Top 10 Reasons to attend NEMO Boot Camp

Newly Elected Municipal Officials (NEMO) Boot Camp is a two-day workshop designed just for you and your peers. Two instructors teach the workshop and provide plenty of opportunity to discuss your questions about all aspects of borough government. The typical class includes brand new elected officials along with veterans who want a refresher course. You’ll find great value in sharing information with your fellow officials.

The Boot Camp consists of two full-day sessions. On Friday we’ll look at the structure of local government in Pennsylvania and basic council operations including meeting requirements, the Sunshine Act, open records, purchasing, fire and police. We’ll spend Saturday morning looking at budgeting, finance and taxation, and wrap up Saturday afternoon with an overview of municipal services.

All you need to bring with you is an open mind and an interest in learning how to be an excellent official. We’ll supply copies of the PowerPoint presentations plus a few checklists and resources for you to keep. Your boot camp training also includes access to a special PSAB webpage full of resources, links and sample policies, which you can refer to over the coming year whenever you wish.

Did we mention lunch? Our drill sergeants will make sure you have plenty to eat and plenty of breaks, along with time to interact with your peers. Laughter is optional, but hard to avoid during this lively class.

Here are the top 10 reasons you should attend boot camp:

1. *Hit the ground running.* You’ll save yourself a lot of time and energy once you’re clear on basic terminology and who does what in the borough.
2. *Understand your role on council.* Public meetings are the foundation of your work on borough council. Learn how to be an effective council member.
3. *Find out what you don’t know.* Municipal laws and regulations are very complex. You’ll need to make sure you’re fully informed in key areas.
4. *Find out what you need to know.* See #3.
5. *Learn how to access resources and information.* PSAB offers many ways to stay informed, and we’ll also connect you to key state agencies.
6. *Keep yourself legal.* We don’t want to scare you, but we do want to keep you out of trouble. Find out what you can and can’t do under the Sunshine Act.
7. *Network with your peers.* No one understands your role on council better than a fellow council member. Swap stories and resources meet your municipal neighbors.
8. *Understand how to work with staff.* As a new official you’re inheriting borough staff. Learn what their roles are and how to work most effectively with them.
9. *Get answers to your questions.* In boot camp there are no dumb questions. Ask them all.
10. *Better serve your citizens.* Here’s your bottom line: the more you know, the better you can serve your community. Isn’t that why you were elected in the first place?

See you at boot camp!