

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2014**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2014, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Robin Davis, Joe Gosnell, Cindy Hower, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito.
- Mayor Charlie Davis and Borough Secretary/Treasurer, Anita Caughy were in attendance along with Police Chief/Zoning Officer, John Soloe.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak was present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Harold Siegle commented on issues concerning 119 Main Street. He was advised that it would be addressed later in the meeting by the Zoning Officer.
- Toni Longfield of 100 Main Street asked what could be done regarding electrical issues in her apartment. She advised that a tenant had a glass blowing business in the building under her and she was concerned about fire hazards. Amy Richard advised that the issue would be discussed under Zoning.
- Elizabeth Rossi of 100 Main Street was concerned about the trash in the building. She advised there was glass in the trash from the glass blowing business and asked if there needs to be a commercial dumpster for the glass.
- Eric Wenzelberger advised that the noise was back from the PPC Plant. He also presented Amy Richard with a receipt from Tatamy Borough for the donation of a Stockertown Memory Book to their Historic Society. They wanted him to thank the Borough for the donation.
- Earl Kocher of Center Street advised Council that 3 more pieces of macadam have broken off into his road and presents a hazard.

Council Comment

- Robin Davis asked if we could unlock the front door of the Borough Building and turn on the light for people to enter for future council meetings.
- Kathleen Zdonowski advised that vacant properties were not being maintained. She stated that 2 Old Easton Road and 304 Birch Street were vacant and needed lawns mowed and the garbage cleaned up. Solicitor, Gary Asteak, mentioned that if these properties are in foreclosure that the banks have property managers to maintain them. Amy Richard advised that she would have Public Works look into the matter.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, seconded by Robin Davis to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2014. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve accounts payable for General, Sewer and Rails to Trails funds. Carl Zito questions the Fork's Township payment in the amount of \$3,750.00. Amy Richard advised that the payment was for 3 months' worth of fire protection. He also questioned the payment to Normandeu Assoc. in the amount of \$2,400.00. He was advised that it was for the algae testing at the Sewer Plant.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Rails to Trails Fund through July 8, 2014 and through July 21, 2014. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard announced that the Borough Yard Sale is scheduled for August 16th and 17th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The dates are posted on the Borough sign.
- Act 101 Recycling Grant for 2012 was approved for the Borough in the amount of \$89.00.

Mayor Report

- Nothing to Report

Police Report

- Police Chief, John Soloe, read out the Calls for Service Report between 6/1/14 and 7/1/14. There were a total of 132 calls and 1,122 miles were driving for the month.
- Amy Richard advised that the Borough received an Order of Decertification with regard to the Police Union. We should have the official outcome by Wednesday or Thursday. When we know, it will be posted on the electronic board.

Zoning Report

- Zoning Officer, John Soloe, sent a letter to Mr. Ferraro regarding the clean-up of his trailer. They are in agreement to make the trailer go away and will have further discussions this week.
- John Soloe advised that a location for the Borough's electronic speed sign is close to being finalized. PennDot does not want the sign staying in its current location.
- Carl Zito presented an article in the Express Times regarding tracking rentals. Amy Richard read the article to the residents present. John Soloe advised that this procedure has been attempted by other Boroughs and it was not cost effective. Inspections are limited and only visual inspections are allowed. Gary Asteak stated that an outside agency would need to be hired which would cost the Borough a substantial amount.
- The dumpster bag on Winona Street has been removed.

Public Works

- Alex Hennings, Public Works Supervisor, provided a work performed outline as of July 21, 2014.
- Amy Richard gave an update of the status of the Rails to Trails project. She stated that the trail area is 99% cleared and ready for stone to be put down. Public Works will keep the weeds trimmed but their main goal is to finish the gravel first. Amy Richard presented the issue of the public work's employees working overtime or to continue the rental of the equipment for the trail. Council discussed the issues and decided that keeping the rental equipment longer would be a better option because working overtime will eventually burn them out. It was asked why the trail does not come out to meet up with Plainfield's trail. Amy Richard advised that PennDot did not want the trail to extend up that far. It is a PennDot issue and the Borough could not change it.
- Amy Richard advised that the Heating/Air Conditioning Units and Generators have all been installed in Borough Hall and the EMA Building. The project is now finished.
- The Forks Township Fire Department June 2014 report was presented. There were three (3) calls listed for the Borough of Stockertown during the month of June.
- Carl Zito stated that weeds were growing along the sidewalk and outside the Post Office. Amy Richard advised that it is on the list and will be done when the rental equipment is returned.

Solicitor Report

- Gary Asteak reviewed the Northampton County Gaming Grant Resolution No. 2014-02 which will be used to obtain a new police vehicle. Solicitor Asteak stated that Chief Soloe was able to purchase the last police car with this Grant and that it would be advantageous to pursue another Grant.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, seconded by Carl Zito to approve Gaming Grant Resolution 2014-02 for the purchase of a new police vehicle. Motion carried unopposed.
- Solicitor Asteak reviewed an email received from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs regarding a change in the Clean Water Act. The change will give the Federal Government greater authority over public and private waters and land. Solicitor Asteak advised that we have until October to look over the proposal and he asked Council to take a look at the paperwork provided to them.
- A new House Bill No. 2408 has been presented to the Committee which would require Municipalities to advertise their agenda 24 hours prior to any meetings and only issues on the agenda will be allowed to be discussed and/or voted on. Solicitor Asteak does not feel that this will be passed. It will limit any new discussions which are brought up at a meeting.

Agenda

- Borough Accountant, Jane Bachman, submitted an engagement letter for the 2011, 2012 & 2013 Real Estate Tax Audit to be approved and signed. She is charging \$1,500.00 for the three year audit.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, seconded by Robin Davis and Carl Zito to approve Jane Bachman's engagement letter for the real estate tax audit. Motion carried unopposed.

- A letter from Attorney Steven Miano to the DEP regarding the Borough's Sewer Plant was distributed to council for review. The letter researched the DEP's Rules and Regulations regarding backsliding and the permits issued. Attorney Miano highlighted three exceptions that the Borough falls into to have the limits increased. We have not heard anything back from the DEP. Gary Asteak advised that his letter makes a very compelling argument. It was done very well and he sets the Borough up for an Appeal, if needed.

Old, New or Unfinished Business

- Eric Wenzelberger suggested a regenerating tree program. He would like to have trees planted as old trees die off. Amy Richard advised him to put together a plan.
- Mr. Kocher stated that the manhole cover at Faith and Old Eaton Road is rocking. Amy Richard stated that the Public Work's crew has been going around town inspecting and mapping all of the Borough's manholes and she would advise them to check that one to see that it's lying properly.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito seconded by Joe Gosnell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

Amy Richard advised that the next scheduled Council Meeting for August 4, 2014 is tentatively cancelled. Notice will be put on the Borough sign to officially cancel the meeting unless something comes up prior to that date.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

The foregoing was approved the 18th day of August, 2014.

President of Council

Attest: _____