

UPLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

The regular meeting of the Upland Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Edward M. Mitchell. The meeting was held in the Upland Municipal Building.

Present were President Edward M. Mitchell and Vice President Christine Peterson. Present were Council members Mr. Leland Hunter, Mrs. Sandy Miazza, Mr. Ray Peden, Mrs. Georgianna Hicks, Ms. Moira Crawford, Mr. Charles Catania, Sr., P.E., Mr. Robert O'Connor and Mrs. Shirley Purcival, Borough Manager/Treasurer/Secretary was present. Mayor Michael Ciach was excused.

Mr. Ken Stark from the Delaware County Daily Times was present along with approximately seven residents.

President Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence followed by a roll call.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A-1 Council Meeting Minutes - February 8, 2011

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to approve the February 8, 2011 Council Meeting Minutes. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

6. Treasurer's Report

A-1 Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Hicks made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Income Statement

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to accept the Income Statement as presented. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

7. Auburn Village Report - Christine Peterson

Mrs. Peterson reported that we had seven houses open up during the last two months. The seven houses are now filled and everyone should be in by April.

8. Code Official Report - Leland Hunter

A-1 Fire Marshall's Report - Dave Favinger

Mr. Hunter asked everyone to review the Fire Marshall's Report.

A-2 Fire Chief's Report - Dan Smith

Chief Smith reported that for the month of January, 2011 there was 1 fire incident, 12 non-fire incidents, 17 mutual aid for a total incidents of 30. There were 2 drills for a total activity of 32.

There was \$ 3,000.00 in structure loss, \$ 1,000.00 in contents for a total loss of \$ 4,000.00 for the month of January.

There were 16 assists for fire, 1 cover assignment, 1 ambulance assist, 1 fuel spill, 1 gas leak, 2 electric lines down, 1 CO in structure, 2 fire alarms, 2 fire alarms human error malicious pull, 1 good intent, 1 assist the police and 1 structure fire single family dwelling.

There were 18.1 hours of service for the month, 19 daytime, 13 night time and 1 cover with an average runner of 6.

President Mitchell asked Chief Smith if he got together with Mr. Peden regarding a sample ordinance regarding nuisance pulls.

Chief Smith replied last month we went with the idea of doing the Nuisance Ordinance or Fire Alarm Ordinance.

Within the last month Chief Smith met with Shirley and President Mitchell about ability to cycle to the fire service, which incorporates the fire alarm issues with everything else in the Borough. Chief Smith indicated it is going to be just one Ordinance that gives us the ability to handle our municipal fire alarm problems.

Chief Smith stated he has copies of the sample Ordinances and PA. FRS is supposed to fax him a contract Chief Smith would like to submit it to review first before anything is done.

President Mitchell addressed Mr. O'Connor who has in his report House Bill 1061 which pertains to the nuisance of the pull box. President Mitchell wanted to know if the fee schedule Mr. O'Connor gave Council is in House Bill 1061.

Mr. O'Connor replied House Bill 1061 sets forth what can be charged for the first false alarm, second false alarm, etc.

Chief Smith said this Bill has already been passed and is the law.

President Mitchell indicated we have to adopt it here in Upland.

Chief Smith said he is working on the fee schedule with Shawn Meder from PA. FRS and then he will meet with Ray Peden.

President Mitchell asked that when Chief Smith and Mr. Peden are finished with the Ordinance and fee schedule to get Council involved. Chief Smith replied yes.

Mr. Peden asked Chief Smith to submit to the Borough Manager whatever he has and he will pick it up and create a draft and then submit it to Robert O'Connor. Chief Smith agreed.

President Mitchell wanted to verify that under House Bill 1061 any false alarms will not affect the police and will be billed by the Fire Company.

Chief Smith said it is his understanding that under House Bill 1061 the police are not allowed to bill for false alarms, but allows the Fire Company to bill for the responses.

Chief Smith also pointed out that as long as we enact an Ordinance to enable the billing then the billing will start.

President Mitchell asked Chief Smith how the membership is doing. Chief Smith replied the membership is steady with two new members being brought in last month.

President Mitchell wanted to know what the enrollment is like. Chief Smith replied on a good night they have around 15 members and they are still struggling with about 9 members during the day.

President Mitchell asked Chief Smith if the Fire Company needed anything. Chief Smith replied no.

9. Public Safety Report - Leland Hunter

Mr. Hunter reported progress.

10. Building & Grounds Report - Sandy Miazza

Mrs. Miazza reported progress.

11. Finance & Insurance Report - Moira Crawford

A-1 Approval of General Fund Bills - \$ 118,681.04

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the General Fund Bills for the month of January 2011 in the amount of \$ 118,681.04. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mrs. Peterson abstaining from check numbers 26046, 26097, 26098 and 26099 and Mr. Mitchell abstaining from check number 26051.

A-2 Approval of Auburn Village Bills - \$ 12,294.40

Ms. Crawford made a motion to approve the Auburn Village in the amount of \$ 12,294.40. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mr. Mitchell abstaining from check number 4613.

A-3 Motion to Ratify Audio Recording System

Ms. Crawford made a motion to ratify the Audio Recording System. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-4 Motion to exonerate the Tax Collector

Ms. Crawford made a motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from single per capita for 2010 in the amount of \$ 2,750.00. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from 2010 per capita in the amount of \$ 528.00. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from 2010 Borough Real Estate Taxes in the amount of \$ 10,908.28. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

Ms. Crawford made a motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from 2010 Borough Trash Tax in the amount of \$ 10,692.00. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

A-5 Motion to have the Borough Manager proceed with delinquent taxes to our Delinquent Tax Collector

Ms. Crawford made a motion to have the Borough Manager proceed with these delinquent taxes to our Delinquent Tax Collector. Mr. Peden seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-6 Motion to Ratify Donation to the Friends of Caleb Pusey House

Ms. Crawford made a motion to ratify the donation to the Friends of Caleb Pusey House. Mrs. Peterson seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mr. Peden and Mrs. Hicks abstaining.

12. Ordinances & Resolutions Report - Ray Peden

A-1 Motion to approve Resolution No. 2 - Appointment of new Health Officer

Mr. Peden noted that Dr. McLaughlin has served diligently over the years as our Health Officer. However, Dr. McLaughlin is no longer available to serve as Health Officer.

Mr. Peden made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2 - Appointment of new Health Officer as presented. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Motion to approve Resolution No. 3 - Application to the County for an allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds

Mr. Peden made a motion to approve Resolution No. 3 - Application to the County for an allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds as presented. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

13. Research & Development - Moira Crawford

Ms. Crawford reported progress.

14. Streets & Equipment - Christine Peterson

A-1 Motion to levy trash tax on each household residence

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to levy trash tax on each household residence. Mrs. Miazza seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

Mrs. Peterson commended our Highway Department who worked long & hard hours clearing our streets of snow.

At this time President Mitchell pointed out that our trash truck which is nine and a half years old is going into the shop tomorrow, and we need to be prepared when we are looking at the delinquent EIT Taxes we are probably going have to do something.

The truck is having a hydraulic problem and could be very expensive to fix. President Mitchell is hoping to at least make it to the middle of the year with this truck.

15. Community Affairs - Sandy Miazza

Mrs. Miazza reported that on March 5th we will be having our Soup and Salad Dinner.

On March 14th we will be having a Ham and Cabbage luncheon for all the Senior Citizens in Upland and the event is free.

16. Use & Occupancy Report - Shirley Purcival

Mrs. Purcival reported that for the month of January we had six units pass inspection, and one commercial received a certificate.

A total of \$ 775.00 was deposited into the General Fund for these inspections.

President Mitchell asked Mrs. Purcival to fill Council in on the report we received from Delcora dealing with laterals and what we are going to do in the future.

President Mitchell reported we are reviewing an ordinance that anytime a property is sold we will be doing a camera inspection.

President Mitchell stated we are probably the first community in Delaware County to adopt such a program. Our sewer system was installed in 1939 and what we are starting to see is a lot of single family housing goes on the market and they make apartments out of it and everything is fine on top, but the sewer system is just not adequate, and we are seeing a lot of raw sewage problems.

President Mitchell stated we will most likely be forming a committee to sit down and talk about this.

17. Mayor's Report - Michael Ciach

President Mitchell stated the Mayor's report is accepted as presented as the Mayor was excused.

18. Solicitor's Report - Robert O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor reported he has only one item that was previously discussed on House Bill 1061.

Mr. O'Connor also reminded Council to review the confidential portion of his report.

19. Engineer's Report - Charles Catania

Mr. Catania reported progress.

20. School Board Representative - Richard McClintock

President Mitchell stated Mr. McClintock was excused.

21. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

22. New Business

A-1 Cancel second meeting of the month

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to cancel the second meeting of the month. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

A-2 Discussion on donation letter from Our Lady of Charity

Mrs. Peterson made a motion to donate \$ 50.00 to Our Lady of Charity 8th grade dance. Ms. Crawford seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with Mrs. Hicks abstaining.

23. Floor Open to the Public

Mr. Reginald Duncan from 1000 Church Street was the first person to address Council. Mr. Duncan is a member of the Upland Borough Youth Football league called the Upland Regulators.

President Mitchell thanked Mr. Duncan for the football trophy.

Mr. Duncan wanted to know if Council could direct him to anyone who would be willing to donate to their organization.

Mr. Duncan stated they are getting ready to start their 2nd season soon and are looking to take some of the burden off the parents in these difficult economic times. They would like to have uniforms with the Upland Regulators printed on them.

Mr. Duncan indicated he has been going to businesses on Edgmont Avenue asking for help and so far has only two verbal commitments as far as donations are concerned.

Mrs. Peterson wanted to know if these are all Upland children. Mr. Duncan replied that they are primarily Upland children. However, since the football field is right next to Toby Farms they do have some of their children. There are also some children from Parkside involved.

Mrs. Miazza wanted to know if The Upland Athletic Club absorbs the \$ 50.00 registration fee for the Upland children and if children outside of Upland must pay the full registration fee. Mr. Duncan replied that is correct. He is unaware if the other Boroughs provide any funding.

Mrs. Miazza wants Mr. Duncan to look into that because if any of our children goes to Brookhaven Upland has to pay part of that fee.

President Mitchell asked Mrs. Purcival to inform Mayor Ciach that Mr. Duncan was at the meeting and give him the particulars of the conversation and President Mitchell noted the Mayor is pretty creative when it comes to money.

President Mitchell wanted to know how the parental involvement was. Mr. Duncan reported it is there and how he tries to keep the registration fee competitive with other organizations in the area and that way he attracts more of the parents. He is hoping to get the parents to provide some time to help with Tag Days or help with public funding such as a Black Party where everyone dresses in Black. Mr. Duncan was disappointed because last year only ten parents showed up. He said it's been a little rough, but he keeps trying.

At this time Mrs. Hicks told Mr. Duncan that Applebee's will allow an organization to hold a pancake breakfast as long as the parents serve the food and the children have to bus the tables, and they only charge \$1.00 a plate.

Mrs. Purcival also said that Wendy's in Brookhaven does something similar with the drive thru with the proceeds benefiting the organization.

Mrs. Peterson asked Ken Stark if he could put something in the paper. Mr. Stark said he could certainly do that.

Mrs. Miazza suggested setting up a concession stand and Mr. Duncan stated that the money from the concession stand would have to go to pay the referees and he is lucky if he breaks even.

Mrs. Miazza stated that he would still have the money to pay the referees.

President Mitchell stated he would have the Borough Manager contact the Mayor who may be able to make something happen. President Mitchell also stated Mr. Duncan needs to write a letter to Council requesting a donation. Mr. Duncan said he will do that.

The next person to address Council was Kent Henry from 7 Sixth Street who is with an organization called The Alumni Group, Inc.

Mr. Henry explained The Alumni Group provides mentoring and transitional housing for men who have graduated from long term recovery. Mr. Henry said this is not a rehab; these are men who have already gone through a long term rehab and would probably be living in the area anyway. The residents have gone through a minimum of one year rehab and they try to give them time to save money, get their GEDs, pay debts or go to school and get them employed so they can move on.

Mr. Henry wanted Council and residents to know they are committed to God and they are committed to giving back to the community.

