

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall, by Vice President Bruce Light. After the Pledge to the Flag, Regina Shade called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Stewart Wenrich (Absent)
Bruce Light
Lawrence Schmidt
James Zerr (Absent)
George Butkus
Barbara Kutz
Elizabeth Sloan

Other officials present were: Mayor Clarence Noecker; Charles Fitzpatrick Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate, Sr., Ludgate Engineering; David Schlott, ARRO Consulting, Michael Hart, Public Works Director, James Oxenreider, Chief of Police, and Regina Shade who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

Mr. Light requested a moment of silence in honor of our men and women in the armed forces as well as police officers and fire departments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Light called for an executive session for a personal matter at 7:02 p.m.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

Mr. Butkus made a motion to terminate Ms. Jessica Klee as of August 7, 2009; seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Light asked for a voice roll call vote. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2 (Mr. Wenrich and Mr. Zerr); motion carried.

VISITORS:

There were no visitors.

COMMITTEES/BUSINESS:

Chief Oxenreider stated that Officer Matthew Yatsko has put in his two (2) years of service and is entitled to move to Officer Class One Patrolman effective August 28th. Mr. Butkus made a motion to promote Officer Matthew Yatsko to Officer Class One Patrolman which includes a pay raise as stated in the contract; seconded by Mr. Schmidt. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2; motion carried. Chief Oxenreider had requested earlier to leave and Mr. Light granted his request.

BUSINESS (cont'd):

Ms. Sloan stated that funding is being cut for the libraries. She had given Mrs. Shade a copy of a letter for distribution at the next regular Council meeting. The next item was the Western Berks Fire Department. They expect to have a Fire Commissioner hired by January 1, 2010; they are interviewing now for this position. She received the meeting minutes and will see that Council receives them for the next meeting. Ms. Shade stated she believes that the other Trustee, Mrs. Deb Bohn, has made copies of the minutes and has distributed them to Council already.

Mr. Butkus said he received a phone call from Mr. Peter Juzyk at the sewer plant in regards to the tank for the jet trailer that they use to flush the lines. It was buckling to the point where it is displacing the belt guard. He received three (3) quotes for the repairs. The lowest quote he received is just under \$9,000.00. Mr. Juzyk questioned Mr. Butkus if Council will give approval of not to exceed \$9000.00 to repair the jet trailer. In addition, this includes some other maintenance they wanted to do on the jet trailer. Mr. Butkus just received the quotes that evening. He continued with the amount of use that trailer receives he feels it is necessary. Mr. Light questioned if Mr. Schmidt was aware of this as he is also on the committee. Mr. Schmidt stated he was. He is a little bit concerned about spending more money lately but he has come to learn this is a safety issue. Mr. Schmidt stated he told Mr. Juzyk reluctantly if this came up he would vote for it due to the concern for safety. Mr. Schmidt stated his first priority is always safety. Mr. Butkus said additionally by doing this it will extend the life of this piece of equipment. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mr. Juzyk or Miller Environmental to have the repairs done to the flusher truck as per his quotes not to exceed the \$9,000.00 mark; seconded by Mr. Schmidt. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2; motion carried. Mr. Butkus stated this amount was included in the budget numbers this year for the plant. Mr. Butkus questioned Mr. Fitzpatrick if we got anywhere with the lease to which Mr. Fitzpatrick stated we had not. Work is progressing out at the plant. Mr. Schmidt heard the inspector from ARRO has requested Wickersham to put another crew in there to work on the reed beds. Mr. Schlott was not aware of this. Mr. Schmidt feels it is a great idea. Mr. Schmidt heard that Wickersham is considering this. Information is being collected on the SKATA.

Mr. Schlott stated the upgrade is moving along. Mr. Schlott will have an application for payment from at least Wickersham for the next Council meeting. It has been approved by the inspector and has been submitted to Mr. Schlott for his review.

Mr. Hart stated he wrote down for Council everything that has been done for this project. He said he went out there and did a field inspection of the concession stand where the last plan was to go. That building the way it stands now would not pass inspection much less putting additional load on that roof. It will fail. The last thing he heard was they were holding off on everything and nothing will be built. Ms. Sloan stated that Western Berks Task Force is complete. All buildings have been passed to the new entity. She was not sure if Mr. Zerr was aware of that. Mr. Hart stated that building is not owned by the new fire company. Ms. Sloan stated she did know that. Mrs. Shade stated all equipment has been moved into the new fire department's name. Mr. Fitzpatrick questioned if a lease has been prepared for the real estate. Ms. Sloan said yes. Ms. Sloan stated Mr. Michael Mixell and his firm did a great job. Mr. Hart stated the next issue was the capacitors at the sewer plant from the Four Leaf Energy Corporation. The only capacitors they are looking to do is on the 75 horse powered motors. Mr. Hart said right now it is being reviewed by ARRO to see if this will actually help us or hurt us. He is not really looking at doing anything at this point. He

BUSINESS (cont'd):

knows one (1) of the questions was about shutting down the plant. They won't have to do that but they just want to make sure it is safe to do that and not damage the motors. Mr. Schlott asked an individual of Four Leaf to contact the manufacturer of the motor. They were going to do that. They don't foresee any problems, but they just want to make sure of that. A brief discussion ensued. The next item was additional microphones and/or mixers for the Council room. Mr. Hart did get a price from Techicon to buy four (4) additional microphones (like the ones we currently have), and a mixer. This should accommodate everyone at that point. The price is just shy of \$1,600.00. If we want to we could bump up to a better quality mike with a bit of a wider band then what we currently have. The cost would make it almost \$4,400.00 for twelve (12) additional mikes and the mixer as we would still need the other mixer. Mr. Hart questioned Council which way they would like to go, or just table it. Mr. Schmidt questioned if we went to the four (4) mikes, would that give every Council person a mike. Mr. Hart said just about. Mr. Butkus suggested that perhaps before spending any more money, Council could sit up and pass the mikes if need be to try and make it easier for the people to hear. We can try this for a few meetings. Mr. Schmidt questioned if we need a mixer. Mr. Butkus stated if we want to add anymore microphones we will need another mixer. Mr. Light said perhaps we should table this for now. Mr. Schmidt agreed with Mr. Light that perhaps we can stick this in as a budget item for next year. We will just expand our current system.

Mr. Ludgate submitted a recommendation letter to Council from the Planning Commission which had made the evening before. This was the 43 Keller Avenue plan. Mr. Butkus questioned if we would run out of time if we held this off till our regular Council meeting. Mr. Ludgate feels we will be alright. Mr. Ludgate feels there is no urgency. Mr. Fitzpatrick said they are offering a ninety (90) day extension and perhaps we could grant them that. Mr. Butkus made a motion to accept the ninety (90) day extension for the 43 Keller Avenue project; seconded by Ms. Sloan. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2; motion carried. The Planning Commission is working on a revised draft of our Zoning Ordinance. They hope to have the draft to the Solicitor by the end of next month.

Bulk trash day will be Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

The flu shot clinic will be on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. More information will follow.

The next issue was the Holiday Open House. It was decided that our open house will occur on Wednesday, December 2nd. It has always been the first Wednesday in December. Mrs. Shade was wondering if Council so chooses would we like to see Santa arrive by fire truck as he has done in the past. If that is the case, we will need to discuss this with the Western Berks Fire Company as they now own all of the equipment. Ms. Sloan suggested a letter be written to Mr. John Muir requesting their help. Mr. Butkus made a motion setting December 2, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. for the tree lighting and to coordinate with Western Berks Fire Department on Santa's arrival here at the Borough Hall; seconded by Mr. Schmidt. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2; motion carried.

BUSINESS (cont'd):

The next item was the Friends of the Library book sale. Mrs. Shade explained they would like to have their book sale in the basement on October 15th, October 16th, and October 17th. We have done this in the past. Ms. Sloan made the motion to allow them to have their book sale here on October 15th, 16th, and 17th; seconded by Mr. Butkus (Mr. Butkus also wanted it mentioned that they are not to hold the Borough responsible for any flooding that might occur and damage the books as well as making sure they clean up after the book sale in a timely matter). AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2; motion carried. Mrs. Shade stated that they have had no problems lately with the book sale.

Mrs. Shade informed Council that she sent the information to Lower Heidelberg Township about the cost to do their sewer billing however as of yet she has heard nothing back from them. She will keep Council abreast of any further developments in this situation. Mr. Butkus said that it was mentioned that this cost could go into the General Fund however he wanted it mentioned that when the ink cartridges are replaced since that is a sewer printer that the sewer fund gets reimbursed for the purchasing of the cartridges.

The last item on the agenda was the Brookfield Manor dedication. Mr. Hart did get a hold of the property owner in regards to the sidewalk that should be installed. Mr. Hart talked to the lady via the telephone. She was not agreement to installing the sidewalk however she is not really grasping it. He drew a sketch of it to look at it along with her husband. He also gave them a letter to sign either agreeing or not agreeing to it however as of this date he has heard nothing back. He explained this would be at no cost to the homeowner however the repairs down the road will be up to them. This has nothing to do with dedication. Brookfield will pay up to \$5400 as they got a bid for that. Mr. Fitzpatrick sent a letter to Mr. Jim Elliott stating we are not limiting ourselves to a cost depending on the bids. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he believed the paperwork for the dedication of the streets must be submitted by September 1st for Liquid Fuels credit. If that is the case, we won't have time to get the Ordinance advertised. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he has done this in the past, if you call they are willing to extend it a bit. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked Mr. Hart to give Mr. Joe Kruetulski of PENNDOT a call to see. Then perhaps we could get together for a quick special meeting in September. We won't be able to make the regular meeting as that is next week and it must be advertised for seven (7) days. Mr. Hart will contact him. The Mayor questioned how much curbing needs to go in to which Mr. Hart said about 140 feet. This will finish the sidewalk and there will be no area without sidewalk. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Schmidt made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draw up the Ordinance taking dedication of the streets in Brookfield Manor subject to getting an extension from the State; seconded by Mr. Butkus. Mr. Butkus questioned if there was anything outstanding that would hinder taking dedication of those streets. Mr. Hart stated there is one (1) item and that is the sidewalk up on lot #11 which is at the top of the hill on Winding Brook. It is a sold lot however nothing has happened yet. Mr. Butkus stated they don't want to put the sidewalk in because the equipment will need to go over the top of the sidewalk. Mr. Hart said we told them they must put the sidewalk in. The only thing that was waived were the two (2) street trees for that parcel until the house is built. Mr. Fitzpatrick feels we can accept the street because the sidewalk will be subject to the improvements agreement. Mr. Butkus said how much teeth do we have to which Mr. Fitzpatrick said we still have the money. It is about 80 feet or so. We have enough money to cover that. Mr. Light asked for the vote. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2; motion carried.

BUSINESS (cont'd):

Mrs. Shade stated that Mrs. Stine questioned her on how long the no parking signs are going to stay up on Cacoosing Avenue since the project is almost complete. It is on the golf course side. Mr. Butkus questioned how we did it. It was not done by Ordinance Mrs. Shade thought. This will be tabled for that evening and an answer will be given at the September meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Jessica Klee thanked Council for hearing her out. She appreciated Council terminating her as she was extremely unhappy working here.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina M. Shade
Borough Secretary/Treasurer