

**Thursday, February 1, 2018
Williamsport, PA**

Council President Jonathan Williamson brought the Williamsport City Council meeting to order on Thursday, February 1, 2018 at 7:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers. Chris Cooley did televise the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Derek Slaughter and was immediately followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Council members present:

*Jonathan Williamson, President
Randy Allison, Vice President
Bonnie Katz, Councilwoman absent
Derek Slaughter
Don Noviello, Councilman
Elizabeth Miele, Councilwoman
Joel Henderson, Councilman*

Absent:

Bonnie Katz

Also, Present:

*Gabriel J. Campana, Mayor
Rebecca Haladay, City Engineer
Mr. William Nichols, Jr.
Mr. Joe Pawlak
Mr. Gary Knarr absent
Megan Page HR absent
Adam Winder
Dave Young, Police Chief
Sol. Norman Lubin
Janice Frank, City Clerk,
Todd Heckman, Fire Chief
Mr. Joe Gerardi*

Approval of the Williamsport City Council minutes of January 18, 2018 was approved upon a motion from **and Mr. Allison made** a second from **Mr. Slaughter**. All were in favor. **The vote was 6 to 0. Ms. Miele voted yes. Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mrs. Katz was absent. Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes, and Dr. Williamson voted yes.** .

Limited Courtesy of the Floor

There were no requests for limited courtesy of the floor.

Presentation to Kenny Myers – 45 Years of Dedicated Service to the City of Williamsport

Mr. Adam Winder stated he is proud to honor Kenny Myers for his work. Today, The Public Works Department, the administration, and the Mayor would like to recognize Kenneth Myers for his forty-five years of dedicated service to the Public Works Department. Kenny graduated from Williamsport Area High School in 1972. On February 7, 1973, his 20th birthday, he was hired by Mayor Coder and Bob Orso, Sr. to become part of the Public Works Department. He is classified as a truck driver in the traffic control department. Facility maintenance, design, construction, implementation of signage, traffic control, truck driving are just a few of the tasks Kenny has accomplished over his years of service. It cannot go unnoticed the dedication he not only has given to the City of Williamsport but also his loving family. His wife Shelly and son Kenneth have felt the impact of the nights Kenny was called in for snow and flooding events. They have also shared in the impact of Kenny's service to the City by spending many holiday events without him such as the 4th of July while Kenny worked traffic control. The City would also like to acknowledge Shelly and Kenneth for their dedicated support for Kenny through his year of service. With all of that in mind we would like to say thank you Kenny for being a part of the foundation of the Public Works Department. You will be missed but you will always be a part of the public works family. Enjoy your retirement.

Mayor Campana stated tonight is bittersweet for the City of Williamsport. We say bittersweet because we say good luck and have a wonderful retirement, but at the same time we are going to miss this gentle giant. The Mayor had members of Streets and Parks and Kenny come up front. He presented him with a plaque for his dedications. He says he thanks that the strong, wonderful, good, Christian man who is very humble. In this business it is difficult to find individuals that are so humble. He always has a smile on his face, and never complains and gets the job done. We are blessed as a city and a community to have a public servant such as Kenny. He gave him the Mayor's award for achievement.

Mr. Kenny Myers stated this is truly an honor. He said it is a milestone in my life, when I got hired in a summer of 1973, if anyone told him that he was going to be 45 years, he would've said you were crazy. That is a long time to look ahead, and I could've gone elsewhere but I stayed here. I don't want to turn this into a church service but I have to thank God for the strength to do what I've done for all of these years. I've had some health issues, and I rebounded back with HIS healing. I have gone on all these storms, and my wife and son have been very supportive, it was not easy like on a holiday when everybody is with their families to go out on storm watch, when they tell people to stay in, I had to go out. I will have things to do to keep me busy, and will enjoy some of the fruits of my labor from the City of Williamsport. He thanked everyone for their support and his comrades that he works with every day, and for coming out and supporting him. Thank you.

