

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2012**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A MEETING ON MONDAY, JULY 16, 2012, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Councilors present were: Council Vice President Paul Zaboy, Sr., Mr. Carl Zito, Mr. Jack Fatzinger, Mr. Joe Gosnell, Ms. Cindy Hower, and Mrs. Rosemarie Wenzelberger.
- Mayor Metzgar was in attendance.
- Borough Solicitor Gary Asteak, Esq., Police Chief/Zoning Officer John Soloe, and Secretary Chris Burmood were present.
- Patrolman Vrabel was present to preserve the order.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM by Council President Amy Richard, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

- Eric Wenzelberger, of 111 Center Street, advised that he had discussed the idea of planting more trees in the public right-of-way with the head of the Planning Commission, and had been referred to speak to Council. Ms. Richard asked Mr. Wenzelberger if he would head up a committee to research such a project.

Council Comments

- Mr. Zito asked about repairing the sidewalk at the corner of Main, Center and Winona Streets. Ms. Richard advised that would be discussed at the Public Works meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer report

- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Jack Fatzinger, to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2012 meeting, with one correction, as noted below. Motion carried unopposed.
 - Page 3, third bullet point, 5th line from the bottom, change “eh” to “the”.
- Ms. Richard advised that more payables would be presented at the first August meeting. Mr. Zito inquired about the equipment rentals listed on the Rails-to-Trails Developmental Fund payables roster, and was advised that was for the installation of the storm sewer pipe at the Route 191/Trail intersection.
- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to approve the payables as presented. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Metzgar stated that the Bushkill Conservancy would not be holding a July meeting. He advised of an article regarding pollution in the Bushkill and Little Bushkill and that the sources of the pollution were locations both upstream and downstream.
- He stated that the Borough Picnic would be held on August 11, 2012, and that they would not require assistance from Borough Public Works with regard to set up. Discussion about the Borough-wide yard sale ensued, with Council agreeing that it should be held the weekend of August 18th and 19th.

Public Works Report

- Paul Zaboy, Sr. stated that the wastewater treatment plant is doing well, due in part to the weekly tilling of the sand filter. He reiterated that the tilling project may relieve the Borough from the financial burden of replacing the sand for quite some time.
- Ms. Hower asked about the ammonia levels at the plant. Mr. Zaboy stated that he had not seen recent reports, but advised that the ammonia problems usually occurred during the winter months, so there was likely no cause for concern at present.

Police Report

- Chief Soloe presented the monthly log of police responses.
- Chief Soloe advised that the EMA building, specifically the Police Department, required new interior and exterior doors, due to security concerns. The current doors, are set into wood frames, and are therefore not as secure as required. He presented a price of \$6,500.00 from one vendor for having four (4) new doors installed – two (2) each interior and exterior. Mr. Zaboy recommended that Chief Soloe be authorized to proceed, but include two (2) more exterior doors to the EMA building.
- **Motion** by Jack Fatzinger, seconded by Paul Zaboy, Sr., to authorize Chief Soloe to proceed with obtaining more quotes for the installation of six (6) steel security doors and frames at the EMA building.

Zoning Report

- Mr. Soloe was asked to evaluate the overgrown weeds at 316 Main Street for possible violation.

Solicitor Report

- Mr. Asteak stated that on this date he had received a letter from Berkheimer, the tax collector for the City of Allentown, advising that distribution of collected EIT by the NIZ should be disbursed in the next two (2) weeks.
- With respect to the garbage contract request for proposals, Mr. Asteak stated he would prefer to sit down with the garbage committee and review the prior contract, making additions and subtractions as necessary, before drawing up the bid advertisement.
- Ms. Richard advised that she had presented Mr. Asteak with the proposed agreement from Vondercrone & Behrens for the 2010 Audit. She stated she had added “Not to exceed \$4,000.00” to the agreement. Mr. Asteak signed off on the agreement, and stressed again the urgency of having these audits completed.
- Mr. Asteak discussed the new Borough Code, and that it is not presently available in printed format. It can be downloaded, but the online version is much more difficult to read. Once it becomes available in printed format, he recommended that the Borough purchase a copy.
- The Codification has been advertised and will be “good to go” for adoption at the August 6th meeting.

Agenda Items

- Ms. Richard briefly addressed the comparison chart of local municipalities with respect to their meeting and compensation schedules. She suggested that Council consider fewer meetings during summer months, as no other municipality meets more than once per month at all. Mr. Asteak advised that the other municipalities he represents do not meet more than once per month, especially during the summer.

