

Jermyn Borough  
**Council Minutes**  
June 1, 2017

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on June 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jermyn Community Center, 440 Jefferson Avenue, Jermyn, PA in the Council Chambers.

On roll call present were: Frank Kulick, Robert Parks, John Mark, Dan Markey, Kevin Napoli, Joseph Smith and JoAnne Wilson. Also present were Mayor Smallacombe, Tony Grizzanti and Atty. Larry Moran. Absent were Junior Councilman, Evan Samuelson.

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to accept the May 18, 2017 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Wilson; all in favor, motion carried.

**Property Reassessment Resolution #8-17:**

A resolution of the council of the Borough of Jermyn, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, calling upon the Commissioners of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, to conduct a countywide property tax reassessment. Mr. Kulick read aloud the resolution. A copy of this resolution will be available at the Borough Office and on our website.

Mr. Markey asked if it should be property value reassessment or is tax interchangeable. Atty. Moran said interchangeable. Mr. Kulick said he is not a big fan of social media and there was a lot of chatter on social media. There were some citizens who voiced their opinion that we were trying to adopt this resolution only to allow us to have additional tax money to build a new DPW and/or police building. He said for that citizen to check all the minutes of the meetings that we had and find where we discussed or raised that possibility because that has not been discussed and is not the purpose of the resolution. Mr. Mark said he went through reassessment in Susquehanna County and it seems to work ok but the problem is if anybody is concerned about raising taxes, you cannot raise taxes for so many years once reassessment is done. Atty. Moran said it has to be revenue neutral. Mr. Mark said with the reassessment with the Borough is we cannot bring in \$1 more than what is coming in right now. Mr. Markey said a lot of people have a fear of change and the unknown, rumors start and they spread. People think that it is a tax increase. If it is a perceived tax increase, that is our responsibility to set the record straight and let everyone know that this is not about increasing taxes, this is about coming into the dawning of this age where property value reassessments are going to be 50 years old next year in this county and someone can buy a house in the Borough of Jermyn for \$100,000 and have it assessed at \$7,000 for current 1960 assessment values. Mr. Markey said it stunts economic development, in the Borough we need to make sure we are pushing forward and try to really bring on the economic change that we need in this Borough and this is the jump start we need, hopefully the County Commissioners can get on board. He said to anyone that has questions about what we are trying to do, our purpose and intent is not for a tax increase. Our purpose and our intent are to make sure we are going into 2018 and beyond fairly assessing all properties. Mrs. Wilson said she did a little research and Mr. Markey and Mr. Mark are correct, some taxes for the people will go up naturally and some will stay the same, others will go down. There is a

moratorium on raising taxes within the Borough even if some millages are reduced. Mrs. Wilson said she agrees with reassessment, her problem is that it was started and it was stopped, it should have continued. She said in the long run, the taxes will be our problem. Does the county have the millions that it will take to reassess the properties? Mr. Markey said doesn't the county have a surplus of millions right now? Atty. Moran said he does not know what the surplus is but there is a surplus. He believes the county is able to increase taxes in the first year after reassessment to offset a little bit of the costs that went into it. Mr. Mark said we had the county here for our Rushbrook Creek project and they are very willing to put money into the project. He does not know by voting for this if that can be taken as a negative and that funding taken away from us. Mr. Markey said he does not see where one thing has to do with another here; he does not see this as something negative for the county and commissioners. Atty. Moran said it would be negative if they retaliated against the Borough. He does not think it is a realistic concern. Mr. Markey said we are not putting ourselves in real harm here by adopting a resolution to ask the county to do a reassessment that hasn't been done in 49 years and by the time it is done it would be closer to 55 years. Mr. Markey said he does not see any retaliation against us for adopting the resolution. Mayor said when he was commissioner he had a lot of people come in talk about the reassessment. He said it is time to even it out and it is a good time to do it and should have been done when they spent the 8 million to do it last time. It was started and it was dropped, they spent a lot of money for nothing. That money is gone now; they have to spend it all over again. Mr. Kulick said we are not suggesting how it should be done or where they are going to get the money, this resolution only suggests that we are in favor and think it is a good thing that needs to be done because it has not been done. Mr. Smith questioned the amount of taxes that is going to go down. He looks at this reassessment as an equalizer. He does not see how we are going to say we are going to drop down to 16 mils. Mr. Markey said it is basic math when we have 1968 assessed values. If we have to maintain the same revenue stream, we have to lower our millage rates; there is no doubt about it. We can probably cut them in half if the reassessment is done correctly and if values are assessed at what they should be then we will probably see millage rates drop in half. Some people who just purchased their homes or built their home, their taxes could go down. Mr. Smith said it will be an interesting situation to see what happens if reassessment is done.

