

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

April 7, 2016

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by President Gregory Strubinger at 6:30 p.m. in the Borough office conference room, 101 East Tenth St, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our country.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Paulette Haupt (a)	John McGuire (a)	Thomas Highland
Joanne Klitsch	Jay Miller	Kyle Sheckler
Gregory Strubinger	Mayor Michael Sofranko	Police Chief Schatz
Manager Maureen Sterner	Vince Yaich, PS Manager	Boro. Secy. McClafferty

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Lasky, was present to discuss the parking situation on Main Street. He passed pictures around for all to review. He posted a letter to the editor this past week in the Times News. He objects to the ordinance for Main Street for no parking. His neighbor Ms. Hydro has complained about him parking his car on her land. She was told to get the land surveyed.

Joel Baier said there was a survey done on the property, the pins can be identified.

Police Chief Schatz said they don't get involved with property disputes.

President Strubinger said there is more than one issue. One is the property line issue and the other is the right of way issue.

Al Lasky said the whole thing she is saying is he is on her land. He parked there for several months, now she is saying his vehicle is blocking her view coming out of her driveway. The other concern he has is the rocks that they have placed at the bottom of their property this is a safety issue. He would like to know where he is to park his car if he cannot park his car where it has been parked for several months. He went over all of the pictures that he presented to council. He can't park two cars in his driveway this is the reason he parks across the street. He has been parking there for 51 years

Joel Baier said the parking for 51 years that was on occasions, it is now almost full time now. There is enough parking on his side of the street for him to park he would have to park in his grass he parks on their grass and tears it up.

President Strubinger said the property line dispute we have no jurisdiction on that if there is a property line issue. Even though these are not adjoining property. With the car parked there we looked to see if this posed a safety hazard that is what we are concerned about. It is common curtesy to leave a space in front of the property for the property owner for them to park.

Mr. Miller asked how do we solve this issue?

Al Lasky said let him park there and don't adopt the no parking ordinance for Main Street.

Mayor Sofranko said there are parking issues all over town, this is a dispute between two neighbors. He is concerned about emergency service vehicles not being able to make it through. He has a call into Becker about Lasky parking on his property.

Council discussed the parking issue on Main Street for several minutes.

Manager Sterner suggested the four of them seriously sit and talking to see how you can solve this between yourselves. This will be on the agenda next week for council to vote on.

Andrew Roberts, 139 W. Broadway he spoke about his neighbors receiving notification of violation. He put in a couple of complaints this past week. He is hoping the borough does not react to all of them by sending notices of violations to the residents. There are sidewalk problems all on Broadway and West Broadway. Please look at this and see if you can get some grant money to repair the sidewalks that would be a more productive way to deal with this. There are hollow sidewalks all over Broadway & West Broadway and by the sewer manholes. Two of the neighbors that received letters last week were very upset about the letter they received from the Borough. The 7 days to replace the sidewalks is a little much, cutting grass he could see that but 7 days to replace sidewalks is not.

Manager Sterner said the 7 days comes from the ordinance and BIA has to follow the ordinance. As long as they contact the borough we will work with them.

Ed McArdle he would like to know what roads are going to be fixed and where are the pipes going to be replaced this year.

Mr. Miller said they have initiated lead & copper many years ago and continue to do that and removing lead pipes from the curb stops when we can. In the meantime it is treated chemically. We have removed a lot of lead pipes over the years. We try to do that before we resurface.

PS Manager Yaich said five of the six streets had both main & service lines replaced. East Side streets two sections of Lehigh Street 500 & 800 blocks both the main & the services have been replaced. 6th St the main was replaced, South St was replaced from 4th St to Front Street, 3rd to Front St being done. On the other side of town on the Heights Chestnut Ave that has new main & services replaced, North Ave had new services & main replaced, Cedar Ave has all new services & main replaced. The one street is going to be tar & chipped there is no water main – Hill Road.

PS Manager Yaich said his plan is over the next 2 -3 years is to run new main. As for the gas company he can't answer for them. He said there is only one street that is being tarred & chipped and that is on North Avenue by Ferko's garage on out. It does no good to tar & chip if that road doesn't have enough travel on it to keep the stones mixed in the stones. He picked the streets that he knew the main & services were replaced on them.

Mr. Miller said we have done man replacement for years, we did Broadway, West Broadway & North Street. This has improved the ISO for the residents and they should see a better insurance rate.

DISCUSSION

Discussed the Work session meeting minutes from March 3, 2016

Discussed the Council meeting minutes from March 10, 2016

Discussed the expenditures from all funds for March and the Interim bills 2016, as presented.

Discussed the treasurer report as presented, this is not completed.

Chemical bid for Sternpac – correction - award the bid to Northeast Chemical cost of \$152.90 per 55 gallon drum (Univar USA price was \$208.50)

Manager Sterner said this is for Sternpac chemical Northeast Chemical sent their bid and they were trying to get the point across on the bid that Sternpac has been bought out by another company but the way they had it worded we thought they were bidding on an alternate chemical which was not permitted in the bid so we went with Univar. In the meantime Northeast Chemical called and they explained the company was bought out.

PS Manager Yaich said we started out with Univar and they will be getting it from the same company.

Manager Sterner said we need to correct that because Northeast Chemical was the low bidder price of \$152.90.

Summer Road materials will be opened 4/11/16 @ 1:00

The Advertising of an ordinance designating portion of Main Street no parking was discussed this tonight.

Advertising of an ordinance designating portion of Silk Street no parking.

Mrs. Klitsch asked where this is at.

PS Manager Yaich said at the lower end of Silk St

Resolution 2016-5 for price adjustment for bituminous materials.

Manager Sterner said this is an annual resolution that Penn Dot requires.

Discussed the Advertising the Street Paving project for 2016.

Discussed Advertise Oil & Chip project.

Manager Sterner said this is also on the list with the street paving project.

Discuss the Advertising Germantown culvert pipe project.

Mr. Miller said he sees in the budget we have \$40,000 for that project. We are going to advertise this he is looking reality we are going to do this project. This is by the Carwash this will address this issue.

Manager Sterner said she will talk to Kim Mazur about advertising this project. When the budget was prepared it was a lump sum to road work, we are now designating the funds. The budget bottom line will not change.

Mr. Miller said we not only need to worry about the over lay but we need to worry about the water runoff in town. We do need to do maintenance to the storm drains.

PS Manager Yaich said Penn Dot is predicting by May 31, 2016 that they are going to have the traffic going across the new bridge. The only traffic that will be traveling on River St to the Market will be people going to the market, right now it is hazardous to do any work on that state roadway.

St. Luke's Miner will be hosting the annual Black Diamond Event on Sat. June 4, 2016 from 6pm to 9pm permission to close Packer Hill.

Police Chief Schatz said the only issue he has with this is they have to leave residents walk through the event on Hill Road, this is closed to vehicle traffic only. No extra officers are needed for this event.

Sanitary Sewer Clean & Televiser/Manhole Rehabilitation project – Mr. Rehab amount of \$432,845.11

Manager Sterner said this is all part of the sewer upgrade project, this, the IFAS and then the main project. Mr. Rehab is the lowest bidder for this part of the project. This will be televising the entire system.

Proposed updated chart of accounts for the Memorial Hall fund.

Manager Sterner said this very basic, they are not doing any changes to the monies they are just expanding the chart of accounts.

Mr. Miller asked if the \$432,845.11 is coming out of the loan?

Manager Sterner said yes.

Line Item Transfers:

1. General Fund
2. Highway (State Liquid Fuels) Fund
3. Sanitation Fund
4. Sewer Fund
5. Water Fund

Mayor Sofranko said he has one question, the fishing contest under the Police. This can probably be deleted there will be no fishing contest, they don't have the volunteers.

Mr. Miller said with the budget line items, this is being realistic with the budget and the actual expenses.

Bobcat Equipment:

1. gutter brush/sweeper (COSTARS) \$4,910.00
2. snow blower/chute (COSTARS) \$7,418.00

President Strubinger asked is this for the maintenance to the new bridge?

Manager Sterner said yes the gutter brush and the snow blower are attachments for the Bobcat.

Mr. Miller asked if we have the money for this?

Manager Sterner said yes.

IFAS Sewer project.

