

Village of Byron  
Special Council Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2015

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 pm by President Brunell

Pledge of Allegiance Led By: President Brunell

Roll Call – Present: Miller, Bessenbacher, Prestonise, Cole, Orr, and Brunell. Absent: Berecz

New Business: Brunell introduced Attorney Gormley who explained the Resolution Adopting Amendments to the Village of Byron's 2015/2016 Budget. He went into the 11-12, 12-13, 13-14 and 14-15 budgets and how the recession lead to a reduction in property taxes and from 11-12 to 15-16 the difference is \$6000.00. The overall tax base is down 30%. The budget can't be left with a 28 thousand dollar deficit. If you leave the budget in place, you will end up with 47 thousand dollars in the general fund at the end of the year. It started a few years ago with the 6 thousand dollars and with no major income. Amendments from other funds usually handle it. At the end of this year you will have a negative of 28 thousand dollars and the budget amendment addresses the negative amount. You are spending about 2% more each year. The question is how can we balance the 2015-2016 budget. Police spent 10 thousand dollars less than what was allotted so 5 thousand dollars was cut from the allotted amount. The personnel committee came back with some recommendations for the DPW contract and I incorporated them into the amendments. DPW contract longevity was taken down to \$1040.00 (will amend the numbers for longevity, trash removal, and cemetery mowing). With reductions in funeral pay, sick pay, and longevity; this will save \$4982.40. It will still leave you with a deficit amount. Then the discussion was where else can we cut and at the last meeting the treasurer suggested trash removal. If this was incorporated it would save the Village \$26,850.00. Which means each household would pay \$30.50 quarterly and would be added on the utility bill. Next, a couple of you had a discussion with me about the sexton's pay and I included it in the resolution. You just need to let me know if you want it left in or not. The records would all be brought down here by the end of the fiscal year, which is February 28<sup>th</sup>. There was also a recommendation about your part time DPW worker and the cemetery mowing. The recommendation is simply keeping the guy at \$15.00 per hour for the summer mowing as contract services and in the winter \$10.00 per hour as an on-call DPW employee. If you do this and work him 20 hours per week during the winter, you will save approximately \$2,100.00 a year. Whatever you do tonight, it's your vote but you're going to have to do something drastic because 28 thousand is a pretty big budget deficit, especially when you consider the size of the general fund budget. Has anyone ever deficit elimination plan? You won't have one this year but, the funds have diminished and you won't be out of money this year but by year 3 you will because the general fund will not be able to handle it. The Treasury makes you adopt an elimination plan and stick to it. Brunell asked if there were questions for Gormley and Cole said I do. The problem with eliminating the sexton, I thought her \$1,200.00 came out of the cemetery fund and had nothing to do with our budget at all. Tykoski said it does come out of cemetery fund and currently it is running a \$100.00 deficit and I don't think it will solve any problems. Gormley said it won't solve any problems but, you need to have all of the records at the Village hall, even the DPW records. Cole asked what kind of records you want; she has all the history of the cemetery. Gormley repeated his recommendation that all the records need to be kept at the Village Hall. Cole asked if you eliminate her job, who will take it over and Gormley replied you will have to appoint someone. Bessenbacher said according to the paper, Reed will take it over. Gormley said I think the paper got a hold of an earlier draft because I state that you will appoint someone. Bessenbacher

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asked who decided that the sexton was going to be removed. Gormley said 3 of your members suggested it to me during a discussion one day and I said something to Brunell, she didn't think it was the best idea and suggested it be put in the resolution so you could have a discussion about it. Cole said it was her understanding that the committee would have a meeting, discuss it and then bring it to the council for more discussion. I didn't know anything about this until I picked up my packet and by the way the lights were left on and the door was open. I think as a council this should have been discussed before it was presented. Bessenbacher said it should have been discussed before it was put in the paper. Brunell said I agree and Bessenbacher said what are you agreeing for, you wrote it. Gormley said no she didn't, she didn't even want to do it. Brunell said no I did not. Bessenbacher said we talked to Graham and he said you wrote it. Brunell said the day she found out about it she sent an email to Gormley and protested it. Gormley said once you receive your packet the information becomes public and you got your packets on Friday and he wrote the article on Saturday. Bessenbacher said he had all of the information by Wednesday. How does the newspaper get a copy before we did? Brunell said I did not give it to him. Bessenbacher said he told me that you gave it to him. Gormley and Brunell both said he didn't get it from me. Bessenbacher said we know who he got it from. Prestonise said the bottom line is a h\*\*\* of a thing that a lady who has been doing this for 45 years has to find out in the paper. That's BULL, that's bull. Brunell said actually she did not get a call from the paper she got a call from me. Prestonise said just like the survey going around and it had nothing to do with the trustees. We didn't talk about it or discuss it. Brunell said the survey was discussed with a prior council and all of the council members, which Cole, Miller and Bessenbacher were part of...Bessenbacher cut in and said and Brunell said excuse me, we all discussed it, Cole, Miller and Bessenbacher, and thought it was a great idea because we cannot get community involvement to come to our regular meetings. I think this tonight is an amazing wonderful thing. I am so glad that the community is here to find out what is going on, because what they hear at the Deli in the morning or through the streets...Bessenbacher said Brunell come on, Graham already told us. Brunell said that Graham called Reed to find out if I was going to be in last week. It just happened that I was in on Wednesday and both Reed and Tykoski were here. Tykoski verified most of the information on the garbage. So, no he did not get this from me. Miller said this Deli thing I am getting tired of it and I will tell you why, I am doing business with the owner and nobody is going to stop me from doing business with him. This Deli thing is just kid's play. Brunell said I agree. Orr said I talked to Mrs. Granger yesterday and Graham called her on Wednesday. We get our packets on Thursday and the deadline for the paper is Wednesday at noon. Brunell said this was discussed with Mrs. Granger on Saturday. I thought she had a right to know what was coming so she didn't walk into a meeting with her job on the line and council discussing it to approve or disapprove it. I also discussed with M. Granger on Friday about his part of this. They have the right to know what was in the resolution. Graham contacted me on Tuesday and said he had spoken to Mrs. Granger and that's how it got to him. Prestonise said the article is pretty much exactly what this resolution is. We as trustees don't get the information until Thursday in our packets. The trustees, as it sits today, can't answer any questions and it would be nice to answer these people. Brunell said I get my packet on Thursday, same day as you. Orr said I am glad that the paper gets there's on Wednesday. Brunell said that's something you will have to take up with the paper. Bessenbacher said why I have a text from Graham stating that you told him. Brunell said I would like to see that. Bessenbacher said that Graham got all the confirmation from you. Brunell said confirmation is not me going to him with the paper. He asked me questions and I answered yes or no. Bessenbacher said he said that Mrs. Granger, Kit, and C. Granger contributed to the article. Brunell said that does not tell you that I gave him the article. Contributed yes, I just got done telling you that I answered his questions contributing to the article. You can sit there and point your finger all you want. Bessenbacher said I am not pointing my finger, I am just saying....Orr said and we just got the

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information on Thursday in our packets and we never received any committee minutes to show what was discussed. Brunell asked Reed when they were available and Reed said the day after the meeting. I don't know how anything was submitted because the committees hadn't met yet. Gormley said I spoke with 3 council members and they suggested this to save money and I just did this to present the facts. C. Granger asked who the council members were and Gormley said he answers to the council. Miller said he was one of them. Gormley said you don't have to pass the whole thing; you can just do parts of it. You asked me for my recommendations and I put this together with the information I gathered from council members. I believe Bessenbacher asked to have the cemetery records moved down here and Bessenbacher confirmed Gormley statement of the records only. Gormley continued these are all suggestions and regardless what you do, the sexton job will save money in the general fund. The real problem is the \$28,000.00. M. Granger said with the \$28,000.00 from the garbage we should be all set. Gormley said it was \$26,000.00 and it will only take care of part of it. Brunell said we have a contract with Republic until 2016 and at that time we will be able to look for other companies. Is there any other discussion from council on where you want to go with this? Cole said I would like to eliminate the part of the sexton and keep her. Cole said I will make a motion to adopt the 2015-2016 budget resolution amending all reference to the sexton be removed and all other changes discussed corrected. Brunell explained the motion on the table and asked Reed to repeat it again. Reed repeated the motion. M. Granger said your 220 customers are wrong because some people are not hooked up to water. Tykoski said that's what Republic is charging us. Gormley asked when the Republic contract was signed and both Reed and Tykoski said they have not found the contract yet. We have only seen letters telling us when the rates will increase and these have been received in July. Gormley said you will need to contact Republic for a copy of the contract. Brunell said we have a motion on the table and we need a second. She said I will second it and asked if any further discussion. Prestonise said that's covering the sexton, Mr. Granger...Brunell said the garbage, and part time DPW. Sexton was removed by the motion. Prestonise said can we talk about the garbage; it says that Republic will be the only company for residential pickup. Brunell said that is the old copy and the new one was put in your box on Friday when I received it. Cole on page 4 number 2 says that would be the only one in town. Waste Management does the apartments. Gormley said they only do commercial pickup. Brunell asked if it answered Prestonise question and he replied that it did but, I don't understand why I can't pick who I want to pick up mine. Gormley said it is because you are under a contract and you have to get to the end of that contract. Prestonise said ok, on number 6 on page 6 it says...somewhere that it is retroactive back to March 1<sup>st</sup>. Gormley said you do your water bills quarterly and you need to cover the fiscal year. So in June when the bills go out the trash would be retroactive for March, April, and May. If it's not done this way you will be short a month and won't cover the contract. Brunell said we receive a quantity discount. Prestonise said I understand that. It sounds like we live in a police state. Gormley said the previous administration approved a contract that runs through 2016 and we have to get through 2016 to solve the problem. Tykoski said that does not mean that we will continue with Republic, we will look for the best deal. Prestonise said I didn't say that but , when you bring this in a resolution and how much we are paying, how much we owe, we should have in front of us a copy of Republic's contract to see what is says. I can't make a decision if I can't see something. Gormley said it probably renews and just sign it. Reed said if the rates change it will be in July like the other times. Orr said what amazes me is the council never sees any of these letters. Reed said I can't speak for past administration has done, I have not received that letter and any letters I have received you have received them. Brunell explained the staff change and we need to correct the problems at hand. It is our responsibility to fix this. Prestonise said All of us have to get in on the same boat because I never heard anything about the trustees wages being cut, the president, clerk and treasurer. Everybody needs to get on board. Brunell said I have the

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numbers to present to you. We have to make a start somewhere. Any further discussion? Prestonise said I hate resolutions because you can't really talk about them. Just like Mr. Granger's contract and there are things in here that are hard to figure like C-A. We don't have a contract so we don't know what it said. Gormley read from the expired contract what C-A was. M. Granger asked what happened to the 60 days I built up over 32 years. Gormley said there aren't any because the contract expired. They can be put back in but, right now it's expired. Prestonise said some of these things we are not saving money on. On some we are only saving half time. M. Granger said all it really is, is a slap in the face and this little money is not saving the Village squat. Orr said reducing the funeral time to 2 hours should be left at 4 hours. Gormley said to Orr make a motion to amend it and Orr said there are so many motions I wouldn't know where to begin. Brunell said that the chair of that committee is not here to address the issues. Gormley said this is an open meeting and you can make amendments on any of this. All I did was take the recommendations and put them together in this resolution. M. Granger asked how it got to this point. Brunell explained the committees and how they were made up. She listed the names of the committees. Cole said I attended one meeting. Brunell said we have a motion on the table. I withdraw my second and asked if anyone else wanted to second. If nobody does then the motion dies and seconds heard. Brunell motioned to table the resolution until the April 13, 2015 meeting with more information for council, seconded by Prestonise. Roll Call: Ayes-Miller, Bessenbacher, Cole, Orr and Brunell. Nays: Prestonise; passed.

MDot: Brunell explained the streets to be changed to major streets for Act 51 money. Reed explained the state requirements. Orr why change major street to a local street because milk trucks still go down it. Gormley said we have to give something to get something. Miller motioned to allow the street administrator to submit road changes. Roll Call: Ayes-Bessenbacher, Cole, Miller, and Brunell. Nays: Prestonise and Orr; passed.

Council Comments: No comments

Public Comments: P. Morris: In support of sexton and support of M. Granger. Trash should have right to own choice. M. Rauch: Services provided by Village harder and harder to provide. Support for Mrs. Granger. Cuts fact of life and I support DPW. Kathy: Support for the Grangers and the fine job they are doing. S. Riley: Headlee could be put to a vote for increase and still supply services. C. Granger I agree with comments. I record all meetings and send them to the paper but, you always attack the President.

Meeting adjourned at : 8:31pm. Motion by Cole and seconded by Miller. Voice Vote: All Ayes-Prestonise, Miller, Bessenbacher, Cole, Orr, and Brunell. 1 absent; passed



Marsha Reed, Clerk

4/13/15

Date



Kit Brunell, President