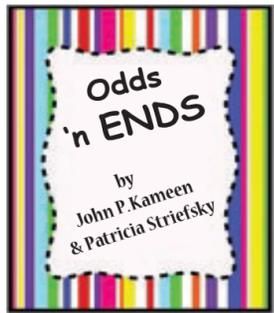


THE FOREST CITY NEWS



If final approval comes soon, a near \$2 billion pipeline, called the Atlantic Sunrise project, will start near Lenox, Susquehanna County, by mid-year. It will allow more than 1.7 billion cubic feet of additional Susquehanna County's Marcellus shale natural gas to flow to homes and businesses on the Atlantic Seaboard. Recently, in their Saturday morning commentary on Radio 94.3, the Talker, it was stated that if Pennsylvania was a country, it would be the 5th largest natural gas producer in the world. Quite a distinction, I'd say!

There is a government grant scam in which ads or phone calls promise guaranteed grants that do not have to be paid back. The red flag is that you have to provide your checking account information for the deposit. The grant funds don't exist but the scammer has access to your bank account. Never, never give any of your banking information to any entity you do not know.

And for you Facebook fans- If you get a friend request from someone you're already connected to on Facebook, chances are your friend has been hacked. Scammers then pretend they are your friend and seek financial aid from you. If you think a friend has been hacked, alert them immediately.

Nine local folks, as far as we know, were at the January 20 Inauguration of Pres. Donald Trump. We will have some pictures next week. If you were there let us know.

Of course, everyone noticed gasoline jumped to around \$2.69. The PA state gas tax went up 8 cents but gas prices are 25 to 30 cents higher than a month ago. Yes, the price of a barrel of oil did go up to \$53, it had been hovering in the upper \$40's for a while without going up, and gas prices were in the \$2.39 range. I guess gas sellers decided to add 20 cents to the new state tax and blame the state. The Penna. state gas tax is 58.3 cents the highest in the nation. We also pay an 18.4 cent federal tax.

Don't know if it falls in the category of "fake news" but a recent Channel 16 "top news" story about "no cell phone service in Forest City", came as a surprise to longtime subscribers of NEP Telephone Co. Cell Service, and to ATT cellphone subscribers, who moved to that carrier when NEP left the cell-phone business. We had NEP as our cell phone provider for most of the almost 10 years they were in business and had few problems with service. We also had no problems when we switched to ATT last year when NEP discontinued its cell phone plan. We admit that those serviced by Verizon and some other carriers did not get good local service but that is one of the problems with the fragmented cell phone business. We did experience some issues a few weeks ago with ATT but were advised they were making some modifications on their local tower. Channel 16 made it sound like we were orphans out here in the boonocks as far as cell phone service is concerned. I was not aware that FC Emergency Services was having problems with calls to or from the comm center.

Forest City Fire Report for 2016

The Forest City Area Emergency Services annual Fire Report was given to Forest City Borough Council on Monday, Jan. 9th. In 2016 the fire service reported 133 calls down from 143 calls in 2015.

Fire Chief Paul S. Lukas and Assistant Fire Chief Thomas J. Prince, listed the local responses to fire and accident-related incidents at the 133 mark which is down from the record 186 calls in 2012.

There were 38 motor vehicle accidents and 20 structure fires along with 25 medical assist calls. There were 12 calls for automatic alarms. There were also 4 calls for the Fire Company to standby, as well as 10 public service calls. There were 2 calls for carbon monoxide investigations, 5 responses to brush fires, 7 responses to Haz-Mat calls, 2 for chimney and heating problems.

Paul Lukas was the department's top responder as he came out to 82 calls. Tom Prince was next with 72 calls while Paul Mihelc was 3rd highest responder with 65 calls. T. Razerk was next in line responding to 64 calls while B. Elsworth responded to 60 calls.

October was the busiest month for fire responses with 132 responders turning out for calls.

The Department used 1,900 feet of hose including 450 feet of 1 3/4-in. hose and 1,100 feet of 5-inch hose.

Location of fire calls were as follows:

Forest City	47
Clinton Twp.	22
Fell Twp.	20
Clifford Twp.	17

Mt. Pleasant	8
Thompson	3
Greenfield Twp.	2
Vandling	6
Union Dale	7
Carbondale	1

Apparatus Responses

Engine 41 to 44 calls
Rescue 41 to 59 calls
Utility 41 to 13 calls

Membership Response Report

Bell, V. - 1
Biedenapp, E. - 18
Bock, E. - 32
Bock, J. - 8
Boyd, J. - 8
Bradford, K. - 2
Burns, -- 1
Cook, K. - 6
Daugevelo, A. - 18
Davis, D. - 37
Davis, S. - 13
Davis, P. - 3
Elsworth, B. - 60
Evans, D. - 9
Furdock, J. - 5
Gonsauls, R. - 3
Grushinski, -- 17
Henderson, K. - 37
Howe, J. 11
Kowalewski D. - 16
Kowalewski, J. -1
Kubus, W. -0
Kuruts, Brady - 5
Kuruts, J. - 37
Lee, D. - 2
Lukas, P. - 82
Mihelc, B. - 9
Mihelc, P. - 65
Paulin, R. -- 7
Prince, B. - 3
Prince, D. - 12
Prince, T. Sr. - 72
Razderk, T. - 64
Saltishak, P. - 4
Seaman, C. - 3
Sefcik, C. 13
Staff, M. - 13
Utegg, R. - 1
Wagner, J. - 8
Woodyshek, T. - 6

Acting Special Ed Coordinator hired by FCR Board of Education

The Forest City Regional School Board held their monthly meeting on Monday, January 9.

Dr. Lorna Johns will serve as the Acting Coordinator of Special Education and Support Services effective January 10, 2017 at a rate of \$387.00 per day.

The board approved a change in the mileage reimbursement rate to \$.535 effective January 1, 2017.

The Act 1 Resolution for the 2017-18 budget was approved. The resolution states that the Board of Directors of the Forest

City Regional School District has determined that there will be no increase in the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The index for the district is 3.1%.

A motion was approved to accept any price negotiated by the Susquehanna County Treasurer's Office for three properties in Forest City Borough.

Matthew Solomon was approved as a substitute bus and van driver for the 2016-17 school year.

Kristi Mazzenga was added to the support staff list for the 2016-17 school year.

Mary Emmett will be the Forest City Regional PSBA Liaison for 2017.

The board approved the high school class trip for Grades 9-12 to Boston, MA from May 10 through May 13, 2017.

Memorandums of Understanding were approved between the Forest City Regional School District and Susquehanna County, Lackawanna County, and Wayne County Children and Youth regarding transportation procedures.

Kimberly Trotter was approved for five unpaid days, February 15 through February 22, 2017.

Marisa Evans was approved for thirteen days unpaid days between January and May 2017 to fulfill internship hours.

An executive session was held at 6:30 PM prior to the regular business meeting to discuss personnel, legal, and contract issues.

Petitions for Spring Primary Due March 14

Any candidates for elected office in the May 16 can begin securing nominating petitions at their County Courthouses. The first date to begin securing names on petitions is Feb. 14. The deadline for filing nominating petitions is March 7.

Vandling Council satisfied with Present Police coverage from FC

Forest City Police Jim Johnson and Mayor Pauline Wilcox were on hand at this month's Vandling Council meeting to give them a status update of what is going on in the Borough and what Council expects from the police department.

Chief Johnson said they get about 25 calls a month in Vandling and most of them are Children and Youth cases. He said there have been several motor vehicle accidents and most of them are on Main and Ash Streets near the curve. He suggested Council talk to PennDot about putting a flashing light or some reflective tape on the guard rail to warn drivers of the curve.

Chief Johnson said he has encountered many stop sign violators in the development and most of the violators are development residents. He said he has only given them warnings as of now. Councilman Bill Boyle said the violators should be ticketed. Johnson said he is trying to be fair.

He said their vision going forward is begin some initiatives with extra funds they have received for covert operations. He asked people to report anything they think is a crime to the anonymous tip line at 570-785-1648. It is completely anonymous. He stated that there are drug houses that are being watched and neighbors should report any suspicious activity.

Johnson said the department uses Facebook and The Forest City News to get information out the public. They have a Twitter account set up but have not started using it.

President Fran Pantzar stated the department is doing what they pay them for above and beyond. Johnson said his door is always

open. Mayor Wilcox said she is glad there is open communication between all parties and hopes it continues.

President Pantzar said a status update every few months from the department would be helpful.

MAYOR REPORT

Mayor Joe Brady told the crowd that the refuse collection has been moving smoothly since the changeover to County Waste the first of the year.

Councilman Pat Sherry recommended residents keep their old trash containers but not use them. He said you never know what will happen in three years and who the low bidder will be next time around.

Rich Wirts, a resident on Main Street, asked if a person doesn't recycle, can they get another garbage can instead of a recycling can. He was told that they can only have the one can for garbage. There are different size cans that are available, though.

Wirts wanted to know if residents recycle will they see a savings in the garbage fee next year? President Pantzar said no.

Residents were reminded that they are to use the new cans instead of the old ones and that they are still allowed one bulk item per week.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Attorney Paul Smith received a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Maple Ridge Development. It stated there are a number of items that still need to be addressed before any permits will be issued. The Borough's engineer and the engineer for the development have also been contacted regarding the matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman John Mayers said he has been in contact with County Waste several times since they began picking up the garbage and he feels they are doing extremely well.

Only eight to ten residents didn't receive cans or wanted a smaller container, according to Mayers.

He said he has not received a schedule for holidays from them yet but will contact them.

Attorney Smith and Maryann Risboskin are working on the 2015-16 unpaid refuse fees. Atty. Smith said they are going to be going after the people who have not paid.

TRACTOR BID

Council received one bid for the tractor they are interested in purchasing. The bid was \$23,241 from Hansen. The money for the tractor will come from gaming funds. The grant was for \$25,000.

2017 TAX ORDINANCE

The millage rate for Vandling residents will stay at 9 mills.

2017 POSITIONS

All the appointed positions in the Borough will remain the same as last year. In addition, all committees will remain the same as last year.

Fran Pantzar will remain President of the Board with Don Franciski as Vice President.

PARKING SPOT

Council will amend the ordinance allowing for a parking spot on Main and Clinton Streets. The parking spot is a safety hazard and Attorney Smith will advertise the amendment and vote on it at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 20 at 7 PM.



Local representatives of Susquehanna County attended the town meeting to stop the closure of SCI Waymart. They were from left: Jimmy Johnson, chief of police; Alan Hall, Susquehanna County Commissioner; Bill Orasin, Forest City Councilman; Pauline Wilcox, Forest City mayor; and Robert Klein, Susquehanna County District Attorney.

Great support shown in effort to keep SCI Waymart open

By Art McLain

The Carbondale Grand Hotel and Convention Center was the setting for a town meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 18, with elected officials fighting to keep the State Correctional Institute at Waymart open. The 6:30 p.m. meeting was an opportunity for elected officials, law enforcement leaders, and community leaders to come together and discuss the importance of SCI Waymart to the community.

People began to arrive and fill up the ballroom as early as 6 p.m. Executives from the Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association were among the first to arrive. Mark Truszkowski, business agent of the State Executive Board was the coordinator of the event that was a collection of the area's top legal and community officials. By 6:30 p.m. most of the 300 seats in the ballroom were filled and many people chose to stand.

Following a welcome by Truszkowski, a moment of silence to honor correctional officers lost while on duty, was held.

Richard Suraci, Clifford,

welcomed everyone on behalf of the Grand Hotel and how the community came together helping in the creation of this source of pride in Carbondale. As he is very much involved in the community, Mr. Suraci conveyed the support of the community and businesses in this fight to save SCI Waymart. In a gesture of appreciation for all who attended the meeting, the hotel offered free hors d'oeuvres after the event for anyone who wished to partake.

The first speaker was Senator John Blake who has spearheaded opposition to the closure of SCI Waymart and any other correctional facility.

Although the meeting was planned only several days prior, the attendance and support from the community and its leaders had to be a comfort to the employees who serve at the correctional facility and their families.

Senator Blake noted that he had spoken immediately to Department of Corrections Secretary John Wetzel upon learning of the possibility of closing correctional facilities. Letters to Governor Wolf were sent asking for more

time and discussion before making a decision to close any facility. As it stands a decision could be made on Jan. 26 in the closing of two of the facilities from a list of five up for potential closure. The most frightening part, he noted, is it could simply be the Governor's signature that makes a decision final.

Senator Blake said that a bi-partisan comment is on record asking for more time before any decision is made. The General Assembly will meet for the first time this year in Harrisburg this week.

After touring the facility at Waymart on Tuesday, Senator Blake said he spoke with several of the correctional officers and that he knows many of them personally. More than 700 men and women are employed at this correctional facility.

SCI Waymart is one of only three licensed correctional facilities in the state to provide mental health services to the inmates and surrounding communities. There are 460 specialized beds and approximately 1,400 inmates at the facility.

