

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2012**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Councilors present were: Council President Amy J. Richard, Council Vice-President Paul Zaboy, Sr., Mr. Carl Zito, Mr. Jack Fatzinger, Mr. Joe Gosnell, Ms. Cindy Hower, and Mrs. Rosemarie Wenzelberger.
- Mayor Sherman Metzgar and Borough Solicitor Gary N. Asteak also attended.
- Additionally present were Acting Public Works Supervisor Paul Zaboy, Jr. and Secretary Chris Burmood. Police Chief/Zoning Officer John Soloe arrived at 7:53 pm.

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Council President Amy J. Richard, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

- John Earl Kocher, of 300 Old Easton Road, stated he was cited for the vehicle in his driveway. He advised that he attempted to resolve this with Police Chief Soloe after a prior meeting, but the Chief would not discuss the issue. Mr. Kocher stated he had an appearance before the magistrate on February 2nd. Mr. Kocher accused Chief Soloe and the citing officer, Nathan Correll, of not providing the truth under oath, and requested that Council investigate the officers' backgrounds. He also indicated that "a lot of people want to be vindictive". He stated that in the past, he always provided a financial donation to the Fire Department and the Emergency Squad, even when he had fundamental disagreements with their leadership.
- Eric Wenzelberger, of 111 Center Street, inquired about the disposition of the chipper and the bucket truck. Ms. Richard advised that the chipper was sold at scrap price to Plainfield Township, and the bucket truck had been sold for slightly above scrap price to Nathan Correll. Mr. Wenzelberger asked why they weren't open up for public bidding. Mr. Asteak stated that the sale of an item between municipalities does not require a bidding process. Ms. Richard advised that the bucket truck was sold to Mr. Correll to be used for parts and scrap. Mr. Kocher stated his belief that it was wrong for these two pieces of equipment to be sold for scrap if not to an actual scrap yard. He stated that the sale of one of the items to a part-time employee "poses another problem".
- Mr. Wenzelberger also advised that he observed a former resident dump a pickup truck load of trash in front of their former, unoccupied, residence. Mr. Wenzelberger indicated he commented to the offending party about the possibility of being cited for dumping, then asked Council if he was correct in doing so. Ms. Richard advised that Borough garbage collection is for refuse that originates in the Borough.

Council Comments

- Mr. Zaboy attended the COG meeting at the end of January. During the meeting, it was announced that the Northampton County Gaming Commission will be having another round of committed fund grants to contiguous towns, but expects a round of uncommitted fund grants to be offered in the future. Mr. Zaboy advised he plans to check with the Monroe County Gaming Commission for grant funds availability. The Monroe County agency had previously given Tatamy \$205,000.00.
- Also from the COG meeting, Mr. Zaboy advised that PA House Bill 1500, allowing the State Police to charge for services, is in process.
- Mr. Gosnell stated that despite living in the Borough for the past six years, just noticed that the recycling sign on LeFevre Road was misspelled, using the word “residence” in place of “residents”.

Secretary/Treasurer report

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, seconded by Paul Zaboy, Sr., to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2012 meeting with corrections as discussed. Motion carried unopposed.
- Ms. Richard read the report of 2011 Real Estate Taxes as prepared by the Real Estate Tax Collector.

Mayoral Report

- Mayor Metzgar briefly discussed the Bushkill Stream Conservancy, and touched upon the recreational trail project.

Public Works Report

- Ms. Richard reported that the Public Works Committee held a meeting, during which they created a project and location list, which they later prioritized. Acting Road Supervisor Paul Zaboy, Jr. (PJ) discussed several of the projects, and the progress being made on them. Paul Zaboy, Sr. requested general figures for the repairs necessary on LeFevre Road and Commerce Way.
- Mr. Wenzelberger inquired as to who is in the Public Works Committee, and whether residents could suggest projects. Ms. Richard responded that she, Mr. Zito, and Mr. Fatzinger comprise the Public Works Committee.
- Mrs. Wenzelberger asked about the inventory from several of the Borough’s storage buildings.

Police Report

- Chief Soloe had nothing to report. He advised he would submit a report at the next scheduled meeting.

Zoning Report

- Mr. Soloe had no Zoning issues to report.

Solicitor Report

- Mr. Asteak indicated that he spoke with Ed Behrens, of Vondercrone & Behrens, and was advised that the 2009 Audit Report would be completed by the end of the month.

Agenda Items

- Mr. Burmood announced that the Northampton County Tax Collection Committee (TCC) has scheduled an emergency meeting to coincide with Lehigh County's TCC meeting on February 16th, to address two issues regarding EIT.
 - The primary concern for the TCC meeting is how the Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone would affect the collection and distribution of EIT. Mr. Burmood explained that the NIZ would be collecting **ALL** non-property taxes from employers within the 130 acre zone. This includes EIT withholdings. Mr. Burmood explained that the NIZ would hold those funds in escrow through 2012, then utilize them in 2013 for funding principal and interest payments towards the new hockey arena. Any remaining funds would be forwarded to the municipalities in 2014. Mr. Zaboy advised that this will go on for the next thirty years that the NIZ is in effect.
 - The other issue on the TCC meeting agenda is the Philly Super-Credit System of EIT Final Returns, and how it revolves around the Sterling Act.
- Ms. Richard announced that the annual Liquid Fuels Audit by PennDOT was completed. Several items had not been filed timely in the past, but now the Borough is up to date with all associated filings.
- Mr. Fatzinger advised that he has received complaints from several residents about speeding on Old Easton Road, especially by school buses and people coming from Long's Development. Ms. Richard suggested posting a police car in the area to monitor traffic. Mr. Fatzinger gave permission for the Police to park in his driveway for the purpose.
- Ms. Richard announced that Mr. Barbieri from Aflac has contacted the Borough to see if interested parties wish to update their coverage or join the plan.

New, Old, or Unfinished Business

- Paul Zaboy, Sr. spoke with Len Policelli at URDC regarding the proposed decrease in speed limit for Industrial Boulevard. Once the signalization project has been completed, the Borough will reapply to PennDOT to have speed limit lowered to 35 mph.
- Mr. Zaboy also advised that URDC has all of the survey information and is in the process of comparing that data to existing maps, in order to start formulating the trail design.
- Mr. Kocher requested a copy of the meeting minutes that were approved.
- Morgan Schafer, of 304 Old Easton Road, advised regarding the signalization project, that the Borough would be responsible for the traffic signals. Mr. Zaboy indicated that the Borough would have a fiduciary responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the lights. Mr. Schafer advised that there would also be shared liability with the State for any incidents resulting at the intersections.
- Mr. Wenzelberger advised that the exit ramps are only one lane, but are consistently being split by motorists illegally, and that the State Police are not providing any enforcement.

Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

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

President of Council

Attest: _____