

## **Borough of Rosslyn Farms**

**April 23, 2012**

**Regular Meeting**

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Patrick McNamara on Monday, April 23, 2012 at the Rosslyn Farms Community Center. The following members of Council were in attendance: D. Robb; T. Stacy; S. Prevoznak; G. Bell; S. George; and N. Prepelka. Also present were Mayor Stover, Solicitor Molinaro and Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone.

President McNamara announced that the meeting would be devoted entirely to the discussion of police services for Rosslyn Farms Borough.

A motion was made and seconded to suspend with normal order of business. George/Prevoznak, unanimous.

### **Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard:**

Marjorie Obrien – from 30 years prior Carnegie experience, she said that the Carnegie police were always available. She is an advocate of the Carnegie police if we change. Cost Savings unquestionable plus 24 hr coverage.

President McNamara again explained that Council's objective tonight is to decide which direction we will select to move forward with police services and not to select a specific proposal.

Roy Bowen thanked Council for all of the effort by Council to move forward with this process.

Susan O'toole said that she is speaking for herself and Paul Bergman (not present). The cost of maintaining a police force adds to a very high milage comparably for our Borough. Having our own police force is not compelling reason for a new buyer. She advocates contracting out services for half the cost with savings used for other projects and to reduce milage. She suggests a meet and greet with police officers. She also believes that larger police forces are more accountable and reduce our liability.

Nancy Barsotti also expressed gratitude for Council's effort. She believes that Council will probably decide to contract services and if we do recommends dedicated officers for our coverage.

Anna Durante believes that our police force differentiates us from others and she remains pro R/F police force.

Russ Silver believes losing police might be the beginning of the loss of our municipality which would eventually be absorbed into another municipality. Our police identify R/F to people driving through or Borough. He advocates keeping our Police force.

Betsy Tassarò suggests we improve our neighborhood crime watch to assist police and the community. She is pro contracting services. She also advises anyone to log on to the Carlynton web site to see the school districts response to the secession of R/F from the school district.

Renee Marshall thanked Council for its efforts. She is familiar with the Carnegie and Crafton police. She is concerned with the Carnegie Towers requiring too much of Carnegie Police force attention. Pro keeping police but if not, choose wisely.

Dan Harkins in favor of contracting out services. Taxes too high. Have those proposing for a Q & A session.

Marjorie Obrien commented that just because we contract out services doesn't mean we will lose our identity. Carnegie police respond.

Len Costa said his first reaction was to save our force but he is OK with contracting police.

Sannford Richards believe safety is first and his main concern.

Rita Costa questioned why there was such a large difference in cost of proposals.

President McNamara added that differences are caused by services offered and size of existing police force.

Sandra Pack asked what the differences are.

President McNamara responded, between 0 to \$150,000 of savings.

### **Councils Discussion**

Councilperson Prevoznak – Roads and storm sewers are in bad shape and need attention. We had hoped to build up a fund but haven't been able to. We could be bankrupt in a few years if steps are not taken. She believes traffic control is important. If we contract police services we would have more money available for items like traffic calming devices. \$150,000 goes al long way toward road improvement projects.

Councilperson Robb – He supports contracting out. It is now time to consider due to retirement of our chief. We would only impact one employee if we change now. Savings of \$150,000 represents about 30 % of our mileage. Keeping our own police force would mean higher taxes. He believes some residents could but most residents would not want higher taxes.

Councilperson George- Voted to increase milage because we need money so badly. He is very sensitive about costs and the effect of higher costs on Real Estate Tax Assessments. We need the money saved by contracting out police services.

Councilperson Nate Prepelka sees more support for keeping our police. He believes that we will not receive 24/7 coverage no matter what service. Contracted Police will not park and watch traffic. Our police are on our streets when they are here. Other police forces have more crime to be concerned with.

Councilperson Bell – states he is considering contracting because of cost savings. The savings are just too significant.

Councilperson Stacy believes we need 24/7 coverage. Her choice is contracted services.

Councilperson Prepelka states that the decision should be based on what we feel is right for the community. He doesn't believe that it is a one to one split in the Borough.

A motion was made to contract police services. Prevoznak/Bell, one opposes (Prepelka).

Councilperson George agrees with Councilperson Prepelka on some aspects of services provided but believes that these items can be worked out during negotiations.

At this time, President McNamara temporarily recessed the meeting for a 5 minute break.

President McNamara reconvened the meeting and advised Council that he would like Council to determine which proposals to consider out of all of the ones submitted.

Councilperson suggested we rule out Robinson.

Solicitor Molinaro suggested that Council may want to consider going into executive session to address negotiations.


President McNamara temporarily suspended the regular meeting to go into Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

President McNamara reconvened the regular meeting of Council.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Prevoznak/Bell, unanimous.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone.

  
Patrick McNamara - Council President

  
Samuel A. Maccarone - Borough Sec./Treas.