

A workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was opened on Wednesday, December 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall, by President Lawrence S. Schmidt. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth A. White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Lawrence S. Schmidt
James Zerr
Dennis Leiby
Bruce Light
Stewart Wenrich
George Butkus
Barbara Kutz

Other officials present were: Clarence Noecker, Mayor; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Elizabeth A. White, Administrative Assistant who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

VISITORS:

There were no visitors.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Mr. Light made a motion to pay all the bills; seconded by Mr. Wenrich. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Fitzpatrick had the ordinance establishing the real estate tax at 3.19 mils. In addition, the fire tax went from .50 mils to .65 mils. It was advertised and he had the proof of publication to attach to the ordinance. Mr. Zerr made a motion to approve the fire tax increase; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 6, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Leiby); motion carried.

The next item was the resolution waiving the police contribution to their pension plan. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that Mrs. Shade created a resolution stating such. Mr. Butkus made a motion to waive the police contribution for the calendar year 2007; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 6, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Zerr); motion carried.

The next item was approving of the General, Sewer, and Fire Budgets. Mr. Wenrich stated the budget did lie open the allotted amount of time and are now ready for adoption. Mr. Wenrich made a motion to accept all budgets as were stated in the past; seconded by Mr. Zerr. Mr. Butkus questioned if we do all them at once or individually. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated we should do it individually. Mr. Wenrich made a motion to adopt the General Fund budget for 2007; seconded by Mr. Zerr. Mr. Schmidt called for a roll call vote. AYES – 4 (Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Zerr, Mr. Light and Mr. Wenrich), NAYS – (Mrs. Kutz, Mr. Leiby and Mr. Butkus); motion carried.

Mr. Wenrich made a motion to accept the Sewer Fund budget for 2007; seconded by Mr.

NEW BUSINESS (cont'd):

Butkus. Mr. Schmidt asked for a roll call vote. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

Mr. Wenrich made a motion to approve the Fire budget for 2007 with the new milage being .65; seconded by Mr. Light. Mr. Schmidt called for a roll call vote. AYES – 6, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Leiby); motion carried.

The next item was the resolution for trash. The only change is to a dwelling that houses more than two (2) or more families; that property will be assessed the original \$400 plus \$100 for any units over two (2). The resolution does consolidate the way trash is being billed for easy reference. Mr. Fitzpatrick read the resolution. Mr. Zerr made a motion to accept the resolution; seconded by Mr. Light. Mr. Schmidt asked for a roll call vote. AYES – 5, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus), ABSTENTION – 1 (Mr. Leiby); motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Coldren was wondering about the traffic controller at the intersection of Penn and Mull. Mr. Zerr stated the box has been delayed. It might not be here till January or February.

MR. BUTKUS:

Mr. Butkus was questioning about the raises for everyone. Must it be voted on by resolution or is it just part of the budget he questioned. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated it is part of the budget.

Mr. Butkus questioned if we need to ratify the changes of signatures on the accounts. Mr. Light made a motion to change the names on the checking accounts; seconded by Mr. Zerr; AYES – 6, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus); motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Mr. Zerr stated there was a task force meeting on the fire companies. Each of the three (3) municipalities get to pick a “citizen at large” to serve on the task force. It would take up about two (2) years. This is for the possible merger of the fire companies. If anyone is interested, please let us know. They meet once a month.

Mr. Light stated that we have run ads, put it in the newsletter, we get the word out however 90% of the Borough still had their trash out on Wednesday as opposed to Thursday. Mrs. Kutz stated that she and only one (1) other house get the newspaper. Mr. Leiby questioned if we have thought about putting it in the Merchandiser. Mr. Zerr stated that many of the houses just have the Merchandiser piled up in front. Mr. Wenrich stated we could place it on our new Borough sign. Mr. Light stated we could put it in the Westside Weekly also. A discussion ensued. The residents need to see dates, Mrs. Kutz said. Mr. Schmidt requested we put a calendar together and send it out with the newsletter.

Mr. Schmidt stated the first three (3) Mondays; the Borough will be picking up Christmas

BUSINESS (cont'd):

trees. It will be announced again at the regular meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Ms. White gave the Treasurer's Report as follows:

General Account

Opening Balance – December 27, 2006		\$	371,234.63
PLGIT			8,275.97
Invest	Recreation		44,305.27
	General Invest		12854.53
	To Be Paid	\$	<u>0.00</u>
		\$	436,670.40

Sewer Account

Opening Balance – December 27, 2006		\$	361,918.28
PLGIT			55,679.67
Invest	Sewer Revenue		106,700.47
	To Be Paid	\$	<u>0.00</u>
		\$	524,298.42

Motion made by Mr. Butkus to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Wenrich; AYES -7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

MR. BUTKUS:

Mr. Butkus stated that the sewer plant had a spot check by DEP. No violations are expected. The DEP wants Mr. Hillibush to show him how they track the different calculations as our plant is run efficiently. Mr. Butkus stated that this shows how great our plant is being run. Mr. Schmidt stated that he did receive a proposal about hiring a fourth employee. Mr. Butkus stated that Miller Enviromental did not receive a Christmas bonus this year. He stated by winning the efficiency award takes us to the next level. A discussion ensued as how much to give. Mr. Leiby made a motion to give each of the Miller Environmental people a \$50 restaurant gift certificate; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Zerr made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina M. Shade, Borough Secretary/Treasurer