

The special meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:30 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

ROLL CALL: Present: Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli
Absent: Astarita

Mayor Budesheim announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GOVERNING BODY:

- 1) Police Merger Study.
- 2) One Day Liquor License for Fund Raising Event at the Glenburn – September 14, 2010.
- 3) Sewer Agreement with PRBRSA.

- 1) **Police Merger Study:**

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, RESOLVED that the Council go into closed session to discuss contractual matters with the PBA representatives.

ALL IN FAVOR.

At this time Mayor Budesheim announced that he would excuse himself from the closed session meeting and remain with the public to answer questions. He stated that he has heard the issues the PBA wishes to bring before the Council in closed session.

Closed Session being completed, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to open the meeting to the public.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli
Nays: None
(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

Councilman Falkoski stated that some contractual issues were discussed in closed session related to the previous decision this Council made regarding whether to study this plan issued to us by Butler.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to stand by the decision made at the last meeting and not review this matter any further.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli
Nays: None
(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

Councilman Falkoski stated that he did not think it was necessary to put a referendum on the ballot to decide whether to further discuss or study the feasibility of a possible merger. If we feel there's a problem with the police or having to consolidate in some manner for financial reasons or anything of that nature, this Council is able to address that issue along with input from the Police Department.

Police Merger Study (continued):

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, that the Council not discuss further whether to put a referendum on the ballot regarding the feasibility of further studies of a possible merger of the Police Department.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:

Henry Vitz asked about the cisterns. Mayor Budesheim stated that there are 59 houses in the Stoneleigh section so we would need to have 30 wanting to put them in. At last count there were 15 in favor and 14 against. Councilman Guis stated that we are still looking into other options. Mr. Vitz also stated that motorcycle noise on the highway was unbearable over the weekend and asked if there is a state law regulating motorcycle noise. Mayor Budesheim stated that our traffic officers would look into it.

Doug (?) from Mead Avenue asked about the sewers. Mayor Budesheim stated that they were voted down.

There being no further comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, that the public portion be closed.

ALL IN FAVOR.**2) One Day Liquor License for Fund Raising Event at the Glenburn – September 14, 2010.**

Councilman Carelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to approve a One Day Liquor License for Fund Raising Event at the Glenburn – September 14, 2010.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

3) Sewer Agreement with PRBRSA

Mayor Budesheim stated that he emailed a letter from the Sewer Authority to the Council and we have until Wednesday to give them an answer. The letter is regarding a proposal to expand the plant at the Two Bridges Sewer Authority where our waste is treated. It would be done over the next 5 to 6 years and will cost us \$8.98 per gallon. A 200,000 gallon expansion for the Borough of Riverdale is \$1.8 million. Our sewer survey master plan was done based on current uses and if we needed to sewer the rest of the lower end of town we would need about 175,000 gallons. We feel we would be able to pick up 75,000 from here and there so we would need 100,000 gallons. We're looking at about \$900,000 a year. Residential user rates would go up to about \$800 versus the \$424 we're paying now. The cost of putting in a new septic system at \$20,000 is going to be cheaper in the long run. The other thing to consider is the future redevelopment of the quarry. If anything is done there, that is where we would need the gallonage. Once we close the door on this there will be no more opportunities. I would recommend we say we're interested in the 100,000 gallons at the \$8.98 price. This doesn't become a commitment until they decide that they are going ahead with this expansion. Councilman Guis stated that the PRBRSA is looking to find out if there is enough interest in added capacity from the municipalities they service. Audience member Scott Trout asked if the price of \$8.98

Sewer Agreement with PRBRSA (continued):

per gallon could go up. Mayor Budesheim stated he would want to express our interest based on that dollar amount in case it goes up.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to authorize Mayor Budesheim to send a letter to the PRBRSA stating the Borough of Riverdale's interest in 100,000 gallons at the price of \$8.98 per gallon.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2:

There being no comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, that the public portion be closed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol J. Talerico, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk

CLOSED SESSION:

Present: Councilpersons Carelli, Guis, Falkoski, Loesner, Wetzel, Borough Attorney Robert Oostdyk, Police Chief Thomas Soules, Sergeant Bogert, Sergeant Smith, and Patrolman Harden.

