

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was opened on Thursday, February 1, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall, by President Lawrence Schmidt. After the Pledge to the Flag, Regina Shade called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Lawrence Schmidt
James Zerr
George Butkus
Bruce Light
Barbara Kutz
Stewart Wenrich
Dennis Leiby

Other officials present were: Mayor Clarence Noecker; Charles Fitzpatrick, Borough Solicitor; Regina Shade, Borough Secretary/Treasurer; who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

Others present were: Robert Ludgate, Jr., Ludgate Engineering, David Schlott, Jr., ARRO Consulting, Michael Hart, Public Works Director, and Police Chief William Ulrich.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Schmidt requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2007 and January 10, 2007 meetings. Mr. Butkus had an issue with the January 10, 2007 minutes. He feels they are too vague as they don't even state what areas of Penn Avenue we were talking about. Mr. Schmidt asked if anyone else had an issue with that. There was no response. Mr. Butkus continue to say that the description is too vague. Mr. Schmidt explained that the meeting was for Enviroscan study results. As Mr. Schmidt was talking Mr. Butkus stated it was also for the Penn Avenue plan for possible development. Mr. Fitzpatrick questioned if there was anything in writing. Mr. Ludgate stated no it was very informal and his father did the presentation with the plan. Mr. Ludgate stated he could put together some type of written description to place with the minutes. Mr. Light said that this was going to be brought up again at a future date. Mr. Schmidt stated that was true and we were going to be discussing it further at the March meeting. Mr. Light stated Mr. Ludgate brought it along just for us to view as we were planning to have the Enviroscan meeting. Mr. Butkus understood that but it was information that was at a public meeting. Mr. Butkus feels if the minutes are going to be that vague why even have them. Mr. Schmidt requested that Mr. Ludgate put something together to attach to our minutes. This will be presented at our March meeting. Mr. Wenrich made a motion to approve the January 4, 2007 meeting; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Marvin Coldren wanted to know why the minutes have not been updated to the website. Mr. Schmidt deferred to Mrs. Shade however he stated that they have been trying to upload them. Mrs. Shade deferred to Mr. Butkus. Mr. Butkus said the website was set up several years ago. The company that hosted the site has moved the site or the hardware that is controlling the site. We can't upload to it at the current time. We are looking into having the County host a site. It is a technical difficulty not on our part. Mrs. Shade stated there is a meeting set up at the Reading Library which Ms. White will be attending on setting up the website.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Mr. Light made a motion to pay all the bills; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

VISITORS:

There were no visitors.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Schmidt stated it has been not only been this Council's policy but others as well, if a letter is not signed it will not be read. He continued if you want to write a letter that is fine; however if a letter is to be read it must be signed.

Mr. Zerr requested that Mrs. Shade read a letter. It has no reflection on the Borough, but he felt the letter should be read. It is part of the "Right to Know Act". Mrs. Shade read the letter from Mr. James Zerr to the Municipal Authority of Sinking Spring requesting the exact capacity used and the capacity still available up to the date of January 29, 2007.

The second letter was read from Mrs. Deborah Franck of the Library Board. They thanked Mr. Light for his efforts on behalf of the Library.

MILLER ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:

Mr. Roger Hillbush of Miller Environmental gave the monthly report for January, 2007. The December 2006 DMR was completed and sent to PA DEP during the month. There were no violations. The bio augmentation trial began March 1, 2006. The December 2006 report was sent to the PA DEP along with the DMR. Completed data entry and billing for the fourth quarter FOG testing. They met with the Sinking Spring Fire Company trustees regarding the IPP Program. Along with ARRO Consulting inspections were completed at Mass Industrial Controls regarding permitting. It was determined no permit is required. The Industrial Discharge Permit 8-2005 was issued to F.M. Brown and Son, Inc. during the month. Completed data entry and billing for the second set of industrial samples. They began compiling data for the EPA and DEP annual sludge reports. They began compiling data for the 2006 Chapter 94 Report. There was an NPDES compliance inspection by a PA DEP during the month of December. No violations were noted, samples were collected for analysis, the results showed no violations. The County Emergency Management Plan was updated and certified during the month. The following is the wastewater flow data for the month - total monthly flow – 24,453,000 gallons, average daily flow – 788,800 gallons, maximum daily flow – 1,040,900 gallons, minimum daily flow – 595,700 gallons. There were no NPDES violations for the month. The following percentages are each municipalities contribution to the total flow – Sinking Spring – 74.0% (includes an un-metered portion of Spring Township), Lower Heidelberg – 18.1%, and South Heidelberg – 7.9%. The total rainfall for the month was 2.20 inches. The Miller staff completed the routine operation and maintenance duties, responded to ten (10) PA One calls. There were two (2) service calls. One (1) service call was 119 Oberline Avenue where roots were removed from the lateral. There was a blockage between the house and the trap. The second service call was at 83 Mull Avenue. The vent and clean was buried, no clog was found.

MILLER ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT(cont'd):

The staff read the collection system flow meters six (6) times during the month. Enclor was in during month to replace the header valves on the chlorine system. Enclor was in a second time during the month to replace the sensor on the chlorine gas detector in the chlorine room. The staff, ARRO Consulting and the Borough Council sewer committee toured the plant during the month regarding the proposed upgrade. The staff checked the collection system bio augmentation meters. The staff completed the painting of various pieces of equipment during the month.

SEWER ENGINEER REPORT – DAVID SCHLOTT, JR.:

Mr. Schlott stated that when the committee toured the plant the Sewer Authority Chairman (Mr. Francis Butkus) was also present. Major maintenance items were discussed as part of the Authority's proposed upgrade. ARRO will be working with Miller Environmental in the preparation of the Chapter 94 Report.

Another topic came up with the proposed upgrade to the plant. ARRO believes with some of the major maintenance projects the Borough might be involved in if the upgrade takes place; they feel it would be wise to do a rate study. There are a lot of capital projects in the upcoming ten (10) years. Mr. Schlott stated to do a complete rate study; the cost should not exceed \$10,000.00. Mr. Schlott does feel it should be done. Mr. Butkus had an article stating why we should do the rate study now; he was willing to share it with Council and the public as well. Mr. Schmidt questioned Mr. Francis Butkus about something that was stated in the Authority's last audit report. Mr. Francis Butkus stated that this was correct. The Borough should have a maintenance fund set aside with so much money in it for maintenance to the plant. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that there is no specific amount stated that must be set aside. There is a provision in the lease agreement between the Borough and the Authority that the Borough will set aside in an operation reserve account which will be equal to fifty percent (50%) of the annual operating expenses. If there was a surplus in the operation of the system beyond that amount then that fund will be put into a maintenance reserve fund. There is no specific dollar amount set aside. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize ARRO Consulting to do a rate study; seconded by Mr. Leiby. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICES:**SEWER AND SANITATION – GEORGE BUTKUS:**

Mr. Butkus stated the committee did tour the plant. They did discuss Miller's request for a fourth (4th) person. Mr. Butkus believed it was unanimous that a full time fourth person is needed. Mr. Butkus explained why he felt it would be necessary. It will cost \$4,706.00 a month. Mr. Schmidt stated this would be an increase to the contract per month. It would probably begin April 1, 2007. Mr. Butkus made a motion to hire a fourth (4th) Miller Environmental person at the plant at an additional monthly cost of \$4,706.00; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Mr. Zerr questioned Mr. Butkus if this was in the budget. Mr. Butkus stated currently it is not but it is one (1) of those things we need. Mr. Butkus explained why he felt it was needed and why now would be a good time to add the person. Mr. Zerr stated we sat through three (3) budget meetings and that was known about but nothing was brought up. Nothing was said. Mr. Zerr stated he does not understand this process. Mr. Butkus thought we got the letter very late in December. Mr. Zerr stated the first time that it was