Dr. Williamson stated on behalf of City Council, he wanted to express thanks on behalf of the taxpayers. He has served the city longer than the majority of Council has been alive. To think of the changes that the city has undergone and that you have been part of it and seed the storms that have, and the streets and parks in all of the components that the city has been part of that you have contributed to all of these years, it is a tremendous accomplishment. Your work has not gone unnoticed. You were very much appreciated.

Mr. Allison stated he has known Kenny for a long time and he promised his sister he'd get some pictures. It is a great joy to a great man to share this night with him. We are proud of him and he has done a good job.

Mr. Noviello stated this is a testimonial to you and all the work that you have done, so I would like to thank you for all your effort.

Dr. Williamson noted that all his colleagues were there and said thank you and enjoy your retirement.

Dr. Williamson changed the order of the agenda.

Demolition – 229 Washington Blvd. – Lycoming College

Mr. Gerardi stated this is a request for demolition or property located at 229 Washington Blvd. owned by Lycoming College. The property is located in an R2 residential zoning district. The structure has been used

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as a single family rental and is currently vacant. They don't intend to do anything with this other than fill it, grass it, and put seed in it. There is a representative here.

Mr. Allison asked for motion and a second.

Mr. Henderson made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

There was a discussion about the complaints that happened on this property, and it starts taking care of a problem property.

Mr. Allison asked for a vote on the demolition.

The demolition was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 0. Dr. Williamson abstained.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes. Dr. Williamson abstained. Mrs. Katz was absent.

Resolution #8744

Resolution To Approve an Agreement for Economic Development Consulting Services Between the City of Williamsport & Penn Strategies, LLC

The City Clerk read the resolution.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to approve the resolution.

Mr. Slaughter made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

Mayor Campana stated he was pleased to bring an agreement between our great City and Penn Strategies, and if you have noticed over the years that Penn Strategies has been a winner and they have secured millions of dollars for this wonderful city and this contact is appropriate. It is a two-year contract at \$100,000 per year and this did go before the Finance Committee.

Ms. Miele stated this did come before Finance and a few points, on the contract, it is \$100,000 for two years, and it does have a 15 day opt out for either party involved. When we discussed with Mr. Fitzgerald why the two-year contract was preferable for Penn Strategies, the scope of work details on number of different activities that are two-year activities so the longevity of the contract is related to the longevity of the scope or work. The predominant focus of this particular contract with Penn Strategy will be the Levy. The City is hoping to find a combination of federal and state funding to help us fund the \$10 million in repairs to the levee. Mr. Fitzgerald is confident that Penn Strategies can bring some funding to the table for the Levy. It is also hopeful that they can administrate the grant or else find somebody in the city that can do it and working with the RCAP Grants. Obviously the scope of work for the contract is significantly larger, but the levee is the primary focus at this point. Finance did forward this to the full body Council with positive recommendation.

Dr. Williamson asked for questions or comments from Council.

Mr. Noviello stated that he has had the occasion over the last several years to work with Mr. Fitzgerald and obviously he has a strong work ethic, and it is easy to see that he has a love for the city which is an advantage for the kind of work that he does. He does not have to put up a façade out, because obviously he is genuine. The track record speaks for itself and we are always an advantage when we have him heading the charge. The challenge of the Levy system is very huge, and as many of us already know it is pretty hard, but to have someone like him with his kind of ability. So a quick thank you to Mr. Fitzgerald and his team.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any other questions.

Mr. Slaughter asked if there was a reason for the increase in this contract?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered, originally his arrangement when they first started with the City was for \$100,000. Over the last two years, the City was facing a budget situation so Mr. Nichols and the Mayor had asked if I would agree to a reduction during that time., So I did, and essentially it was the two-year contract, so I agreed. As you see, the scope of our work has expanded greatly and the dollar amount for this year has expanded greatly. As I shared with the Finance committee, I had an opportunity to meet with Gov. Wolf on Monday in Harrisburg, along with Deputy Chief of Staff, and the governor has expressed a strong desire to be supportive and helping with our Levy project. Prior to my meeting here I have spoken with Lieut. Gov. who is charged with the emergency preparedness and response, and I spoke with him about the importance of us getting the match of federal money. If our contract is renewed, we will be putting in along with Rebecca, with Lycoming County, a grant with at least a \$10 million to the Levy project. So we are not really asking for raise, we are just asking to be returned back to our level.

Mr. Slaughter stated, you said that times were difficult financially two years ago, and we are still at a difficult time, to see a 33% increase from 75,000 \$100,000, and you said the scope of your services increased. Can you be more specific?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered, you will note that in exhibit A, there are listed a number of scopes, so turn to exhibit a, in addition to doing the coordination work for a \$5 million grant, if we don't secure the \$5 million grant from the State, that will be on the back of the City. So the budget situation would get much worse, if the city were charged with having to come up with the five million dollars. And also we have agreed to work on projects, coordination from the Park Avenue project, working on the East Third Street project, and also the park work and Bro-Dart neighborhood improvement. So it's in significant increase on our workload.

Mayor Campana stated that's a wonderful question, I served on council for 10 years, and have been Mayor for 10, and I've been in communication with many many consulting firms, they are more expensive than \$100,000 per year. Especially when they have a proven record. And yes, in regards to the financial challenges facing, I am very cognizant of that and at the same time, when you look at spending hundred thousand dollars and we have the potential of bringing back \$5 million, that is a good bargain. At the finance meeting we also stated that I will be meeting with the Lt. Gov. as well to speak about this, and this is the administration's number one project. This is a very daunting task and we have discussed this for a number of years. I have been assured by individuals that are working in the State that we will get something. Yes it is an increase, but I think it's a very noble proposition that we made and that was accepted, a reduction, but I believe that Penn Strategies will earn their keep. Penn Strategies will give us a report each month,

Mr. Fitzgerald stated and one of things Councilman if you will note is that we have a 15 day out, so if we don't deliver, you can dismiss us at any time.

Mr. Slaughter asked are we able to see the deliverables? Is there a specific dollar amount from the previous contract, that Penn Strategies is specifically responsible for, if we do not have Penn Strategies, what I am hearing is that we will very likely not be able to get the \$5 million grant?

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Mr. Fitzgerald answered, I can't say that but I don't know of anybody else has met directly with the Gov. and Lieut. Gov. on this application. As far as our past results, we were successful in securing \$3 million in RCAP funding for the Liberty Arena project, and we are part of the team that helped secure the 1.2 million dollars for Bowman Field after it was initially rejected and was announced two years ago. I think that those two numbers certainly speak for themselves.

Mr. Slaughter asked how about conflicts of interest, as far as working on behalf of two separate entities, for example I know Bowman Field, obviously I am a teacher, I believe Penn Strategies was working on behalf of the school district, was it the same pot of money, or two separate pots of money?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered it was the same pot of money but as far as our current client relationship, Councilman, I did reveal this voluntarily through the Finance committee. We currently represent Eureka Resources, all of our contracts are available through this State website, and also the Tidadaughton Regional Police Dept, are currently working on some potential grant funding for a separate pot of money. And that would help with the regionalization department in the western part of the County, so that doesn't conflict with this. I am also retained by Lycoming Engines, we were helpful in securing a \$2 million RCAP for them, and will also help them to close out previous RCAP. I am also willing to state that I won't be taking on any new clients in Lycoming County in this time period. In regards to the School District, we were working on a redevelopment capital assistance grant for the stadium project, which was not awarded, and that was under Dr. Adams. We had conversations with the Commonwealth's about submitting an additional application, which we agreed to do pro bono for the school district and the current superintendent.

Mr. Slaughter, stated so if you were going after the same pot of money.....

Mr. Fitzgerald answered we were not authorized to go after both pots of money originally Councilman, we were called in after the application was submitted by competing firm, Delta Development which was hired by River Valley Transit and they were not successful in securing the money.

Mr. Slaughter asked if there was any disclosure or conflict of interest disclosure, I didn't see anything, you are saying that there is not going to be, but can we be assured?

Mr. Fitzgerald stated we are required by State law as lobbyists to file when anyone pays us, and I would be perfectly comfortable if we wanted passed this tonight contingent upon the caveat that you might be insisting upon that we would let you know if we take on any clients in addition to what I've already publicly stated on the record. He'd be happy to do that.

Mr. Slaughter stated that it is a bit concerning to him as both a school district taxpayer and as a City taxpayer. He stated he did run to have a voice to have choices for our kids and to look at how our budget is structured. In his opinion, you have to be more diligent about our contracts. Good neighborhoods and recreation are important, so in his opinion we need to find room for them.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he welcomes the questions

Mr. Slaughter stated, we are not here just to review it, so when something comes in front of Council, we all need to look a little deeper, and to him council's most important job is to ask questions to ensure that we have adequate language in our contracts to control our obligations. We on Council need to uphold our end of the bargain on behalf of the citizens and taxpayers of Williamsport. He stated he is the Council rep for Recreation, and he saw under the recreation the piece of the current contract, it says review that committee structure and determine the costs and benefits associated with streamlining their efforts. Please explain that a little bit.

Mr. Fitzgerald answered, sure, first I want to say that I appreciate your frank questions and I hope that you appreciate my frank responses.

Mr. Slaughter answered absolutely I do.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated in regards to recreation, a lot of times there is not effective communication between various groups in various committees and various interests. It should be in all of our interests to ensure the best possible services are provided to the people that are elected to represent. And I would look at things like is it really necessary to have a committee like Brandon Park, like Ways Garden, it might be better to have one committee and have representatives from each of those entities coming together and discuss what's in the overall best interest of a recreation strategy. I would like to help I did the direction of Council and the administration to do just that to make sure we are providing him for opportunities for the people of all parts of the City in Williamsport. What I was referring to is that necessary to have all of the separate committees focusing on separate interests, would it be better that we have one committee that represents each place and understands that a dollar that is spent there, that a dollar with the Park would take away a dollar with another Park. Frankly I think that this is an area that we could use a little bit of adjustment on.

Mr. Slaughter stated he appreciates his answers but during budget season, we floated around the real idea of personnel cuts, and raising taxes, so I just think we need to be diligent in our review of contracts.

Mr. Fitzgerald said in regards to the services that Penn Strategies is providing with not only the grant writing things that the advocacy, there have been folks who said would we be better off to hire an in-house lobbyist, I would say to get someone that has the contacts and connections that I am doing Harrisburg, pro- the annually looking at 70 and \$80,000 a year salary, but when you consider the benefits, and the pension obligations, and getting rid of a city employee, I am very mindful and want to be judged based on what we deliver. If we don't deliver, you can dismiss us with a 15 day notice. I also put that protection in there because I wanted to protect the city if someone were to offer me a job, that I would want to take, I feel very confident with this dollar amount. It is basically a flat line from what we originally started. I would be happy if you want to make a motion to very clearly state that any clients that I would have in Lycoming County, but frankly I would be happy to share ours state disclosures with you, since it is the same pot of money. I am very comfortable operating in a transparency fashion and I prefer it. If you want to make a motion I'd be happy to sign an agreement to that effect.

Mr. Slaughter stated it is a flat line from a few years ago, but it is not a flat line on our line of item in the budget this year. So I feel that is something I need to think about, and I do thank you for your answers.

Dr. Williamson asked if Mr. Slaughter if he would like to make the motion?