Manager Sterner said council is aware Entex who was awarded the bid has defaulted. After speaking with everyone we will be going to the second bidder which is Ovivo they are willing to keep their price. Ovivo price was \$847,000.00 and the bid bond check for Entex was deposited.

Advertise WWTP Upgrades Main Project

Manager Sterner said Kim Mazur is recommending this be advertised the final phase of the sewer project.

Business

Administration

Discuss Health insurance

President Strubinger said the borough will be receiving about \$100,000.00 dividend from 2014. Council feels it's wise to look into other options. The only thing with the self-insuring is that you don't know year to year if you are getting a dividend or not. There are other fees that are associated with this program.

Manager Sterner said the main thing with Benecon is if we want to shop around for insurance we have to give them written notification that we are going to withdraw from their insurance. This does not mean we have to withdraw we can then go back and withdraw our letter and stay with them. If we do this we will not be penalized for leaving and we will still get any dividends for 2015 or 2016 that we may have. If we don't give them notice that we are going to withdraw we will lose those dividends.

Discuss the elected official NIMS class.

Manager Sterner said all elected officials are required to take NIMS training. This will be one 2 hour class. You can do this online if you would like to do that, this will be held at the EMA building in Nesquehoning. If you aren't aware if you don't have the NIMS training it could impact any FEMA money that the borough could be eligible for.

Discuss Internships

Manager Sterner said this is a teaching thing, we have to show the individual how to do the job. This is there for the future. She has looked into community service for cleaning up in the park.

Discuss Pennsylvania Downtown Center – the only statewide nonprofit dedicated to solely to the revitalization of the commonwealth's core community

Manager Sterner said this is an organization that the borough has been a member in the past. They are having a conference in Allentown this year. She would like permission to attend the conference.

Barry Isett Associates (BIA) - hours

1. Nuisance Ordinance
2. Parking requirements on Broadway & Race Streets

Manager Sterner said BIA is getting extremely busy. They would like to add 4 hours on a separate day of the week to get office work completed. If council would do the nuisance ordinance or the parking requirements on Broadway & West Broadway this may reduce their hours. They wouldn't have to go through a variance for parking issues and the nuisance would be a ticket.

The JT Planning Commission were talking about parking permits for residents that live on Broadway & West Broadway, she has not heard anything else.

Andrew Roberts asked if the JT Planning Commission had mentioned an overlay in the C-2 District and whether Nanovic would write up something that would describe the overlay for the C-2 district for commercial for the downtown area. This is an overlay not a change to the zoning ordinance.

This is hard to enforce in the downtown area. How do you ask all the businesses that are opening that need parking for the business. This would be Broadway to 16 West Broadway, which is the end of the C-2 district & Race Street area.

Manager Sterner said she will check with solicitor Nanovic about this.

Manager Sterner asked what council would like to do about the Nuisance ordinance.

Andrew Roberts said the JTPC has invited Rick Harmon from BIA back to explain how the ticketing will work for the nuisance ordinance.

Mr. Miller said the Quality of Life ordinance, something needs to be done about the property on Center Avenue. Something needs to be done to help these people out. This property abuts Water company property.

Reminder to the residents the primary election will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Improvements and/or sewage extension grant for Flagstaff Road.

Manager Sterner asked council if they are interested in running the sewer up Flagstaff Road?

Mr. Miller said if we are going to look at the Flagstaff we need to look at all the other locations that do not have borough sewer.

Jim Thorpe Campground.

Manager Sterner said Harold Maurer said there is an agreement that he is to be charged residential rates in the winter when the campground is not opened. We found the agreement and there is not a thing in there about commercial or residential rates.

Mrs. Klitsch said the only one that might know anything about this maybe be Ed Gula.

Manager Sterner said if there is another agreement he needs to provide it to the borough. This will be kept as commercial.

Tire & Electronic recycling will be held on May 7, 2016 from 7:00 am to 11:30 am there will be no limit on the amount of TV's that are brought.

Handi-cap parking signs.

Manager Sterner said she has contacted other municipalities to review how they handle handicap parking spaces or permit parking. Council received a copy of this information to review.

Police Chief Schatz said we have a handicap sign request right now and there are 5 handicap signs in that area, he has to look at this.

Street Sweeper.

Manager Sterner said the street sweeper broke down twice. One of the big problems even with the all call going out people are not moving. We are paying for this and we aren't getting the streets swept the way they are meant to be done. We stopped it was \$170.00 an hour.

Manager Sterner said she spoke with Tamaqua Transfer today about the dumpster in Leisure Land. They are not going to buy a bear dumpster they cost \$10,000.00. She did ask them about a larger dumpster. He is going to get back to her on this. They are buying a smaller truck whether it would be able to go down there she is not sure. They will have to take a drive through. That is a possible curb pick up. They were contracted for trash pickup and this does not say except for Leisure Land. They pick it up at the dumpster for that one section of Leisure Land.

Police

Civil Service Commission have picked up the FT applications to review, Civil Service testing date will be sometime in April – possibly May.

Police Chief Schatz said we should have this certified list asap because they are going to be running into overtime for the officers because one of the guys will be leaving.

Handicap parking request for 223 WB

Police Chief Schatz said there are 5 handicap spaces in that area right now. We can't deny the handicap spot we need to look in the future for how many handicap spaces can be in an area. It wasn't stipulated in the application where he would like the sign placed.

403(b) Plan – Retirement

Manager Sterner said the way this is set up the borough picks a group of investments and out of that group the employee can pick who they want. So there is some potential liability to the borough. There are fees associated with this program and we would end up with these fees. We have a retirement plan that we offer to the employees.

Police Chief Schatz said the JT Police Dept will be going to eticketing next week. The only problem they are running into is the older computer went. He will have some numbers for council to review.

Manager Sterner said we had a web conference this past week for the new website for the Borough. We picked one and expanded on that. We do need a neat picture of Jim Thorpe, so if you know anyone that would have one please have them get in touch with the office staff.

Mr. Highland said we have been speaking about getting Jamie out of the police cruiser. We are looking at retiring 83 the one with the most miles on it and purchasing a new SUV.

Police Chief Schatz said we have another payment this year and one next year about \$13,000.00. The whole idea is to get Jamie out of a marked police vehicle.

Mrs. Klitsch said she has no problem with the Sanitation funds being used to purchase this vehicle.

Buildings/Park

Outdoor burning regulations.

Manager Sterner said the outdoor burning ordinance. No one has been able to find the ordinance, it was adopted per the BOCA Fire regulations since that time BOCA is an obsolete document and organization. She needs to know if council is interested in investigating burning regulations.

Council suggested the ordinance for burning be held for now.

Ed McArdle said his neighbor is burning more than brush he is burning construction debris.

May 12 Council meeting will be held in the Skating Rink due to the Senior Fair in the hall.

Mrs. Klitsch asked about using the borough building conference room to hold meeting.

General consent of council is to allow the Glen Onoko Estate to use the conference room on 4/10/16. If we get additional requests for use of the office we will then look into a policy.

Emergency Services

Phoenix Fire House

Manager Sterner said Tiny was contacted to check the furnace out at the Phoenix. When he got there the furnace valve was turned off. The cover plate was removed to do this. Vince put a lock on the furnace now.

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PS Manager Yaich said they have a fob system over there so guys can get in to the station for equipment because this still have the cascade system in it. The furnace is in the basement area. A pad lock has been put on this now to prevent this from happening again.

Old Business

Cuoco – 56 W. Broadway – no update

Council would like Cuocco to remain on the agenda.

Packer Hill Road proposed one way Ordinance – no update

LCB Licensee Noise Enforcement – this has been approved until 3/23/2019

Collection Agency for delinquent utility fees – no update

DCNR Community Partnership (C2P2) grant program information has been sent to the Planning Commission and they are working on this.

5ton truck

Cable TV Franchise agreement

Packer Hill/Karnish & Radocka accident

Police Chief Schatz said the owner of the vehicle who has the insurance claimed the driver at the time driving it didn't have permission to drive it.

Mr. Miller said our issue is who is paying for the damages. Can we say the barriers that are there now are they going to stay there.

Manager Sterner said this was a temporary fix, she does not think Penn Dot would allow this permanently.

Manager Sterner updated council on Spillman Farmer meeting.

Executive Session

Personnel

MOTION: Joanne Klitsch second Gregory Strubinger to go into executive session and adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:13 pm

Respectfully submitted


Louise McClafferty
Borough Secretary