

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 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  
Tracy Peterson  
H. David Miller  
Denise Stine  
Lisa Gantner  
Brian Hoffa  
Robert Metzgar (Absent)  
Jack Malandra

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

#### **REVITALIZATION:**

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they did not have a meeting last week because of the weather. He stated that they will be meeting with SCTAPA and Lancaster Transportation in April. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that the meeting will be at the Barta office in Reading with Mr. Jeff Clisson and Mr. Dave Kilmer. He mentioned that SCTAPA (South Central Transportation Authority of Pennsylvania) would like to expand their transportation ability and we need transportation transit in our downtown as it is envisioned to develop the kind of density that works best with us and to get the economic development that we need.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mr. Pachuillo stated that there was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Pachuillo stated that there was no New Business to discuss.

**JACK MALANDRA – JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON:**

Mr. Malandra mentioned that he has a meeting set up with the principal of his school to discuss the best way to get volunteers to help with the tree planting. Mr. Pachuillo stated that the date is set for May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 pm and that there are 800 trees to be planted. He also mentioned that they will be cleaning up two streams. Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that she put it on Facebook and the Borough website.

**DENISE STINE - PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Stine mentioned that Western Berks Fire Department is going to start the hiring process and that they are setting dates as to when testing will be and when applications have to be back.

**LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they had a great turn out for the Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday. She thanked everyone who helped out and attended and also mentioned that they had a lot of donations from Russo's.

**TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that she needed to make a motion to hire a new employee at the Library as a Passport Agent. She stated that her name is Jenny Allbee and she will be starting as of Monday, March 26, 2018 at \$12.00 per hour. Mrs. Stine seconded the motion to hire Ms. Allbee at \$12.00 per hour. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that they are increasing the Passport fee to \$35.00 from \$25.00.

**MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:**

Mr. Hart mentioned that PennDOT will be starting work on the lower portion of Penn Avenue on Monday night. Mr. Pachuillo asked about crosswalks. Mr. Ludgate stated that highly visible crosswalks are important.

**SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:**

Mr. Smith mentioned that the Chapter 94 report has been completed and that there is no projected hydraulic or organic overloads at the plant. He also mentioned that they submitted the Solids Handling Study. He stated that the best mechanical process was the Schwing Bioset Screw Press, however, with the switch from bioaugmentation to aerobic digestion, the reed beds will outperform the screw press. He stated that as long as the energy costs are reasonable we are probably good to go switching back to aerobic digestion.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER - ROBERT LUDGATE SR.:**

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he submitted the application for the Schuylkill Highlands Mini-Grant in the amount of \$15,000.00. He mentioned that it will cover 50% of the engineering costs to convert the ditch into a bio-retention facility. He also mentioned that we are still alive for an alternate transportation grant that we applied for in the amount of \$500,000.00 to convert the ditch.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that we have had a delay in the advertising for bids for the Columbia construction. He stated that we did get a response from PennDOT to our submission that was made 45 days ago and unfortunately it is 12 pages long. He stated that he has gone through it and found 2 or 3 issues that are pertinent. He stated that they don't believe that there is going to be any significant change in the plan.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned the demolition of 4 and 6 Krick Avenue and that there needs to be an asbestos test and report before we can bid it. He stated that we got a proposal from the same consultant that did it previously on the Penn Avenue properties. He stated that he needs Council to authorize proceeding with that work with that consultant. Mr. Hart mentioned that it is around \$2,000.00 per property. Mr. Miller asked who the consultant is. Mr. Ludgate stated that it is Liberty Environmental. Mr. Miller made the motion to authorize Liberty Environmental to do the asbestos test and report contingent on Mr. Hart's approval; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

**CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:**

Chief Schweyer mentioned the body cameras that were purchased back in 2015. He stated that he was just made aware, by the company that we deal with, that they no longer make the cameras that we have. He mentioned that we have 2 cameras that need maintenance but we can't get the parts. He stated that he has been in discussions with them because we already paid for licensing for the cloud-based storage. He mentioned that we can get on a five-year plan to get brand new cameras and they anticipate every 2.5 to 3 years cameras will be upgraded due to technology and they would automatically give us the brand-new cameras at no cost. He stated that if we go with it this year the cost for the first year would be \$3,991.00. He stated that he can cover that this year because he had a line item that is budgeted for this year called Tracs that he is going to hold off on because there are bugs in the system. He mentioned that they also need new docking stations for each camera to charge the camera and send the video to the Cloud based storage and that cost has been added into the other four years which would be \$4,365.00 and includes all licensing and cloud storage. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize the Chief to purchase the five-year plan for the cameras; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that last Saturday at the Spring Market Center there was some type of car meet and every parking space was taken. He stated that on Monday when he came in there were reports on all the calls that we got because of it. He stated that he made a phone call to the owner of the property to make them aware of the situation. He stated that they are going to post signs to try to take care of it.

**CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER (Cont.):**

Mr. Pachulo mentioned that he and his wife have experienced a few instances where cars and tractor trailers are coming down Shillington Road on the wrong side again and he wondered if we could have the police monitor that area at peak times again. Discussion ensued concerning blocking the entrance/exit at Spring Market.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the Police Civil Service test is April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman  
Borough Secretary