

**Borough of Edinboro  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Monday, February 8, 2021 the regularly scheduled meeting, held online via Zoom due to COVID-19, was called to order by Mayor Aaron Gast at 6:31 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**ROLL CALL:**

Council members present were Jim Kiley, Alyssa Dobson, Pat Davis, Mark Eisert, Aaron Gast, and Mary Ann Horne. Absent was Fred Langill.

Other officials present were Solicitor Tim Wachter, Borough Manager Kevin Oppe, and Finance Director Jason Spangenberg. Citizens present were Curtis Hals and Sandy Rhodes.

**MINUTES:**

Mayor Gast moved to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 regular meeting and reorganizational meeting as presented. Alyssa Dobson seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

No speakers participated.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:**

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve bills paid January 11 totaling \$83,285.69; paid January 25 totaling \$81,385.78; and paid February 8 totaling \$58,582.30. Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve payroll paid January 14 totaling \$90,730.85; and paid January 28 totaling \$74,499.15. Mayor Gast seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**Personnel Committee:**

Pat Davis moved to appoint Jason Diley to the Water and Municipal Authority Boards. Mary Ann Horne seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Wachter stated that he has information ready for the potential student ordinance as discussed at the ordinance committee meeting in January and is ready for the next step in the discussion process.

## **MANAGEMENT REPORTS:**

Manager Oppe presented his monthly report. Plans are moving forward for the 6N and Rt. 99 intersection improvement project this year. Manager Oppe had a discussion with the owner of Dairy Supreme about his concerns and we will be discussing some ideas with PennDOT that might improve the traffic flow in his property as well as fulfill the state highway requirements.

Regarding the sidewalk to Giant Eagle, the project is projected to be let by autumn, 2021, though it may move to early spring of 2022, with construction the summer/autumn of 2022 regardless of letting date.

The Triathlon is planned for June 5, 2021 with small changes planned in the transition area to address COVID concerns. All participants and official volunteers are insured by USA Triathlon and they all are signing waivers to indemnify the state and the Borough as is required by PennDOT. Council briefly discussed who would be responsible for cancelling the event if there are still COVID concerns in June. Manager Oppe stated that such a decision would come from the County Health Department, although Borough Council could withdraw the road closing permit if desired down as we near June. He stated his confidence in the organizers holding a safe event.

Manager Oppe is soliciting input from our Edinboro senior citizens through Pat Koloskee and the EASG on best practices for signing up for COVID-19 vaccinations. Manager Oppe believes that we can post the information on what has been working and what hasn't been working and update as needed, although little information so far has been received from the County or State about vaccination best practices.

The ECED met last Monday and in response to the community development planning work being achieved, the ECED has added a new housing action plan committee, chaired by Chuck Scalise, who is Director of the Edinboro University Foundation. The Parks & Recreation Committee, chaired by Pat Davis, has also added events to their area of focus. The Arts committee is continuing to focus on the downtown banner project. The banners will be 50% funded by a grant from ECGRA. \$500 has been donated by individuals as prize money for winning designs.

The Erie Area Council of Governments met last week for their quarterly meeting. Aside from usual updates, the COG received a report from Jason Spangenberg that outlined the

disparity of tax collector pay by different municipalities. The report was well received and there is interest by several municipalities to review their pay. The data shows that with the modest pay increase for our tax collector Rhonda Walker, pending Council approval later in this meeting, we are commensurate with other local communities.

Pat Davis and Manager Oppe had a productive Zoom call with new EU President Dr. Dale to welcome her to the community and start our working relationship. We discussed the great improvements in relations between the university and town over the past few years, and the common ground we have going forward.

### **Finance:**

Mayor Gast moved to approve Resolution 6-2021 to increase the compensation for the Borough real estate tax collector:

**Borough of Edinboro  
Erie County, Pennsylvania  
Resolution 6-2021**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF EDINBORO, ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION, BILLING AND COLLECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE MUNICIPAL TAX COLLECTOR OF EDINBORO BOROUGH, ERIE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR COLLECTION OF REAL ESTATE TAXES.**

*WHEREAS, the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro (Borough) desires to establish the compensation of the elected tax collector (Tax Collector) effective for their term commencing January 1, 2022, pursuant to Pa.Cons.Stat.Ann. tit 72, Section 5511.36a; and*

*WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is included in the municipal election of November 2, 2021, at which time an eligible person shall be elected to that office for a four-year term commencing January 1, 2018; and*

*WHEREAS, Section 36.1 of the Local tax Collection Law, PA.Cons.Stat.Ann. tit. 72,Section 5511.36a, provides:*

*“When any taxing district or taxing authorities propose to either raise or reduce the compensation or salary for the office of an elected tax collector, such action shall be by ordinance or resolution, finally passed or adopted prior to the fifteenth day of February of the year of the municipal election.”*

**AND, WHEREAS, the office of Tax Collector for the Borough of Edinboro, Erie County, PA, as pertain to the collection of real estate taxes during the four-year term commencing January 1, 2022, shall be subject to the following enumerated procedures, terms, and conditions, and the compensation therefor shall be computed as a flat rate paid biweekly as set forth in this Resolution.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED and ENACTED by the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro Council as follows:**

**A. COMPENSATION:**

- a. *It is hereby resolved that the compensation to be paid by the Borough of Edinboro to the municipal Tax Collector, Erie County, PA, as it pertains to the collection of real estate taxes, during the four-year term commencing January 1, 2022, shall be \$313.00 every two weeks for a maximum **total of \$8,138.00 per year by direct deposit.***
- b. *The Tax Collector shall process interim tax bills in the same manner, and according to the same terms and conditions set forth herein for annual Borough tax bills and shall be compensated at **\$15.00 per interim bill** each January, by providing a recap of total interim bills to the Finance Director of the Borough by January 1<sup>st</sup> each year and will be paid in the first Borough payroll run of January.*

**B. Borough to provide:**

- a. *Compensation as described in Section A, provided he or she has complied with Section C.*

- b. Borough will provide tax bills, duplicates and envelopes and reimbursement for first class postage to the Tax Collector.
  - c. The Tax Collector will be given a room in the Municipal Building, 124 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA to hold office hours weekly as printed on the bills. The electric and heating costs will be paid by the Borough. The Tax Collector will be responsible for his or her own phone in the office.
  - d. The Tax Collector will also be granted use of the Borough Office copier to help in providing the necessary reports to the Borough for real estate taxes.
- C. Tax Collector shall comply with the following procedures, terms, and conditions:
- a. The Tax Collector shall promptly stuff and mail preferably organized for pre-sorted rate first class postage.
  - b. The compensation of the Tax Collector shall be deemed to have been earned upon collection and remittance or settlement as described herein.
  - c. The Tax Collector must make daily deposits of all taxes collected for the Borough in a bank account maintained by the Tax Collector and approved by the Borough.
  - d. Immediately upon receipt of payment, the Tax Collector shall stamp the receipt of the taxpayer and the receipt for the Borough with the date on which the tax was paid to the Tax Collector.
  - e. The Tax Collector shall, at any time he or she is holding \$25,000 or more (except during the discount period \$100,000 or more), for the benefit of the Borough, but in no event less frequently than the tenth day of each month, submit a true statement, in writing in a format approved as to form and content by the Borough, to the Finance Director of the Borough of Edinboro for all taxes collected for the Borough during the previous month or period, giving the names of taxable, the amount collected for each, along with the discounts granted or penalties applied, if any, and the total amount of taxes received, discounts granted, and penalties applied. The Tax Collector shall submit with each such statement all monies collected as taxes on behalf of the Borough during the previous month or period and shall take his or her receipt for same.
  - f. The Tax Collector shall make a complete settlement of all taxes for each year with the proper authority of the County of Erie as designated by the Borough within the time period provided by law; however, no such settlement, nor the return of delinquent taxes included therein, shall be made prior to the date of settlement established by the County of Erie in that year of the assessment of said taxes by the Borough.
  - g. The Tax Collector shall receive no additional compensation, if the Homestead/Farmstead exemption results in a zero liability tax bill.
  - h. The Tax Collector shall receive no compensation on delinquent taxes collected by the County of Erie.
  - i. The Tax Collector shall comply with all reasonable requirements, procedures, policies, and resolutions adopted by the Borough for the collection of Borough real estate taxes.
  - j. The Tax Collector shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations regarding continuing education. Costs associated with the continuing education program will be the responsibility of the Tax Collector.

**BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021** of the Borough of Edinboro.

Jason Spangenberg stated that the tax collector has been paid the same rate for the past roughly 20 years. Mary Ann Horne seconded, and the motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote: Mark Eisert, yes; Alyssa Dobson, yes; Jim Kiley, yes; Mary Ann Horne, yes; Pat Davis, yes; and Aaron Gast, yes.

### **Recreation:**

Mayor Gast moved to approve the road closing and event permit for the Edinboro Triathlon. Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

**COMMUNITY LIAISONS:**

**Edinboro University:**

Pat Davis reported that the University integration process is moving along, with the PASSHE Board set to vote on the plan soon and a public comment period to follow.

**EVFD:**

Mary Ann Horne stated that she, along with EVFD President Daryl Parker, will be sending out a letter to inform the community about where the EVFD funding comes from and how the funds are used, following questions about these topics on social media.


**COMMUNICATIONS:**

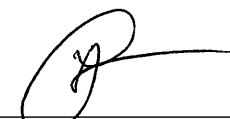
Alyssa Dobson had received a letter from an 8-year-old resident concerned about littering in the Borough. Council discussed briefly and decided that a flyer about littering should be placed on the back of the April water bills and distributed via other means as well.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Gast moved for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

ATTEST:

  
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Manager Kevin Opple

  
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Mayor Aaron Gast