Adamstown Borough Council **September 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 80 E. Main Street, Adamstown, PA by Council President Randy Good.

Council Present: Randy Good, Dave Matz, Cindy Schweitzer, Mark Bansner, Joe Dietrich, Jessica Kelly

Visitors Present: George Beever, David Buckwalter, Donna Wetherhold, Mike Wetherhold, Jonathan Zaun, Alex McManimen, Ralph Vedder, James Stoner, Mark Schweitzer, Bryan Schweitzer, Sue Weinhold, Lavern Sweigart, Carol Johnson, Tony Luongo, Alan Fry, Monica Craig, Ken McCrea, Wendy Crouse, Tim Crouse, Chris Luongo, Andrew Luongo, Sara Luongo, Cory Buckwalter, Brooke Luongo, Dan Shuman, Lynn Keene, Ben Fisher, Mike Zaun, Donna Zaun, Carlyle Zaun, Natalie Howe, Bob Stork, Helen Shaak, Erick Dickson, Mike Elmer, Becky Hartranft, Roslyn Bansner, Shad Lewis, Joanne Kurtz, John Kurtz, David Dunkelberger, Tyler Low, Abe Beichner, Sandy Roth, April Westhafer

Others Present: Dean Johnson, Josele Cleary, Sam Toffy

POLICE DISCUSSION: After months of research by the Fire & Safety Committee into the options of a police vendor, Ralph Vedder presented each of the final proposals at the August 26th Council meeting for Council's consideration. The Fire & Safety Committee concluded that presentation by recommending acceptance of the Ephrata Borough Police Proposal. Mid-afternoon, September 8th, Adamstown Borough was given a revised proposal from East Cocalico Township with table copies provided to the Council. The one sheet proposal mirrored Ephrata Borough's numbers with no further information provided. R. Good opened the floor to public comment from the audience.

Donna Zaun, Adamstown Resident – Ms. Zaun said that for her, this is personal. She said she felt that the presentation by R. Vedder was skewed to favor Ephrata Borough. She said that one thing the Borough needs to do is publicly thank East Cocalico police force men and women for giving their time for everything they have done through this contract period over the past 30 years.

Laverne Sweigart, Adamstown Resident – Mr. Sweigart commented that on several occasions the ECT police have saved his mother-in-law's life arriving before the ambulance and it was much appreciated.

Natalie Howe, Adamstown Resident – Ms. Howe said that she was present at the ECT meeting held earlier in the day at 2:00 and perhaps she can provide some clarity. She went on to say that she can see that some of the personalities of the supervisors are somewhat challenging to work through but when you get to the root of the issue, it was her take-away that they were providing a fee for the service of the police department that would be exclusive of MMOs and pensions.

Mike Elmer, Adamstown Resident – Mr. Elmer said that he feels getting rid of the ECT police force would be a huge mistake. He said that Adamstown received benefits of the ECT police department for quite a few years while the pension was being underfunded so we were getting them at a discounted rate and it would be wrong to kick them to the curb now.

Sandy Roth, Adamstown Resident – Ms. Roth said that earlier in the day while off duty she came upon an accident and had the opportunity to see things from the other side and see how long it took officers to respond. One officer was on the scene within two minutes and two other officers arrived within five minutes. There is no way officers could get there that quickly if coming from Ephrata. She said it is a no brainer to stay with ECT police with the new contract being offered.

After public comments were heard, and no comments were made by members of Council, R. Good turned the floor over to C. Schweitzer who also served as a member of the Fire & Safety Committee. She stated that a special committee was formed and public meetings were held every two weeks to discuss options for police protection. The Committee was charged with giving a recommendation based on the proposals they were provided with. After

careful consideration of all of the information provided to the Committee, the recommendation to go with Ephrata Borough was announced at the Council meeting held August 26th. A last minute revised proposal was presented to Council by East Cocalico Township mid-afternoon today. The details and what is involved are all unknown at this time. Based on this new information and the recommendation previously made by the Committee, C. Schweitzer stated that she is standing behind the Committee's recommendation and is making the following motions:

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried that the President of Borough Council be authorized to inform the Board of Supervisors of East Cocalico Township that Adamstown Borough desires to terminate the Police Service Contract between the Borough and East Cocalico Township dated April 5, 1978, and amended by the Amendment to the Police Services Agreement dated November 6, 2013, such termination to be effective at midnight on December 31, 2015.

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried that the Borough Solicitor be authorized to negotiate with the Ephrata Borough Solicitor to prepare an Agreement between this Borough and Ephrata Borough for police protective services commencing on January 1, 2016, incorporating the terms set forth in the proposal provided by Ephrata Borough dated August 12, 2015.

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried that the Borough Solicitor be authorized to prepare an ordinance pursuant to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to authorize this Borough to enter into an Agreement with Ephrata Borough for the provision of police services effective January 1, 2016, and to advertise such ordinance for consideration of Council at Council's October or November meeting.

Borough Solicitor Josele Cleary stated that what will happen next is she will contact Ephrata Borough's solicitor. The proposal that was presented was fairly complete. Once a final agreement is reached, Ms. Clearly will get a copy of the agreement to Council as soon as possible. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Act and the Borough Code require that there be an ordinance enacted by the parties to this type of agreement prior to it becoming effective, so the ordinance should be enacted once the agreement is prepared, circulated and reviewed by both Borough Councils. Ms. Cleary said she will make the agreement available for review at the October Council meeting and subsequently advertise the ordinance for October or November. Ms. Cleary will also draft a letter to ECT for R. Good's signature.

J. Dietrich requested to go on record as saying that to him this was very personal. He explained that he plays racquetball with Jonathan Zaun every week and has other close ties in the community so this has been a very tough decision for him personally. He said he wished that the numbers provided by ECT at 4:00 today could have come in a long time ago so that Council would have had more time to evaluate the situation.

There were several outbursts directed at Council by attendees who declined to identify themselves.

Alex McManimen, Adamstown Resident – Mr. McManimen spoke to the citizens in attendance saying that he is embarrassed by their behavior. He said that Council has been disrespected today. Council got a proposal an hour before the meeting when this has been going on for 18 months and the citizens' anger is directed toward the wrong people. Mr. McManimen apologized to Council on behalf of those in attendance for the disrespect being shown.

R. Good closed the discussion on the police and moved on to the next agenda item.

ADAMSTOWN POOL: There were two sample agreements included in the packets regarding pool management and snack bar which should be reviewed and will be discussed at the October Council meeting.

1925 N. READING ROAD: ECT sent a letter dated September 3rd regarding advertising the sale of 1925 N. Reading Road and asked Council what legal advertising venues they would recommend. Council all agreed that the newspapers suggested by ECT were sufficient to advertise the sale of the property.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Ms. Howe again addressed Council and made the recommendation that before making a final decision on the police, both sides (ECT and Adamstown Borough) should agree to talk, have it mediated, discuss it openly in one session and make it a done deal.

Adjournment:

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 7:22PM.

Attested: _____
Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary