

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, March 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President Stewart Wenrich. Mr. Wenrich requested a moment of silence for our armed service personnel and for the two (2) fallen firefighters in Pennsylvania. After the Pledge to the Flag, Regina Shade called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Stewart Wenrich
Bruce Light
Barbara Kutz
Lawrence Schmidt
George Butkus
James Zerr
Elizabeth Sloan (absent)

Other officials present were: Mayor Clarence Noecker; Charles Fitzpatrick, Borough Solicitor, Michael Hart, Public Works Director, James Oxenreider, Chief of Police, Robert Ludgate, Sr., Ludgate Engineering, David Schlott, ARRO Consulting, Ronald Wentzel, Liberty Fire Company, Sondra Westbrook, Librarian, and Regina Shade, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

Mr. Wenrich asked that we remember Ms. Sloan and her family as her father recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Light made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the February 7, 2008; seconded by Mr. Zerr. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

VISITORS:

The first visitor was Mr. Thomas Bausher of the Westside Emergency Management Agency. He is their coordinator. The Agency consists of members of Sinking Spring, Spring Township, Wyomissing, and West Reading. Mr. Bausher addressed the Resolution that Council had before them. The Resolution was for the adoption of the Emergency Management Plan. The current plan will take the place of the one (1) we currently have. All of the municipalities along with the agency will need to pass this. He explained the plan and showed the working copy to Council. Each municipality will get a hard copy and in addition, he will be putting it on electronic format as well. Mr. Fitzpatrick had no problem with the Resolution. Mr. Zerr made the motion to adopt the Resolution regarding the Emergency Management Plan; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

The next visitor was Mr. Ken Harting. Mr. Harting wanted to address Council when the landlord ordinance was discussed.

Mr. Ronald Dentzer was next. He lived in Sinking Spring for thirty (30) years but currently he is not a resident. He moved out about ten (10) years ago. He spent ten (10) years on the

VISITORS (cont'd):

Planning Commission and he spent fifteen (15) years on Council. He came to address the landlord ordinance. He stated he owns about \$1,000,000.00 in properties in the Borough. He does not like to hear that we are thinking about adopting something like this. He feels that no one can take better care of the properties than landlords. Mr. Dentzer said that we get a lot of money from landlords already. He feels we don't need an additional fee from the landlords. He believes that we get more money from landlords than we do from single family units. The trash fee was passed on to the landlords to which Mr. Dentzer agreed was a good idea. The sewer goes to the landlord. He feels that landlords have done a lot of good. He cited Lucky and how he turned the old Orioles Club into a wonderful looking apartment building. That saved on the police having to go there due to the noise, etc. He continued to state that what Lucky did for the old property across from Boscov's. He continued that brought more revenue into the Borough not to mention making it look better. He wanted Council not to take this as criticism. He just wanted Council to think of some of this before making any decisions. Mr. Dentzer said that maybe safety is an issue. He continued no matter what is placed in a lease or in an ordinance some people are going to do whatever they feel like doing. He tries to deal with these issues himself. He feels that we are just creating a job for someone that has an inspection agency. He thanked Council for their time and consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no communications.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Light made a motion to pay the bills; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

REVITALIZATION PROJECT:

Mr. James Pachuillo, Chairman of the Revitalization Project addressed Council. He stated that the subcommittees met the Tuesday prior to the Council meeting. They have four (4) people volunteer for various duties to keep this project moving forward. It was decided that the website name for this project will BOSS 20/20.org. They are hoping to utilize a student from the Wilson High School to design the site. Mr. Loth will set up the domain name. The name stands for Borough of Sinking Spring 20/20...Our Vision to Our Future. The Executive Committee met with the representatives from DCED. Their recommendation is that the Committee work with the Rt. 422 Corridor Project people. This is the direction they will be heading. Mr. Ludgate found a few things. The first being there is a traffic congestion problem in the heart of Sinking Spring. The second everyone agrees because of this our downtown suffers – business does not do well there which has a negative effect on our tax base and our quality of life. The third issue is that if we are going to improve any of these things we need a solution. The Committee has begun forming a solution. This has resulted in a plan. Mr. Ludgate went to an independent traffic engineer, Greg Bogia and asked for his opinion if this plan will work. His report was in the folder that was passed around. Each Councilperson was given one (1). Mr. Bogia stated that if the plan that the

REVITALIZATION PROJECT (cont'd):

Committee has worked on was put into effect the current level of service at Mull Avenue which is currently an "F" at certain times of the day will go to a "D" or maybe even a "C". He explained that an "F" means you wait for a few cycles to get through the light, a "D" means you might wait an extra light cycle now and again, a "C" means you will rarely wait, and a "B" means you will sail right through. To get to a level "C" would be remarkable to get to a letter "D" would be good. Mr. Butkus questioned if this took into consideration that as time goes on it will get more congested to get through. Mr. Ludgate stated this is based on a snapshot of today. This is the traffic information that was passed on to them from the engineer who is doing the traffic study for the Corridor project. Mr. Ludgate stated that this report also takes into consideration about how many lanes you will have or need. We are looking to 2020 as what we will need however the information was only what we currently have. Mr. Pachulo stated that the regular meetings are the third Thursday, however the subcommittees will be meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 here at the Borough Hall. He again stated that the public is welcome to come and get involved.

MILLER ENVIRONMENTAL:

Mr. Peter Juzyk gave the monthly report. The wastewater data for the month was – total monthly flow – 25,379,000 gallons, average daily flow – 875,000 gallons, minimum daily flow – 584,000 gallons, and maximum daily flow – 1,622,000 gallons. Total precipitation was 7.00 inches. There were no NPDES violations however they were still waiting for some lab results. The contribution for each municipality is as follows – Sinking Spring (which includes an unmetered portion of Spring Township) – 75.8%; Lower Heidelberg – 15.9%; and South Heidelberg – 8.3%. Mr. Juzyk stated a new employee started back at the plant. They also received the spare aerator gear reducer on February 5, 2008. Mr. Juzyk stated he was contacted by McCormick Taylor of the Rt. 422 Corridor Project. Mr. Juzyk stated he went out and verified the location of the sewer lines. He told them that there might be a problem with the location of a few catch basins once the project begins. Mr. Ludgate stated the average daily flows are up a bit. Mr. Ludgate questioned if there is any one (1) point where the inflow is entering at. Mr. Juzyk stated it does not appear to be any one (1) point. Looking at the various flow meters there is a general increase. Mr. Butkus stated that the I&I Abate Program is progressing and some water has been taken out of the system. Mr. Wenrich said with seven (7) inches of rain that certainly would add to the ground water. Mr. Ludgate stated that at the southeast corner of the Borough, Spring Township has a huge plan going on. The plans were delivered with a note that stated the Borough has waived the review. They are recommending that the plan not be waived. He explained why.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**FIRE DEPARTMENT – RONALD WENTZEL, FIRE CHIEF:**

Mr. Wentzel stated they were up and looked at the vehicle. He handed out photos. The call volume is going up. The delivery date will be April 12, 2008. The average turnout for the calls is about 13 to 15 people per call. Mr. Wentzel explained what the vehicle will be used for.

BOROUGH ENGINEER – ROBERT LUDGATE, SR:

Mr. Ludgate stated that the report was in the book. The activities are outlined there. He opened up to any questions they might render.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MICHAEL HART:

Mr. Hart said that over the last several weeks the Borough staff and road crew have been working at becoming NIMS certified. To date everyone in the office and the road crew are certified at the levels they need to be.

The first round of the 2010 census has been completed and sent in to Philadelphia for their review.

Mr. Pachulo questioned if the people who are doing the Dunkin Donuts are aware of the debris, etc. that was thrown in the “Spring”. Mr. Hart stated he needs to get in contact with the general contractor. They then hire their own contractors to do the work. He needs to locate them; he will try to get in touch with the owner. Mr. Hart will follow up with the owner. Mr. Wenrich stated if they do not agree to our terms we can shut them down. Mr. Hart was not sure we could do this to which Mr. Fitzpatrick said we could. He urged Mr. Hart to contact him if needed.

SEWER ENGINEER – DAVID SCHLOTT, JR:

Mr. Schlott stated that there are two (2) contracts that are out; one (1) for dig up repairs and the other for in place repairs. They are both almost completed. There was one (1) that they were hoping would be an in place repair however it now appears it will need to be a dig up repair. It is on Rt. 724 so PENNDOT permits might be needed. The repair is in the sidewalk.

THE SAFC Bioscience which is located in South Heidelberg Township, an inspection was done to make sure they were in compliance. It appears satisfactory.

The testing of the influent at the plant has been showing an increase in the BOD. Some of the results continue to be high and suspect. It is not consistent. There are no problems on the effluent side. One (1) idea was to have Miller Environmental do split testing. Have two (2) labs do the results. In the budget there is a 24 hour composite sampler. Mr. Juzyk is getting quotes on this too. Mr. Wenrich questioned have we had more spikes. The answer was yes. Mr. Butkus stated that if they have a spike at the head works end of the plant; you would expect to see a spike later in the week in another area of the plant. Mr. Francis Butkus stated the Spring Township plant is experiencing the exact same thing. He continued that we are not interconnected so something is getting into both systems.

ARRO has all the information and they are putting together the Chapter 94 Report. They expect the report to be completed within the next few weeks. The 2007 numbers show an average daily flow was 656,225 gallons per day. Mr. Wenrich stated that was just a little over half the capacity. The three (3) month maximum occurred during March, April, and May. It would be 848,000 gallons.

SEWER ENGINEER – DAVID SCHLOTT, JR (cont'd):

An explanation occurred regarding how high the BODs were. Mr. Francis Butkus suggested taking grab samples at different areas to check the flow and see if they can find where the BODs might be entering into the system. They will be starting outside the Borough and then move in. It developed within the last year to year and a half. Miller Environmental could do the grab samples. The cost would be whatever the lab work would be. Mr. Wenrich feels this would be a good idea.

SEWER AND SANITATION COMMITTEE – GEORGE BUTKUS:

Mr. Butkus stated the Sewer Committee did meet. The BCM report was discussed. The areas that were addressed were the headwork screening, the reed beds, and the clarifier. The Committee would prefer the decision on the clarifier be deferred till next month when the Chapter 94 Report is completed. Mr. Butkus had a few comments about the BCM report. The headwork's area and the sludge beds were agreed upon; they needed to be done. It is advantageous for us to do it now. The BCM makes a great assumption that we are fine now but what about later. The plant was designed to run at 1MGD. As we have seen in prior Chapter 94 reports we need to look at five (5) years into the future. The assumption that you are fine now but it might not be practical. He explained why. Mr. Butkus who attends the Authority meetings had a request. The Authority has requested clarification from the Borough of the intent of the resolution to dissolve them. This resolution was presented over a year ago. They have done minimal preparation for these upgrades that we are currently speaking of. They are wondering how much longer till Council lets them move ahead. We have wasted a year. That is another year closer to the overload or whatever. He continued that did not include the cost of building supplies, blacktop, etc. They are looking to us for guidance. It is their stance to which Mr. Butkus agreed it is either now for the clarifier or either in two (2) years. He encouraged Council that we need to do something. These plans will need to go to the State as well. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the BCM report was given in response to statements ARRO has made with regards to expansion of the plant. He wondered if it wouldn't be advantageous to have ARRO respond to the findings in writing. We have one (1) engineering firm reviewing the other. He feels it would be appropriate to have ARRO response to those comments. Mr. Butkus stated Mr. Schlott explained the report to the committee, not in writing, but verbally. Mr. Schlott stated they were holding off till the Chapter 94 report was completed. They didn't want to give one (1) idea then the report is finished and then it is something else. Mr. Butkus stated the School Board had a representative at the Authority meeting for the new Jr. High. For whatever reason that municipality told the school district that they did not have that reserve capacity to give them. At present our Authority does not have extra capacity to sell them. All reserve capacity that we currently have is reserved for projects here in the Borough. They were referred back to their municipality. They should have reserve capacity to give them. Mr. Schmidt questioned Mr. Fitzpatrick if we know how much capacity Lower Heidelberg has available in our plant. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated 234,500 gallons. That is their total. They are using based on tonight's numbers 140,000 gallons. They have enough capacity left over. Mr. Francis Butkus stated it will take about one (1) year to design the plant. Then it will have to go to bid and then building it. It will be about 3 1/2 to 4 years till it's built. It will now cost us about \$1,000,000 more and if wait longer the price will go up more. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that was not necessarily true. He knows of some prices that are coming down now. There is not a whole lot of work for contractors out there right now. Will it remain that way, Mr. Fitzpatrick hopes not but for now it does appear costs are coming down. The plant was designed in 1992 and went on line in 1996; it was designed with more clarifiers; but

SEWER AND SANITATION COMMITTEE – GEORGE BUTKUS (cont'd):

at that time it did not make financial sense nor would DEP approve it. Mr. Ludgate stated that Lower Heidelberg Township is “hoarding” capacity for which the Borough has paid capital costs. So, part of our sewer fees what they do is cover capital costs, so basically they are withholding some of the capital recovery we should be getting. Mr. Ludgate thought that was a point worth making to which Mr. Fitzpatrick stated it is a very good point. Mr. Butkus stated that was not true. What Lower got was what Lower paid for stated Mr. Francis Butkus. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated in capacity. Mr. Schlott explained what each of the areas do and how they affect the plant. (i.e. the headworks, reed beds, etc.). Mr. Wenrich questioned if we have a breakdown on the cost. Mr. Schlott stated he does not have the breakdown but all three (3) if the clarifier being a big part of it being 4.5 million dollars. The clarifier is roughly \$500,000.00 Mr. Schmidt said. These are just estimates. The cost without the clarifier is around 4 million dollars. Mr. Weld makes one (1) big assumption in the report. He said if one (1) of them breakdown we try to schedule it for when the weather is good so we can take it down and put it back in shape. That doesn't always happen that way. We have no fall back situation, Mr. Francis Butkus said. That is why if we had the third we could squeeze probably enough into two (2) to make a higher flow. We are pushing our luck now, he continued. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the problem with this is that if we finance to meet the useful life of the improvements that you are financing, you would find that the Borough residents would have enormous sewer rental bills. That is the problem. The underwriters are trying to channel that rental figure to meet that. That is why they extend it out for that time. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated in 1995 when this was refinanced, there were new acquisitions of capacity. That was financed by someone other than the Borough of Sinking Spring. There is potential there, so that some of this debt is paid off by other sources by those who need the capacity. The plan that the sewer committee has proposed, waiting to see what the Chapter 94 has proposed is a good idea. Have ARRO make a presentation to Council and let Council make their recommendations to the Authority. Mr. Wenrich asked the Authority to allow them to do their due diligence and allow them to study this. Mr. George Butkus stated that even if the Authority became a working Authority the Borough would still have to approve the clarifier and such. Mr. Wenrich stated in his opinion those first items will need to occur however the clarifier, he is not sure of. Mr. Wenrich stated that if it were up to him he would say come in with the cost. Mr. Weaver wanted to know why we don't make a resolution to the effect. Mr. George Butkus questioned if we could authorize the Authority to start the planning of that section. Can we authorize the Authority to start design of this and give them an answer by April on the clarifier just because if you have to roll it in, you have to roll it in? Mr. Schmidt questioned if we were going out to bids for the engineering? Mr. George Butkus stated currently he didn't believe so. He believed that ARRO has presented to the Authority a rough schedule of how or what the fee schedule is for engineering a project such as this. He continued that he believed the Authority was going to stick with ARRO because they know the system as they designed the current system. That way you are not spending more money bringing another engineering firm up to date with where they are now. This is a professional service and they don't have to do that, Mr. George Butkus said. Mr. Schmidt stated he is not throwing stones at ARRO at all, but how do we know we are getting the best price if we don't bid it. Mr. George Butkus said you can ask the same thing about the 20/20 project. Mr. Schmidt said he has asked that question. Mr. Butkus said he questioned again how much are we going to lose especially in a system that has been around for a while? Are we going to lose in the knowledge of what we got, that is going to have to be

SEWER AND SANITATION COMMITTEE – GEORGE BUTKUS (cont'd):

relearned by someone else? Mr. Schmidt said you are putting a dollar value on something you can't touch. Mr. Schmidt stated he worked for an engineering firm, and he was told to do that many times. We laid out the specs – we did the plans and didn't get the drawings, Mr. Schmidt continued, that is not unusual. Mr. Schlott stated that there is usually a design, then there is a bidding stage, and then there is a construction service stage. Mr. Schlott's experience would be they would be the design, but the bidding and construction stage that sometimes is in question as to who would do that. Mr. George Butkus stated it was the Authority's intent to have ARRO design the plant. Once it gets to construction then it would be bid. Mr. Schmidt stated that is a different story. At that point you are past design. Mr. Schmidt stated he has no problem with ARRO. He just wants to make sure if we are sitting here looking at dollars on other projects that we are looking to make sure that we get the right dollars here as well. Mr. Butkus made a motion to allow the Authority to go ahead with the design of the headworks, the reed beds, and the pumps so they can begin more serious design and that we give them an answer on the clarifier by the April 3, 2008 Council meeting so that design is not held up indefinitely; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 5, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Schmidt), ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY – JAMES ZERR:

Mr. Zerr asked Mr. Bausher what NIMS certification Council must have. Mr. Bausher stated 700 and 100. Mr. Bausher stated it would depend where someone on Council would sit in an emergency. If you are sitting in the command center you probably would need to have what Mrs. Shade currently has. Mrs. Shade stated she has her certifications in 100, 200, 700, and 800. She needs to get certified in 300 as well; however that requires 24 hours of class room training before the test is taken and that has not been accomplished yet. Mrs. Shade is able to sit in the emergency operations center. It probably isn't that everyone needs to, and it might be foolish. But at least the 700 and 100 should be taken. The 300 is a "bear." You can still be in the emergency center however what you can do in there would be limited.

The next item is that Mr. Hart has passed his Building Code Official class. With that he was assured a \$1,500.00 raise. Mr. Zerr made a motion to give Mr. Hart his \$1,500.00 a year raise retroactive to 1/1/08; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

At the last Safety Committee meeting it was tossed around about adding a sixth full time police officer to the force. With what we are paying in overtime and the problem we are having getting part time positions, the Safety Committee feels it is warranted to add another full time officer. He would like to activate the Civil Service Commission with the cost being \$45.00 on the return of their application. Mr. Zerr stated we spent about \$48,000.00 last year in overtime. The cost for a probationary police officer will be \$43,000.00 and it was budgeted. Mr. Zerr made a motion to activate the Civil Service Commission for the hiring of a sixth full time police officer and to charge a fee of \$45.00 for each applicant to pay on the return of their completed application; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY – JAMES ZERR (cont'd):

The next item was the authorization for the Chief to purchase a new vehicle. The Chief has negotiated some items and the cost will be coming in under \$30,000.00. It does have a hemi. It is a Dodge Charger.

Shortly after Jim Oxenreider became Chief Council appointed him as the Deputy EMA Coordinator; however somehow it got lost in translation. We need to reaffirm that position. Mr. Zerr made the motion to reaffirm Chief Oxenreider as our Deputy EMA Coordinator; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

Mr. Zerr gave the Solicitor an Ordinance on the recovery of materials used at emergency scenes. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated he originally had drawn up a resolution for this exact thing. He was not sure we need an Ordinance however if we need one (1) we can certainly adopt one (1). Mr. Zerr stated we need to do this as some municipalities are being challenged with the resolution. The insurance companies are making the challenges. We are not looking for home fires, etc. We are looking at accident scenes and or haz mat scenes. Mr. Butkus made a motion to have Mr. Fitzpatrick draw up an Ordinance pertaining to the recovery of materials used at accidents or haz mat incidents; seconded by Mr. Light; AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT -1; motion carried.

Mr. Zerr stated back in June or July we were talking with Spring Township about the mass gathering ordinance. He questioned where we were with that. Mr. Fitzpatrick will get the information for him.

The next Safety Committee meeting will be March 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

BOROUGH SECRETARY/TREASUERER – REGINA SHADE:

Mrs. Shade had nothing at this time.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR – CHARLES FITZPATRICK:

Mr. Fitzpatrick had the borrowing Ordinance to adopt that evening. It is for \$250,000.00 from National Penn Bank. The terms are interest rate of 3.91% for the first seven (7) years fixed and floating thereafter at the li-bar rate plus 110 basis points but a cap of 6%. The theory is that this loan should be paid off by the end of seven (7) years. Based on the seven (7) year loan the 3.91% is clearly the lowest. This loan would mature in 132 months. It is interest only for the first year and then the question is how do we want to do amortize the principal? We can do it monthly or one (1) principal payment a year. They deferred to Mrs. Shade. She wanted the one (1) payment per year. Mr. Butkus questioned if it would save us any money? It depends on when the first payment is made. Mrs. Shade stated the tax money starts coming in March. She was hoping to have the principal and interest payment due after the tax money has come in. We don't have a real cash reserve and to have a monthly principal payment due in January, February and March could be a problem. We only started handling the fire company books two (2) years ago and we don't have a real cash reserve build up right now. The payment would be due in May. Mrs. Shade liked the May date. Mr. Zerr wants the loan paid off as soon as possible (hopefully within four (4) years).

BOROUGH SOLICITOR – CHARLES FITZPATRICK (cont'd):

Mr. Zerr made a motion to adopt the Ordinance accepting the terms stated above; seconded by Mr. Schmidt. Mr. Wenrich asked for a roll call vote. AYES – 5, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus), ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

LIBRARIAN – SONDRA WESTBROOK:

Mr. Wenrich welcomed Mrs. Westbrook to the meeting. He hopes to see her at the regular meetings. We have all departments represented and are glad she is here representing the library. Mrs. Westbrook stated she has been the director for seven (7) years. She thanked Borough Council as well as the residents for supporting our library. She continued that we are a very busy library. Last year we had 34,445 people come through the doors. They circulated 84,689 items. That is a lot for a small library. The collection is about 17,000. We carry new DVDS, books on CD, new books, and new children's books. They offer story time. There are five (5) story times per week. In addition, they process passport applications. In the last federal fiscal year they did 1,377 applications. They have tax forms available. They have Reading Museum pass (two of them). You can take two (2) adults and four (4) children to the Museum. Mrs. Westbrook has two (2) new candidates for the Library Board. William Falter has served nine (9) years and he is giving it up. He did a great job. In addition, they have a Board member who will be resigning at the end of April. Nan Parks and Kathy Weaver have been approved by the Library Board. They have agreed to take these positions. Mr. Schmidt made a motion to appoint the two (2) above mention people to the Library Board; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. Mr. Butkus asked if they are residents of the Borough. Mrs. Westbrook does not think so. We do have some residents currently on the Board though. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried. The library has one (1) problem. The movers have broken some items. Mr. Fitzpatrick has sent them a letter. We are holding money from their bill. We told the movers that we are getting estimates on the cost to repair or replace the items that were damaged. They deducted a very small amount from the bill. We did not agree with that amount. They repaired two (2) DVD units. They are not the way they went out but at least they were repaired, Mrs. Westbrook stated. The units are useable. Everything was in good shape when it left but when it came back it was not. She continued that the way it was stated the library employees would be there to supervise but as it turned out the employees ended up packing up books as well. A representative from the prison system is coming up the following day to take pictures to see if they can make the repairs. The prison system was the ones who build the furniture in the first place. We would pay for the repairs. However, they have moved their facilities to another prison and they are not up and running yet. This can take some time. Mrs. Westbrook would like to see this come to some type of conclusion. Mr. Wenrich asked how many public libraries are there. Mrs. Westbrook stated there are about twenty (20) some in the County. Reading has several branches. We are right in the middle. There are about twenty four (24) libraries and we are number twelve (12). Someone from the public questioned who were the movers? It was Laush Moving and Storage.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider stated they had 162 calls for the month of February. He believed we had 24 traffic citations issued. Officer Schweyer had attended a class for the DUI Sobriety Check

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER (cont'd):

Points. This is so we can do the DUI checkpoints. The video equipment was ordered for the two (2) cars. Chief Oxenreider stated he received a letter from the County Commissioners asking for our support and assistance for a Countywide Police Service. Actually it for our support; they want a count of our equipment and such. This is just for a study for a Countywide Police Force. This study is for a grant. The County will pay half and the grant will pay for the other half. No money will have to be put out by the Borough. Mr. Wenrich stated in his opinion not has a Councilperson but as a citizen, he is not in favor of this at all. Mr. Wenrich stated the reason for a combined force is to throw the manpower where it is most needed. Sinking Spring does not have the crime problem the City of Reading does. The State Police are covering these outside municipalities and if you need a police officer you could wait until the next one is available. As long as he is a Borough resident and on Council he wants the Borough to retain a police force. This is a taxpayer given – 24 hour protection. When you call a police officer will show up. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Butkus questioned if taking part in this study makes us involved in the forming of a Countywide Police Force. Chief Oxenreider read from the letter that participating in this process does not apply or suggest an implementation of a Countywide Police Force. This is strictly for inventory purposes. They are asking for our support and this is only a study the Chief stated. Mr. Zerr made a motion to deny being involved in the study; seconded by Mr. Light. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

LIBRARY – LAWRENCE SCHMIDT:

His report was completed prior.

PARK AND RECREATION – BARBARA KUTZ:

Mrs. Kutz stated the Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 15th at 11:00 a.m. It is up to age ten (10).

Sandra Karli has taken a temporary leave of absence as Chairperson of the Rec Board. No one has stepped up to the plate. The Board will function on its' own till Ms. Karli comes back or another decision is made.

Dorian Cola, a Rec Board member, will be representing the Rec Board on the Revitalization Steering Committee.

The next item was the playground. Mrs. Kutz stated we will not be charging Borough residents to attend the playground however people who don't live in the Borough could have to pay a fee. Spring Township is charging \$40.00 for their residents to attend the playground and \$60.00 for non residents. She feels we should charge non residents as people are coming to our playground so they don't have to pay. Mr. Butkus made a motion to charge non residents \$60.00 per child to attend the Sinking Spring Playground; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. Mrs. Kutz stated there are numerous children in our Borough that can't afford to go on some of the trips that the playground supplies due to money issues. This fee could help the kids attend these events at no charge. Mrs. Shade questioned if we want to put maximum on for a family. Mr. Butkus said \$60.00 across the board. AYES – 5, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Light), ABSENT – 1; motion carried.

STREETS, UTILITIES, AND BUILDINGS – BRUCE LIGHT:

Mr. Light had nothing.

MAYOR – CLARENCE NOECKER:

Mayor Noecker stated Matthew Yatsko has finished his six (6) month probation. He now goes to Patrolman Third Class. He will get a bit of a raise. He is doing a good job and he is very cooperative. The Mayor heard good things about him from the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The first issue was the landlord ordinance. Several months ago Mr. Fitzpatrick was asked to give a copy of another municipalities' landlord ordinance of which he did. Mr. Schmidt stated he passed it out at the last meeting without saying anything. He requested Council to review this ordinance and decide if they would be interested in passing something like this. We received a few comments some from the audience and some that have come to the Borough. This is being done countywide. Mr. Schmidt is uncommitted on it. The Public Works Director read it and he likes certain things and he thought some other things could be added. Inspections could be done on single family units as well. Mr. Schmidt feels maybe we should expand on this to when people move in and out. Mr. Wenrich thought maybe we should table this for now pending further review. Mr. Wenrich stated you can have eight (8) good landlords and two (2) bad. Mr. Hart stated we have a large number of properties in bad shape. He explained currently we have an apartment building that has a fire escape that is not attached to the building. Four (4) treads are off, the railing will not support a small child as it is so loose. Mr. Wenrich would like to know these issues are being addressed. He wants to make it a fair permit cost so that we don't strap the landlord. He has the investment property to get some return not just to break even on it. Mr. Light said some houses are left in bad shape as well. We are not here to hurt anyone but we do want safety. It is a quality of life issue. Mr. Zerr said since it is a safety issue, it probably would be wise to turn it over to the safety committee for their review. Mr. Butkus questioned Mr. Fitzpatrick if we will be on the hook if we inspect this property every three (3) years and something happens and someone perishes at the house. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated we would not. Mr. Biggs stated every rental property is an income generated business; homes are not. Mr. Fitzpatrick can get other ordinances to look at as well if Council wanted. Council was happy with that one. Mr. Harting feels there are some things in the Ordinance that don't make good sense. He explained why. Mr. Harting felt someone changed the Ordinance fee from \$50 to \$250. Mr. Schmidt stated that Mr. Biggs looked at the Ordinance he wanted to see the fine be more. That is why the \$50 was crossed out and \$250 was put in. Mr. Schmidt said this was not our Ordinance it was just a sample of something we could use. The \$250 could be used if we have to hire someone else to keep track of this. Mr. Biggs thought this would be a good way to monitor who lives where. He continued that three (3) years ago Mrs. Shade did a census and discovered an additional \$40,000.00 in missing revenue. These inspections would catch those types of things Mr. Biggs said. Mr. Harting had several concerns and he feels it is bad legislation. Mr. Fitzpatrick explained how the process works. He said we don't do fifty days of violations at one (1) time. Mr. Wenrich stated this is not our Ordinance and thanked Mr. Harting but it will be going back to the Safety Committee for their review. Mr. Harting feels that Council will be the judge and he feels that is not fair. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated the district justice will be the

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (cont'd):

judge not Council. He cited his concerns again. Mr. Zerr stated by June Council meeting they should have something ready to put in front of Council. Mr. Harting handed the Ordinance to some landlords. Mr. Wenrich again stated this is not our Ordinance.

Mrs. Shade said that April 16, 2008 will be the bulk cleanup.

We received two (2) letters from people who are interested in serving on the committee to see if we should make the Authority a working Authority. The one (1) was from a gentleman who lives in Mt. Penn. The second was from Mrs. Denise Stine. Mr. Butkus recommend the Mayor sit on the committee as well. The Mayor will do it. Mr. Butkus made a recommendation to appoint Mrs. Stine and Mayor Noecker to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Both issues were discussed prior.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Francis Butkus stated that over the last couple of years he received numerous inquires where people could dump some of the stuff they can't put out for cleanup. He was wondering if the Borough ever thought about opening a site for people to take things. Mr. Wenrich stated they will need to contract a private agency to take it away. A gentleman named Ed Holland will come load it up and take it away. Lebanon Farms, our hauler, can be called and plans can be made for them to pick up. Mr. George Butkus stated you can call the County as well. Mr. Butkus stated maybe we could put it the newsletter or on the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

General Account

Opening Balance – February 29, 2008	\$	38,669.67
PLGIT		8,803.83
Invest		48,346.49
Recreation		125,651.78
General Invest		
To Be Paid	\$	<u>48,978.81</u>
	\$	172,492.96

Sewer Account

Opening Balance – February 29, 2008	\$	191,754.58
PLGIT		59,269.60
Invest		476,070.22
Sewer Revenue		
To Be Paid	\$	<u>21,090.28</u>
	\$	706,004.12

Mr. Butkus made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Kutz. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina M. Shade
Borough Secretary/Treasurer