

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James A Pachuiilo, Jr. After the Pledge to the Flag, Regina Shade called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuiilo
Edward Oswald
George Butkus (arrived at 7:12 p.m.)
Christiana Stallone
Gary Cirulli
Denise Stine
Steven Suruskie

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor, Robert Ludgate, Sr., Ludgate Engineering, David Schlott, Jr., ARRO Consulting, Michael Hart, Public Works Director, Police Chief Lee Schweyer, and Regina Shade who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

BUSINESS:

The first order of business was William Falter's Retirement Letter. Mr. Pachuiilo stated that Mr. Falter had been a long time employee of the Borough. Mrs. Shade stated Mr. Falter's last working day will be January 2, 2013, but his official retirement date will be February 5, 2013. Mr. Pachuiilo stated the reason for the date difference is because he will be using up his vacation time. Mr. Cirulli made a motion to accept Mr. Falter's retirement letter; seconded by Mrs. Stallone. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0; (Mr. Butkus did not arrive prior to the motion being made); motion carried.

Mr. Oswald made a motion start advertising for a replacement for Mr. Falter; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, (Mr. Butkus did not arrive prior to the motion being made); motion carried.

Mr. Oswald questioned having a retirement dinner for Mr. Falter. Mrs. Shade stated they always had retirement dinners in the past and if Council authorizes this then it will be looked into. Mrs. Stallone stated that with all the years of service that Mr. Falter has put in, it would not be right if something was not done for him. Mrs. Stallone made a motion to start planning a retirement dinner for Mr. Falter; seconded by Mr. Oswald. AYES -6, NAYS – 0, (Mr. Butkus did not arrive prior to the motion being made); motion carried.

Mrs. Shade asked if the meeting days and times for 2013 can stay the same and be advertised. Mr. Suruskie stated that the July Council meeting falls on July 4, 2013. Mrs. Stallone made a motion to move the July Council meeting from Thursday, July 4, 2013 to Monday, July 7, 2013; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, (Mr. Butkus did not arrive prior to the motion being made); motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into an executive session at 7:08 p.m. for personnel issues.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Pachuillo stated the first item discussed in executive session was ongoing police negotiations with Officer Fritz and the negotiations body.

Mr. Oswald made a motion to retain the services of Christopher Gerber with Siana, Bellwoar & McAndrew Law Firm; seconded by Mr. Suruskie. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

BUDGET:

Mr. Pacuilo thanked Mrs. Shade, all the department heads and the committees for compiling the information for the budget. Mr. Oswald made a motion to pass the Fire budget with not tax increase; seconded by Mrs. Stallone. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Oswald stated there were some items put in the Sewer budget to upgrade the sewer plant to make it more current. The biggest expense is the SCADA. Mr. Butkus added it is electronic monitoring of the various functions of the sewer plant and it allows for not only onsite quick look at one spot to see what is running, at what power. Potentially it gives the operator the option to quick in remotely during a storm event to see if he needs to have someone come out. It also improves the ability of the sewer plant to respond to a power outage to notify the operator that there is a problem. Mr. Oswald stated the budget shows it is going to be a \$250,000.00 project. He stated this figure is high, but this is the worst case scenario. Mrs. Stallone made a motion to pass the Sewer budget as presented; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried. Mr. Oswald stated there is no rate increase with the proposed Sewer Budget.

Mrs. Shade stated the Real Estate Tax income on the General budget is showing an increase due to the finishing of the Terrace of Sinking Spring project. There is a decrease on the Local Enabling Tax is down due to the loss of Food Lion. Mrs. Shade stated \$20,000.00 has been budgeted for income for rental property permits. There is also a salary budgeted under the expenses for the rental property inspections, whether we hire someone or contract it out. There is a change under the refuse collections charges. The rates could possibly be dropped approximately twenty-five percent (25%), because of the price of the new trash hauler. Mrs. Shade stated the proposed income for the 2013 General budget is \$2,692,705.00. Under the expenses for the proposed 2013 General budget, Mrs. Shade stated all the wages are based on four percent (4%), except for the police because that was given at two and a half percent (2.5%). Under the General Government there is \$6,750.00 for a server, they have to be changed out every five (5) years. Under the police expenses payments for the new police car were added and the computer for the police office which totals \$2,428.00. Expenses were also added for the police bicycle for next year. Chief Schweyer added that the communication expenses went up because of the increase of cost for the MCT's. He would also like to get a computer for the 3rd police car. Mrs. Shade stated under the zoning and planning section, there is an increase under the building inspector salary for \$50,000.00; this is the money to start the rental inspection ordinance. Mr. Hart stated under the streets section of the proposed budget, the proposed salary expenses will be dropping because of Mr. Falter retiring. Mrs. Shade stated under the streets section, there is a capital outlay for a five (5) ton dump truck. Mr. Hart stated the dump truck we have now is going to be twenty-three (23) years old. The other

BUDGET: (Cont)

week while the street crew was out doing paving repairs, the operator jumped in the truck and his foot went through the floor. The truck had to go out of service to repair it. He also stated that the exhaust system was decayed and just fell off of the truck. Mr. Hart stated it is time to replace this dump truck. Mrs. Stallone asked if we would be outright buying a dump truck or leasing it. Mr. Hart stated that in the proposed budget, he figured on buying it outright, half would come out of the streets budget and the other half would come out of Liquid Fuels. Mr. Cirulli asked Mr. Hart if he got any prices a dump truck. Mr. Hart stated he did not, that this is just a ball park figure based on COSTARS. Mrs. Stallone suggested that Mr. Hart get a price on purchasing a dump truck outright. Mrs. Shade stated that the proposed expense in the budget is the outright price. Mr. Hart stated this would be for an eight (8) ton dump, with a large plow and spreader. Mr. Pachulo stated there is no millage increase for the 2013 General budget. Mr. Hart stated under minor equipment in the streets section, it is higher because the two-way radios were added for the upgrade. Mr. Hart stated there is an increase under maintenance repair highways, there was a lot of repairs done this summer with the skid loader and milling attachment, it worked out very well and he would like to do more next year. Mrs. Shade stated the Revitalization Committee asked for an extra \$15,000.00 in the budget for expenses because they are putting together a business group. There will be an income to offset that but they are not sure at this point what that income will be, because they have not established a fee. Mrs. Shade noted that the debt service expenses has dropped substantially, because two (2) of the loans were refinanced. Mrs. Shade stated the budgeted expenditures comes to \$2,733,228.00, which a loss of \$40,523.00. This is projected on worse case scenario. Mrs. Shade believes that there does not have to be a tax increase. Mr. Oswald made a motion to authorize advertisement of the General budget with no tax increase; seconded by Mrs. Stallone. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried. Mr. Suruskie discussed briefly the possibility of having a tax increase for 2013.

Mr. Butkus made a motion to dispense with the November 14, 2012 workshop meeting; seconded by Mr. Oswald. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mr. Haws to prepare the resolution regarding the trash rates to be adopted; seconded by Mrs. Stallone. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Stine made a motion to advertise for a new library assistant; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Haws stated there was an Intermunicipal Agreement that was approved by the borough, with the Western Berks Regional Police, South Heidelberg Township, Borough of Sinking Spring, Lower Heidelberg Township and Heidelberg Township along the route 422 corridor, he stated the signed agreement cannot be found. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize the resigning of the Intermunicipal Agreement; seconded by Mr. Oswald. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Haws stated we had an agreement for the MS4 with the County to provide public training. He stated the County would like the borough to adopt an ordinance that authorizes for the signed agreement to that was already signed. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize Mr. Haws to

OTHER BUSINESS: (Cont)

prepare an ordinance sign and execute this agreement to pay the County \$3,000.00 over a period of years to provide training; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated Council must appoint someone be the administrator for the MS4 Council. Mr. Butkus made a motion to appoint Mr. Hart to be the administrator on the MS4 Council; seconded by Mr. Oswald. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Hart stated he found a program for the fuel supplier. It is run through COSTARS and save the borough up to fifteen percent (15%) on all purchases. Mr. Hart stated the fuel cards we currently have are only good for Sunoco stations and the new cards would be good at approximately fifty (50) places they could be used at. Mr. Butkus made a motion for Mr. Hart to pursue this new gas program and apply for new gas cards through COSTARS; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

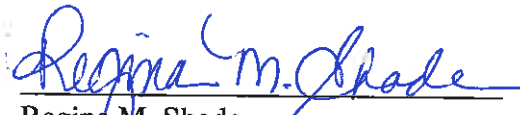
Mr. Hart stated the flat roof at the old borough garage has been leaking. He stated it has been patched numerous times. He stated it ruined on of the new light fixtures and an additional roof had to be built, inside the building, over the air compressor to protect it. Mr. Hart received three (3) quotes to get the work done. This would include removing all the existing roofs. The cost would be \$8,800.00 to replace it with a rubber roof, new installation and new capping. Mr. Hart stated this quote comes from Rainbow Roofing. Mr. Hart stated Scott Mazack Roofing quote was \$10,000.00 and Bachman Roofing quote was \$17,494.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion obtain the services of Rainbow Roofing to replace the roof at the old borough garage and not to exceed \$9,000.00; seconded by Mrs. Stallone. AYES – 7, NAYES – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Schlott stated the shared operating costs for the municipalities will increase close to \$1.00.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Regina M. Shade
Borough Secretary/Treasurer