

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Sinking Spring Borough Hall by Council President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
Tracy Peterson (Absent)
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director, Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief James Oxenreider, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we received an e-mail about the Boroughs Association Meeting which is next Wednesday, January 29th at 6:30 pm at Albright College. The e-mail is requesting that at least one member of Council attend. Mrs. Gantner, Mr. Hoffa and Mr. Miller all stated that they could attend. Mrs. Eagelman stated that she would RSVP for all three.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they had an election for new officers and Merlin is now the president of BOSS Forward and Bernie Campbell was reelected as Vice President. He mentioned that Mr. Loth is working on the Green Light Go application for the resubmission.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that Western Berks Ambulance submitted their December 2019 report and that it is attached to everyone e-mail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Recycling Grant Agreement. Mr. Hart stated that this is the grant he applied for to cover the cost of the recycling containers and that the maximum grant dollar amount is \$11,821.00. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve signing the agreement; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the donation request from Township of Spring for their Trout Rodeo. He stated that we normally give \$500.00. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Township of Spring Recreation Board for the Trout Rodeo; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Berks County Consortium Proposal for Cable Franchise Renewal Services from Cohen Law Group. Mr. Hart explained that the fee is cheaper if we join the consortium. Mr. Miller made a motion to engage Cohen Law Group through the Berks County Consortium for the Cable Franchise Renewal Services; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he would like to move forward with putting something together concerning the mini 5G cell towers. Mr. Haws stated that they put that together for other municipalities and that he would send Mr. Hart a draft of an Ordinance to look over. Discussion ensued.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider stated that Kevin Zieber put in his resignation and that his last day is February 4th. He mentioned that Mr. Zieber received an offer from Robeson Township where he was working part time and they offered him full time day shift and it is closer to his home. He asked Council's approval, in the Mayor's absence, to place an ad for a full time officer. Mrs. Stine made a motion to advertise for a full time police officer; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Mr. Wenrich was out on Workers Comp. from July 2018 until November 2019. He stated that Mr. Wenrich wants to know if he can carry over his unused vacation time. Mr. Zohner stated that the handbook only allows the carryover of a maximum of 5 vacation days and that they must be used by March 31st unless other arrangements have been made with Council. Council all agreed to follow the guidelines and allow Mr. Wenrich to carry over 5 vacation days.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that he budgeted to have the raw sewage pumps looked at this year and that Raw Sewage Pump #3 needs some bearings replaced. He stated that he currently has an estimate for that repair of \$6,100.00. He explained that they will have to pull the pump and tear it

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (Cont.):

apart and may find other things but stated that it is a very vital part of the treatment plant. He asked for approval to have the pump pulled and the bearings replaced and what every else it may need. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the repair up to \$6,100.00; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner stated that they also budgeted to have repairs done to the Clarifier #2. He stated that he has been getting bids together for that and so far the lowest bid is \$20,938.00 from Blooming Glen Contractors. He stated that he got another bid for \$26,000.00 from Eastern Environmental and that he is still waiting for a third bid from Derstine. Mr. Pachuilto stated that we will table this until next meeting.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they have been without a Lead Operator since Mrs. Stout left. He stated that he would like to promote Jason Rapp to the Lead Operator position as of February 3rd, 2020 with a six month probationary period. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve promoting Mr. Rapp to Lead Operator as of February 3rd with a six month probationary period; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith reminded Council that next Wednesday the Pennvest Board will be voting on our application. He stated that once it is approved we will start the process of getting all the legal documents together and closing the loan with the Borough. He stated that it could be a six week process.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they have a meeting scheduled for Monday, January 27th at 11 a.m.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that we have the Memorial Day Parade this year and that she started sending out invitations. She asked the Chief about Fire Police coverage. It was decided to send an invitation to Mr. Haws with his old jeeps and military vehicles. Mr. Pachuilto asked about the indoor movie. Mrs. Gantner stated that it will be a pop up event in February.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. to discuss land acquisition, litigation and personnel issues.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:29 p.m. The following action was taken.

Mr. Miller made a motion authorizing borough staff to proceed with termination of an employee for cause; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to advertise for a Public Works employee; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to settle a legal case against the borough for an incident at the playground in 2012. Mrs. Gantner made the motion seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Gantner made a motion to move forward with the land acquisition of the Butkus property; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES –5, NAYS – 1 (Mrs. Stine), ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary