

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the 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
TJ Huckleberry
George Butkus (arrived at 7:12)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa (Absent)

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that he received a letter from the Berks County District Attorney's Office requesting donations for Crime Alerts Berks County. He stated that we have done this in the past and usually donate \$500.00. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to donate \$500.00 to Crime Alerts Berks County; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Loth mentioned the Multimodal Transportation Fund Grants that The Borough has been applying for. He stated that round three started this year and that we have already applied to the DCED side of this program. He stated that he would now like to send the Grant Application to Penn DOT. He stated that he will need a Resolution passed this evening requesting a MTF grant of \$875,000.00 from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to be used for construction of Phase 3, Segment 2. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to approve the Resolution to apply for the grant; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Loth mentioned that at the BOSS 2020 meeting last week they had a bunch of people from the Citizens Committee there. He stated that they wanted to know if the BOSS 2020 Committee would look into/research what would happen if we brought in legal assistance for the PPL issue. He stated that he was asked to make a couple of calls just to start some preliminary

REVITALIZATION (Cont.):

discussion. He passed out a report to Council for them to review at a later time. He stated that he called an old friend who works for Pepper Hamilton, LLC in Philadelphia and was referred to Mr. Michael Hino who works for the same firm. He stated that they also recommended that he contact Mr. David Stoudt of Kozloff-Stoudt Law in Wyomissing. He mentioned that Mr. Hino doesn't believe that we need to engage attorneys at this point and that the community has taken the correct steps thus far. If it would go to a PUC hearing, then an attorney would be advised. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he sent an e-mail to Mr. David Hill of Cape Asset Management on October 19th asking if he was still interested in the P3 Proposal for Phase 4. He stated that Mr. Hill e-mail him back stating that they still have a very strong interest.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned the western end of Penn Avenue and that there is another delay. He stated that the inspector that the Borough chose is now not acceptable by PennDOT. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ludgate asked for permission to contact the DCED to see if they would fund the Borough's second choice contractor so we don't have to go through the PennDOT process again and miss the let date. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to authorize Mr. Ludgate to contact the DCED concerning funding the contractor to do the inspections; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate stated that the demolition contractor has requested a progress payment and that they have provided full documentation. Mr. Ludgate stated that he recommends that the Borough pay them 60% of the bid less a 10% retainer which comes to \$126,986.40. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize the progress payment in the amount of \$126,986.40; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

BUDGETS:

Mr. Hart went over the Fire Budget and stated that there is no increase. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve and advertise the Fire Budget. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Butkus asked if we were going to wait to advertise all the budgets at the same time to save on advertising costs. Mr. Pachuillo stated yes.

Mr. Hart went over the Sewer Budget and answered questions. Mr. Butkus mentioned that they are in desperate need of a new garage back there. He also mentioned that the other thing they are looking at, long term, is replacing the chlorine and going to UV. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve and advertise the Sewer Budget. Mrs. Gantner made the motion; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart went over the General Fund Budget and explained losses in income due to the taking of properties and businesses that closed. He went over the Income portion of the budget and explained grants and loans that are listed. He then went over the expenses. He explained that he is creating more line items to break out salaries and overtime so it will be more clear. He mentioned

BUDGETS (Cont.):

that the Building expenses are up due to two capital items (salt shed and carpeting for the office and police department). He mentioned that he could pay for the salt shed out of Liquid Fuels money. Mr. Pachuillo stated that it would help and should definitely use Liquid Fuels for that. Mrs. Peterson questioned the Police Overtime. Chief Schweyer stated that the majority of the overtime is due to court time because the hearings are scheduled when the officers are off duty. Mayor Cirulli questioned why the School Crossing Guard is listed under the Police Budget. Mr. Hart stated that under the State Coding System it has to be listed under Public Safety. He mentioned that one big item under Highways is the \$50,000.00 for replacement of a 2005 utility truck that they have had numerous issues with. He mentioned two other capital items under highways; the pressure washer for \$4,100.00 and the line painting machine for \$7,000.00. He mentioned that the health insurance went up 13 ½%. Mr. Pachuillo stated that the bottom line is that we are short \$296,290.64. Discussion ensued. It was decided to use Liquid Fuels for the \$80,000.00 for the Salt Shed. It was also decided to use the Capital Improvement fund to pay for the other capital items; \$14,000.00 for carpeting, \$50,000.00 for truck, \$4,100.00 for pressure washer and \$7,000.00 for line painting machine for a total of \$75,100.00. Mr. Pachuillo stated that Mr. Hart should rework the numbers removing those items from the General Fund Budget and send out new copies to be discussed at next week's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Hart mentioned that they have been talking about the Joint Comp Plan and that he has been in contact with Wyomissing Borough. He stated that the first meeting is November 2nd at 5:30 p.m. at the Wyomissing Borough Hall. He stated that he will be attending the meeting and would like at least one Council member and one Planning Commission member to attend with him. Mr. Huckleberry stated that he would be able to attend the meeting. Mr. Hart stated that he would contact the Planning Commission to see who would be available.

Mr. Hart stated that the only other item he has is the Teamsters Contract. He stated that they met again and went over things. He mentioned that Mr. Hoffa was not able to attend so no one from Council was there. He stated that the next meeting is November 9th at 12:00 p.m. Mrs. Peterson asked if Mr. Hart could send Council a list of what they are looking for. Mr. Hart stated he would.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Audit Engagement Letter from Mrs. Barbara Akins. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize executing the Audit Engagement Letter for Barbara Akins CPA for the 2016 Audit; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the \$1,100,000.00 MTF Grant Commitment Letter. He stated that the Borough was awarded the Grant and now we have received the Commitment Letter to sign and return. He stated that we could table this since there are no dates and Mr.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

Ludgate and Mr. Loth are not here. Mr. Butkus asked if it could be scanned and sent to all of Council and Mr. Haws for his review. Mr. Pachuillo asked Mrs. Eagelman to take care of scanning and e-mailing it. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to table the issue. Mrs. Peterson made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they have been dealing with the issues with DEP and the Pump Station on Mt. Home Road. He stated that he has a quote to put a unit called OmniSite on there that tracks exactly what runs, when it runs, how much it runs and will answer every question that DEP is asking of us and may prevent us from having to upgrade the Pump Station. He stated that the cost is \$4,790.00 and he was looking for Councils approval to purchase it. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize the purchase of the OmniSite; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Stine asked about the oil trucks that are sitting at the Pump Station. Mr. Zohner stated that he spoke to someone from the company and that all the trucks that sit there are empty. He stated that he did get contact information from them. He mentioned that the business next door is doing all the service on the trucks and that he expressed that the trucks cannot sit there at our pump station under any circumstances. He stated that he showed them where our property lines are and mentioned that he would like to put a fence up.

Mr. Zohner mentioned that Mr. Shaver has left the Borough because he got another job at Limerick as a Security Guard which is in the field of his Criminal Justice Degree. He stated that it is a big loss for the Borough because he was one of his most dependable quality employees.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith mentioned that he received the last two letters that he needed to complete the grant application for the work on Reedy Road and that it will be going out Friday to the Commonwealth Finance Authority. He suggested that Council contact the state representatives on the projects behalf.

Mr. Smith mentioned that Lower Heidelberg Township contacted him about the surcharge. He stated that they have retained another expert to help them in their discussions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. for a personnel issue.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 9:09 p.m.

Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize termination of Mr. Brandon Angelis for just cause effective immediately; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mayor Cirulli asked Council if they could place an ad in the paper for part-time police officers. Mr. Butkus made a motion to authorize advertising for part-time police officers; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary