

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2011

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Councilors present were: Council President Amy Richard, Council Vice President Paul Zaboy, Mr. Jack Fatzinger, Mr. Carl Zito, Mr. Joe Gosnell, Ms. Cindy Hower, and Mrs. Rosemarie Wenzelberger.
- Mayor Sherman Metzgar was also present, but left the meeting at 8:53 pm.
- Additionally present were Borough Solicitor Gary N. Asteak, Paul Zaboy, Jr. from Public Works, Police Chief/Zoning Officer John Soloe, and Secretary Chris Burmood.
- Patrolman Vrabel was on duty to preserve the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM by Council President Amy J. Richard followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

- Morgan Schafer, 304 Old Easton Road, asked if the Borough had an emergency plan in case the plant in the Borough burned down. Ms. Richard responded that Public Comment was strictly for comments and not to answer questions. Mr. Asteak stated that there is an emergency plan. Mr. Schafer also asked what would be done if the Borough had inadequate water supply for a similar emergency to the Plainfield Township fire. Mr. Zaboy advised that there would be a tanker brigade like that which responded to the Plainfield Township incident.
- Earl Kocher, 300 Old Easton Road, asked about the results of the Roadmaster inspection at the corner of Main Street and Old Easton Road. He stated that at the previous meeting, the Roadmaster had indicated that he would investigate. Ms. Richard advised she had no knowledge of this, and would follow up.
- Eric Wenzelberger, of 111 Center Street, reported a large water run-off across the street from his residence, which washes stones into the street, especially during heavy rains. Ms. Richard advised she would look into it.

Council Comments

- Mr. Zito asked Chief Soloe about the boat trailer parked on Center Street. Chief Soloe stated that the owner would be cited.
- Mr. Zito again mentioned the ongoing weeds issue across the street from Grant's. He asked Mr. Soloe to issue a letter to homeowners advising them of their responsibility to manage weeds.
- Mr. Zaboy advised of a Rails-to-Trails design meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 10:30 am.
- Mrs. Wenzelberger advised she had gone over the Emergency Operations Plan and had added some names.
- Mrs. Wenzelberger asked Mr. Soloe about the property on Crown View. Mr. Soloe responded that the property is up for either upset or short sale, but he is still trying to gain compliance from the owner.

Secretary/Treasurer report

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Jack Fatzinger, to approve the minutes of August 1, 2011 as typed. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayoral Report

- Mayor Metzgar advised that he had received a postcard from the government regarding the census, and asked if it had been submitted. Ms. Richard stated that the census is now conducted online, and it had been completed.
- Mayor Metzgar then addressed the SYA Fundraiser letter he had dropped off at the Borough Office requesting a donation. Ms. Richard asked to table the discussion until the next regular meeting. There was no objection.

Public Works Report

- Per Paul Zaboy, Jr., the water use at Borough Hall was only 700 gallons as of August 3, 2011. He advised that all of the toilet valves had been replaced prior to the leak testing.
- The younger Mr. Zaboy also advised that the damage to LeFevre Road near the gun club was extensive and that the road was in need of massive work. Ms. Richard stated that she had spoken with Lieberman Construction. They indicated they would provide no estimate until the Borough decides whether the road will be patched or overhauled. The elder Mr. Zaboy advised that he had photos from two (2) days after the Plainfield Township fire. Per Paul Zaboy, Jr., it would be wise to have county officials inspect the bridge, as the heavy tankers from New Jersey may have put added stress on the county bridge.
- On Tuesday morning, August 9, 2011, a tractor-trailer turning south onto Sullivan Trail struck the traffic light controller box, tripping the breaker. Roadmaster Charles Davis had contacted Signal Service to have a crew come repair the unit. Once power was restored, the lights operated fine.
- Paul Zaboy, Jr. also advised that earlier on August 15th, one of the Steiner's had broken down.

Police Report

- Chief Soloe advised that the auctioneer appreciated the police presence over the weekend, and that the theft rate had dropped to near zero. He also stated that there were a few complaints about parking.
- Chief Soloe also reported that sites had been chosen for placement of the radar speed signs. Northbound would be located just south of the karate place, and southbound would be placed near Devery's. Mr. Kocher voiced his displeasure at the placement of the signs.

Zoning Report

- None

Planning Commission

- Regarding the proposed Engine Brake Ordinance: Mr. Zaboy asked if it was enforceable. Ms. Richard stated we would have to contact PennDOT to find out, and asked Mr. Burmood to follow up. Chief Soloe asked for a copy of the ordinance. Mr. Gosnell stated that PennDOT will not do anything without a draft ordinance. Mr. Gosnell also recommended short-term intensive enforcement to give the Borough a reputation

among truckers. Mr. Zito stated that if we cannot enforce it, the ordinance would be a waste of time.

Solicitor's Report

- Mr. Asteak drafted the new EIT ordinance under Act 32 to be uniform with all other TCC participants. He asked for approval to advertise. He also indicated that by law, the rates, both resident and non-resident, cannot be raised beyond 1%. **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Jack Fatzinger, to authorize advertising of the new EIT Ordinance. Motion carried unopposed.
- Mr. Asteak also advised council that Edward Ruland filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy. Mr. Asteak has to file a proof of claim with the bankruptcy court for Mr. Ruland's outstanding sewer bill as of July 12, 2011. Sewer billing is to start anew as of July 13, 2011, and Mr. Ruland will have to remain current.
- Resolution 2011-4 prepared to appoint a TCC liaison to share privileged information with the Tax Collection Commission (TCC). The Resolution names "Borough Council President" rather than a specific person by name. **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, seconded by Joe Gosnell, to approve Resolution 2011-4. Motion carried unopposed.
- PA American Water Company, for a small fee, provides online access to municipalities to water usage records by residents and companies within the municipality. Discussion ensued regarding use of these records in conjunction with sewer billing. **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, seconded by Carl Zito, to apply for online access to water usage by residents and companies in the Borough as provided by PA American Water. Motion carried unopposed.

Agenda Items

- Mr. Burmood has compiled a list of possible landlords based upon EDU allotment. Letters with new tenant registration forms and copies of the moving permits and tenant registration ordinances were sent to all potential landlords. Mr. Burmood is preparing a spreadsheet with up-to-date tenant information, to provide to the Earned Income Tax Collector.
- The Easton YMCA has requested use of the ball field for soccer practice 2-4 nights per week, with games on either Saturday or Sunday mornings. Council was agreeable and Mr. Zaboy confirmed that there were no scheduling conflicts. Ms. Richard requested Mr. Burmood prepare a letter and include the proper fee from the fee schedule.
- When the Borough initiated the sewer project, the General Fund provided the "seed money" of approximately \$55,000.00 to purchase land and cover engineering/surveying costs. This money has never been repaid. Both Mr. Zaboy and Ms. Richard stated that considering all expected Sewer expenditures, there is no better time than now to repay this money. **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, seconded by Joe Gosnell, to repay the loan to the General Fund upon determination of the exact amount and verification that it has not been repaid to date. Motion carried unopposed.
- Regarding sludge removal at the WWTP: Ms. Richard stated that it is an emergency situation, and provided a proposal by Mobile Dredging. Ms. Richard stated that Borough officials have a meeting with DEP on August 24th. Mr. Asteak refused to sign off on an unbidded project exceeding \$10,000.00 in cost. He expressed his desire to talk to Mr. Morgan of SC Engineers. Mr. Asteak left the meeting at 8:50 pm.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business

- Crest Environmental is expected to begin the Memorial Hall asbestos abatement project on August 29th, with Beatty slated for demolition the following week. Mr. Wenzelberger asked again about recovering the trophies. Ms. Richard stated she will ask the demolition contractor.
- Ms. Richard mentioned a pipeline safety course. Paul Zaboy, Jr. indicated no interest by Public Works.
- Tree Revitalization Program Memo: Grants are for a maximum of \$15,000.00, with a maximum cost per tree of \$150.00. The Borough would be required to have 1 trained tree tender per every 10 trees planted. Applications are due October 1, 2011.
- Another program being offered is called Stopping Marcellus Shale Drilling at the Municipal Level. The seminar runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on September 17th. Ms. Richard expressed some interest in attending.
- The first budget meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 7:30 pm.
- Mr. Wenzelberger questioned the Sewer Fund repayment to the General Fund. Mr. Zaboy explained that the start up costs fronted from the General Fund had never been repaid to the General Fund.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Paul Zaboy, seconded by Jack Fatzinger, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously at 8:58 pm.

The next meeting of Borough Council will be a budget meeting held on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 7:30 PM.

The foregoing were approved the 7th day of September, 2011.

President of Council

Attest: _____