Mr. Fitzgerald stated the easiest way is he can provide the state disclosures on a monthly statement. There was discussion where they should add the motion if made, and Mr. Lubin stated it should be added to the exhibit.

Mr. Fitzgerald said so if you were in favor of the contract you can make a motion contingent upon the disclosure on a monthly basis along with our reporting requirements of the Department of State disclosures which he has to file as a lobbyist.

Dr. Williamson suggested that if he wants this motion to add this under a bullet point, about a written report about the disclosures that Penn strategies makes on a monthly basis.

Mr. Slaughter said, we can continue our discussion. So no motion was made.

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Mr. Henderson stated that we are between a rock and a hard place. He doesn't think the question is whether or not Penn Strategies is worthy or capable, he feels that has been established. But the question that Mr. Slaughter has pointed out is the ability of the city to pay. That is where we are at this point. I think our aggressive agenda with respect to projects has placed us in this hard spot here. I think we need Penn Strategies, we need them for many reasons that have been stated here and I think they do an excellent job. So I think we want to continue with that relationship. I do understand that we have to pay for the connections. It doesn't make the decision easy though, but we still think about a \$25,000 increase, and where could it go to, there is no end of possibilities. Because of our aggressive agenda we are in a position where we kind of need this and we have to go this direction. It is difficult and it is hard but that is his take on it. He wishes that he could change the number of projects that we are involved in, but there are many that we are in the middle of right now. And those things cannot be changed. It will be difficult but we need to support this for those reasons.

Ms. Miele stated the one other thing that she would suggest, and she stated she is in agreement with Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Henderson, it is a tough pill to swallow on the other hand if we can deliver on some of the promises in Mr. Fitzgerald's scope of work. Some of these things that we think will hopefully happen, but she feels it would be well worth our investment in return to the city. That said, one way to make sure that we are getting our money's worth both now and moving forward, is to routinely recruit Penn Strategies help, in which Mr. Fitzgerald has agreed to help. He has proven himself to be useful over the last several years, and he can be quite a resource for staying on top of things. So when we are following one thing, and there are lots of other things going on, we do get a briefing. The one comment on the scope of work, to make it as we understand we are hiring Penn Strategies because of their connections. That said, I personally would feel comfortable with some of the items, particularly in the recreation area, if we were aware that it wasn't just Penn Strategies working on parks improvements, because in that area that is not an area where Penn Strategies brings an expertise. So we need to be aware that there are many things that they do very well and other areas where all of us need to collaborate so we want to make sure that we are getting the best product. I want to see us keep a very tight eye on any expenditures the city is making, and I also want to make sure that that bang we are getting for that buck that are of genuine value to the city moving forward. She felt that becomes a charge back on Council and the administration as the year goes on. We should keep an eye on where our money is going.

Mr. Fitzgerald went on to explain how he and our Treasurer, Nick Grimes went to Harrisburg, because Mr. Grimes identified an issue with Senate Bill 653 that was scheduled to be voted on Monday, which would have outlawed the practice of contingent fee audits. In which the city of Williamsport in the last three years has received \$1 million from those contingent fee audits. We were able thanks to his efforts, even though the Pennsylvania municipal league opposed it, Mr. Grimes brought that to his attention, it was not something that he was aware of, but asked if we could assist with scheduling some meetings in Harrisburg. So we were able to in one day, get a Senate majority leader to remove Senate Bill 651 from the calendar, Sen. Yaw our local state senator will be speaking to that legislation next week which will remove the banning of the contingency audit. The treasurer did call on me to set the meeting, and because of Mr. Grimes' efforts, he was able to get a contingency from the city of Allentown, and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We spent two entire days talking to the senator, so as a result of that, the past result was \$1 million in contingencies. We can only assume it's that other ones will be more money. He stated he guesses that he would make the argument particularly in his hometown, to serve the best interests of the taxpayers. He stated he would not enter into an agreement with the City of Williamsport, this is his home town and he chooses to live here. So if any Council members or the administration calls him, he is happy to talk to other friends that he has made. He stated that he is less likely to have both friends in the Republican and the Democratic side, that is how they have to operate to serve the constituents and the clients. The one thing, and I will respect your questions Councilman Slaughter, I will always give you an honest answer even when it's not what you want to hear. I am for transparency. I am happy to advocate on behalf of the City of Williamsport.

Dr. Williamson stated when people were trying to understand the relationships with Penn Strategies or other consultants, how do you know if you are getting your money's worth? You brought up the idea of deliverables earlier, when it is about relationships and making sure we have a seat at the table, so can you tell us what sure example of a way you could fail, and the way that you could succeed. The four biggest projects are the levee, E third Street, Park Ave., Memorial homes, but across those four biggest projects, if we were to be here a year from now, evaluating your work, in your mind what does success look like, and what this failure look like?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered, a failure would be if I did not deliver, particularly on the Levy money, I am going to work as hard as I can to deliver as much as that \$5 million in conjunction with all of you on the levee. That is the single biggest issue our region faces. We need to be safe from a natural disaster. I know when that governor sees me, they identified me by asking about the levee projects. Alivia has helped put place my importance on this... This is a safety issue.... I don't think that this is just an unnecessary unfunded mandate, it is a public safety issue. There's a lot of folks that believe the 2011 flood would've happened a little bit farther West, we would have some major breakage. So the number one thing I'm going to focus on is still delivering as much as that local match as possible. We have to get a \$5 million dollar match and we have to come up with that somehow. I am your neighbor too, I will see you if I don't deliver.

Dr. Williamson stated, so any time you make an investment, you might think of it as a gamble, we have to take a vote on the information available, and the needs that we have to try to secure funding. I see lobbying as necessary in the system that we have. Every time we enter into a contract we have to evaluate the risk we are taking into an investment.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated you will see from my disclosures that I represent primarily municipalities and manufacturers. I have never represented a pharmaceutical company, I would have a lot more money if I did. I picked the clients that I represent. There is been a lot of news lately of people that I'm friends with, and those offers have come my way and I don't take them. I don't think that lobbying is a bad thing if you're lobbying for good causes. Maybe I'd be better off financially if I did take those jobs, but I won't. I've lived here pretty much all my life. The reason why I think that folks in Harrisburg think favorably of me is that I keep my word. That is how those relationships are built. The fact that Gov. Wolf calls upon me even though I worked against his campaign three years ago, I would like to think it speaks to the fact that I never said anything derogatory about him first off and secondly he knows that if I make a promise I keep it. That is how I live my life and we run our business.

Dr. Williamson stated we you gave us one metric of success versus failure, can you give one more?

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Mr. Fitzgerald answered yes we really put a lot of time into the parks inventory, and we did make some progress on that. It is being able to secure DCNR funding to try and be able help with the Park. Another area too, in working in conjunction with Rebecca, we are working on the Grafius Run issue. I'd like to be able to secure some funding to help out on that. I think that would be successful. And in talking with the police and fire, I would feel very good if we were able to get the Police Department and the Fire department \$150,000 that's available through the justice grant. So if I'm able to do something with that, that would make me feel like we were successful. So if we could deliver on police, fire, and the levee, and the parks. So I would like to do something other than study it, we put together a nice report on it but acting on that would be great.

Dr. Williamson stated so in essence, it would be the return on the contract that has some multiple dollars that are secured. So if it's \$100 million investment were looking at a \$500 million return.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated and every year that we have been active we've brought more money in than what has been paid to us.

Dr. Williamson stated I understand it's harder in your field.

Mr. Allison asked when we talk about the money for Penn Strategies, it was his recollection at budget time, that we budgeted \$150,000 between Penn Strategies and Delta to be divided up. So is this the division of that? \$100,000 to Penn strategies, and \$50,000 to Delta?

