DISCUSSION ITEMS***

Mr. Levasseur thanked the audience for attending the meeting this evening. He noted Council is listening to your concerns and will work with the Community and the Library Board to resolve the matters we can. He stated, he appreciates the interest in Crafton and the Crafton Library.

Ms. Perry, noted as a Member of Council and Member of the Library Board, she too appreciates the Community and their concerns.

Currently there are eight members on the Library Board, who are very committed to the Library. She noted some of the issues discussed this evening are in reference to a personnel matter, and must remain confidential. She acknowledged the last Board Meeting wasn't handled well, however, the Board was unprepared for the number of those in attendance wishing to speak.

The Board as it stands is intent on addressing the issues and concerns of the Community and will move forward in a positive manner.

Ms. Perry noted, some of the immediate changes are as follows; Notification or advertisement of Board Meetings, for 2018 they are included on the websites (Borough & Library) monthly calendar and a legal notification has been submitted to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Future Board Meetings will be set up in the Community Room to accommodate anyone interested in attending and/or speaking.

Ms. Perry stated in regards to the Library Board, the Library Code only addresses the make-up of the Board if incorporated after 1961. Since the Crafton Library was incorporated in 1932, the library celebrated 85 years last year, the regulation regarding appointment of Members isn't applicable. However, since we have heard from the Community this is a concern, the Board will be addressing this matter and a proposal to reduce the number of members to 5 to 7. There will be a number of motions involved in the reducing of the Board Members. She encouraged residents to attend their meeting tomorrow evening, January 9, 2018. She noted, this will include Council appointment of two Members to the Board.

Ms. Perry also noted there is a formal draft of a policy prepared on how to conduct the Board Meetings. No policy had been in place previously, and will be discussed at the meeting.

Ms. Perry noted Elections of Board will take place and the recommendations are as follows; Martin Avery, President, Erin Kuchno, Vice President, Bradley Boldt, Treasurer, and another member as Secretary. She reminded everyone these persons are relatively new Members of the Community and to the Board.

Mr. Levasseur stated, as a Member of Council, he would like to see two persons appointed to the Library Board. He noted, the Borough controls the Annual Donation, and under the Borough Code, we have the right to reopen the budget until February 15. Council may consider revision to the annual contribution.

Mr. Amendola stated, he doesn't believe the two appointments to the Library Board should be members of Council. He believes the appointments should be members of the Community so there doesn't appear to be any conflict of interest.

Ms. Perry suggested the Borough solicitor review the Library Code and the regulations on the appointments of Council.

Mr. Levasseur stated the bottom line, this Council needs to agree and approve on the appointments to the Board.

Mr. Levasseur suggested two motions at this time, one to establish the composition of the two appointed members to the Library Board, whether interested Community Members or two members of Council or a combination of both.

Mr. Rosario inquired whoever is appointed, is this in addition to the current Board or replacement Board Members.

Ms. Perry reiterated, the Library Board will be meeting tomorrow and anticipate they will be taking the necessary steps to reduce the number of Board Members to seven.

Mr. Levasseur suggested that perhaps Council should consider waiting until after the Library Board meeting to make any decisions.

Mr. Crouse suggested the Library Board make recommendations on the two appointments and bring whomever it may be, before Council to discuss their qualification and expectations.

Mayor Bloom noted that Council solicits letters of interest for various Boards and Commissions. Example Recreation Commission, Civil Service Commission. Anyone interested in being appointed to the Library Board should submit a letter of interest to the Borough Manager. Council can review, and if desired, meet with the person for further discussion.

Mr. Amendola read a letter from Karen Joyce, a resident of the Community regarding the recent events that occurred at the Crafton Library. Ms. Joyce is out of town and was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Crouse noted, Council needs to remember each of the Board Members are volunteers here to serve the Community. We are all neighbors and need to be kind to one another.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Perry*) to open the 2018 Budget in accordance with Section 13-11 of the Borough Code.

Mr. Amendola inquired as to why the Budget is being opened.

Mr. Levasseur noted that this evening we have had much discussion over the Library, part of the discussion must include their annual contribution. Council may certainly consider increasing the contribution for various programs as this is one of their main sources of funding. The discussion needs to include blight, demolition, code enforcement as well. Mr. Levasseur believes the new members of Council need to provide ample opportunity to review and discuss.

MOTION #4 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

Ms. Scott reminded Council that the Budget is a guide, Crafton has a strong cash balance coming into 2018. She also reminded Council the two new members of Council were provided a draft of the budget prior to adoption and the budget was on display in the Administration offices as required by the Code. It was also on the Borough website for review and comment.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Damits/Perry*) to schedule a Budget Meeting for Wednesday, January 17, 2018 beginning at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers.

MOTION #5 was moved and seconded by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (7-0).

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Mr. Levasseur made the following announcement;

- *Reminder – All sidewalks, stairs, driveways, and parking spaces are to be maintained free of hazardous conditions during the winter weather.*

***CITIZEN COMMENTS***

Rene Smith, 1765 Crafton Boulevard, suggested to Council to review the qualifications of the applicants interested in appointment to the Library Board. Recommending candidates with an education or library science background.

***ADJOURNMENT***

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded (*Perry/Damits*) to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

MOTION #6 was carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann C. Scott, Borough Manager