

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2012

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2012, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Council Vice President Paul Zaboy, Sr., Mr. Carl Zito, Mr. Joe Gosnell, Ms. Cindy Hower, Mrs. Rosemarie Wenzelberger, and Ms. Kathleen Zdonowski.
- Mayor Metzgar was present.
- Borough Solicitor Gary Asteak, Esq. was in attendance.
- Police Chief/Zoning Officer John Soloe, Acting Public Works Supervisor Paul Zaboy, Jr., and Secretary Chris Burmood were in attendance.
- Ptl. Vrabel was present to preserve the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:31 PM by Council President Amy Richard, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

- Earl Kocher, of 302 Old Easton Road, questioned why the generators had not been used to keep the traffic light operational during the power outage. Ms. Richard responded that they were used for that purpose at times. Mr. Kocher stated he drove past the intersection twice, and they were not being used. He also stated that police were on duty watching the backed up traffic instead of directing it. Mr. Zaboy stated that most of the traffic lights in the area had not been operational and that the general rule is to treat such an intersection as a 3 or 4 way stop. He also stated that the generators only had a four hour fuel capacity, which would have required round-the-clock manpower to refuel. Mrs. Wenzelberger asked how many generators the Borough bought. Mr. Gosnell advised that Emmaus had two generators stolen from traffic lights. Chief Soloe advised that the offset nature of the intersection poses a significant hazard to law enforcement personnel for the purpose of directing traffic.
- Eric Wenzelberger, of 111 Center Street, advised he observed Alex Soloe directing traffic using the generators, and that it seemed to go well. He raised the concern about how the Emergency Management Coordinator acted, citing his wife's request for a generator for an elderly woman who was getting ill. Ms. Richard advised that the Borough does not provide generators to individuals. Mr. Wenzelberger also stated he had reported downed wires and tree branches to police officers, who refused to put cones down nearby. Mr. Zaboy advised that more of an Emergency Management presence had been required, citing the fact that he made himself available at the EMA building to answer questions for residents. Mr. Wenzelberger indicated his disgust for how the situation had been handled and advised he would be writing a letter to the appropriate authority.

Council Comments

- Ms. Richard stated that the Emergency Management Coordinator did a great job of coordinating with the Police Department, Public Works, Forks Fire, and other agencies as needed.
- Mr. Zito stated that Public Works did a good job.
- Mr. Zaboy advised that the fuel runs for the generators and equipment took an extraordinary amount of the Public Works Department's time, finding fuel in the area, and waiting in lines. Also, that Public Works had picked up branches and debris throughout the Borough.

Council Comments, cont'd.

- Mr. Gosnell stated that Public Works appeared to have a logical plan to address the issues as they arose. He also stated that Officers Straka and Brown did a fine job.
- Mr. Asteak stated that Morgan (Schafer) did a fine job in Easton.
- Jack Fatzinger stated that he has a lot of respect for emergency management personnel.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Joe Gosnell, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2012 budget meeting, with corrections, as noted below. Motion carried unopposed.
 - On page 1, under Council Comments, second bullet point, second line, change "her" to "here".
 - Page 2, under New, Old or Unfinished Business, Cont'd, second bullet point, first line; change "Gamin" to "Gaming".
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Paul Zaboy, Sr., to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2012 meeting as written. Motion carried unopposed.

Police Report

- Chief Soloe had nothing of consequence to report.

Zoning Report

- Mr. Soloe had nothing to report.
- Mrs. Wenzelberger asked about parking availability at the new yoga studio going into the former fireplace store at 100 Main Street. Mr. Soloe indicated that the tenant was coordinating that with the landlord and neighbors. Mr. Zito inquired about the flames witness in an apartment at 100 Main Street. Officer Collins advised that it was oil candles in the apartment, and nothing that was hazardous.

Public Works Report

- Ms. Richard advised that it took 9 gas cans to fuel the running generators. She recommended researching a fuel tank for the back of the utility truck that can be utilized to refuel generators and/or equipment. Paul Zaboy, Jr. (PJ) suggested a 250 gallon tank on stilts for use at the wastewater treatment plant generator. Mr. Gosnell stated a 275 gallon tank would be a viable option.
- Ms. Richard suggested the purchase of a new dorm-size fridge for the LeFevre Road Garage for Public Works to utilize, as well as the rental of a portajohn for the garage. Mr. Burmood advised that he would contact All State Septic about moving the one from the ball field as soccer and baseball seasons were over. **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to approve the purchase of a fridge and rental of a portajohn for the LeFevre Road Garage. Motion carried unopposed.
- Ms. Richard requested that Council approve additional hours for the Public Works staff. Council verbally agreed.
- Regarding the branch pick up, Ms. Richard advised that residents will have to keep them to the size that would fit into a chipper. She stated that the Borough would have to rent a chipper. She advised Public Works to "pick up as you can," through November.

Solicitor Report

- Mr. Asteak advised that the Garbage Collection Contract had been signed by Waste Management, and was ready for final approval. **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to accept the three-year garbage collection contract with Waste Management for \$209,740.00. Motion carried unopposed.
- Mr. Asteak briefly discussed a recent decision from the Commonwealth Court regarding the Sunshine Act. Executive sessions are allowable for fact-finding purposes. He further stated

that any time a quorum gets together will constitute either a public meeting or an executive session.

Agenda Items

- The new postmaster is locking the outside door at 4:15 pm each weekday. Ms. Richard asked for Council to consider closing the office public window at 4:00 pm to provide office staff the opportunity to complete tasks by 4:30 pm. **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Joe Gosnell, to close the Borough office public window at 4:00 pm on weekdays. Motion carried unopposed.
- The office received a letter from Einfalt's Salvage regarding their permit renewal. There was discussion on what the Borough was permitting, and what inspections were required. Ultimately, prior discussions had decided to not include the permit process in the codification, until such questions could be answered. As the Stockertown Code was not the de facto law, there is no permit or fee. Mr. Burmood to follow up with Einfalt's. MR. Zaboy recommended addressing the fee schedule to remove the permit fee.
- Ms. Richard stated that it would have been helpful and handy to have an electronic billboard sign in front of Borough Hall during the Hurricane and aftermath. The permanent generator planned for Borough Hall would operate the sign in the event of a power failure. The next possible grant will be at least a year away. Ms. Richard asked Council to consider the expenditure prior to that time. The sign company we have quotes from offers a program with 25% down and financing over 10 months. Mr. Zito indicated he was concerned about the expenditure. Ms. Zdonowski, Ms. Hower, and Mayor Metzgar were all for it. Mr. Zaboy and Mr. Gosnell thought it was a good idea. Ms. Wenzelberger expressed her concern about the cost. Council agreed to wait until the November 14 budget meeting to discuss it further.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business

- Mr. Zaboy stated that the manhole replacement project is getting under way. A pre-construction meeting took place on Friday. The agreed upon start date was in three weeks, with expected completion date in early-to-mid December.
- Mr. Zaboy stated that the North end trail design is nearly ready for submission to Plainfield Township for review and approval. The property issue at the north end may become a legal issue.
- Ms. Richard advised that there is a potential buyer for the fire truck, who is looking to make the purchase in January, upon approval of their funding. Additionally, another buyer in West Virginia is interested and plans to make a one-stop trip to inspect and take it home with them. Ms. Richard asked for Council permission to negotiate if the West Virginia buyer finds things to negotiate about. Council was in agreement to allow negotiating.
- Ms. Richard advised she contacted two more roofing contractors, with no responses. She asked Council's pleasure with respect to the two existing roof quotes. Council agreed to review and decide from the two quotes in hand. Amounts are for complete redeck.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Ballfield Shed</u>	<u>Newhart Park</u>
R.A. Serfass	\$2,200.00	\$3,900.00
Don J. Messemer Contracting	\$2,640.00	\$3,840.00

Motion by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski, to award the roofing contract for both buildings to Don J. Messemer Contracting. Council approved 6-1 with Mrs. Wenzelberger dissenting.

- Jack Fatzinger suggested that Council consider microphones or a sound system for meetings.
- John Soloe inquired about pay periods affected by the Thanksgiving holiday. He was advised that checks will likely be available that Friday.

- Eric Wenzelberger asked about the leaves on the sidewalk across Center Street from his house. He also asked about the Police Department door threshold, which has already been fixed.

Executive Session - Personnel

- **Motion** at 8:50 pm by Carl Zito, seconded by Paul Zaboy, Sr., to adjourn to Executive Session for Personnel matters after a five minute recess. Motion Carried unopposed.
- **Motion** at 10:40 pm by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to exit Executive Session and return to regular session. Motion Carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, November 5, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

A Budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

The foregoing were approved the 14th day of November, 2012.

President of Council

Attest: _____