

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on October 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President Pro Tem H. David Miller. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

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

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Miller stated that the only item is an e-mail from Wilson School District regarding Per Capita Tax and possibly passing a Resolution providing an exemption to residents in assisted living arrangements in senior facilities for the next tax season starting July 1, 2021. Mr. Hart mentioned that it has no bearing on the Borough because we do not have any assisted living facilities in the Borough. Mrs. Stine made a motion directing Mr. Hart to respond to the correspondence from Wilson School District regarding the non-applicability of the assisted living per capita tax; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Merlin Weaver, President of the BOSS Forward Committee, addressed Council. Mr. Weaver stated that he is going to try to make more Council meetings so that he can keep up with what is happening with in the Borough meetings and keep the lines of communication open. He mentioned that Mr. Hoffa had sent out information on the Form Based Code and that they would like to work on three objectives. 1) Smart Growth, 2) Form Based Code and 3) Complete streets. He asked Council to please review the information that Mr. Hoffa sent out and stated that there is a lot of good information there. He mentioned that there are videos to watch and courses that can be taken to learn more. He also mentioned that if anyone is interested in taking the course BOSS Forward would like to reimburse the fees once the course is completed and the certificate is received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Miller mentioned that the first item is Zoning Hearing Board Appointments. He stated that Mr. Hart received e-mails from Mr. John Burchell and Mr. Chris Gantner stating interest in serving on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to appoint Mr. John Burchell and Mr. Chris Gantner to the Zoning Hearing Board; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller stated that the next item is the 2020 Audit Engagement Letter from Barbara Akins of Akins Accounting. He mentioned that the fee is going up slightly for the Library Audit only the others are staying the same. Mrs. Stine made a motion to retain Barbara Akins for the 2020 Audit; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller stated that the next item is the 2021 Budgets. Mr. Hart stated that everyone has a copy of the Budgets and that they should review them and we can discuss them at next week's Council Meeting. He mentioned that there are no Capital Projects planned for the General Fund and he cut back on a lot of things because we lost a lot of income this year due to COVID-19. He stated that the Fire and Ambulance are ok and that there is enough there to balance out. He also mentioned that the Sewer is good as well.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith mentioned that they received comments back from PennDOT on the Phase II HOP on Friday that they are addressing. He stated that most of the comments are administrative in nature and one of which we have to pass a Resolution empowering Mr. Hart to sign off on the deeds of dedication for Penn DOT. He mentioned that Mr. Haws drafted the Resolution this afternoon.

Mr. Smith mentioned that Spring Township, when we dug through their street on Reedy Road, required us to do an overlay. He stated that we convinced them that the overlay would be a waste of money and effort. He stated that it was quoted with them that we would delete the overlay from our contract with Barrasso and when they go back to fix the road we would give them whatever Barrasso had offered to do that overlay section for them, if that is acceptable to Borough Council. Mr. Haws suggested getting it in writing that Barrasso is ok with us deleting it from our contract. Mr. Smith stated that Spring Township's engineer was out to look at the road and he agreed. Mr. Hart mentioned that Spring is scheduled to pave their street anyway. Mr. Zohner mentioned that Spring Township is in agreement with it as well and their solicitor suggested that we draft an agreement between us and them that we will be giving them the money for that in lieu of actually doing the overlay. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to authorize the solicitor to prepare an agreement with Spring Township to offer them reimbursement of \$24,327 in lieu of doing an overlay of Reedy Road in the Township upon them doing it. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried. Mr. Zohner asked if they

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER (Cont.):

could authorize Mr. Hart to sign the Agreement once it is written because the Township asked to have the Agreement by this Friday so they can present it to their Supervisors. Mr. Haws stated that if Council is on board then maybe amend the motion to authorize entry into the Agreement as opposed to preparation of the Agreement to pay Spring Township the agreed sum. Mrs. Stine amended her Motion to authorize entry into the Agreement; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to pass the Resolution empowering Mr. Hart to sign off on the deeds of dedication for Penn DOT for Phase II of the HOP. Mr. Hoffa made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.


LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that she needed to make sure that everyone was good with changing the time for Trick-or-Treating to 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to match Spring Township. There were no objections.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Miller stated that they will be adjourning to an Executive Session for a personnel issue and will not be returning. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary