

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2016**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

**Attendance**

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Robin Davis, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito.
- Mayor Charlie Davis and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy were present.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Chief John Soloe and OIC Eric Schwab were present.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment**

- Eric Wenzelberger of 101 Center Street stated that he wanted to thank the Forks Fire Company for coming out and investigating the propane gas smell in the Borough.
- Diane DeWalt of 109 Center Street complained about the abundance of junk in the Wenzelberger's yard. She stated that it looks like a junk yard and will bring the value of properties down in the neighborhood.
- Georgeann Sauers of 108 Winona Street also complained about the junk in the Wenzelberger's yard and stated that it is attracting wild animals around their properties.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak stated that the properties in the Borough should be maintained so as to not attract vermin and other wild animals. He stated that the Borough has an Ordinance regarding the maintenance of properties.
- Chief John Soloe stated that the matter is being addressed.
- Carly DeWalt questioned whether there was a law against parking a truck in the street with the tail gate down so that no one else could park. Amy Richard stated that it is a public street and unfortunately if someone feels the need to take up two spots, for whatever reason, there is nothing that can be done or it would have been done already.

**Council Comment**

- Amy Richard congratulated Eric Wenzelberger on his new Constable position. This is an elected position which was won with a single write-in vote on the ballot. Mr. Wenzelberger stated that he would be appointing a Deputy Constable to handle the full-time responsibilities of his new position.

### **Secretary / Treasurer Report**

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Robin Davis to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2016, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through March 7, 2016. Motion carried unopposed.
- Anita Caughy informed Council that \$27,753.91 was received as the Borough's Liquid Fuels allocation for 2016 to be used to improve the Borough roads.

### **Mayor Report**

- Mayor Davis had nothing to report.

### **Police**

- Amy Richard informed Council that the Police Department's Ford Crown Vic had the transmission rebuilt at a cost of \$2,289.76 and a 2 year warranty was obtained on the work.
- Chief Soloe read the Calls for Service Report from February 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016. There were 71 Traffic Summonses; 26 Traffic Warnings; 7 Criminal Warrants along with miscellaneous call for a total of 152 for the month. Amy Richard disclosed previous years of service reports reinforcing the amount of work the officers are doing today compared to past years in which the calls were in lower double digits range in contrast to the calls responded to during the past year. Ms. Richard stated that the police are doing so well that the Magistrate has designated this Tuesday as Stockertown Day. All of the citations given out for non-snow removal, along with other municipal citations have filled the docket for the day.
- OIC Eric Schwab presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Daniel Mikulski, a local Boy Scout working toward merit badges. Daniel made numbered plaques for the front of the police cars. Daniel and his brother Adam also assisted in bagging candy for the officers to hand-out on Halloween. The Police Department appreciates the help received from Daniel.
- Officer Schwab stated that the upgrade to the Borough's website with the new email listed on the Police Section has been very effective in communicating with residents. They have received several emails with concerns and have been able to follow-up with the residents to resolve problems.

### **Zoning**

- John Soloe reported that there are 2 viable building lots left in Stockertown. He stated that paperwork has been submitted to build on one of the lots. The two remaining lots were legally factored in at the time the development was proposed to be hooked up to the Borough's sewer plant. Any other building after these two lots will have to be septic systems.

### **Public Works**

- Amy Richard reported that Public Works has been diligently working on getting the roads back in shape after the winter months. They will be focusing on the trail next.

- Mayor Davis stated that the tar and chip of LeFevre road worked very well with the run-offs. He noticed that the swales created by Public Works were keeping the water from puddling on the roads. Amy Richard stated that she hoped to have a second coat applied to strengthen the base.

### Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak stated that all was quiet and that there was nothing to report.

### Agenda

- **Sewer Plant** – Amy Richard stated that in the near future, a new UV System would need to be installed to replace the old system at the sewer plant which was installed in 1994. She stated that the Borough's Public Works employees will be called on to perform some of the work.
- Amy Richard informed all present of the current progress with correcting the ammonia limits during the winter months at the sewer plant as required by the DEP. Ms. Richard explained the situation to all new attendees at the meeting so that everyone was informed of the problem. The DEP will not relax the new ammonia limits even though they approved the whole system and the ammonia limits at the time the plant was originally built. The DEP was not satisfied with the feasibility study performed by Hazen and Sayer and required a second study be performed to further explore a resolution to the ammonia issue. The engineer disclosed a new system developed in Saskatchewan, Canada by Optaer SAGR Wastewater Treatment System. The Borough will be scheduling a meeting with the company to see if it could be a viable solution for the sewer plant. The system is estimated to cost between \$300,000 and \$600,000 to implement. Amy Richard stated that there is no choice in the matter but to explore every new option as it becomes available.
- Amy Richard read a proposal received from Northampton County with regard to swapping a parcel of Borough owned land with land owned by Dennis Einfalt in order to complete a new leg of the Rails to Trails to Jacobsburg Park. Mr. Einfalt has agreed to the swap. Solicitor Asteak stated that an Ordinance would have to be adopted to vacate the property in question.
- **Motion** by Council to proceed with Northampton County's open space Rails to Trails proposal. Motion carried unopposed.
- Dates were discussed for the Borough Wide Spring Yard Sale. Tentative dates of April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> were agreed upon. The dates will be confirmed and posted on the Borough sign after further inquiry of when other yard sales will be held.
- Anita Caughy announced an Electronic Recycling Day scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 9 AM to 12 Noon at Nazareth Intermediate School, 355 Tatamy Road in Nazareth. Eleven (11) Municipalities are involved in the recycling project. It is for the residents of the Boroughs of Nazareth, Stockertown, Tatamy & West Easton, and the Townships of Bushkill, Forks, Lower Nazareth, Moore, Palmer, Plainfield and Upper Nazareth. Some items require a fee. A fee schedule can be obtained at the Borough office. Ms. Caughy informed Council that the Borough's fee is slightly higher than originally stated. It will cost each municipality \$100 plus an advertising fee of \$36.05. All Council members agreed with the additional cost.

**Old, New or Unfinished Business**

- Amy Richard inquired if council wanted to schedule a winter clean-up event for branch pick up throughout the Borough. All Council members agreed. Tentative dates were scheduled for Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Public Works will be consulted and the definite dates will be posted on the Borough sign.

**Executive Session**

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to enter into executive session for personnel issues at 8:20 P.M. Amy Richard stated that there would be no additional business discussed after the executive session. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Carl Zito to exit executive session and return to regular session at 8:45 P.M. Motion carried unopposed.

**Adjournment**

- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Carl Zito to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on March 21, 2016.  
March 21, 2016 meeting was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

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President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_