

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachulo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachulo
TJ Huckleberry
George Butkus
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli, Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate Sr. , Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, Regina Shade, Borough Manager and Elizabeth White who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo stated that the first order of business is the Tax Collector Appointment. Mrs. Shade stated that they invited both candidates to attend the meeting so that Council could meet them and ask questions. She stated that Charmaine Beck is here but the other candidate never responded to the invite. Mr. Pachulo asked if Council had any questions for Mrs. Beck who submitted her resume to fill the remainder of the term for Tax Collector. He mentioned that whoever is appointed would have to run again in the next Municipal Election. Mrs. Gantner stated that she just wanted to know a little bit about Mrs. Beck and why she decided to run for Tax Collector. Mrs. Beck stated that she works for a school district and used to collect their Real Estate Taxes. She stated that she always liked doing the taxes. She mentioned that she thought about running in the last election but waited too long to get out and have her petition signed. She stated that she likes working with numbers and enjoys meeting new people and that she has lived in the Borough fifteen (15) years. Mr. Pachulo asked if she would be able to hold the hours that are advertised on the bills to which she stated yes. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she would have to be bonded. Discussion ensued concerning taxes, LST tax and trash. Mrs. Shade mentioned that she would like the LST Tax to be moved to Berks EIT for them to collect and that the Per Capita Tax is now going to be collected by the Wilson School District. Mrs. Stine made a motion to appoint Charmaine Beck as Interim Tax Collector; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS: (Cont.)

The second item under business was to ratify the hiring of John Nelka as Head Librarian at \$19.00 per hour. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to hire John Nelka as Head Librarian at a rate of \$19.00 per hour, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

The third item was to ratify the hiring of Kathy Schell as Part Time Library for Tuesday evenings and Saturdays at \$8.50 per hour. Mrs. Stine made the motion to hire Kathy Schell as Part Time Library at a rate of \$8.50 per hour, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

The fourth item was the small dump truck. Mr. Hart stated that he had placed in the Capital Budget to replace the small dump truck and he is asking Council to move forward with that this evening. He stated that he will use money from the General Highway Fund and some money from Liquid Fuels and that it is coming in under budget by almost \$200.00. He stated that it will be replacing the small one that we currently have that is eighteen (18) years old and the dump body is shot. Mr. Pachuillo asked if it was through Costars and Mr. Hart stated yes. Mr. Hoffa asked about the cost. Mr. Hart stated that the total would be \$64,816.50. Discussion ensued concerning what to do with old truck. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion so that Mr. Hart can move forward with the purchasing of the new dump truck. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus). Motion carried.

Mrs. Shade mentioned that they need to authorize the auditing of Mr. Schmidt's tax books so that the new tax collector starts fresh. She stated that she talked to the Auditors and they recommend doing the Audit sometime in June. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize the Auditor to do an Audit of the Tax Collector up until his resignation date; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

JOINT MEETING – COUNCIL/BOSS2020/PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Pachuillo turned the meeting over to Mr. Ludgate for his presentation. Mr. Ludgate made note of some visitors that he asked to attend tonight's Joint Workshop Meeting; Mr. Craig Lutz from Senator Argyl's Office, Mr. Ken Pick from the County of Berks and Mr. Aaron Booth from Kautter & Kelley Architects. He stated that the purpose of the meeting, which was requested by Mayor Cirulli, is to present to the entire body what is happening in the various programs that are going on under revitalization and other issues. Mr. Ludgate gave a power point presentation which went over Income vs. Expenses & millage increases. He stated that if we cannot make major cost cuts then we must find ways to increase the tax income by bringing in new business to the Borough. He stated that Revitalization is a financial strategy. He went over how we can revitalize the Downtown Area and went over the Official Map which shows the different revitalization phases. He stated that Phase I is complete and was the old Boscov's site which is now Spring Market. Phase II is the Columbia/Cacoosing intersections, Phase III is the new Retail Street and Phase IV is the Shillington Road/Mull Avenue intersection. He mentioned the other Revitalization Projects which include; 1) Pedestrian Safety Project (Park Avenue to S. Hull Street) that is being funded by PA DOT; 2) Sidewalk improvements along Penn Ave. between S. Hull and Columbia which is being funded by DCED; 3) Façade Improvement Program that is partially funded by DCED. He

JOINT MEETING – COUNCIL/BOSS2020/PLANNING COMMISSION: (Cont.)

mentioned that the architect drawing for the new Downtown shows a new Municipal Building or Community Center which could have many benefits to the community.

Discussion ensued concerning Spring Market. Mr. Ludgate asked Mr. Coleman to advise everyone of what happened at the Planning Commission Meeting last night. Mr. Coleman stated that they received a sketch plan for a Pharmacy along Rt. 724 and that they are looking to buy the parcel to build the Pharmacy. Mr. Hart mentioned that the Food Lion building sat for so long because the developer was being paid by Food Lion up until their contract expired. He also mentioned that he has been talking to a tenant who is very close to moving in there.

Mr. Loth stated that what he needs from Council, in order to execute the contract for the \$275,000.00 is a Resolution accepting the money. He stated that we have to send the Resolution along with the signed Contract back to DCED before the end of the week. Mr. Butkus asked which this was for. Mrs. Shade read the Resolution which stated \$225,000.00 for curb and sidewalk improvements and \$50,000.00 for the Façade Grant. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorization the execution of the agreement; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachulo thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and stated that it doesn't stop here tonight and that this is what we want to do with the Workshop Meetings. Bring different groups together and continue the avenues of discussion. Mr. Hoffa thanked Mr. Ludgate for the presentation and stated that he has more of an understanding of what is going on.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. White
Asst. Borough Secretary