

# STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2011

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

### Attendance

- Councilors present were: Council Vice President Paul Zaboy, Mr. Jack Fatzinger, Mr. Carl Zito, Mr. Joe Gosnell, Ms. Cindy Hower, and Mrs. Rosemarie Wenzelberger.
- Additionally present were Paul Zaboy, Jr. from Public Works, Borough Solicitor Gary N. Asteak, Police Chief/Zoning Officer John Soloe, and Secretary Chris Burmood.
- Patrolman Vrabel was present to preserve the meeting.

**Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM by Council Vice President Paul Zaboy, Sr. followed by the pledge of allegiance.**

### Public Comment

- Kathleen Dimmich, of 308 Birch Street, stated she heard rumors about Rails-to-Trails and asked several questions regarding cost, extent of taxpayer dollars being used, and trail extent. Mr. Zaboy advised that the trail has entered into the design phase, that the total costs are expected to run between \$200,000.00 and \$250,000.00, and that the Borough is receiving \$100,000.00 in grant funds, and \$29,000.00 from the County. Mr. Zaboy also stated that we have commitments for materials from Buzzi Unicem and Universal Wood Products, and we expect Public Works staff to perform some construction duties. Mr. Zaboy stated that he expected total cash outlay of taxpayer moneys to be \$50,000.00 "if that". He also advised that the first phase of the trail will from Plainfield Township down to Center Street. He advised that the Chrin signalization project at the Route 33 interchange will include crosswalks and coordinated traffic signals to allow for safe crossing.
- Ms. Dimmich asked who is tending the wastewater treatment plant in Charlie Davis' absence, and what the issues at the plant included. Mr. Zaboy advised that Paul Zaboy, Jr. is coordinating with the Borough's licensed operator to maintain operation of the sewer system. Mr. Zaboy stated that the level of regulation is the issue, emphasizing that the plant operates as designed, with diminished processing in the colder winter months.
- Eric Wenzelberger, of 111 Center Street, advised of children playing in the middle of Center Street, and expressed his concern about traffic, especially tractor trailers. Mr. Zaboy indicated that it was more of a parental concern.
- Mr. Wenzelberger also expressed his concern over how the Memorial Hall demolition site was filled in by the contractor. He asked if it was done according to the contract and engineering specs. Paul Zaboy, Jr. stated that he observed the site daily, and that the contractor did the job correctly, and the fill was compacted.
- Morgan Shafer, of 304 Old Easton Road, wanted to know when the loose stone will be picked up from in front of his house.
- Anita Smith, of 215 LeFevre Road, stated she was aware the Borough just had the [yellow dump] truck repainted. But, she's observed that it is parked with the road salt. She asked why, since it would likely corrode. Mr. Zaboy advised that he didn't know why, and wondered the same thing.

- Ms. Smith also asked about the stone deposited at the Rod and Gun Club during the Plainfield Township fire incident, indicating her desire to use it for her property. Mr. Zaboy advised that the Rod and Gun Club wanted to use it, and it was theirs to use.
- Ms. Smith then asked if the EPA was on site for the Memorial Hall demolition, and expressed concerns about asbestos and lead. Mr. Zaboy advised that asbestos abatement had occurred prior to demolition. No lead was present in pre-demolition testing.
- Ms. Smith also asked about repairing LeFevre Road. Mr. Zaboy advised that the Borough had filed a claim for insurance to help offset the cost of repairing the damage.
- Ms. Dimmich asked if Charlie Davis was still out of work, and if so, why he was out driving a Borough vehicle approximately two weeks ago. Mr. Zaboy stated his belief that the issue of Mr. Davis driving a Borough vehicle while not on work status had been addressed.

### **Council Comments**

- Paul Zaboy provided an update on Rails-to-Trails. They had a productive kick off meeting with URDC. The following week, they had a walkthrough on a trail, along with DCNR project manager. Mr. Zaboy has contacted the county to inquire on procedure to obtain the \$29,000.00 money, with no return contact. He has a list of surveyors to choose from to survey the trail. Letter to property owners along the trail from last year was reviewed, with minor alterations regarding the wording about surveying. Ms. Wenzelberger asked about the water runoff issues, and Mr. Zaboy advised that was only at two properties and those would be addressed with the individual owners. Last Tuesday, Mr. Zaboy stated that he and Paul Zaboy, Jr. attended a walkthrough at the Bushkill Township Trail.

### **Secretary/Treasurer report**

- **Motion** by Carl Zito at 8:13 pm, seconded by Jack Fatzinger, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting as written. Motion carried unopposed at 8:15 pm.
- Earl Kocher requested to receive copies of the minutes.

### **Mayoral Report**

- Mayor Metzgar did not attend the meeting.

### **Public Works Report**

- Paul Zaboy, Jr. received pricing for the glazed brick proposed as a flood barrier around the influent tank at the wastewater treatment plant. The cost was \$36.00 each. We require 50 bricks for the project. He stated that regular bricks run \$5.00 each, and can be treated with DryLock, a waterproofing agent, and paint for approximately \$1.50 per brick. Council agreed to purchase the untreated brick, DryLock, and paint. Paul Zaboy, Sr. advised that on two (2) occasions in recent times, flooding became an issue at the influent tank, and four (4) other times it was an imminent concern.
- Paul Zaboy, Jr. recommended a full tour of the wastewater treatment plant for council, so they would better understand the facilities and the issues.
- Paul Zaboy, Jr. advised that Public Works is down to 1 ½ tubes of marine grade equipment grease used on all equipment. He requested approval to purchase a higher grade of grease which resists water better as well as seepage, and is biodegradable. The cost for the grease would be \$367.00 for 48 tubes, which would last at least an estimated 2 ½ years. Additionally, he requested approval to purchase five (5) gallons of

grease cutter at \$187.50 with which to remove existing grease from equipment. Joe Gosnell remarked that it makes sense, given the past history of poor maintenance.

- Paul Zaboy, Sr. advised that he, along with Council President Amy Richard, had spoken with a financial consultant about determining the value of the wastewater treatment plant, stating that a valuation would be necessary prior to any major changes or alterations, or even a proposed sale. They are awaiting a proposal from the consultant to determine the cost.
- Paul Zaboy, Sr. also reported that he and Ms. Richard met with a legal firm specializing in environmental issues. They are awaiting a proposal of costs, including a retainer.

### **Police Report**

- Chief Soloe reported that the Borough has accepted delivery of the new Police vehicle. He stated that the department is awaiting county approval of the radio identifier before they can put the vehicle into service.

### **Zoning Report**

- Mr. Soloe had nothing to report regarding zoning matters.

### **Solicitor's Report**

- Mr. Asteak indicated that the proposed ordinance for re-adoption of the EIT in conformity with the consolidation of tax collection by the county had been appropriately advertised and posted as required. It is now ready for consideration.
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Joe Gosnell, to adopt Ordinance 2011-2. Motion carried unopposed at 8:42 pm.

### **Agenda Items**

- Mr. Zaboy indicated that during the NazCOG meeting, attendees were advised that the County has started up the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) program for members of the community who wish to assist in emergencies. The class is 24 hours over multiple sessions. Depending upon enrollment, it may be held at the community college or even locally. Mr. Zaboy suggested that this be mentioned in the newsletter. Mrs. Wenzelberger inquired if this was tied in with NIIMS training previously received. Mr. Zaboy indicated that, unlike NIIMS, it is not for officials, but civilians. The program is funded by PEMA.
- Per Mr. Zaboy, it was also announced at the COG meeting that the County is initiating an emergency services subscription program, which is designed to provide training for emergency responders (Fire, Police, EMS, and Emergency Mgmt.). The training will be free to municipalities, as it is being co-funded by gaming proceeds and PEMA.
- Paul Zaboy, Sr. stated that additionally during the COG meeting, Billy Weber - a consultant for InSource Power outlined his firm's services. If provided with electricity bills for a set period of time, his company would return a list of suppliers with differing rates and terms, for no charge. His company is contracted by the electricity generating firms. Mr. Burmood was directed to invite Mr. Weber to the next Borough Council meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **New, Old, or Unfinished Business**

- Mr. Zaboy briefly discussed the article “What Is The USPS Up To?” by Dean Whitman, a retired postmaster, in which he describes the USPS tactic of offering a decreased rental amount when a lease is up for renewal, and not accepting a continuation of the current rent amount. Mr. Asteak advised that the next round of Post Office closing notices is scheduled for release in March.
- Council was advised that Nazareth Borough is holding their annual Trick-or-Treat celebration on Monday, October 31, 2011. Chief Soloe recommended scheduling the Borough for Sunday, October 30, 2011, due to decreased traffic issues. Council agreed to schedule the Borough’s for October 31, 2011 between 6 and 8 pm.
- Joe Gosnell stated that he is in favor of the suggestion made by Paul Zaboy, Jr. for Council to take a full tour of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Morgan Schafer asked if the “figures thrown around at the last meeting regarding the sewer plant” were accurate. When advised they were, He said if word gets out, property values will drop. He asked how the plant got licensed, if it doesn’t work properly. Paul Zaboy, Sr. advised that DEP licensed and permitted that plant.
- Chief Soloe reported that he needs to buy new uniform patches, and figured it was a good time to redesign them. He submitted a rendering of a new patch, and advised of a cost difference of only \$35.00. There were no objections to the new design by Council.
- Eric Wenzelberger inquired about the sludge removal, specifically when it was scheduled for, and which landfill was the waste material being taken to. Paul Zaboy advised that the “muffins” would likely be taken to Waste Management’s landfill. Mr. Wenzelberger then asked about the landfill charge, and was advised that it was included in the project cost by Mobile Dredging.

### **Adjournment**

- **Motion** by Jack Fatzinger at 9:07 pm, seconded by Carl Zito, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unopposed.

The next meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:30 PM. There is also a Budget meeting scheduled for October 19, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

The foregoing were approved the 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011.

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President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_