

STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Robin Davis, Cindy Hower, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito. Joe Gosnell was absent.
- 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 7:35 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Mr. Kocher stated that the July Minutes incorrectly stated that his address was on Center Street. The correct street is Old Easton Road.
- Mr. Kocher advised that large stones were still in front of his house. Amy Richard advised that the Public Work's crew did clean up the stones when last reported and that she would send them out again to clean them up.
- Mr. Siegel of 123 Main Street gave Council pictures of the Ferraro Trailer and questioned when it would be removed. John Soloe stated that it was a slow process. Gary Asteak asked John Soloe whether a Cease and Desist Notice was sent to him, and that if not, one should be. The Notice should give him 30 days to remove the trailer. If it is not removed, then the Solicitor will file a lawsuit.
- Eric Wenzelberger of 111 Center Street asked whether the road repairs would be done before winter. Ms. Richard advised that Public Works has been filling the holes in the roads, but she is not sure whether the Borough will get to resurface the roads this year.
- Eric Wenzelberger questioned what type of work was being done across from his house. He stated that neighbors have been asking him. He was advised that baseboard heating is being put in, that they have applied for a permit and Keystone Code will inspect the project.

Council Comment

- Rosemarie Wenzelberger stated that the Metzgar Park sign is in bad condition. Amy Richard advised that she has seen it and she will have Public Works take a look at it.
- Carl Zito stated that the weeds were once again growing under the sliding board.
- Robin Davis commented that it would be nice to have two clean-up days in the Borough each year. Amy Richard stated that she is agreeable to that, but it would depend on the time available by the Public Works crew.

- Eric Wenzelberger asked Amy Richard to post the SYA's Christmas and Halloween Party dates in her next Newsletter.
- Mr. Kocher wanted to know what kind of weed killer was being used at the park. He was advised that it was an eco-friendly spray with a vinegar base.
- Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2014. Rosemarie Wenzelberger commented that the Minutes stated that she was the President of the Stockertown Youth Association but she was not. Mini Betz is the President and Rosemarie Wenzelberger is the Treasurer.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Robin Davis, seconded by Carl Zito to approve the Minutes of August 18, 2014 with the following corrections stated by Rosemarie Wenzelberger. Motion carried unopposed as amended.
 - Under Public Comment – Change Rosemarie Wenzelberger as President of SYA.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, seconded by Carl Zito to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Rails to Trails Fund through September 15, 2014. Motion carried unopposed.
- Anita Caughy stated that the Nazareth Chamber of Commerce would like a location for their trolley stop during their Anniversary Celebration by their next meeting in October. It was decided to list the Widow's Tavern as the Borough's first choice and Mrs. Bauer's house as the second choice.
- Mrs. Caughy announced that there would be a Hazardous Waste Drop-off at Northampton County College on October 11, 2014. Notice will be posted outside of the Borough Office.
- Keystone Code Fee Schedule for 2015 was distributed to Council. It stated that their fees would not change from 2014.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Davis advised that he attended Forks Community Day on Saturday. He stated that not too many people came by. The next meeting will be September 16th at the Tatamy Municipal Bldg.
- Mayor Davis stated that the Creek Banks were eroding away. He stated that Grants were available to repair this and wanted to know if Council was interested. Amy Richard asked him to get information on the Grants.

Police Report

- The police call report from August 1, 2014 to August 31, 2014 was read. There were a total of 110 calls. There were 44 Traffic Enforcement Summonses and 44 Traffic Enforcement Warnings.
- Chief Soloe gave an update on the Grant application for the new police car. He stated that there was \$709,000 to be distributed. There were 35 grant applications submitted. A decision should be made in October or November and that he was hopeful.

Zoning Report

- Properties with high grass and weed problems were discussed. John Soloe advised that letters will be issued.
- Amy Richard mentioned making Winona Street one way because of the tight corner. Council will discuss the issue further at a later date.

Public Works

- Alex Hennings, Public Works Supervisor, provided a work performed outline as of September 15, 2014.
- Amy Richard advised that Public Work's hours will be under budget if the amount of hours spent on the Trail is deducted.
- An outline from Urban Research of the trail park benches/tables, planting and remaining signage was distributed to Council which totaled \$10,080.00.
- Amy Richard stated that winter preparation for the garage on LaFevre road needs to begin. Insulation needs to be installed to prevent burning excessive fuel oil.
- Amy Richard asked Council what their recommendations were to dispose of the old generators which cost \$1,893.78 and \$2,388.40. Council agreed to sell these items.