Agenda Items, cont'd.

- Ms. Richard indicated that a renewal notice for membership in the Central Westmoreland COG had been received. The fee is \$175.00. Mr. Zaboy recommended renewal as it will come into play with possible equipment purchases as well as the purchase of certain winter supplies. Council agreed.
- One of the CDs (30 month duration) at Merchants Bank will mature on August 3rd. Ms. Richard asked Council's pleasure, as action will have to occur prior to the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Zaboy recommended rolling it back into another 30 month CD, as opposed to Money Market or other investment tool with a lower interest yield. Ms. Hower and Mr. Gosnell indicated their agreement. Mr. Zaboy also stated that Council should be appreciative of the fact that they had not had to dip into the Money Market account or liquidate any of the CDs.
- Council discussed a number of proposed changes to the Personnel Handbook. Approval was tabled until new draft copies with the proposed alterations have been provided to Council.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business

- Mr. Burmood advised Council of the Easton YMCA's interest in renting both the Lincoln Avenue Park and the Gun Club ball field for fall soccer. Limited street parking is available for the Lincoln Avenue Park. Mr. Burmood indicated that he advised Mike Kennedy from the YMCA to contact Ms. Stahley directly regarding use of the Widow's Tavern parking lot. Earl Kocher, of 300 Old Easton Road, raised the issue of bathroom facilities at the Lincoln Avenue Park. Council asked if the YMCA would be able to rent a portajohn. Mr. Burmood to follow up.
- Per Ms. Richard the tree removal at both Lincoln Avenue Park and Newhart Park were completed and both areas look much better and more open.
- The Planning Commission had written to A&H Sportswear on several occasions regarding the emergency bypass plan for Lincoln Avenue, with no response. They had requested that Council write a letter. Mr. Asteak requested copies of the letters that were sent and advised he could reach out to their attorney. Morgan Schafer, of 304 Old Easton Road, suggested contacting PennDOT, as state routes can only be detoured to other state roads.
- Ms. Richard read a letter received from PEMA regarding the recommendation for Alex Soloe's appointment as Emergency Management Coordinator. PEMA's endorsement has been sent to Governor Corbett's office for action. PEMA will forward correspondence regarding the official appointment.
- Mayor Metzgar met with the rest of the SYA and determined that they cannot afford to assist the Borough with purchasing new bleachers for the ball field, as they have been operating at a deficit for the past four (4) years in financing activities. Additionally, they had looked at the current bleachers and don't feel they need to be replaced. Ms. Richard and Mr. Zaboy both stated that the bleachers are in pretty ratty shape, and recommend replacement. Mrs. Wenzelberger added that the backstop has a huge hole which should be repaired first. Mr. Fatzinger stated that for safety reasons and liability concerns, the current bleachers may be in violation of codes. Mr. Zito expressed his desire to wait until spring to act. Mr. Gosnell wanted to wait and "see for himself". Council agreed to table the matter until the next meeting.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business, cont'd.

- Mr. Zaboy advised that he is scheduled to meet with Len Policelli, of URDC, and the trail surveyor this week, primarily regarding property boundary issues at M&T Automotive. They are still awaiting PennDOT action on the Highway Occupancy Permits for the crossings. They are also awaiting the status of the manhole replacements.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business, cont'd.

- Ms. Hower asked when the county streetlight in front of her home was going to be replaced. Mr. Burmood advised that he contacted County and was told the new light pole had been ordered four weeks prior to the previous meeting, but they usually take 12-16 weeks for delivery.
- Mr. Wenzelberger asked about installing a time clock for better personnel management. Ms. Richard advised that we have researched the issue, and have even gotten a quote. The matter would be presented at a later date.
- Mr. Gosnell asked if anyone had reviewed the mowing contract, with respect to the trimming issue at various Borough properties. He was advised that neither Ms. Richard nor Mr. Zaboy had the opportunity.
- Mr. Gosnell inquired about the textured crosswalks as proposed by the original signalization project engineer. He asked if anyone had contacted the current project manager to determine why the textured crosswalks were not being installed. Discussion ensued regarding the lower durability and increased maintenance costs associated with textured crosswalks, especially at an intersection with a significant volume of commercial tractor-trailer traffic.
- Morgan Schafer advised that there were two (2) piles of stone in the street in front of his home and asked if someone would pick them up.
- Earl Kocher requested a copy of the approved minutes.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, Sr., seconded by Carl Zito, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

The foregoing were approved the 6th day of August, 2012.

President of Council

Attest: _____