

A workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 7: 00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President Stewart Wenrich. After the Pledge to the Flag, Regina Shade called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Stewart Wenrich
Edward Oswald
George Butkus
Elizabeth Sloan (absent)
Gary Cirulli
James Pachulo
Denise Stine

Other officials present were: Mayor Francis Butkus, Keith Mooney, Borough Solicitor, and Regina Shade who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS:

Mrs. Lisa Gantner addressed Council in regards to the Rec Board. She stated it said in the newspaper about the tax increase and that it was suggested to charge fees but it was met with resistance. Mr. Oswald stated he said something to that effect however it was misstated in the paper. He stated it was discussed with Council but he was not sure that it was ever brought up to the Rec Board itself. She wanted to remind Council that was one (1) of their recommendations they made. In March of 2010, Mrs. Gantner stated, Mrs. Stine brought up about charging everyone \$20 or \$30 to come to the playground. Everyone voted against it. A brief discussion ensued about the playground and how many kids use it.

Mr. James Kremp of the All About You Salon was next to address Council. He read a letter stating his concerns. He felt some of the comments Council made about how many meetings people attend were rude. He went on say he felt the Borough employees should pay up to forty (40%) of their health care costs. He stated according to his calculations it would save the Borough about \$73,000.00. He also stated he asked if a study was done on the work that needs to be done. There was no study done so the numbers are based on the last time repairs were made. He feels that is a ballpark that we shouldn't be going with those numbers. He said that Mr. Cirulli stated the free rec services were a gift to the taxpayers. Mr. Cirulli stated this is something the taxpayers get for free. Mr. Kremp stated he doesn't have kids along with other Borough residents. He doesn't feel he should be paying or contributing for that gift. He said he pays his taxes; runs a business; keeps his property nice, what else do we want? Mr. Cirulli said older people or people without kids pay school taxes. Mr. Kremp agreed and also stated a lot of people are complaining about that as well. He doesn't feel he should be paying for someone else's kid. Mr. Cirulli said you are talking about road projects; have you seen some of the roads around Sinking Spring to which Mr. Kremp stated yes. Mr. Kremp stated a study needs to be done. Mr. Cirulli said if we get a sinkhole we are done. Mr. Kremp stated how can you justify a 25% increase when you don't have a number to say what it is going to cost? Mr. Mooney said a study is not hard. You call PENNDOT and they will tell you the going rate for the cost of macadam and blacktop. You can figure out how many square yards of blacktop you will need and it will probably come within ten (10%) percent of that number. Mrs. Shade stated, Mr. Hart said at the last meeting, it cost roughly \$190,000.00 (including soft costs) to

VISITORS (cont'd):

repave a block and half a few years ago. Mr. Kremp said he knew that but that was a ballpark off repairs from a few years ago. Mrs. Shade stated if it was \$190,000.00 a few years ago, you know it will be more now. Mr. Kremp stated is that apples to apples. Mrs. Shade stated she didn't want to speak for Mr. Hart but many of our roads need to go down for a total reconstruction. We need to look at our infrastructure (sewer and water lines). She continued we just can't keep patching the roads. She said if Mr. Hart was here he could explain better what needs to be done. She said Michigan Drive which we consider one (1) of our newer roads is in bad shape. We have older ones that need more work. Mr. Mooney said you could figure on a 12% to 15% increase every year from three (3) years ago. The biggest portion of doing roads is the blacktop. The major ingredient in blacktop is petroleum. Everyone knows how much the cost of petroleum has gone up over the last three (3) years. You pour petroleum on your streets, you do understand that is your major cost, Mr. Mooney stated.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Mooney stated at the last Borough Council meeting, Borough Council passed the Real Estate Ordinance. The Mayor last Friday, vetoed the Real Estate Ordinance. By law, Council is required to vote on the override of the veto within ten (10) days of the Mayor vetoing the same, at the next regular or special Council meeting within those ten (10) days. It was already advertised to have a meeting on this date. This is within ten (10) days so tonight is the night set forth to vote on overriding the Mayor's veto. The millage rate in the Ordinance is 5.19 mils. The increase is 1.25 mils. This is the only one (1) the Mayor vetoed. Mr. Pachuillo made a motion to override the Mayor's veto; seconded by Mrs. Stine. Mr. Wenrich asked for a roll call. AYES – 5, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus), ABSENT – 1 (Ms. Sloan); motion carried. The override passes; it takes a 2/3 vote of Council; five (5) members is 2/3 vote of Council.

The next item is the borrowing of \$150,000.00 from the Sewer to the General Fund. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize the transfer; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. Mr. Butkus questioned what would be left until the end of the year since some money was due in. Mrs. Shade stated we didn't have enough money to pay the bills last week if the money was not borrowed. She stated we will need to borrow more next year. Mr. Butkus agreed until the tax money starts coming in. Mrs. Shade said she didn't want to borrow anymore until we know what monies if any we are left with at the end of the year. Mr. Wenrich stated this has been a problem for a few years now. Mr. Mooney said this is a no interest loan as we are borrowing from one of our own accounts. Mr. Wenrich asked how much tax money has not come in. Mrs. Shade stated we will not have that number until she closes out her books at the end of December. Mrs. Shade stated there are about five (5) or six (6) businesses that have not paid their Local Service Tax. They have not paid it for a few years. This will need to be dealt with as this money is not only the Borough money but Wilson School District as well. Mrs. Shade stated the tax collector is working on that and she hopes to have a list of who hasn't paid for the January 3rd meeting or the January workshop meeting. Mrs. Shade stated this year she worked with Wilson on collecting monies from businesses not paying the Mercantile Business Tax; we have a great working relationship now and hopefully it will continue through the sharing of information. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one had any public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Pachulo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Cirulli.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina M. Shade
Borough Secretary/Treasurer