

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2013**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 15, 2013, 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 Charlie Davis was present.
- Borough Solicitor Gary N. Asteak was present.
- Police Chief/Zoning Officer John Soloe and Secretary Chris Burmood were in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President Amy Richard, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

- Eric Wenzelberger, of 111 Center Street, advised that his neighbor across the street had sealed his parking lot. He asked if the Borough Hall parking lot could be sealed. Ms. Richard advised that arrangements have already been made, and it is a matter of scheduling.
- Mr. Wenzelberger also remarked on the recent vehicle accident on Main Street and asked if there was anything that could be done to slow traffic down. Ms. Richard mentioned installation of “rumble strips”.

Council Comments

- None

Agenda Items

- Lenore Pitsilos, of LVEDC, presented material for Envision Lehigh Valley, a HUD Grant-funded program to study the potential for “sustainable planning” here in the Lehigh Valley. Ms. Pitsilos stated her non-governmental organization is conducting public outreach at every municipality.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2013 meeting, with the correction as noted below. Motion carried unopposed.
 - Page 3, last bullet point of Agenda Items, add “the fatality was the only person on the motorcycle.” After “Per Chief Soloe”.
- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Joe Gosnell, to approve the General Fund payables, Sewer Fund payables, and Rails-to-Trails Fund payables though July 12, 2013, as presented. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor’s Report

- Mayor Davis had nothing to report.

Police Report

- Chief Soloe presented the mid-monthly statistics of police responses. Mr. Gosnell inquired about the length of time a vehicle can be parked on the street without being moved. Per the chief, three days maximum.

Police Report cont’d.

- Chief Soloe also advised that through good police work and follow through on suspicious behavior, Officer Snyder recovered 15-16 marine batteries stolen from the Lake Wallenpaupack area, and arrested three persons, with assistance from Plainfield Township Police and State Police.

Zoning Report

- Mr. Soloe advised that he expected modified drawings for the Joshua Tree Land Development building expansion from Borough Engineer Al Kortze to be available by the next meeting, for Council's review.
- Soloe also reported that the bridge in Tatamy had reopened the previous Wednesday, and already traffic has reduced significantly, with fewer trucks coming through the Borough.

Public Works Report

- The sand filter is exposed and drying out. Tilling continues daily.
- Construction of the recreational trail in the Christmas Tree Park section has been completed. From Center Street northward, the final surface has been placed to the end of Sherman Metzgar Park. Morgan Schaefer, of 304 Old Easton Road, asked if a weed barrier had been placed below the stone trail bed. Per Mr. Zaboy, the design did not call for a weed barrier. Mr. Schaefer also asked if the costs of the trail had changed. Mr. Zaboy stated that unplanned additions, like the Industrial Boulevard crossing and the north end trailhead property issues will affect the final cost of the trail, but that those won't adversely affect the grant requirements.

Solicitor Report

- Mr. Asteak advised that a number of municipalities are discussing options on maintaining abandoned properties. Specifically, he stated that properties undergoing foreclosure and Sheriff's sales are not being maintained by the banks, as they are in a technical gray area of ownership. He advised that a number of municipalities are seeking to pass ordinances forcing properties to be maintained, in the absence of a resident and/or owner.
- Mr. Asteak also spoke with Dave Martino, attorney for Mr. Tichy, and set up a meeting for Wednesday, July 17th.

Agenda Items, cont'd.

- The CodeRED test call last week was successful, with more than 2/3 of the telephone numbers connected on the first attempt, and more connected on the second pass.
- Ms. Richard advised that the renewal is due for the Central Westmoreland COG; but that we only used it one time and she recommended we "scrap it". Council agreed.
- Following the traffic accident on Main Street, State Police posted signs and barriers to close off Main Street. Traffic redirected via Bushkill and Center Streets became problematic. Parked cars were not removed in a timely manner. Ms. Richard suggested ticketing the cars at the Lock properties. According to Mr. Asteak, the Police Chief is able to have vehicles towed for emergency situations. Ms. Richard advised that a couple years ago, there had been discussion to eliminate street parking for Center and Bushkill Streets, and perhaps it was time to revisit the issue.
- Ms. Richard had a long telephone discussion with Borough Engineer Al Kortze regarding the liability incurred for installing a 4 way stop at Faith and Jubilee. Per Ms. Richard, Mr. Kortze advised that the Borough could try installing the 4 way stop, and if it worked well, he could revisit the issue and perhaps change the recommendation. **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski, to authorize Solicitor Asteak to prepare and advertise an Ordinance to allow for the creation of a 4 way stop at the intersection of Faith and Jubilee. Motion carried unopposed.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business

- Hills Imports (Paikes Enterprises) is in the process of installing roof drainage piping. Their contractor is starting this week.
- Mr. Zaboy thought we'd have to install a stormwater collector on the northwest corner of the proposed Industrial Boulevard trail crossing, but a state-installed collector was unearthed at that spot, which will save between \$6,000.00 and \$8,000.00.
- Mr. Schaefer asked about why the Borough had not followed through on the Plainfield Township offer to join in on repairing LeFevre Road. Mr. Burmood stated that the timetable was too narrow to allow for negotiation of the required inter-municipal agreements necessary, as Plainfield had already put their project out to bid. Additionally, we are doing a completely different repair method.
- Mr. Wenzelberger asked about the "astronomical fees" to add ordinances to the Code for legal review. Mr. Burmood was tasked with researching the review process and costs.

Adjournment

- **Motion** at 8:35 pm by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, August 5, 2013 at 7:30 pm. The foregoing were approved the 29th day of July, 2013.

President of Council

Attest: _____