SEWER AND SANITATION – GEORGE BUTKUS(cont'd):

mentioned was in November. Mr. Butkus stated it was mentioned but we had no numbers for it. Mr. Zerr feels if the committee was doing its job we had time to take care of it. Mr. Butkus reminded Mr. Zerr there was a previous committee looking into this. Mr. Zerr stated the current committee should have picked up on it. Mr. Zerr questioned if that was not correct. Mr. Butkus stated given perfect timing that is correct. Mr. Schmidt requested a roll call vote. AYES – 4 (Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Butkus, Mrs. Kutz, Mr. Leiby), NAYS – 3 (Mr. Zerr, Mr. Light, Mr. Wenrich); motion carried. Mr. Schmidt stated that in the future we will not be able to work like this. We need to plan for these types of things. We can't keep having these types of "budget busters." He continued the only reason he voted for this was that Miller Environmental feels that we should have another person at the plant as well.

POLICE CHIEF – WILLIAM ULRICH:

He had nothing to report at this time.

LIBRARY - DENNIS LEIBY:

Mr. Leiby stated the Library Board questioned if they have the right to move their money around without Council's approval because it was their money. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated no. It is part of the Borough. It is not independent like the municipal authority. The Library is part of the Borough and the Borough must authorize the movement of the money. Mr. Leiby said they want to move the money for better interest. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Leiby made a motion to move \$50,000.00 or whatever the librarian wants moved; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Leiby made a motion to appoint Georgieanna Jones to the Library Board; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

The Friends of the Library would like to replace the sign in the front of the building at their expense. Bright Signs have been contacted, Mr. Michael Hart stated. They will be designing the sign and getting back to him with a cost. Mr. Fitzpatrick said the Borough will need to grant them permission as it is an asset of the Borough. Mr. Leiby made a motion to allow the Friends of the Library to place a sign at the front of the building; seconded by Mr. Wenrich. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

They will be doing passports at intervals of fifteen minutes instead of every half hour due to the fact the demand is increasing. An appointment is still needed. They will also have passes for the Reading Museum.

The last item was the carpeting. Mr. Schmidt turned the floor over to Mr. Ludgate. The panelized form of carpeting that the Department of General Services said we could obtain on "piggyback" is no longer valid. They have bid it again, and should have a new contract to look at. They have not seen a spec yet. As soon as we can obtain the spec Mr. Ludgate will see that Council receives a copy of it. Mr. Ludgate feels this is the way to go. He does have other quotes. Last year's spec was very compatible to the public quotes we received.

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE – BRUCE LIGHT:

Mr. Light has received the three (3) bids for the awning in the back. Schwoyer was \$4,749.42, Lengle was \$4,182.00, and Brown was just about \$10,000.00. Mr. Light made a motion to go with Todd Lengle at a cost of \$4,182.00 for the awning over the back steps; seconded by Mr. Zerr. AYES – 6, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus); motion carried.

The next item was the five (5) year equipment schedule. This schedule is when we should look at replacing some of our equipment. Mr. Schmidt stated this is the first time we have ever had a five (5) year plan. This shows exactly how much money we will need to replace these items. Under new business you will see a street sweeper. According to Mr. Hart's plan we should be looking at replacing this piece of equipment in 2008. This is through a state contract, Mr. Schmidt said. There are due to be some major changes in some environmental controls next year. Mr. Hart explained the advantages of purchasing the street sweeper this year over next. A discussion ensued regarding the environmental issues and the cost increases because of these new requirements. Mr. Schmidt questioned how long the dealer will hold this for us. Mr. Hart believes Tymco has the fleet and they have some. Mr. Light questioned if we could table this till the next meeting. Mr. Hart said we still will have time. Mr. Hart will check with some other dealers. We have had our current street sweeper for twenty nine (29) years. The normal life of a sweeper is seven (7) years. Mr. Harting stated how can we pay for this, it wasn't in the budget? Mr. Schmidt said this has been a problem which caused some a real issue. Some other things would have to be cut out or postponed to another year. He continued the only reason they are thinking about doing it this year is because of the emission changes in 2008 and the prices will be at least \$15,000 to \$20,000 more next year. Mr. Biggs feels one of these days something on that sweeper is going to break and we won't be able to repair it because the parts don't exist anymore. Budget or not, if we end up without a street sweeper, we will be in trouble, Mr. Biggs said. Mr. Hart stated the five (5) year plan is just in its very rough draft form. Our air compressor is 44 years old, the little roller for black topping is 34 years old, and some of this stuff is quite old. A brief discussion ensued as to what he would like to see purchased over the next five (5) years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