Solicitor Report

- Gary Asteak referenced a letter which was received from RCN regarding renewal of the Cable Franchise Agreement. He will contact Mr. Steel of RCN and take care of the matter.
- Solicitor Asteak advised that the Park Rules need to be amended regarding open carry of fire arms. The "carry" wording needs to be removed because of the Second Amendment. He recommends removing that prohibition from the sign. The Police are to be notified and directed not to enforce the open carry section of the rules. This change can be approved by Motion of Council until it is formally amended by Ordinance.
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to remove "Carry" prohibition from the Borough's Park Rules, Chapter 161. Parks and Recreation Areas, Item "O", and the police are to be directed not to enforce that section of the rules.
- Mr. Asteak advised that Lone Star filed a tax assessment appeal. Their taxes were reduced but they were not satisfied with the amount and filed an Appeal. The decision could impact the Borough's budget drastically. Mr. Asteak is not prepared to discuss the matter any further at this time.

Agenda

- A quotation from Brown & Brown for the Borough's Commercial Insurance was distributed to Council. Amy Richard announced that the insurance will be approximately \$2,700.00 less than last year.
- Aflac Premiums are up for renewal. New proposals have been provided. The renewal will be discussed further.
- Amy Richard provided Council with a letter she prepared to the Stockertown Youth Association regarding Mayor Metzgar's wishes to improve the pavilion at Newhart Park along with other recreational locations. Ms. Richard is requesting that the Youth Group pay for these rejuvenation projects with monies generated from baseball teams, fundraisers and donations they are holding and to put these funds towards the benefit of our children. The content of this letter is posted below. Ms. Richard asked for Council permission to send the letter.

**Stockertown Youth Association
Attn: Herminia Betz, President**

Dear SYA President,

On behalf of Council and the residents of the Borough, I would like to ask the Stockertown Youth Association for its financial help with several projects within the Borough.

As you know, we have been able to hold the Borough's tax rate for eight years through prudent management of our annual income which consists primarily of real estate taxes. We've upgraded our HVAC systems including heating and cooling units as well as automatic generators for both the Municipal Hall and the Emergency Services Building. We've kept our Public Works equipment and Waste Water Treatment Plant in good working order. We've matched funds from several grants for our Rails to Trails project.

Shortly we will begin our 2015 budget process where we will again strive to hold our expenditures to our current expected income without raising taxes. There are funds in the Borough Investment Accounts, but they are earmarked for the Waste Water Treatment Plant loan obligation, DEP violation fines, sand filter replacement project and maintenance, road repair/resurfacing projects and vehicle replacement.

During the former Mayor's tenure and long involvement with the Stockertown Youth Association, he spoke of monies generated from baseball teams, fundraisers and donations. He spoke at our public meetings of his desire to direct some of these funds to the Borough for projects that would benefit children and recreation in the Borough since there weren't any local youth teams and the SYA's only function was to host several yearly events including the Easter Egg Hunt, the Halloween Party and Christmas Party.

One of his funding suggestions was to upgrade the pavilion at Newhart Park by enlarging the area, replacing or refurbishing the tables and adding an enclosure to the pavilion.

Newhart Park is one of our Open Space recreational locations as is Sherman Metzgar Park and the Ball Park on LaFevre Road. Newhart Park is rented throughout the summer for parties and gatherings and the Ball Park is rented from April through mid-October by youth, adult and physically challenged teams.

Our PW Department has tilled and resurfaced the baseline and infield which cost \$1,220 plus labor and they repaired and painted the backstop which will get us through this season. We would very much like to replace the backstop to ensure safety and enhance the Ball Park's appearance in combination with the new bleachers and walkway. Enclosed are samples of backstops sufficient for the size of our field but simple enough to be affordable. Also included is a sample curtain to enclose the pavilion at its current size. This assembly would allow light to enter the pavilion while blocking rain and wind in unexpected inclement weather. The backstop is priced at \$3,358.00 and the curtain assembly is approximately \$2,400.00 to surround the current pavilion.

In keeping with the purpose of the Stockertown Youth Association and the stated desires of our former Mayor Sherman Metzgar, we are asking the SYA to purchase these items for the benefit of the youth and residents of Stockertown allowing Borough funds to be used for other needed projects.

We appreciate your prompt consideration of this request and in light of the circumstances, anticipate your full cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

**Stockertown Borough Council
Amy Richard, President**

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

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve and send the letter to the Stockertown Youth Association. Motion carried unopposed.

- Amy Richard advised that the Public Work's yellow truck has once again been in for repairs. The total cost for repairs was \$1,419.77. This truck will need to be replaced. It is a 1998 truck. Ms. Richard stated that she is considering trading in the utility truck which needs four new tires at this time. The cost of the new truck will be approximately between \$70,000 and \$95,000.
- The Police Ford Crown Vic has also been in for repairs. The cost was excessive so public works is trying to order parts to fix it themselves. This car will be replaced if we get the Grant which was applied for.
- The budget meeting scheduled for September 24, 2014 will be held as advertised.

Motion by Carl Zito, Seconded by Robin Davis to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:40 P.M. concerning Personnel. Motion carried unopposed.

Motion by Robin Davis, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to exit Executive Session at 9:03 P.M. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

The foregoing was approved the 24th day of September, 2014.

 President of Council

Attest:_____