A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mr. Napoli to adopt the Property Tax Reassessment Resolution #8-17. 5 yeas, 2 no, motion carried.

### **Electronic Recycling:**

Mr. Markey said there will be a CRT recycling, projection tube television and/or computer monitors, The current rate residents gets charged at the recycling center is \$1.85/lb. Between June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>, they are allowing municipalities to gather their own and have the municipalities bring them to the recycling center free of charge. He would like to see if we can have a full on electronic recycling drive. He has been in touch with someone who besides CRT/monitors will pay us per lb. for our electronics. This would be no appliances allowed, but computers, desktops, laptops, stereo equip. flat panel TV's and flat panel monitors, keyboards, mouse etc. We can coordinate the two together; one of our trucks can be used for placement of CRT TV. We can do it on a Saturday where residents are in town and are able to bring them

over. He would like to see if we can do it Saturday June 17, 2017. It can be 4 or 5 hours. The person, who will purchase the other electronics, invited us back to his station and we can watch them weigh everything to make sure we are getting the fair amount for the electronics. As far as the CRT projection tube TV and computer monitors, the county wants to limit it to 1 per household. Mrs. Wilson said 1 each per household, 1 monitor and 1 TV. Mr. Markey said you won't have every household participate but will also have people who will bring down 3 or 4 TV's at a time. Mr. Markey said if you feel we need to put a limit of 1 of each per household. He said the last drive we might have had 200 TV's tops, he doesn't think we will hit 900. The only thing we would have to worry about is if people come from out of town if their own municipality isn't doing one. Mr. Fuga suggested showing ID. Mrs. Wilson said show some type of ID showing they live in Jermy. Mr. Smith said how are we going to load the TV's into the truck? Mr. Markey said depending on when we have it, he might be available and Mr. Kulick might be available to help out. If not then if Tony and Joe aren't available we can possibly bring in a part time DPW employee to help. We have a few different ways we can go about it. Mrs. Wilson asked if she should be needed to be there to check ID's for residents. He said yes, it would make sense to check ID's for the monitors and TV's. Mr. Mark said some people asked if we would have them possibly picked up at the curb, there were quite a few elderly people who asked to put the TV's out to the curb. Mr. Markey said if someone has their TV out to the curb, Tony and Joe will pick it up, especially if it is a bigger weight. Mrs. Wilson said would it be a good idea to put a note elderly people call the Borough building and schedule a pick up so the DPW will know, instead of having everyone drop them off at the curb. Mr. Mark asked Tony Fuga if it would be better to pick one day to put the items on the curb. He said we have a two week span and if they want to call the office to set up an appointment for them to go and get it. Mr. Smith said for clarification purposes this is only for two weeks correct. We have to let them know it is only for two weeks. Mrs. Wilson suggested putting it on channel 7. Mr. Markey said he will advertise it and put out flyers. Mrs. Wilson said to put politely say elderly residents, please call the Borough. Tony Fuga said for drop offs to make it easier for everyone, they can set up pallets for people to put them on.

Mr. Smith said if we put it on channel 7, we are inviting other municipalities to bring their stuff down. We paid for Rapid Cast; we should put it on Rapid Cast.

The person who will be collecting the other electronics is going to pay us for the following:

Complete Towers \$. 60/lb. – Incomplete \$.40/lb.

Laptops \$.30/lb. – Incomplete Laptops \$.25/lb.

Flat Screen Monitors \$.50/ea. – Flat Screen TV \$1.00/ea.

Stereo/Receiver/misc. \$.40/lb.

The 17<sup>th</sup> of June is in the middle of the two week time frame and Mr. Markey thinks it will give us enough time to get the word out to the residents. A good reminder to let them know, they cannot go in the landfill. Mr. Smith suggests talking to the DPW and arranging what is best and what you guys decide, put on Rapid Cast and we go through with this. He said he would be very careful that we do publicize that this is only two weeks. Mr. Markey said it starts on June 12<sup>th</sup> and if the elderly need to leave their TV to start doing it now.

Mr. Kulick said he encourages everyone to talk to their neighbors and make sure they are signed up for Rapid Cast. Mr. Markey said the more people we get on Rapid Cast, the more value we get out of it. We pay for 1,000 households. There are currently about 160 households signed up for Rapid Cast.

Mr. Smith made a motion that we pick up TV's, computer monitors and other electronics per the final decision by the DPW and chairman Mr. Markey during the weeks of June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 thru June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, seconded by Mrs. Wilson. All in favor; motion carried.

### **Recreation Committee:**

They will hold a re-organization meeting June 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Markey said we have a few people that are interested. We need people who may want to help out for a couple hours a year for the events and also for a voting body.

Mrs. Wilson asked if we still use the old recreation form to ask for permission. Mr. Markey said we have a newer form that is up on the website, the one that council passed in 2015.

### **PPL Light Update:**

We received one credit from PPL for the lights we were paying for in Jessup. We will now be receiving a credit for the lights on Callahan Dr. we were paying for in Archbald, est. about \$6,000 credit between the two credits. The Borough Secretary suggested passing on the savings to make the conversion to the rest of the lights because right now we are paying for two separate accounts, one LED and the other for the remaining high pressure sodium that were not converted. Mr. Markey asked why some are not converted. If the lights are less than 10 years old, we have to pay an upfront cost to convert them to LED so we left the one's less than 10 years old out of the conversion process. We will follow up on how much the upfront cost will be to convert the rest of the lights. Council thanked the Borough Secretary.

### **Junior Council:**

Mr. Kulick said we have one Junior Council member now. Mrs. Wilson said we usually send out a letter to the superintendent in late July- August to start the process of selection for the second one. Our current Junior Councilman usually helps with the selection.

### **Code Officer Update:**

Mr. Kulick said he was with our new code enforcement officer for a couple of hours on Wednesday morning. They drove around town and they identified 20 properties that will be given warning letters about overgrown grass, junk cars, and garbage on side of the house etc. The four really bad properties we talked about for a long time and he asked the code enforcement officer to issue them a certified letter. Mr. Kulick said we are sort of starting from scratch a little bit but we are taking action. One or two of the properties, the officer went up and knocked at the door and had conversations with the people, it went pretty well. There is a lot of this stuff on Facebook pages about people taking pictures of other people's properties which he does not think is a good thing. 20 properties will be asked to clean up and are given a fair amount of time to do it. Mr. Mark said the holding pond over at Raymond Development, we should make it very clear that we went over there as a safety hazard and cut that grass. We should possibly think about putting a lien against Raymond and by no means by us doing that, we are not taking over that development as far as roads or anything else. Mr. Markey said we billed them last year after we cut it. Mr. Mark said even though the people pay taxes to Jermyn Borough, it is still a private

development. Mr. Mark wants to make sure it is on the record that we did not take that development over. Mr. Markey said maybe we can try to resurface this issue again. He asked Atty. Moran if he was here last year when we were dealing with this. Atty. Moran said he can take a look at it. Mr. Markey said the problem is the development owner is deceased and the son is not claiming ownership.