An executive session was called for by Mr. Light for a personnel issue at 8:25 p.m.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Light made a motion that two (2) Borough employees each be given a day off without pay; seconded by Mr. Wenrich. Mr. Schmidt called for a roll call vote. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSTENTION – 1 (Mr. Zerr); motion carried.

RECREATION – BARBARA KUTZ:

Mrs. Kutz stated she attended her first recreation committee meeting and found it very interesting. We have many parades ahead of us. The first parade was the West Reading parade. They opted not to attend the March 17th parade due to the fact that it was a holiday and it might be cold. There is a parade in Mohnton for their 100th anniversary on September 29th. They are considering this parade. We were invited to the County Armed Forces Day Parade on May 19th.

RECREATION – BARBARA KUTZ:

We will also be marching in the Memorial Day Parade for the VFW. Mrs. Kutz stated it will be May 31st. Mrs. Sandi Karli and Mrs. Kutz will be meeting the following week with the VFW regarding the carnival after the parade. Mrs. Karli stated that the parade will be May 28th not the 31st.

Rick Snyder of Riley Outdoor Décor attended the rec board meeting. Mr. Hart was also there regarding Christmas Lights. The rec board would like to see at least 14 of the poles that have electric have new decorations next year. If we purchase decorations by the end of February, it is buy two (2) get one (1) free or a third off. The price will be about \$220 per ornament. Basically, we are looking at several. They opted for the snowflake design. They have Christmas Trees but that is just for the Christmas season. The snowflakes could be used for the entire winter season. The rec board would like to know if Council would contribute any money to them. They need to know by the end of the month. In addition, they will have these lights on hand for many years to come. We have an option to buy the LED lights, but they are more expensive. The regular light bulbs are .20 a bulb. The LED lights are \$1.50. The life span on the LED is a lifetime though, Mr. Schmidt said. Mrs. Kutz stated her suggestion is to take them with what they have (she stated we must take them with what they come with), and replace them with the LED as needed. The LED lights are plastic. The wattage is a lot better, but why buy the LED lights right away when you are going to have the regular lights already. Mr. Schmidt asked if the base was the same. Mr. Hart stated they were. Mrs. Kutz stated you can't substitute they come with the regular lights. Mr. Schmidt did not know that you must buy them with the regular bulbs, he thought we could "upgrade" now. Mrs. Kutz said it is a new thing and over time the price for them will be coming down. It is \$220 per snowflake and we have 14 poles, Mrs. Kutz said. She continued that Mr. Hart was going to look into the other poles. We have about 56 poles in the Borough. At this time we are just thinking about the 14 poles with the electric already. Mrs. Shade stated the cost would be \$3,080.00. Someone stated that Wernersville also has snowflakes and that maybe we could use something else to set us apart. Mr. Wenrich stated it is very generic. Mr. Butkus said using the snowflakes would prevent us from favoring one (1) holiday over another. Mrs. Karli stated the old bulbs will give us about 3,000 hours; the newer bulbs will give us 100,000. Mrs. Karli said that Mrs. Kutz suggested that we take the snowflakes with the regular bulbs and as they wear out we replace them with the new bulbs. The price for the new bulbs will come down over time. In four years if we buy 14 snowflakes a year we will have done the entire Borough, Mr. Schmidt said. Mrs. Kutz made a motion to buy 14 snowflakes with a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years; seconded by Mr. Light. Mr. Schmidt asked for a roll call vote. AYES – 6, NAYS -1 (Mr. Butkus); motion carried. Mr. Light questioned about the banners for across the street. Mrs. Kutz stated we never finished up on them. Mrs. Karli stated she thought we did get prices. Mrs. Karli explained what the rec board would like to put them across the street at some point in the future. It would be "garland like" with snowflakes on them. Mrs. Karli said she did not know what Council wanted; should they buy the garland this year or maybe wait till some time in the future. Mr. Schmidt said we could get the lights but hold off on the banners as we already have banners.

Mrs. Kutz stated the Easter Egg Hunt is March 31, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY – JAMES ZERR:

Mr. Zerr said that the police department responded to 184 calls. They gave out 9 citations. Mr. Zerr stated the different type courses that the police officers attended during the month. There was a brief discussion about the egg throwing problem that occurred in both the Borough and in Spring Township.

Every year the fire department submits a list of drivers to our insurance carriers. It came back that one (1) driver should not be driving. That matter is currently being addressed.

The fire company responded to 23 fire calls or incidents in January. Three (3) were in the Borough, two (2) carbon monoxide calls and an accident with injuries on Columbia Avenue. They responded to four (4) working structure fires.

The Route 422 Corridor Project committee met. The topic of discussion was obtaining the contract and bid for putting in the preemptors, and the transponders in the police cars. All of the municipalities involved have accepted it. It is in our budget.

The task force is meeting on a monthly basis in regards to the fire companies.

The safety committee and the fire department officers will be meeting on February 13, 2007.

MAYOR NOECKER:

Mayor Noecker had nothing at this time.

ADMINISTRATION – STEWART WENRICH:

Mr. Wenrich stated earlier in the month the admin committee had met and have been going over quite a bit of information. He thanked Mr. Zerr and Mr. Light for their help as he has just started a new job.

Mr. Wenrich reported that our PENNDOT reports have been completed and filed for the grant money. The quarterly sewer billing was sent out. The DCED reports were completed and sent in. The W-2's have been distributed. The payroll information that was requested by a citizen was completed and turned over without the use of temporary help. We will be starting with a new payroll company beginning the first pay of February. We had many problems with our prior payroll company. The PURTA reports have been completed and sent it. The recycling and grant information was completed and filed. The office staff has been diligently working with the auditors over the last two (2) days. Our audit was complete and from what Mr. Wenrich heard from our auditors we "nailed" it. Mr. Schmidt was happy to hear that. We will get this in writing. In addition, there about 10 (ten) other miscellaneous reports that needed to be done and mailed in and they have been completed. The office staff is working with the county to get the website up and running.

Mr. Wenrich thanked Mr. Zerr, Mr. Light, the admin staff, and Mr. Hart for the jobs they are doing.

ADMINISTRATION – STEWART WENRICH (cont'd):

Mr. Schmidt asked Mr. Wenrich if he would like to review the information about the secretarial position. Mr. Wenrich said it still is the committee. A job description has been created. Regina, Betsy, and Mike have compiled one. This position is not just for the front office. The person will also be utilized by Mr. Hart as well. Mr. Zerr stated that he and Mr. Light have reviewed it and are happy with it. Mr. Light stated the questions now are the rate of pay and the hours that the person will be working. In addition, when do we want to start advertising, Mr. Light asked? A brief discussion ensued as to whether we want a full time or part time person. Mr. Zerr stated we will defer this to the next meeting.

BOROUGH ENGINEER – ROBERT LUDGATE, JR.

Mr. Ludgate stated they are working on making meetings relative to the presentation by Bob Ludgate, Sr. on the January 10, 2007 meeting. The attorney for Boscov's will be calling Mr. Ludgate back the following day regarding their site. They will be meeting the following week with the PENNDOT project manager for the Rt. 422 study to show them the plan.

The proposed change to the zoning ordinance hearing has been continued till February 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Ludgate apologized he was sick for the last hearing.

