

State College Borough Council  
Special Meeting  
May 3, 2004

The State College Borough Council met in a special meeting on Monday, May 3, 2004, at the Allen Street Grill, 100 West College Avenue, State College, PA. Mr. Daubert called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Present:                    Thomas E. Daubert, President  
                              Elizabeth A. Goreham  
                              Craig R. Humphrey  
                              Janet K. Knauer  
                              Jeffrey H. Meyer

Absent                     Catherine G. Dauler  
                              Jeffrey R. Kern

Also present: Thomas J. Fountaine, II, Borough Manager; Cynthia S. Hanscom, Recording Secretary; and Pamela Browning, Publisher, *Centre Daily Times*.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the new publisher of the *Centre Daily Times*, Pamela J. Browning.

Mr. Meyer suggested an editorial be done on the Centre Region townships' unwillingness to have C-NET air their meetings. Because the Borough does not use all the allowable time on C-NET, an offer was made to Ferguson, Halfmoon, and College Townships (all of which do not fund C-NET) to use the additional hours for their public meetings. One response was received; Ferguson Township respectfully declined. Mr. Meyer questioned the reasons that these townships would avoid having their meetings broadcast to the public. He noted that he received many comments from citizens who stay informed by watching Council meetings. Mr. Daubert agreed, commenting that he was surprised at how many people watch their regularly scheduled meetings.

Council discussed the number of local *Centre Daily Times* reporters; Ms. Browning explained there were eight full-time local reporters. Mr. Humphrey complimented reporter Lara Brinkle on her ability to get all the facts correct in her articles.

Ms. Knauer noted that the Authorities, Boards and Commissions (ABCs) of the Borough want to communicate with the public. She asked who would be the contact person at the *Centre Daily Times* to call about getting information out. Ms. Browning said Bob Heist is the lead news editor; he will determine how best to pursue a story.

Ms. Browning asked Council what they believed was the biggest issue for the Borough. Ms. Knauer believed it was the budget. Mr. Humphrey said it was the image of State College as a small town and what happens over the next five years. Ms. Goreham said it is to maintain single-family homes. Mr. Daubert believed it was to maintain the downtown.

Ms. Browning asked Council how the new student housing on campus would affect the Borough. Ms. Knauer believed the effect would be minimal because it was replacing housing already in place.

Ms. Goreham asked about the circulation of the newspaper. Ms. Browning indicated it was 26,000 daily and 32,000 for Sunday.

Mr. Meyer asked about the Internet and if the readership could be tracked. Ms. Browning indicated the Internet side of the newspaper is very large and growing. Currently, there is no registration required to access stories from the newspaper; however, Knight-Ridder was moving toward a free registration system to track users. Ms. Browning said the on-line newspaper is supported through the on-line advertising.

Mr. Fontaine explained one of the goals of the Borough is to communicate with students about various things that they need to know, such as who to call if there is a health issue. He hoped to be able to provide an insert with the *Centre Daily Times*. Ms. Browning suggested something could be included in the “This is Penn State” issue that is usually published when students return in the fall.

Mr. Fontaine asked what the Borough could do to help the newspaper. Ms. Browning asked to be kept informed. She believed the newspaper needed to be a “mirror to the community” by providing a local angle on all stories.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Barbara J. Natalie  
Assistant Borough Secretary