Atty. Moran asked if they had any questions about the code enforcement. Mr. Markey asked him if he was ok with the forms that were made. Atty. Moran said he was ok with the forms. He said the question was about court orders. The Jermyn Borough property code contemplates court orders in those instances where property owners refuse to let him in. The officer has the inherited authority as council's adoption of the code to go in and inspect properties and issue citations. If he encounters resistance we would then go to court or a magistrate judge is appropriate. It is a probable cause. The process is if there is a violation or determination by the officer, that effected citizen has the right to appeal that here and then council has the original jurisdiction to make the determination, from that the decision can be appealed to the UCC Board of Appeals. Mr. Markey said what happened the last time when Ray was trying to go after the red house, he sent out that certified letter and he never got a response. Mr. Markey received a call from the owner's attorney. There was no formal response. Atty. Moran said at the time we had the International Property Maintenance Code.

#### **Engineer Update:**

Tony said Dennis talked to the power plant guys about giving advance notice about the large hauls. He said Dennis was over at the Verizon building with the noise monitor. They called and asked the Verizon rep. for the specs on what it is supposed to be. The noise meter read 67 decibels and the code is around 56. It also has to do with the octave levels but he wants to see what the machine says first.

Tony said Andrew Baldan did everything he was supposed to do over at Lincoln Ave. He asked him if it was necessary if they can throw in the paved curb. He was over there last night when it rained; the water is flowing down the road; not over the curb and not into anyone's property. During the hard rain the water coming off the neighbor's property that flows down his driveway, the puddles cannot get out into the road so it flows along that curb onto his sidewalk and back into his property. He said they can fix it if they like but it is not coming from the road. Mr. Napoli said that is private property. Tony passed around copies of the pictures he took. He said he can talk to Robert Hunt. Mrs. Wilson said where she thinks they were talking about putting the berm is going into the driveway. Tony said if you go and look at his driveway when it is not raining if we put another inch or two on the road side he will have a curb pulling out of his driveway. Mrs. Wilson said Robert Hunt said someone cut down trees and threw them over the embankment and Robert Hunt went out after them and the two men ran. Mr. Smith asked Tony how successful we were with that project. Tony said the rest of it works wonderful, unless we get Agnus that box we lowered and put the stone around is going to take the water. Mayor asked if he saw any water coming out of the catch basin. Tony said no.

Tony said we have the road layouts for Old Mill but 4 or 5 years ago when we did the big estimate, we cut the paving out; that was just an estimate there was no planning. They have all

the layouts and know where the manholes are. The storm drainage system down there is limited at best. Mr. Markey said he hears that there is some storm water that is running into the sewer. Mr. Smith asked what the situation is with the sewage down there. Tony said years ago we had a camera going through it and it got stuck. He said some are fine; some have cracks, breaks and bends. He said because there is a limited amount of flow, especially on top; a good flushing once in a while isn't a bad thing. Those lines on the top, they don't have a lot of flow so you get things stuck in there. At the bottom, there are some breaks and sags. That is all concerning. Mr. Smith asked if we ever did an estimate on the sewers. Tony said we did one for everything, if you dig up the sewers because of how deep they are you are going to wipe out most of the road anyway. We backed the paving out and without the roads it was about \$300,000 and \$500,000 with the roads. Mr. Markey said maybe we can get the water company to buy the sewers. Mr. Smith said sooner or later this council will have to do something about this because we are going to have a real problem down there. Atty. Moran said that is not a bad idea; see if PA American Water will buy it. Aqua America is trying to buy municipal waste water systems. Tony said ours is less desirable because we do not have a treatment plant we just convey it. Tony Fuga suggested rehabbing it with a liner. Tony Grizzanti said it is not much cheaper. Mr. Napoli said Dennis said something about that last meeting, the shape of the older pipes you weren't able to do it. Mr. Kulick said Mr. Smith is correct we have to develop some kind of plan, may be by next meeting we will come up with a committee to get started with this. Tony said like Forest City, we can charge a collection fee to raise the money to fix them. Mr. Markey said if we charge a collection fee is it just the people hooked up to those sewers or the whole town. Tony said it has to be the whole town.

#### **EMS Tax Break Ordinance:**

Mr. Napoli said he has a meeting set up with Mr. Rood, Mr. Chase and Mr. Allen on Wednesday June 7, 2017 at 7:30 and invited council to attend as well.

#### **Zoning:**

Mr. Markey said that Mr. Chase talked to the resident on Division and they said they would cut the bushes within the next couple of days. Mayor said they were cut and they are not cut far enough, you still cannot see. They were either cut today or yesterday. If you come out with a truck you can see but not with a car. Mrs. Wilson said they had to be done today because yesterday she came through there they were not cut. Mayor said they were cut tonight and they are not cut enough. Mr. Markey said he will get back to Mr. Chase and let him know. Mrs. Wilson said the corner of Rushbrook and Lincoln, half of the grass is cut and the other half isn't. Mr. Markey said the code enforcement talked to the resident. Mrs. Wilson asked who she reports to if she sees something out of order. Mr. Kulick said there is now a form on our website. Mr. Markey said it is a concern form and will also be available at the Borough Office for anyone who wants to report something. Residents can fill out the form and return it to the Borough.

#### **Sign at Bank:**

Mr. Markey does not think we were supposed to follow up with the State, someone was supposed to tell the bank to follow up. Mr. Fuga said we can do something with that if you want us to, all we have to do is move the sign up; we have brackets to do that. Mr. Smith asked if it is on our property at all. Mr. Fuga said no and he believes it is the bank's Do not Enter Sign. Mr. Mark said that was the state's sign. The state put the one way sign up. The Do not enter sign it is

on is the banks. Mrs. Wilson said the One Way sign is the states and it is a safety problem. The bank said they have called the State many of times. Mr. Mark said he looked at it the other day and does not know whoever put it up how they could have done it. It sticks out into the sidewalk. Mrs. Wilson said people have hit their head. Mr. Markey said are we one of the many entities that can get sued here if something happens. Tony Grizzanti said the state had to have been asked to put the one way sign on the Do not Enter sign. Tony Grizzanti said their rules are 7ft. off the ground and they never touch a private driveway. Mr. Kulick asked Mr. Fuga to go in and talk to the branch manager in regards to fixing it. He said next time they have the bucket truck out they will handle it.

### **Alley Ways:**

Mr. Kulick said there has been a message about an alley way issue. Mr. Fuga said he will take care of that tomorrow. Mr. Mark said Lane St. has to be done. Mr. Fuga said it keeps washing out and the problem is that one needs to be hard surfaced, there is no drainage and the water naturally goes there. He said no matter what they do there it keeps washing out. He said even the millings won't last there, they wash out. Mr. Markey asked if that is something Andrew Baldan can do. Tony Grizzanti said yes. County Commissioner Lauren Cummings asked if they ever contacted the Conservation District come out and look at that. She said to have Jerry Stiles come out and look at that.

### **Reassessment:**

County Commissioner Lauren Cummings attended tonight's meeting. She asked what exactly the purpose for asking for the reassessment is, is there one person particular that was looking for reassessment. It was a 5-2 vote. Mr. Markey said he initiated the resolution. Commissioner Cummings asked if there was a reason for his concern on that. His concern is that with property values at a 1968 assessment right now, number one he sees it as an unequal tax assessment as far as local property taxes go on our borough residents. It would also promote economic development, new construction, and new businesses coming to town along with new construction. We are one of the smallest borough's in the county. He thinks it is important that we have some fairness and equality over our tax base and property values in town; also a broader spectrum in the county. Mr. Markey said right now the economic development in Lackawanna County, when you look at it in contrast to Luzerne County for example Pittston that is booming with commercial businesses, we can really benefit from the economic development that value reassessment would bring. Commissioner Cummings said she is happy to hear that he has a specific reasoning. She asked how many properties he currently owns. Mr. Markey said one. She asked if it is new construction or older home, he said newer construction. Commissioner Cummings asked if he is aware of reassessment and what the implications are if it is done and what has occurred in other areas. She suggested reviewing the video that is on her Facebook page on explaining exactly what happens during reassessment.

Commissioner Cummings said reassessment is revenue neutral and asked Mr. Markey what revenue neutral means to him. Mr. Markey said his take on revenue neutral is the local municipalities cannot take in any more money than they did before the reassessment. She said that is correct and neither can the County. Mr. Markey said if we ever did have to raise taxes in the future then we won't have to go through the court system to do so. She said don't you think it was done on purpose so that people wouldn't end up being taxed out of their homes, to get to a

certain millage point; once you get to that point it should be the end of it. Mr. Markey said he understands that but it was also probably set at 30 mils at 1968 reassessments. Commissioner Cummings said when she purchased her home she was in her early 20's. She did not know anything about taxes. In her thinking when her mortgage was paid off she was going to be done with all of her bills, she did not know when she purchased her house that you are taxed for the rest of your life on your property. She said it is never going to be fair because when reassessment is done there is going to be lawsuits claiming they were not fairly done and they will appeal them just like they do with every Borough and County and then that is going to take a while. She said she tends to look at a simple alternative for people not having to worry losing their home when they are 80 years old, she found that in House and Senate Bill 76. The county taxes will remain in place and the Borough taxes but the School Property taxes are eliminated. She has been fighting for that to be passed at the state level for years. She asked if we are going to write a letter to the county commissioners to request this to be done she also asks we write a letter to our governor and state representatives if they are going to pass House Bill and Senate Bill 76 because that is true property relief of taxes. She said this is why she has run for County Commissioner, she has watched people lose their home, thousands of people and it is still happening across the County. People are losing their homes to tax sales. She said that is an outrage and cannot stand by and allow that to happen, as a County Commissioner to look at taxes going higher than they are now and potentially even putting one person out of their home. She wanted to make sure the board members knew exactly what her position is on this and stood as a County Commissioner since we are writing this letter today. She said she appreciates that we are looking at alternative ways to help the citizens in the Borough and wanted to make sure they get the other side of the story and there are alternatives to reassessment and hopefully we possibly vote on those as well. She thanked Council for their time. Mr. Markey asked if House Bill Senate Bill 76 passed would she then be in favor of a county wide reassessment valuation. She said it's not that she would be in favor but she would be ok because the majority of your taxes are the school taxes. She said it would lower the burden. Commissioner Cummings suggested having a Commissioners meeting here at the Borough building for one of their evening meetings.

Mr. Markey said a property reassessment would boost our economy here and promote additions, alterations and improvements on people's homes and invite more people into town to open businesses. We have a lot of abandoned properties and we can really clean up the Main St. and will be a town people want to drive thru. Commissioner said she isn't sure how reassessment accomplishes all that for you, she's not sure how economic development falls into reassessment. She said if she was still that 26 year old woman and was told your assessment is going to come up every couple years and property taxes will go up, every single time that happens she does not know if she would ever buy a house. She does not think it is something that promotes homeownership either. It also takes investment privilege away from those who purchased homes in the 40's and 50's. The whole goal is buying a property is for investment so when you do retire, your last resort is your home. She has seen properties not being fixed because they are afraid of fixing them because if they do, their taxes are going up and they cannot afford what they have now. She said you are welcome to come with me going door to door and those are the people she is listening to. Mr. Mark said we are all here to represent Jermyn Borough, your tax base is 85%-90% the homes in this town were built well before 1930 so the vote that we took tonight, you are essentially asking for 90% of the Borough to have a tax increase put on their home in the face of reassessment, we are here to represent Jermyn. Mr. Kulick said that is not a