Mr. Henry wanted everyone to know on Tuesday nights they have a one hour Bible Study and everyone is welcome.

Mr. Henry passed out some of their cards with the website address on them.

Mr. Henry stated their office is located in Wallingford Presbyterian Church and they need financial support as well as moral support of their program. Also, Arch Street Presbyterian Church has given them a grant. They have received grants from Philadelphia Presbytery and the local and national Trinity SDOP (Self Development of People) Committees. Also Councilman John Linder has been big supporter.

One of the reasons Mr. Henry had for coming to the Council Meeting was to let the Borough know they are available for any consultation on matters of addiction.

Another service they are starting to provide is they are having a nutritionist come to the house from Penn State to give some lessons in nutrition and diabetes and stated anyone in the Borough is welcome.

Mr. Henry also asked that when there are community events how the Alumni Group could get involved and if they would be welcome.

Mrs. Peterson wanted to know if Mr. Henry had ever met Chief Easton and he replied yes.

President Mitchell told Mr. Henry to check our web site on the internet and the community events are listed there and also he can contact Mrs. Purcival for information.

President Mitchell speaking:

I asked the Chief to come and see me; we had a meeting with Crozer Hospital which is really quite unique in reference to a few grievances that they had dealing with how we handle calls, too many calls. It was kind of a mind boggling exercise in a spoiled child who felt they were entitled to more than they were getting. They made it very clear that we probably charged them way too much and we never got down to the \$ 21.00 aspirin, but they kind of felt that they give us just enough, they're not going to give us any more than they are presently giving with the EIT Tax, which is nothing for them, so it wasn't a very nice, we didn't come out of there with a warm fuzzy feeling that there was a spirit of cooperation where they wanted to be good neighbors.

President Mitchell then turned the floor over to John Easton.

Chief John Easton speaking:

First of all, I think we have to pat ourselves on the back, this room is incredible. Members of Council said thank you.

President Mitchell speaking:

We are very proud of it.

Chief John Easton speaking:

With respect to what Mr. President was saying, I've been privy to; they've invited me to several meetings with the Crozer-Chester Medical Center security people and their bosses. What I've gathered from the meetings, the Police Chief from Brookhaven, John Eller, has been invited several times to the same meeting. The

Police Chief of Parkside, John Egan, has been invited to the same meeting, the Police Chief of Chester, Darren Alston and his deputy, John Gretskey, they were invited as well, and also the Police Chief of Chester Township, Kenny Coalson and myself. However, in my professional opinion, they are dividing and conquering, so to speak, because we are never there at the same time.

So I approached these people and I said hey look, this is kind of, this isn't a successful gathering. Why don't you just have us all here at the same time? So what they did at Christmas, they put out a couple of cookies and juice and we were in and out, and that wasn't my point. My point was to have a meeting of all the Police Chiefs in the area, the Crozer-Chester Medical Center area, and that has not happened at this point, and as Ed Mitchell said earlier we didn't come out of our last meeting with a fuzzy feeling at all.

The last meeting, I believe was January 18th, at the Crozer Center, I wasn't at that meeting, but the Chester guys were. I was going crash the party but I had a domestic up in pediatric emergency, some people were up there fighting and that was part of our problem. We have for just one year, 365 days; I have eleven pages of responses by the Upland Borough Police Department for Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Eleven pages of stuff, several hundred responses there. I got with Shirley at one point several months ago and Shirley gave me a value for a Police Officer with a car, for a Police Officer without a car I believe the figure was something like \$ 90,000.00 to be stationed at Crozer-Chester Medical Center. They never, and I turned that over to them, I faxed it, Christine faxed it for me and we also sent them a hard copy.

Hadn't it been, well that last particular meeting that we had with them, Ed Mitchell was there, the Mayor was there, they would never have told us, unless we brought that particular item up and, in fact they told us that, well we give you guys enough, that 1%, so the higher ups aren't going to give you anything else, so have a good day, bye. I didn't feel awful nice about that, and that's where we are right now. Any questions so far?

President Mitchell speaking:

John, I think that the meat of the matter was Crozer security; I'm trying to be nice about this. First off Mick was there and the whole, hold your pen, you don't want to write this, ok, but Council needs to know, Ken They had a situation where they had a rape and they wanted to turn the evidence 21 days or 31 days over to John after they did not process it and John is not a newcomer to this, he's not going to take that on, and that lawsuit, we now become part of that lawsuit when it comes to the hospital.

Their Chief of Security was more of a---, I guess, a weekend warrior at Community College with his little badge and he pawned himself off as a private detective to us, which you know, that's what he said. And, you know, with that, you know I came back with, we have spent over a million dollars to professionalize our police department, and I pointed to Mike who settled 21 rapes in this community in one year with convictions, and nothing took 21 days. I mean Mike was on it in a professional manner; they looked at Mike like he was a little kid. Like what's that little kid in that, well his record speaks for itself. We kind of left on their investigative report all John wanted was the proper information when his guys get up there. They do not have a social security number on there, all the things our police department needs to do, they didn't have on the forms on the incident reports. So, John didn't even need the whole social security number, he was just asking for the last four digits and their name and the rest of it he can piece in the computer and that wasn't received very well, other than oh well here let me straighten this out, so it kind of left us the only thing we can tell them, Look, don't, if you can't like we're not giving you full service it's only because you did not call us, you can't solve these crimes, we have a professional staff, everybody down there is got a Master's Degree above and a little near, but nobody here has weekend badge. Everybody here has studied and you see the reports you know what our guys are doing.

One of the biggest problem, the other biggest problem we had was we had committed to them we that we would not do any surgery; we don't want them to do any investigations.

Call our people, try to explain to them when there is a shooting or anything there's crowds and crowds of people at that accident ward which ties our guys up and we have to call people in, and it was kind of like a so what, that's your problem, you know, well you know we can do riot control and anything else that happens over there, I mean John has forty nine municipalities that would be right there, all he has to do is hit the radio, but call us, don't wait till the riot starts and then call and let our guys come in the bottom end of it.

So, we have a commitment and we might meet again, I'm not even too sure we're ever going to meet again.

Chief John Easton speaking:

It hasn't been scheduled yet.

President Mitchell speaking:

On the table over there and they have nothing on the table, yet they want to dictate what they're going to do and the last thing I'll say is, their excuse was,

well we don't call John and we don't call the Upland Police is because sometimes the people don't want to press charges and John made it very clear that's not the person's call. If John walks in the room or any other officer from Upland, if there's a disturbance he makes that call if somebody's going to get arrested or he'll press the charges, he does, it not the people in the hospital. So if you call John over there make sure you let him - John has gone into the psychiatric ward and they want his gun, they want to take his gun away from him and then there's a guy and there's a gun on him. Where is the fairness in that? You walk into a blind alley and you're not prepared there's something wrong, so anyhow,

Chief John Easton speaking:

There was a--- in the maternity section a couple months ago we responded, myself, Steve Carr I don't know whether you were there or not, (saying to Detective Curran) we go to the maternity ward and there's a guy with a gun and he doesn't want to leave now because he was pissed off at the hospital staff, so the hospital staff dialed 911, she said there's a guy in a purple jacket, he just flashed his gun. The mother tells her son, the guy with the gun, run home, put the gun up, change you shirt, come back up and he did. The mother just so happens to be an employee of outpatient registration and she's still there. So, but you know it's getting pretty bad over there. We've gotten a lot of drugs out of Crozer, two rapes in the last couple of weeks, one committed by a doctor, who they're trying to protect and another one was by a security guard who took a woman off the property to the Citgo station and exposed himself to her and that wasn't the first time, so I think this upcoming meeting with Crozer is going to be very important to us.

President Mitchell speaking:

Yeah, I think it probably needs to be expanded where Rob's there and a few others because you know we're not going to be continuously be told about these rapes and stuff after the fact.

Mrs. Peterson speaking:

Well most of them are not cooperating, Mark Mitchell actually did reach out to Detective Curran and has gotten,--- he's gotten Detective Curran's e mail and has now instructed them at this point to send him the reports as soon as they are done. Is that?

Detective Curran speaking:

Yeah, I think one of the major things here that it started centrally with you know, the narcotics that were found at Crozer. Crozer started a couple years ago that they were still the same phases that they just changed it over now that they would actually come in whether they would overdose or whatnot would be shots to the chest or in that immediate area, had drugs on them Crozer refused to tell us where the drugs came from. The reason that they will hide behind that is that they were saying that they constantly throw meds out there and it has nothing to do with that. Now they've come around and I think they've seen the light that wait a minute we can actually get sued for not doing this, so now they have been giving us the drugs for the last couple of years and this is something now that with the rapes, and they are trying to keep it in house, that if we could just talk to them I think that we could get around that with them understanding that them not reporting an incident to the police they could actually sue themselves. For us, right now it's just like hey get ahold of the Chief, talking to them and trying to get on the same page and hopefully working like we did with the drugs, get together and nail some cases. For our part right now I would think it's being entered into the computer by the date we receive these reports so we are not in any kind of legal stand point a person saying they were raped, you know, thirty one days ago why Upland Police didn't do anything about it. Well, because now I have these with the report when it's given to the police department by Crozer and all actions from there on once we see the report to keep us covered. I think the more that Crozer sees that we're available to handle these investigations that they will come around with seeing that what if they get sued for a couple of hundred thousand dollars that maybe they'll going to change the policy. Hopefully, we get on the same page; I think one thing that Crozer has to understand is Chester Police Department is not going to be there to assist them. Crozer is not in Chester. As much as a good relationship that they are trying to make with Chester, Chester is going to leave them. They're not located in Chester, they're located in Upland. So the person whose doing the responding, arresting the person, taking the incident is going to be Upland not Chester. So I think the more meetings we have with them the more we'll actually come on the same page where there be more flack to give us.

Chief John Easton speaking:

I would add that at the last meeting where I handled the case in Pediatrics as opposed to going to the meeting with Darren Alston, the jist of that meeting was Mark Mitchell and Tony were discussing how the Chester Police would organize a SWAT team as a result of a call for an active shooter on the campus, and that ain't going to happen.

President Mitchell speaking:

No.

Mr. Peden speaking:

What is it about jurisdiction they don't understand?

Chief John Easton speaking:

They're embracing the Chester Police Department, I know this guy, we went to the academy, went to school, I grew up with these guys, I know all these guys and I love them to pieces, most of them anyway, they ain't coming into Upland unless I call them.

Mr. Peden speaking:

What is it about the philosophy of jurisdiction that they do not understand?

Fire Chief Dan Smith speaking:

Its security, I mean, I understand where the Chief is coming from the Police side, because security there acts as firefighters also. We've ran across incidents where I've been notified two days later that there was big fire on the loading dock, they never even dispatched it, because security put it out and didn't think it was necessary for us to dispatch. But now you've got a health institution and they put a big fire out that was chargeable, apparently to their insurance company, and security didn't think it was needed. I've had security reset the alarms not even looking where the alarm's at and when we pull up they say we don't even need you. I mean, we're in the same boat, it goes back to security here, we've been fighting it for a while. Mark Mitchell, I have him on speed dial pretty much because I pretty much aggravate him. After every call, after every time there is an issue I put a call in to him, and he pretty much tries, but I think that 90% of the problems that we have is with their Chief of Security, he is supposed to have written procedures and he never writes them. I asked the guys if you had ever been trained in the proper way and they said no, but yet he fell back to saying he trained his guys. Ninety percent of my problem is the Chief of Security; I can't get through to them that this definitely needs to be fixed. They've actually locked the doors on us and not even let us come in to investigate the fire, so.

Chief John Easton speaking:

And there's another problem, our guys responded to Crozer Monday and we have pass cards. The Upland officers go in, our backups coming, Parkside, Brookhaven, no pass cards, they're all locked out, so they're not backup and they won't remedy that, they said they would, but they have not yet. I believe Tony said at the last meeting he is going to get them cards. No cards.

President Mitchell speaking:

John, what do you see us needing to bring this about? I mean several times you brought up the hierarchy, the bosses, the big people, apparently whoever is in charge there is not getting the real picture what's going on.

Chief John Easton speaking:

Well at that meeting Ed, I believe you can recall Tony said something about, well our hierarchy they don't live around here like you do. So they don't give a shit is basically is what he meant. So, oh well we just have to live with it but somebody's going to get hurt and it's not going to be nobody's problem.

President Mitchell speaking:

Yeah, it's not good because everybody's going to end up suffering on this.

Chief John Easton speaking:

That's correct.

President Mitchell speaking:

You can't have, that's uncalled for, the Fire Department getting locked out, that's not good.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

I dealt with that, I've called Dave a couple of times, the Fire Marshall, we do have the key card systems also, I believe they are the same ones you guys do.

Chief John Easton speaking:

Yeah.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

And it's right, they have what's called a pass back system on it, I don't know if yours still has a pass back where if you enter the door, you can't hand the card back to somebody; you have to actually exit the door with the card or someone else can't go in. I've had guys locked in the stairwell where luckily they had radios to call out and say I'm in the stairwell and I can't get out and we had to go pass card them out.

How to resolve it? I don't even know, but you're not going to get the help of security cause you'd be lucky if they're gonna even move.

President Mitchell speaking:

Well, that's the whole purpose of having this conversation. Crozer dumped everything back on their security. Security just sat there befuddled. Very confused and then he wanted to play a blame game and we didn't want to hear that.

Chief John Easton speaking:

Another quick point if I might, I went to security and I said look, you're staffing a crisis unit, you're gonna get the crap kicked out of you if we can't get in here. Well, I can't give you a key card. Well you're gonna die, I went in there and a guy had a gun and I didn't have mine, following your policy. You gotta give me a pass card. So they said ok, well we'll get on the computer and patch you in. I tried it, it doesn't work. So somebody is going to die in crisis, they have a lot of mean people in there.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

The card that I got your guys doesn't work, correct? That's going to be ten more.

Chief John Easton speaking:

You did give one and the hospital gave one.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

The one I gave you.

Chief John Easton speaking:

I never tried yours.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

Try the one I gave you.

Chief John Easton speaking:

I tried the one they gave me.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

You and I have unlimited access to the hospital through the card I gave you.

Chief John Easton speaking:

OK, I'll try yours.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

That's through Ken Rebecki who is the director of facilities.

Chief John Easton speaking:

OK, I didn't know that. But you see my point, I go to security and they don't get me a pass card, somebody's going to get hurt.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

No, I agree. We actually worked with Crozer because of the security issue there. We actually worked with Crozer and Crozer purchased a frequency that allows me to talk directly to the Command Desk and directly to the security personnel, because if we have a fire alarm to come to 1 Medical Center and it could be one of any of the seventeen buildings that are on that property. So, we would run around like chickens trying to figure out what's going on because the security guy wouldn't know, so now it enables us to talk to at least talk to security and say where's things at? That had been working well, if you get security personnel on hand that knows what they're doing. If they don't know how to reset the alarm, we had a call at 3:00 in the morning on fire alarm, the comment I got was, we don't know what to do and you're not allowed to call anybody in, and I said I'm not going to hang out here at the hospital waiting for someone to figure out the alarm, and I believe DiNardo was working that night and he had said the same thing. They tried keying up the maintenance manager that was on and his comment was, they don't pay me for overtime anymore, so they'll have to wait till 7:00 in the morning before I can even come in. This is a hospital.

President Mitchell speaking:

Well Dan, it creates the same problem on our end, we have shift overlaps and we don't really get into what John and the guys do down there till the end of the month when we look at the bill and it's like what went wrong? You know, we got five guys over there. You gotta call people in to relieve shifts and all that.

Chief Dan Smith speaking:

Why would Mark Mitchell leave the following day after that comment about maintenance not coming in to do anything about it and I assured him that this Borough through the Fire Department would be no way in agreement that nobody was going to come in to reset the alarm or to even help out to do this, and he apparently said he would fix the issue. We haven't had any since then, so.

Detective Curran speaking:

These are a couple of things that have been happening since we've been having problems, obviously we don't want to continue that, have a bad relationship with Crozer Hospital. For instance, we have three of the laptop computers we recovered from the theft as evidence, right after we caught them we could have given right back to them or as the Chief instructed me to do, which we also do, is wait until the court case is over. That case was last year, and they haven't asked for them back, I still have those computers and they just went on trial this week, so they won't get their computers back until next week. Now, I am sure they already bought new computers, but eventually the loss will add up, so if they are the little things we can do instead of working with them we can, you know, not so much work against them, but just not as well. So hopefully we'll fix that situation and the President was at that meeting and they didn't even know we had them.

President Mitchell speaking:

Well they didn't know you had just gone to Philadelphia to recover the drugs stolen out of the hospital. Their Chief was saying you already reported it, there's no report.

Detective Curran speaking:

Those are things we can do and now that they know the computers are over here, so as much information as they give us is as much information we can give them. So hopefully we'll get better on this.

President Mitchell speaking:

Well I would like to suggest to get Rob, because he likes to shake everybody's hand. Get everybody in the room and somebody has to restart and rekindle an open relationship on a more professional basis and put somebody in the room that has the power to make the changes, not excuses, because we're getting plenty of excuses. We need some clarity here and what they're paying in the EIT tax certainly, and I admit it to them, they're paying us a tremendous of money, but that doesn't entitle you to a full time police department. You know.

Mr. Peden speaking:

Mr. President, my sense is John knows the answer to the problem, he knows the answers, is that true?

President Mitchell speaking:

Yes, but uh.

Mr. Peden speaking:

Just can't get somebody to hear him.

President Mitchell speaking:

We're talking to the wrong people. We need to get some of those out of towners guys.

Mr. Peden speaking:

Somehow you need to equate it to dollars.

President Mitchell speaking:

Well, it is dollars.

Mr. Peden speaking:

What's the potential loss for their business?

President Mitchell speaking:

Well, if the average person going in there knew that they weren't really being treated safely, or in a safe manner, they want to hide behind HIPAA, at the same time you got somebody being raped, there's something wrong with that.

Mr. Peden speaking:

I want to know who's the most likely person to be killed in that dangerous room.

Mrs. Miazza speaking:

The psych ward.

Chief John Easton speaking:

The person and the doctors.

Mr. Peden speaking:

OK, well there's that's the worst case scenario would be, who needs to understand that.

President Mitchell speaking:

Well maybe if we could get, if we sent a letter to their insurance carrier, and had a meeting with them, they might decide to make some policy changes.

Mr. Peden speaking:

Their legal department, right?

President Mitchell speaking:

Yeah, their legal.

Mr. Peden speaking:

The guy, who would be the person that had to deal with that issue legally, if it happened?

Chief John Easton speaking:

I just want to go on the record, we had a call from a woman who, I can't remember her full name, she just thinks she was in Crozer, she had some type of problem, so she reports to the emergency room, asks to be put on medication, they made her leave the property, go outside and stand at the bus stop. So she sat down on the little bench there, on the Avenue by 15th street, some guy unknown to her start hovering around her, she goes back upstairs, the side steps into the ER, and says look I'm afraid, can somebody stay out there with me, or show me another bus stop. Hey, go back down there; the bus is going to come any minute. She goes back down, gets beaten into a coma.

Robert O'Connor speaking:

Ended up going back to the hospital I guess.

President Mitchell speaking:

And then they let her in.

Chief John Easton speaking:

When she was spotted they took her through another door with the ambulance, but that woman could have been killed because the stupid rent a cop made her go outside.

Mr. Hunter speaking:

The Assistant Chief of Security told me they have a lot of people parking in the handicap spot in the Professional Building lot and I said well you got security, call a tow truck. You know what he told me? Well the Upland Police won't come do anything about it, I says you're 100% right.

Chief John Easton speaking:

That's private property.

Mr. Hunter speaking:

No, I told them to call a tow truck, get it out of there. Let them do it.

President Mitchell speaking:

All right, I guess at this point there's just no closure on it, but Rob start the ball rolling with it, find out who's in charge over there. In the future when you're having a problem, at that time touch bases with John, cause John's there all the time.

Detective Curran speaking:

Yeah, a police officer usually there assisting the emergency.

President Mitchell speaking:

Does anyone else have anything to say?

No one commented.

24. Adjournment

There being no further business at this time, Mrs. Peterson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Purcival,
Borough Manager

Linda Saylor,
Recording Secretary

