

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 3, 2015

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Glass called to order the Public Hearing for a proposed Resolution #5-15, approval of liquor license transfer within Washington Township at 7:00 P.M. at the Washington Township Administration Building, 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412 on March 3, 2015.

**VISITORS** Visitors were Kathy Pernisek, Daryl Parker, Trish Parker, Shawn Wills, Lance Lehr, Aaron Gast, Bill Correll, Todd Benedict, Susan Reiter, Judi Gardner, Chuck Gardner, MaryAnne Strand, Jeff Craft, Ardell Hess, Jessica Strand, Justin Carter, Chad Gustafson, Stephanie Gelik, James Strand, Sara Strand, Norris Pace, Robert Glenn, James Bright, Corey Blood, Kyle Bogle, Eric Huff, Jeremy Gabriel, Kari Cliff and Andrew Robinson.

**RULES FOR COMMENT** Mayor Glass explained that persons wishing to comment should stand, state their name, and to direct their comments to Council. The purpose of this hearing to receive public comment.

**ADVERTISEMENT** Manager Anthony presented a copy of the advertisement for this Public Hearing.

**RES. #5-15 REQUEST** Resolution #5-15 is for the approval of a transfer of a liquor license to the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department for the location of a proposed social club to be located at 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412, within the Washington Township Municipal Complex.

**WRITTEN COMMENT** None.

**ORAL COMMENT** Susan Reiter, Solicitor for the Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department, addressed Council with the Department's plan. Bill Correll, owner of Uncle Charley's Pizza Pub, addressed Council against said proposal, stating his business could not be as competitive as Fire Department's proposed social club. Lance Lehr addressed Council with the business plan he drafted for the Fire Department and answered questions regarding the plan. Jim Strand questioned the business plan. Chad Gustafson stated that members of the Fire Department are members that serve community and the Fire Department's need to raise funds for future equipment upgrades. Kathy Pernisek addressed Council stating she was in favor of a satellite emergency site next to the social club of the Fire Department for quicker emergency response time. Vice-Mayor Feikles stated his concerns that the proposed club will hurt private businesses and questioned the Fire Departments Workmen's Compensation insurance donation by Washington Township. Councilman Patterson stated it was the duty of the Washington Township Council to consider the health, safety and welfare of its residents. Councilman Pernisek made the following statement:  
The Edinboro Fire Department is the heartbeat of our community. Its trained volunteers have provided Edinboro and Washington Township with emergency services and fire protection for over seventy years. Not only do the members place themselves in danger each time that they respond to a call but they spend a great deal of time and effort raising the funds needed to continue to provide emergency services and fire protection that residents have come to expect.  
Washington Township provides approximately thirty thousand dollars to the EVFD each year. If our community had a professional fire department, that amount would not pay the salary and benefits of one full time professional firemen.  
In order to continue meeting the expenses associated with providing a first-class volunteer fire department, the members of the EVFD need to become self-sufficient. Through the establishment of a social club in Washington Township, they can continue to provide emergency and fire service to our community. We should support their effort and make it a resounding success.  
If we don't, we risk losing our volunteer fire department. By law, every municipality must have a fire department. Washington Township would be tasked with providing a professional fire department and the cost would be borne by the taxpayers.

**ADJOURNMENT** Meeting adjourned at the Public Hearing at 7:43 P.M.