fair statement. Mr. Mark said that is a fair statement. Mr. Markey said aren't we all talking about that this has to be revenue neutral. Mr. Mark said it is but didn't you just hear what the Commissioner just said, the older homes in town are going to get there assessment raised and the newer homes; the very few that we have, will have their assessment dropped. Mr. Kulick said we have to look at it at all different perspectives; we are trying to operate a town as well. Our costs keep going up too; the money has to come from some place. He is not suggesting we raise the taxes of every elderly person in this town, but every year look at our budget it costs more to run the DPW and costs for insurance. Where does that money come from, somewhere you have to generate that money as a government entity to support the people. Mr. Mark said if Jermyn Borough doesn't start looking into doing some shared services we are so small that we can't afford all of this stuff, there is many of things we can do shared services and there is a lot of money from the state that is available to compensate the shared services. Mr. Kulick asked what happened when you attempted that shared services before, how far did you get. Mr. Mark said we had one meeting and I was off of council after that.

Mr. Kulick said we should consider supporting a letter out to the representatives to support House Bill Senate Bill 76. Commissioner said to keep in mind that this may cost our county anywhere from \$8-12 – 14 million for the reassessment. She said she keeps hearing about the surplus, but we currently have remaining funds to keep our loan costs down. We have to keep that there. Commissioner said for the Economic Development, if there is anything we can do at the County level to help you here, please feel free to call and meet with us. Mr. Mark said Jermyn still has a big business district for a small town, one of the towns that still have a fairly good business district. It has changed over the years but there still is a good business district. We were looking into trying to put up awnings at the businesses with their logos. There was a few that could come up with the funding for it. Commissioner said to please let her know about that. Mr. Kulick said last year we borrowed \$500,000 for the paving project and it did not cover all the roads. Our town is loaded with alley ways. Are there any county programs that can help us redo some of our alley ways? Mayor said we tried to do that when he was there and we had equipment to go out and help municipalities. Some of the bigger communities have the bigger equipment, we don't. Commissioner said she will bring this up. Mr. Markey said he talked to the county roads and bridges this week and Greenfield Twp. has the asphalt zipper right now and when they are done they are going to loan it to us. Hopefully we will be able to get some of these alley ways. Commissioner said it has been a pleasure talking with everyone and she looks forward to reading the letter we write up. Council thanked County Commissioner Cummings.

Mrs. Wilson asked if we need a motion to do a letter for the house bill 76. Atty. said the idea of it is to eliminate school tax. Mr. Napoli said before we make a motion on this, we should go home and read up on it, watch this video and find out what is going on before we start drafting a letter. He is not saying he is against it or for it but looking out for the people of Jermyn, before we make a motion to start writing a letter, let's all come to an educated idea of what this bill is before we do it. Mr. Mark said that is the exact reason why we used to have a work session and a council meeting. Everything is discussed at a work session and gave each council person a week to do research that they had to. Mr. Kulick said there is no reason why we couldn't make the motion to have the solicitor draw up the letter; you can still do your research. A motion was made by Mrs. Wilson to have our solicitor draw up a resolution supporting Senate bill 76, house

bill 76 property tax independence act. Mr. Markey seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

**DPW Garage:**

Atty. is going over tomorrow morning and will email council in regards to the deed search. Our goal is to identify the parcel and a good map.

**400 Delaware Drain pipes:**

Completed

**Baseball:**

Mr. Markey said the proposed site for the batting cage is on the first base side of the A ball field, which is the field closest to the hill. It will be outside of the fence and there will not be a fence around it. A motion was made by Mr. Parks to allow Jermyn Sports to put the batting cage along the first base line of the A ball field. Seconded by Mrs. Wilson; all in favor, motion carried.

**Crime Watch:**

There will be a Crime Watch meeting June 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**New Business:**

Mrs. Wilson received information on the Hometown Heroes; at the meeting she said the American Legion was looking for fundraisers, she handed the information over to them to try and get started. This weekend they got back to her and said they did not want to do it. Mrs. Wilson asked for permission to go to one of the Borough's or Carbondale to get more information on it and start it up or if they want an organization to handle it. She still has to have the American Legion to cooperate with her and get names and addresses of those who have served in Jermyn. We have to get information out on the websites. If they want the Hometown Heroes up for Veterans Day, we have to do it fast. If we want to work on it and give us time to do it really right, plan for Memorial Day next year. Mr. Kulick said that is a better idea. Mrs. Wilson asked if she needs permission to do this and get more information. Mr. Kulick said she can do it.

Mrs. Wilson asked Art Tech Glass Co. to give her an estimate for the side doors and front door. People do complain about the doors. To fully replace the doors it would cost \$4,500 for each door. For the repair of the front door entrance to replace vertical panic bars \$595.00, if we did not want to put a new one in. Mayor Smallacombe said the rod does not work. Mrs. Wilson said we will be working on next year's budget, we do not see where we can get the money for them but you never know. It is something to put in our wish list. Mr. Markey said do one in 2018 and one in 2019.

Mr. Mark said to think about the Shared Services for next meeting, maybe himself, Dan and Kevin can get on a committee and meet with Mayfield. The last time we had one meeting and there was no follow up because he resigned from Council. The last meeting was about shared services for the police department. At the time they were talking about sharing 1 shift a day with Mayfield as far as Jermyn was concerned we did not have to take any monetary savings from it but we can put 2-3 officers on and those hours that we saved for half a year. When we went there

the Mayor of Mayfield and he is looking for Mayfield's best interest, he wanted Jermyn to drop their police department and hire Mayfield as their police department. Mr. Mark said they are willing to sit down and negotiate. There is money from the state to do this. Mr. Mark said it is really a big savings for the Borough. Mr. Smith said in regards to that he finds it insulting that Mr. Mark would name his own committee and as Mr. Napoli said tonight why don't we prepare ourselves for what we want to do rather than forming a committee and talking to another Borough when we have no idea what you are talking about. Mr. Mark said he was not putting himself on a committee and naming a committee, he suggested a committee. Mr. Smith said we should know what we are doing before we attempt to do something like that. Mr. Mark said he will only be here for the next 6 months and if we want to get involved in that he has experience in it. Mr. Smith said it went nowhere. Mr. Mark said there was only one meeting. Mr. Smith said it went nowhere because they wanted to take over our police department and he is not willing to give that up. Mr. Mark said he is not either, Mayfield wants to keep their identity and Jermyn wants to keep their identity. Mr. Smith said until it is discussed further in detail he would never approve something like that.

Mr. Mark would like to congratulate the William Walker Hose Co. Today is their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Mark made a motion to acknowledge William Walker's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, seconded by Mr. Napoli. All in favor; motion carried.

Mrs. Wilson said we received money from the insurance company for the gym doors we just replaced. \$2,984.00

Mr. Markey asked Mayor Smallacombe if he can get the stage cleaned up after the show he would greatly appreciate it. Mr. Markey said there is a Shade Tree in front of 326 McKinley and it needs to be trimmed.

Mrs. Wilson said the Shade Tree will meet every 4 months, the second Tuesday of the month. The other meetings will be at the call of the chair. Public meetings will be every 4 months at a certain time.

Mayor thanked everyone who came out for the Memorial Day Parade. Also, everyone who came out for the show that supported the 5 organizations who will benefit from it. The Historical Society is moving their stuff out of the building.

Mr. Markey said he spoke to Anthracite Electric because we had an issue here at the Borough Building that we needed to go back and look at tapes and we were not able to go back far enough. We wanted to see if we can get the cameras motion activated rather than continuous running. Mike Shea will come out in 2 weeks and he is going to take a look at it with Chief Arthur. He advised it is probably better to keep the inside ones on a motion detector and the outside ones continuous running. Mr. Markey said we also have a dated system in regards to the microphone in council chambers. Mike Shea will also take a look at the room and see what he can do. It will be just for an estimate. Mr. Mark said they do work and he will show Mr. Markey how they work.

A motion was made by Mr. Markey and seconded by Mrs. Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. All in favor; motion carried.