

A workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was opened on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall, by President Lawrence S. Schmidt. After the Pledge to the Flag, Regina M. Shade called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Clarence Noecker, Mayor; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Robert Ludgate, Jr., Borough Engineer; Keith Mooney, Solicitor; Police Chief James Oxenreider, and Regina M Shade who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

VISITORS:

There were no visitors.

BUSINESS:

Bulk cleanup will take place on Wednesday, October 24, 2007.

The flu clinic will take place on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mr. Mooney stated that Mr. Fitzpatrick received a call from Ms. Pamela Hertz and her mother Lillian. At settlement \$1,600.00 was paid for the real estate transfer tax. The tax should not be collected between family members. Mr. Fitzpatrick checked with the State and it was true. Mr. Light made a motion to reimburse the \$1,600.00 back to the mother and daughter for the real estate transfer tax paid in error; seconded by Mr. Leiby. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

The next item was the non-uniformed Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2008 in the amount of \$34,486.00. Mr. Butkus pending the review of the Solicitor and Mrs. Shade made a motion to accept the amount of \$34, 486.00 for the non uniformed pension plan; seconded by Mr. Wenrich. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

A handicap parking space has been requested at 125 Elwyn Avenue. It was discussed at a Safety Committee meeting and it was agreed upon this space should be granted. Mr. Zerr made a motion to authorize a handicap parking space at 125 Elwyn Avenue; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

The next item was in regards to laptop computers. Mr. Zerr questioned Mr. Butkus if he had ordered the computers back at the sewer plant. Mr. Butkus stated at this time no, but he was meeting with Mr. Pete Muhlenberg of Lynx on Friday. Mr. Zerr believed they were looking at a laptop in addition to two (2) stand alone type computers. The two (2) laptop computers will be for Mr. Hart to

BUSINESS (cont'd):

use in regards to code violations, and Mrs. Shade to use for the Main Street Project. After a brief discussion, Mr. Wenrich made a motion to purchase three (3) laptop computers (notebooks) along with two stand alone computers under the State contract at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.00, two (2) for the office and one (1) for the sewer plant; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried. Mr. Schmidt stated the under \$10,000.00 includes the two (2) desktop computers also. Mr. Butkus will be meeting with Mr. Muhlenberg from Lynx at the sewer plant the upcoming Friday.

KEITH MOONEY – SOLICITOR:

Mr. Mooney had the Ordinance for the purchase of bulk sewage for the area known as “Sinking Spring Terrace.” This area is not only in the Borough but in Spring Township as well. Spring Township has adopted the Ordinance and now we need to as well. Mr. Fitzpatrick’s recommendation is that we act on this. There is also an agreement that would need to be signed as well with Spring Township. Mr. Schmidt questioned if anyone wanted to discuss this further. Mr. Butkus asked if any changes had been made since they originally saw it. The answer was no. Mr. Light made a motion to accept the Ordinance and to sign the agreement; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

The next issue was the new EMS tax. Mr. Mooney stated we don’t currently have the Ordinance ready for adoption but he would answer any questions. He hopes to have it for the October 4, 2007 Council meeting. The Emergency Municipal Services Tax, which use to be the Occupational Privilege Tax, which was \$10.00, has changed to the Local Services Tax. The EMS tax was \$52.00 and was taken out of an employee’s pay in one lump sum. The Local Services Tax is still \$52.00; however it will come out \$1.00 a week per employee and paid on a quarterly basis. Mr. Mooney explained that he and Mrs. Shade discussed this and the amount of money we collect will drop substantially. We pay \$5.00 per person to the Wilson School District and in 2008 we will only be receiving three (3) quarters of payments. The last quarter will end 12/31/07 and they will have thirty (30) days to pay the amount collected. That means the money will only be due on 1/31/08. Wilson should get their money the same as we get ours, quarterly. There is another stipulation as well. Twenty five (25) percent of the money must be spent on emergency services. Mrs. Shade stated we will be going from about \$130,000.00 to \$47,000.00.

The noise ordinance is tabled.

ROBERT LUDGATE, JR - BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Mr. Ludgate wanted to clear up a few items. The Paulo Brutto subdivision has gone to construction. The E&S controls are in place now. Some of the fabric fence is in the alley. It is only temporary. Mr. Butkus stated it has to be there cause that is the way the water runs. Mr. Ludgate has met with Mr. John Printz regarding his concern about construction exceeding the scope of the plans. Mr. Ludgate explained the plans call for the fabric fence. He explained once the site is 70% stabilized, they will pull it out. Nothing permanent will be placed in the grass ally.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart stated he only received one (1) bid for the street sweeper. The bid was from Grande and the amount was \$1,000.00. Mr. Wenrich made a motion to sell the street sweeper to Grande Construction at a cost of \$1,000.00; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried. The sweeper does run however it would need major work to pass inspection.

The only other piece of news was that the CDBG money Mr. Hart had applied for, for Park Avenue has been declined. We exceeded the low income status. The waterline project will not be happening anyway. Mr. Zerr was wondering if it was too late to apply for the money for another area. Mr. Hart said yes for this year. There is a deadline.

GEORGE BUTKUS:

Mr. Butkus stated Mr. Lew Christy will be the new Project Manager once they hire a supervisor at the sewer plant. Mr. Hillibush is willing to help them as needed. Mr. Schmidt questioned if they have replaced Mr. Todd Becker. Mr. Butkus did not think so as of that point in time. Mr. Becker left and went to the City of Reading as well.

STEWART WENRICH:

He had no report.

MAYOR NOECKER:

The Mayor reported that Officer Matt Yatsko will go to full time status the first week of October. That means he will be on his own. In addition, Officer Yatsko had a minor accident with the police vehicle. It happened at Boscov's. The Chief has made all arrangements to get it fixed.

The next item was he requested that Chief Oxenreider along with Officer Skelton be allowed to carry two (2) weeks of their vacations into the year 2008. Due to the limited staff currently, it is hard for them to take off for vacation. Mr. Zerr said it was discussed at the Safety Committee as well. They also recommend we grant this request. Mr. Schmidt asked if there was a time limit on when they can take the time. Mayor Noecker said yes. Chief Oxenreider stated they can carry over comp time into the first quarter. Mrs. Shade asked if she could make a recommendation. Due to the short staff in the police department, it might be wise to allow them to use the time throughout the year of 2008, not just limit it to the first quarter. Mr. Wenrich stated why don't we give them the full year to take the time? Mr. Schmidt said that is exactly what he was thinking himself. Mr. Wenrich made a motion to give the two (2) above mentioned police officers the entire year of 2008 to take their two (2) week 2007 vacation; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

BARBARA KUTZ:

She questioned if Council wanted her to call about the holiday lights. After a brief discussion it was decided that we will wait one (1) more month.

BRUCE LIGHT:

He had nothing.

DENNIS LEIBY:

Mr. Leiby reported that the carpeting will go in the week before Christmas. The Library will be shut down.

Mr. Schmidt questioned about the sign. Mr. Leiby stated the gentleman who designed it put another line in and the letters are not big enough. They voted on it and it was decided to take the sign the way it was to be delivered. Mr. Leiby stated the letters really don't come any bigger. This should be taken care of soon. A discussion ensued about the doors on the sign in the back and what might be able to be done to make the doors easier to handle.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

No Report.

MAYOR NOECKER:

Mayor Noecker wanted to discuss the curfew along with Halloween night. The Mayor would like to see Trick or Treat to be from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on October 31, 2007. It is a Wednesday night. The curfew will start the second week in October (the 8th) and run to 11/2/07. The times will be 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday and from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Friday and Saturday and excludes paper carriers. This is for anyone under the age of eighteen (18). Mr. Zerr made a motion to have Halloween night on 10/31/07 from 6 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the curfew will start the second week of October and run to 11/2/07; the time will be 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday and from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays with the exception of paper carriers; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Wenrich made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina M. Shade, Borough Secretary/Treasurer