

**TRUMBAUERSVILLE BOROUGH
TRUMBAUERSVILLE, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2019**

The Special Meeting of Borough Council was held on the above date at the Firehouse, 142 North Main Street. President Edward Child called the meeting to order.

President Child stated that at our October 3rd meeting, Council voted to appoint the Law Firm of Grim, Biehn and Thatcher as our new Borough Solicitor. President Child asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 06-19, appointment of Grim, Biehn and Thatcher as Borough Solicitor. The motion was made by Mr. George and seconded by Mr. Betz. Motion passed and so ordered. President Child added that Mr. Colby Grim will be our primary Solicitor and if he can't make it, Mr. Peter Nelson will fill in for him. Borough Secretary relayed to President Child that he had received Mr. Peter Nelson's letter of resignation from the Zoning Hearing Board. President Child stated that at our next meeting, we will appoint a new solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board.

President Child stated that there is no change in status at this time concerning the Recovery House at 20 East Broad Street so you may be thinking why we are meeting then. President Child added that we last met here on August 15th and Council decided we should meet again. We felt it was appropriate to give you firsthand information, whatever that information is because secondhand information is not always reliable and we have some new information to share tonight. President Child stated that at the August 15th meeting, we hired attorney Dave Sander from Kilkenny Law and he spoke and answered questions for approximately an hour and a half on Recovery Houses. At no point in time did he give us any encouragement that we could stop this. President Child added that he had follow-up communications with attorney Sander trying to find some way to get around this and it was a road block every time. President Child stated that totally, we have spoken to five (5) attorneys; our original Borough Solicitor, Dave Sander, Scott McNair, Colby Grim and Peter Nelson and they all told us the same thing; you really can't stop a Recovery House. President Child added that he attended an all-day zoning and code enforcement seminar on September 18th and one of the presenters was the Deputy Borough Manager and Zoning Officer for Doylestown Borough. President Child asked him if they had any Recovery Houses. President Child stated that he said they have a lot of them and they don't have any problems with them. President Child stated that at the last meeting, Ms. Ellen Kramer stated that her son had worked for Grim, Biehn and Thatcher and they had two (2) cases and lost them both. President stated that the Sullivan's have said that they will register with PARR (Pennsylvania Affiliation of Recovery Residences). Once you do that, they have a whole set of regulations that must be followed. President Child added that he talked to the executive director of PARR and he said that anybody in Bucks County that wants to register with PARR must also register with the Bucks County Recovery House Association and they have their own set of regulations. So, there are two (2) sets of regulations and two (2) organizations with oversight of recovery houses. President Child stated that to qualify to get into a Recovery House, you must be drug and alcohol free. If you backslide, they remove you and take you back to a treatment center. President Child added that there is not a community around that hasn't got problems with drugs and alcohol and there are probably people in this borough already who are drug addicts, alcoholics, we don't know who they, where they are and nobody is watching them. In these situations, Recovery House, they can't be on drugs or alcohol, they are in one spot and being watched by PARR and the Bucks County Recovery House Association. President Child added that hopefully that kind of information will make you feel a little better about the residents who are going to be there. President Child stated that he would like to read something from PARR. Their philosophy says that PARR supports recovery residents providers in their effort to deliver quality recovery oriented housing opportunities to persons

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in recoveries who seek to reside in peer supported environments. The Bucks County Recovery House Association states that we are dedicated recovery house owners and managers, mental health professionals and drug and alcohol treatment professionals. We work together to provide private self-funded housing to individuals in Bucks County who are in need of long term support to successfully maintain a drug and alcohol free lifestyle.

There were several questions and comments directed towards our new solicitor, Colby Grim. A resident stated that if she sees any issues, she will be calling 911 to report it, call the borough and if it happens, she is going to sue. Solicitor Grim stated that you are going to deal with it just as would a neighbor that has a problem. You are not going to be able to go to any court and file something to get them kicked out of their house. The resident commented that you can file a lawsuit against landlords for not taking care of their property. President Child stated that we do have a Rental Inspection Ordinance that covers all rental properties in the Borough and they get inspected no matter who it is. Landlords are responsible for the conduct of their tenants. Solicitor Grim stated that there are exceptions inside the Fair Housing Act that if there is a threat; it would have to be removed but that threat is the individual, not the entity.

After a lengthy discussion covering many concerns, Solicitor Grim stated he would look into all aspects and check all avenues and try to have some answers by the next meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Recenes to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Betz. Motion passed and so ordered.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Smock
Secretary/Treasurer