Mr. Schmidt asked Mr. Zerr if he heard anymore about the box at the intersection. Mr. Zerr stated Mr. Ludgate told him that the parts are still on backorder. The backorder is about six (6) to eight (8) weeks out. They will also be talking to the PENNDOT project manager about this. Mr. Schmidt explained to the audience what they were talking about. There is some thought that Manyunk in Philadelphia might have one.

Mrs. Kutz had a question regarding the work that is currently being done in the Borough. They use to work at night, now they are working during the day why? Mr. Zerr stated that PENNDOT pulled their permit to work at night so now they must work throughout the day only. They were not following the PENNDOT rules so they pulled their permit. Mr. Coldren was wondering what they were doing. Mr. Ludgate stated they are laying water line.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Schmidt stated under old business the first item was the secretarial position which was talked about prior.

Mr. Schmidt said the second item was the amendment to the zoning ordinance which was also discussed prior. It will continue on Tuesday, February 20, 2007.

NEW BUSINESS:

The first item under new business was the street sweeper which we had discussed already.

There will be no workshop this month as the fourth Wednesday is the day before the first Thursday.

NEW BUISNESS (cont'd):

Spring cleanup is April 25, 2007.

The payroll service was discussed prior.

The last item was the mail sorter. He turned the floor over to Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart said he received a letter from Jim Buckman. He was contacted by Mr. John Printz. We have a mail sorter and he is requesting if he could have it. We don't use it. Mr. Butkus made a motion to give the mail sorter to Mr. Buckman; seconded by Mr. Leiby. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MICHAEL HART:

Mr. Hart stated with the five (5) year plan, he does not have a street plan yet. He explained what will be in the street plan. It will be a broadband piece of information.

He received a letter from IPS. They do the inspections of playgrounds. Mr. Hart questioned if we want them to inspect our playground at a cost of \$425. A brief discussion ensued to this topic. It is a safety inspection. PIRMA inspects what is around the equipment. This company will actually inspect the equipment. We did this last year. Mr. Wenrich made a motion to have IPS inspect the playground equipment; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

The next item had to do with the recycling drop off site. He was wondering whether we will be going in with Spring or are we going to continue our own site. Mr. Schmidt stated our site will be closing March 1, 2007. At that time the residents will be able to take their yard waste to Spring's site. Mr. Schmidt thought we made that motion prior. It is near their sewer plant. Mr. Zerr stated this site will be easier for some of the residents as they won't need to reach to empty their bags. They will be able to drive right in and drop off.

The next issue was the pole building. Things are tight at the garage. He would like to move forward with this. He explained where we store equipment. We are always in motion trying to locate it. Mr. Schmidt does want to get a garage, but if we have to get a sweeper, he feels that we might not be able to get the garage right now. Mr. Wenrich stated it is on the five (5) year plan. We might be able to look at it in 2008. Mr. Butkus thought we should hold off on this till we find out where we will be going with the street sweeper. Mr. Schmidt agreed.

Mr. Hart said he has the road crew working very hard on cleaning out the basement. We have six (6) pieces of old lawn equipment that he would like to advertise for sale. Mr. Light thanked them for a job well done. Mr. Zerr made a motion to have Mr. Hart advertise to sell the equipment; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Mrs. Karli stated that Mrs. Gina Knorr will be doing our newsletter again. She is no longer on the rec committee due to time restraints; however she will be doing the newsletter. She will be e-mailing all the departments if she hasn't already. They would like to get the newsletter out by March 12, 2007. They will be putting a flyer in there for the summer playground program. Mr. Butkus stated that Mr. Hillibush showed the sewer committee a little leaflet we could get from the

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (cont'd):

State showing what residents can and can't put down their sewers. Mr. Schmidt stated we had them last year already. Mr. Butkus recommended that we get some of these and put them in with the newsletter. Mr. Hillibush explained what they are. Mr. Schmidt questioned Mr. Butkus if he did anymore work about an open house for the sewer. Mr. Butkus said commercial and industrial open house is June 21st with a rain date of the 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residential open house will be June 23rd with a rain date of June 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Mr. Ludgte stated that Council should consider mailing with the newsletter information about what not to flush down the stormsewer as well. This is required by the NPDES Phase II. We can get pamphlets. Mrs. Karli questioned if someone will be able to get Mrs. Knorr those documents. Mr. Ludgate stated they could. Mrs. Karli wondered about the printing. She stated that the printer prints up the newsletter and mails it out. She was not sure if they would be able to mail out something they did not print. Mr. Schmidt stated probably not. They would charge us for that. Mr. Schmidt stated maybe we could get the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts to deliver them instead of incurring additional costs. Mr. Hart had the idea of letting the printing company print it up and make it part of the newsletter. Mr. Wenrich stated that would make a real thick fat newsletter. Mrs. Shade stated that we were also looking into trying to add a calendar to the newsletter that had the trash and recycling dates highlighted on it. This plus these pamphlets could really bump up the cost of the newsletter.

Mrs. Virginia Bross of Vester Place addressed Council about her curbing. Her street is scheduled to be repaved in April. She received a letter. Part of what was marked had her "baffled" so she called and spoke with Mr. Hart. He came out and showed her where there was a hair line crack. There were seams. Mrs. Bross disagreed with some of the curbing that was marked and she agreed some did need to be repaired. She feels that the Grande property across the street needs repair as well. Some of those were not marked. She feels she did not get a satisfactory answer. She stated it is a financial burden to repair 46 feet of curb. She wanted to know what recourse she has. Mr. Hart explained the difference between her curbing and Grande's. He feels that her curbing will fail, maybe not this year, maybe in thirty (30) years. There was a crack that he did miss on the Grande property and that will be marked for repair. The other cracks she is referring to are the cracks between the seams. Mrs. Bross stated that was not correct. She has photos. Mr. Schmidt suggested that Mr. Hart and Mr. Ludgate go back out and look at the street. Mrs. Bross was fine with that. Mr. Bross stated when it breaks open then they will replace it. Mr. Ludgate stated if it breaks after the street is replaced there is no way of repairing it without cutting the street. Mr. Ludgate said that we want the curbing repaired before the road is done because every time you cut the road you weaken it. The first time we cut into it we are shortening the life of the road. We have a penalty that we charge any utilities that change their lines after we redo a road. We call them and let them know we are planning on redoing a road and if they want to relay pipes or wires now is the time to do it. If you don't repair it and it pops next year, you will be subject to the same fine as a utility. Mrs. Bross wondered if Council ever considered contracting with one (1) contractor to do all the curbing work. They could go to one (1) contractor and have him do all the repairs as opposed to having sixteen (16) different ones. Mr. Ludgate stated it would generate a cheaper rate. Mr. Hart stated that there was one (1) gentleman that was going to do that. Mr. Hart stated he did not follow up. He thought if the residents did not repair their own curbing we would just roll the cost of the curbing into the paving contract and then bill the residents for the work done. Mr. Ludgate stated we could throw it into the paving contract and then bill them. We did have a bad experience with that in the pass though. Spring and Cumru Townships bid this way. Mr. Fitzpatrick wondered if it

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (cont'd):

would it be better for us to coordinate with the residents rather than us going out to bid for the project. We would not be the party that did the contracting but we could set up a meeting with the contractor. Mr. Ludgate questioned if we could be setting ourselves up to get in "trouble" with other contractors. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated we would not be contracting. Mr. Ludgate stated they never tell anyone who to use. Mr. Biggs wondered what we do for the senior citizen that is on a fixed income and can't afford to pay for it. Mr. Schmidt stated it is a sad situation. The curb is the responsibility of the homeowner. Mr. Schmidt does not know what we can do. A brief discussion ensued as to the bidding of the project and prevailing wages. Mr. Fitzpatrick does not feel if we just coordinate the residents and hook them up with a contractor then we should not have any problems. Mrs. Bross wanted to have parking on both sides of the street. It used to be that way. She did realize that there was a problem for fire trucks turning. Mr. Zerr stated that is exactly why there is only parking on one (1) side of the street. Mr. Zerr explained why it would not work having parking on both sides of the street. A discussion ensued. It is a problem on any street in the Borough that has parking on both sides of the street. Mrs. Bross stated that if there is a valid reason that this is fine. When Grande did his plan the plan showed more parking than he needed. If his tenants choose to park on the street we can't do anything about that. It is a public street. Mr. Biggs questioned if the street could handle four (4) cars wide. The answer was no. Mr. Biggs stated then it can't have parking on both sides. She thanked Council.

Mr. Biggs questioned when trash comes up, the new contract. Mr. Butkus stated 2008. Mr. Biggs stated the current firm we have now does an outstanding job. They place the cans back on the sidewalk and if it is raining, they even turn the cans upside down so the rain does not collect in them. They are polite and nice. Mrs. Kutz agreed.

Mr. Ken Harting wanted to know the solution to the dry hydrant we had been discussing the prior month. We were going to figure out who owns the hydrants. Mr. Hart stated it is in PA American's legal hands and they will not give us any answer. Mr. Harting feels we are placing a dry hydrant in a place where we don't need one (1). A discussion ensued again about who owns the hydrants. Mr. Harting understands the Spring Township has a hydrant tax. It was agreed they do have one (1). Mr. Harting stated doesn't that mean the PAWC says they own the hydrants. Mr. Ludgate said he doesn't know that, all he knows is that he pays the tax. Mr. Schmidt said we aren't talking at all about a hydrant tax. Mr. Harting stated well if start putting in the hydrants then we have to pay for them. Mr. Harting said that if it comes down to dollars and cents we could institute a fire tax. Mr. Schmidt stated he believed we could. Mr. Ludgate stated that Spring Township uses that money to replace hydrants if there is a project and the Township feels the hydrant or hydrants need to be replaced and PAWC doesn't, that is what they use the tax money for. That does not answer the question of who owns them though.

Mr. Schmidt handed out a paper regarding the tax collector's report. It shows what we have collected over the last few years and what is anticipated this year. In 2002 our assessed value was \$154,474,700.00 dollars. Our millage was 2.19 mils and we collected \$338,300.62. In 2006, our assessed value was \$193,515,900.00. Our millage was 3.19 mills and we collected \$617,316.70. We had residents of 2950. We collected \$14,750.00 in per capita tax and \$96,757.95 in fire tax. Our assessed value for 2007 is \$200,057,800.00. At 3.19 mills this will generate \$638,185.33. The fire tax should generate \$130,041.18. We should collect about \$14,800.00 in per capita. The EMST should be about \$125,000.00. This number could change as it is based on the number of

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (cont'd):

people the Borough has working in its businesses. Twenty Three (23) properties went to the tax claim bureau at the end of 2006. Mr. Coldren questioned how many residents are in the Borough. Mr. Schmidt stated we don't know that yet. Mr. Leiby questioned why the trash figures have dropped over the last year. Mrs. Shade stated that was because she (tax collector) only bills for commercial, the residential is being billed on the sewer billing. Mr. Leiby said that answered his question.

TREASURER'S REPORT:General Account

Opening Balance – January 31, 2007		\$	305,735.18
PLGIT			8,375.29
Invest	Recreation		44,424.91
	General Invest		13,233.38
	To Be Paid	\$	<u>8,549.81</u>
		\$	363,218.95

Sewer Account

Opening Balance – January 31, 2007		\$	447,438.23
PLGIT			56,387.43
Invest	Sewer Revenue		107,631.01
	To Be Paid	\$	<u>280.00</u>
		\$	611,176.67

Motion made by Mr. Wenrich to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Light; AYES -7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Light made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina M. Shade
Borough Secretary/Treasurer