CONTRACTUAL MATTERS:

Patrolman Pat Harden addressed the Council stating that the police officers would like to give insight as to why the merging of the Riverdale and Butler police departments is not a good idea.

Sergeant Bogert stated he is not comfortable with all of the issues with Butler and that the information passed on by the Mayor does not all exist. The administrator in Butler was asked for the list of the towns that are slated for possible merging in the future and he advised that the list does not exist. The administrator was also asked for the calculations and figures on what the savings would be if the departments were merged and he advised that they were not in writing they were just estimated and rounded. Chief Card has not called anyone regarding the work load issues. Sergeant Bogert expressed that the trust regarding the matter is out the window. The impression is that Butler wants to do this in order to get out of their Civil Service status. Also, none of Butler has ever worked with our guys.

Councilman Loesner stated that he had been reading about this all week in the newspapers.

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that there was not a specific proposal.

Councilman Loesner stated that he was under the impression that if the towns merged the civil service act took precedence.

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that if there was an agreement between Butler and Riverdale civil service would end but both towns would have to vote to eliminate the civil service.

Chief Soules stated that he asked Butler Administrator Lampmann for a copy of the report regarding the amount of police officers needed for a police force according to the size of the town and he told him that there is none.

Councilman Falkoski stated that even if there was a valid report, Riverdale may be able to maintain the numbers with the retirements that are taking place.

Councilman Carelli stated that Riverdale will be reaping the benefits of the retirement next year and that this Council has worked hard to have this work. There is a possibility there will be no control over spending by Riverdale.

Patrolman Harden also stated that the Chief of Police is in charge of the Police Department, and if we merge with another town you will never be able to go back to having you own police department again.

Chief Soules stated that the Riverdale Police Department will be down to 16 guys and will do everything to make it work for Riverdale.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated she did not feel that the Council had enough information in order to make an intelligent decision in the first place.

CLOSED SESSION (continued):

Sergeant Bogert stated that this whole thing was handled improperly from the beginning and it is creating a poison throughout the department. This would force our guys to have to interview for their own jobs in order to keep their employment.

Chief Soules stated that from what he understood this was not even going to be a study, it was just going to go into effect next summer.

Councilman Guis stated that he must admit that the concept certainly sounded interesting.

Chief Soules also stated that it originally sounded good because we were told that Riverdale is on the LUARCC list and now we find out that there is no list.

Sergeant Bogert submitted a copy of a "Municipal Courts – Reports on Demand Case Flow Summary" to the Governing Body.

COPY OF LIST IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 78-A

Councilman Falkoski stated that when the Council went back into open session he would make a motion to reaffirm the decision that was already made by the Governing Body opposing a referendum for the merging of the police department.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that she thinks the Council should have more information regarding all of this and not rush into anything and assured the police that nothing was being done behind their backs.

Councilman Carelli stated that the Council is going to have to look into ways to save money.

Sergeant Bogert stated that they are also looking to save money but this may be able to be done through attrition.

Patrolman Harden stated that the morale of the guys is down and some of them are getting physically sick over this.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that there are other people out there with other opinions and possibly it should be addressed publicly. The Governing Body does not just represent one group. The Council has a responsibility to the whole town not just one group and the Council has to look at this from all sides of the community.

Sergeant Bogert stated that he figured out the proposed savings and it would only amount to \$282 per resident per year if this were to go through.

Councilman Carelli stated that the taxes are not going to go up with the 2% cap and we do not want to be in a situation where we have to lay someone off.

Councilman Falkoski stated that we do not want to do this right now but if we have to, it would not be done like this.

Patrolman Harden stated that if we did ever have to do this merger we definitely do not want to go with Butler – maybe somewhere else.

Statements were made that they felt that Butler went too far with their comments in the newspaper articles.

CLOSED SESSION (continued):

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated this should be wrapped up and the decision is to stay with the original vote made at the last Council meeting. Mr. Oostdyk stated he did not feel another motion and vote was necessary, but to just address that no changes were going to be made to the original decision.