Mayor Campana answered yes. Overall expenses is \$150,000, we did not determine at that time what Delta was going to get and what Penn Strategies was going to get. We never said it was each could be \$75,000 apiece, we said the total amount would be \$150,000. So basically \$50,000 is left for Delta.

Mr. Allison stated so that's what he thought, but he thought it would be \$75,000 apiece, so were not taking \$25,000 from somewhere else for Delta?

Dr. Williamson asked the Mayor, the city itself is not under contract with Delta, is that contract forthcoming?

Mayor Campana answered yes and it will be here in the next 30 to 60 days.

Mr. Allison stated there is some good news in the conversation we had in the Finance committee about the Levy. We are on the radar with the State level and the Federal level, we are being heard and taken seriously. It is the first I've heard any optimism of either level. But to hear that we might be getting some substantial money for some the levels that we are responsible for, not that we are out of the words, but there's a little light through the trees out if we can make progress that's going to really pay off. It is not going to change our financial position in the city, and it's going to save us a lot of extra costs.. The other thing was negotiated with Penn Strategies, the RCAP money that is secured will be over see by them, because of the administration paperwork, the filing, all the details, you get the money, but there's a lot of accounting and paperwork that has to be taking care of. And for us not to have to do that is very helpful to the administration.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated yes and that cost typically between 40 and \$60,000 and I will do that as part of our contract. If you approve our renewal today, one of the things I will ask in two weeks, the applicant for the RCAP money and the party that is responsible for the administration of those dollars is the County. So we have been able to in addition to having the ability in Harrisburg, we are able to convince the commissioners that the County should be the applicant. Therefore since they are the applicant they are also responsible for the administration. He did add that into the change per the request. There won't be an additional charge to the city to administer that.

Mr. Allison stated there are some positives, we talk a lot about the negatives, but we are gaining some traction in the levee area.

Mr. Slaughter asked, so you said the county is administering it, so you are doing the grant, or is the County doing the grant?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered, so the State and the Federal government believes we would have a better chance to secure our funding and the County is the applicant, so it is really a regional benefit. So what I need to assess everyone to consider in two weeks, we enter into a MOU saying the County is the applicant on behalf of the city. So we are in the process of working that out. So you guys will either have to authorize us to submit the application on behalf of the County, the county would be the applicant and the city would be the sub applicant. So the responsibility for administering that grant with fall on the County.

There was discussion about Penn Strategies will be doing the administering of it but the County is responsible for it. There is an applicant for the grant, which would be the County of Lycoming, the sub applicant will be the City of Williamsport, as far as the labor load, it will be on Penn Strategies. The technical legal definition it will be the County.

Mr. Slaughter stated so, Penn Strategies is writing the grant on behalf of the County, on behalf of the city?

Mr. Fitzgerald answered yes on behalf of the City

Mr. Slaughter asked if he was taking any financial money from the County.

Mr. Fitzgerald answered none at all.

Dr. Williamson stated, the legal applicant is the County, but the work will be done by Penn Strategies. Once the grant is granted, the legal responsible party will be the County, because they are the legally responsible party, there needs to be an MOU.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated from a technical standpoint, he will prepare other materials, but the County will submit all the materials that he has prepared. So the money will go to the County that will pass through to the city. By February 28 we have to submit a business plan, once it is approved, then you will apply. A lot of my competitors will say we will get you through the application, and then charge you an additional fee when you get to the application phase, so what I said at the assistance of Mr. Nichols and the Finance committee, I won't charge the additional fee. I made a statement publicly on the record that I won't charge you for that. There is actually a pie chart that shows the whole process. He explained in addition what happens afterward. So they don't give you the \$5 million check, it is a reimbursement process.

Dr. Williamson stated in the end we have benefited over three or four times to the tune of \$12 million of RCAP money.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated, that is why the next 27 days of my life will be some of the most stressful that I have. As you will see, in other parts of the State, it is a very detailed process, but I would not be able to do without the help of people in the city and also the County. We will be meeting tomorrow to put this together.

Dr. Williamson asked if there were any other questions, he asked her vote on the resolution.

The resolution was carried with five yes roll call votes. The vote was 5 to 1.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted no, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes. Mrs. Katz was absent.

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Accept for filing

Controllers Report Dec 2017

Finance Minutes 9/12/17 & 11/21/17

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to accept these for filing.

Mr. Allison made a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Miele.

The minutes were accepted with six yes roll call votes. The vote was 6 to 0.

Ms. Miele voted yes, Mr. Noviello voted yes, Mr. Henderson voted yes, Mr. Slaughter voted yes, Mr. Allison voted yes and Dr. Williamson voted yes. Mrs. Katz was absent.

Announcements

There will be an executive session following tonight's meeting for the purposed of negotiation. The next regularly scheduled City Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:30 PM, in City Hall Council Chambers. (Enter through the police department at rear of building for meetings after 5:00 PM.)

Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday, Feb. 3	2:00 PM Home Rule at Susquehanna Law
Monday, Feb. 5	12:00 PM Planning Commission
	3:15 PM AD HOC/Residency
Tuesday, Feb. 6	3:30 PM ERC Meetings
Wednesday, Feb. 7	4:00 PM Charter Commission
Monday, Feb. 12	4:00 PM Recreation Commission
	5:30 PM Home Rule Commission
Tuesday, Feb. 13	1:00 PM Finance Committee
	2:30 PM Public Works
	3:30 PM Public Safety
Thursday, Feb 15	10:30 AM Zoning Hearing Board
	4:00 PM Board of Health
	7:30 PM City Council Meeting

[Meetings Held in Council Chambers Unless Otherwise Noted – [scr] = William Sechler Community

Room]

Adjournment

ERC meeting was canceled because of no request from the administration.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments or questions from Council.

There were none.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the administration.

There were none.

Dr. Williamson asked for comments from the general public.

Scott Miller, 822 Tucker St. before what I say what I came to say, I had trouble finding a parking space, I went over to Jason and said we need money for a parking garage, he said one thing at a time. I can assure you Derek, he works to get us money and he can get it on a few other things. If he is talking to someone to get us money, he will bring it up. He works magic. The reason I came here is I read in the paper that you all want to put a roof on City Hall. A few years ago, I thought you all put money in to replace the roof or at least part of the roof, what happened to that money? When the dike stuff came up, you all said it is going to cost money, upwards to \$5 million dollars and we raised taxes to put money for it. How much have we spent and what happened to that money? The endless mandate, I went to the public meetings where they said it would cost \$26 million dollars, I saw in the paper we are going to have five years to meet that. City Council put it over to the Water Authority to put that \$16 per hour per household quarterly thing. There are ten thousand lots in the City and to round it off 17 times, that's \$170,000 and times 4 \$680,000 a year, how is \$26 million dollars coming out of \$680,000 a year, and for non-profits to have to pay it too. But to me, it seems like City Council, since you all have to get elected and re-elected it is sort of a popularity vote, and shift the burden over to the Water Authority, so you didn't raise taxes this year. But wait a minute, if you hire to do the dirty work for you, have you not done that? You have raised my taxes and \$17 dollars a quarter on my water bill and taxes \$60 a year and you can say it is the Water & Sewer Authority but you all were the one and gave them the authority. I know it's not a good analogy but if I hire someone to whack another person, they go out and kill him, I bet the Chief of Police would arrest me. So you all raise taxes and you keep collecting money for stuff, and where's the money? Have a good evening.

Dr. Williamson asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned upon motion by **Ms. Miele and seconded by Mr. Allison.**

Motion was carried by a **unanimous at 8:50 PM** "ayes".

Submitted by:

Janice M. Frank, City Clerk