

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2016**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2016, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Robin Davis, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito.
- Mayor Charlie Davis and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy were present.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Chief John Soloe and OIC Eric Schwab were present.

The Meeting was called to order by Council President, Amy Richard, at 7:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Eric Wenzelberger of Center Street questioned what size the branches should be for the branch pick-up at the end of the month. Amy Richard advised him no larger than 3 feet and branch pick-up would be on April 25th and 26th.
- Mr. Kocher of Old Easton Road complained that trucks are throwing stones onto his lawn.

Council Comment

- No comments from Council.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of March 7th with one correction.
Under Council Comments, 2nd line – add “a” before single write-in vote.
Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through April 4, 2016. Motion carried unopposed.
- Ken Searcy from GDF Suez-Think Energy. Mr. Searcy presented a proposal to Council to switch the Borough’s electric generating company from PPL to GDF Suez. Mr. Searcy explained the reason for PPL’s drop in rate charges and advised that as of June 1, 2016 PPL’s rates will go up. He presented three (3) rate proposals with GDF Suez for Council to consider.
 - 12 Month Contract @ .070 per kWh
 - 24 Month Contract @ .073 per kWh
 - 36 Month Contract @ .075 per kWh

Council members and Solicitor Asteak asked several questions concerning the company and the proposal. Amy Richard asked Mr. Searcy if a decision could be made at the next council meeting on May 2nd and if that would give him enough time to switch over. Mr. Searcy stated that it would be cutting it close but it was definitely possible. A decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Davis suggested increasing the size of the parking lot at the ball field to accommodate the soccer games and those who park there for fishing. Amy Richard stated that she would check with the Gun Club since it is their property, but she does not see any problems with increasing the size of the parking lot.

Police

- Chief John Soloe read out the Call Service Report from March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2016. He stated that there were 8 Arrests; 112 Traffic Summonses; 52 Traffic Warnings; several Ordinance citations; along with miscellaneous calls for a total of 210 calls for the month.

Zoning

- John Soloe stated that he received a request to install a pole on Commerce Way. He stated that he is not sure whether this area is part of the Borough or PennDOT.
- Amy Richard questioned the brightness of the billboard located on Rt. 33 which is owned by Outdoors. Solicitor Asteak stated that the brightness would be regulated by a Zoning Ordinance and that he would check into this.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak stated that he is still waiting for the details from the County on the trail concerning the Einfalt property.

Agenda

- Sewer Plant - A proposal was distributed to Council prepared by Entech Engineering for professional services to develop a Concept Plan for the proposed OPTAER SAGR treatment systems to be added to the Borough's wastewater treatment plant. The proposal included an outline with the scope of work to be completed along with resumes of each engineer involved. The attorney for the WWTP has approved the agreement with some minor changes. The cost of this service will be \$20,300. Amy Richard stated that due to the DEP's requirements, the Borough does not have much of a choice. She asked for a Motion by Council to approve the signing of the proposal.
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the signing of Entech Engineering's proposal costing \$20,300 for investigating the proposed OPTAER SAGR treatment systems for the Sewer Plant. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard stated that National Penn Bank was bought out by BB&T Bank and that since the bank was changing all of the account numbers, that this would be a good time to transfer all the accounts to Merchant Bank. There are three accounts

presently with Merchant and this change will keep the accounts together. No one disagreed with this change.

- Forks Township Fire Report was distributed. Amy Richard stated that Forks Fire Department responded to 13 incidents in Stockertown in the first quarter of 2016. There were 4 fire alarms; 4 motor vehicle accidents; 4 odor investigations; 2 carbon monoxide calls and 1 medical assist call. There were a total of 31 calls for the 2015 calendar year.
- Estimates were distributed to council for several options to improve the Pavilion at Newhart Park. The roll up doors suggested at the last meeting cannot be installed due to the height of the roof of the pavilion. A garage door style door was suggested by Hendershot Doors. Their proposal was distributed. Since the options were much more expensive than originally anticipated, a letter was presented to the Stockertown Youth Association for their assistance. Amy Richard read the letter which was mailed to the Stockertown Youth Association requesting assistance in paying for the improvements. Ms. Richard stated that former Mayor Metzger expressed on many occasions that the remaining funds held by the Youth Association should be returned to the Borough for improvements. A copy of the letter is incorporated below.

April 4, 2016

***Stockertown Youth Association
Attn: Herminia Betz, President
113 Center Street
P.O. Box 126
Stockertown, PA 18083***

Dear Stockertown Youth Association President & Members

On behalf of Council and the residents of the Borough, I am writing to request that the Stockertown Youth Association contribute the funds necessary to upgrade the Pavilion at Newhart Park. As we all know, Mayor Sherman Metzger, one of the original organizers of the Stockertown Youth Association, identified on many occasions that the monies held by the Stockertown Youth Association over the years should be used for projects to benefit the children and families of the Borough and more specifically he spoke of upgrading the Pavilion in Newhart Park. He spoke to the fact that the bulk of the funds held by The Stockertown Youth Association in investments were residue from the times of the Borough Baseball Teams, and that the funds should be returned to the Borough in the form of lasting improvements.

Several suggestions have been presented for improvements, and after researching, it has been ascertained that several concepts will not be applicable to the current pavilion construction. Currently there are two plans to fully enclose and secure the pavilion; the first approximately \$8560. and the second around \$5,500. Additionally, the cost to replace the curtains is near \$3,260. It is Councils' wish to act on these improvements to provide the Borough with a refurbished pavilion for residents to enjoy this season.

To date, the Stockertown Youth Association did not to respond to any previous requests made by Council for contributions toward youth related improvements in the Borough. Therefore, in so much as this was Mayor Metzger's desire, I kindly request a timely positive response to this request.

Sincerely,

***Stockertown Borough Council
Amy Richard, President***

***cc: Rosemarie & Eric Wenzelberger, SYA
Cindy Hower, SYA
Sarah Fry, SYA
Aimee Young, SYA***

Old, New or Unfinished Business

- Amy Richard stated that the Borough Yard Sale would most likely be held on April 30th and May 1st. These are tentative dates.
- Branch Clean-up will be April 25th and 26th.
- The street cleaning will be scheduled sometime in May. The actual date will be posted on the Marque. This will be a one day event because the equipment will be rented.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:27 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on April 18, 2016.
The Council Meeting for April 18, 2016 was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the **2nd** day of **May, 2016**.

President of Council

Attest: _____