

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James A Pachuillo, Jr. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo  
Edward Oswald  
George Butkus (absent)  
Christiana Stallone (absent)  
Gary Cirulli  
Denise Stine  
Steven Suruskie (absent)

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor, Robert Ludgate, Ludgate Engineering, David Schlott, Jr., ARRO Consulting, Michael Hart, Public Works Director, Police Chief Lee Schweyer, Regina Shade, Interim Borough Manager and Elizabeth White who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

**VISITORS:**

There were no visitors.

**COMMUNITY LIFE PROGRAM:**

Mrs. Shade thanked everyone for coming. She stated that from now on the Workshop Meetings will be a cross between a Council Meeting, Workshop Meeting and a Town Hall Meeting. She stated that the committees will be doing presentations explaining what their committee does and their goals. She also mentioned that she will be meeting with Mr. Robert Patricio on July 19<sup>th</sup>. She stated that he is the Chief Financial Advisor for the County and he will be helping put together a five (5) year plan for the Borough. She stated that she is bringing in the Pro's meaning, as the Interim Borough Manager, she wants the Borough to be more proactive instead reactive and to be more professional. She requested that if anyone wants to address Council that they come up to the podium, state their name and where they are from. She mentioned that it is really hard to hear sometimes when you are typing the minutes

Mr. Pachuillo thanked Mrs. Shade and stated that they had a lot of discussions with Mr. Ludgate and Mr. Hart about how they can start being more proactive. He stated that the discussions at the Workshop Meetings are going to be a little more open and free and sometimes we may not even do business at these Workshops. He said that it is more about getting the community involved and the other committees involved. He would like the committees to continue to come to the meetings if possible.

**Sinking Spring Historical Society:**

Mr. Paul Miller addressed Council and gave a brief background of the Historical Society. He stated that the Historical Society was formed in March of 1977 and came from the original Sinking Spring Bicentennial Committee and in 1978 the Save our Station Committee (SOS) was formed to move the historical railroad buildings which were going to be demolished by Conrail. He stated that the two organizations united in 1995 and that he has been President of the Historical Society since 1987. He stated that their dreams and visions would be to have the funds, grants and endowments to maintain the historical buildings in Heritage Park into the future. He stated that they are old buildings and need maintenance.

#### **Revitalization Committee:**

Mr. Charles Coleman spoke on behalf of the Revitalization Committee. He pointed out that they have the Sinking Spring Business and Community Alliance which now has thirty (30) business participants and they are really interested in improving the business in the Borough. He requested that Council approve applying for the Façade Grant and the Public Improvements Grant. He mentioned that they met with the people from the DCED and they were very positive.

Mr. Mease stated that BOSS2020 and the revitalization is a prime example of being proactive and applauded Council for their continued support.

#### **Business Alliance:**

Mr. Jeff Case spoke on behalf of the Business Alliance. He wanted to give some business perspective on two components of the grant that is being applied for. He stated that the sidewalk on Penn between the Borough office and Hull Street is not pedestrian friendly. He stated that widening the sidewalk would create curb appeal and make it more pedestrian friendly. He also mentioned the lane configuration and creating a center turn lane for Hull Street and narrowing the driving lanes to slow down traffic.

#### **Recreation Board:**

Mrs. Lisa Gantner spoke on behalf of the Rec. Board. She went over a list of events that they work on over the year including the Easter Egg Hunt and the Memorial Day Parade. She stated that they are doing the Movie Nights for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and would like to continue the movie nights on a permanent basis. She mentioned that they would like to purchase their own movie equipment instead of renting it every time. She mentioned that Mr. Metzgar got prices on purchasing equipment and the cost would be about \$5,000.00. Mrs. Shade mentioned that there is money in a fund that was set aside for recreation and that the money came from developers. She stated that it would be Councils decision and that there is about \$40,000.00 in the fund. She stated that maybe we could pay for it out of that fund. Discussion ensued concerning purchasing equipment. Mr. Oswald made a motion to authorize the Rec. Board to get quotes on purchasing movie equipment; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

Mr. Ludgate asked the Rec. Board if there was any potential in extending recreation programs to the adults in the borough. Mrs. Gantner stated that it could. Mr. Pachuiilo stated that he and Mrs. Shade had discussed expanding the recreation department in the future to fit all ages in the borough.

Mrs. Gantner handed out a Playground Program Report for 2012. She mentioned that they need to come up with rules for handling the cases of people that need financial help. Mr. Haws stated he will look and see what's out there in the way of a financial hardship form.

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they had a summer picnic for the volunteers two years ago and it wasn't well attended so last year the Rec. Board just brought lunch in for the Borough employees. Mrs. Shade mentioned that they used to go to the Reading Phillies that way all could relax and enjoy themselves and no one had to cook or clean up. She stated that it wasn't fair that the Rec. Board had to do everything as they are volunteers as well. She suggested looking into the Reading Phillies again and just paying for the employees and volunteers and other family members would have to pay. Mr. Pachuiilo stated that they could discuss it at the regular meeting.

Mrs. Gantner stated that they also do the Holiday Open House and that last year they had at least one hundred (100) people and they are starting to outgrow the space.

#### **Library Board:**

Mrs. Ann Case, one of the Board of Trustees for the Library, spoke on behalf of the Board. She handed out their Annual Report, their most recent newsletter and magnets. She went over their statistics and stated that she believes that the new sidewalks, improved street and the new lighting will help to increase the Library circulation and the Library patrons will patronize the businesses in the area. She also mentioned that the computers are used very heavily so they may need new/more computers in the future.

#### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT – JAMES PACHUILO:**

Mr. Pachuiilo thanked all the committee members for coming this evening and for their time and commitment throughout the year.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MICHAEL HART:**

Mr. Hart stated that he got a price for the Merry-Go-Round through co-stars of \$5,826.95. Mrs. Shade mentioned that we can also use the Rec. fund for this purchase. Mr. Oswald made the motion to purchase the new Merry-Go-Round; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

**POLICE CONTRACT:**

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that the Committee and the Association had met and went over a few items that were just clerical wording items in the contract. He stated that it was a very good meeting. Chief Schweyer stated that he has the contract and that it is signed by the Association. Mr. Oswald made a motion to approve the Police Contract; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – MICHAEL HART:**

Mr. Hart stated that there is a storm catch basin located on South Hull Street where it turns into Martins Road that he has been watching. He stated that the sidewalk behind it is sinking so he climbed into the drain and found that the pipe is damaged. He believes that the water is seeping out and creating a sinkhole. He stated that we will need to get someone in to fix it. He mentioned that he got prices from three different contractors which ranged from \$5,186.00 up to \$13,000.00 to remove the sidewalk, excavate, repair the pipe and backfill and replace the sidewalk. Mr. Pachuillo asked Mr. Hart if he was happy with the low bid and who it was from. Mr. Hart stated that it is from Brubacher Excavation and that he is happy with it. Mrs. Stine made a motion to have Brubacher Excavation repair the sidewalk and storm drain pipe at a price not to exceed \$10,000.00; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

**SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – DAVID M. SCHLOTT, JR.:**

Mr. Schlott reported that the NPDES Permit that is required for the discharge at the treatment plant was submitted and received by DEP and DRBC.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council went into an executive session requested by Chief Schweyer for personnel issues at 8:25 pm.

**RECONVENE:**

Council reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Cirulli made a motion to accept Officer Brandi Courtsis resignation as a part-time police officer effective June 30, 2013; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

Mr. Cirulli made a motion to hire another part-time police officer; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

Mrs. Stine made a motion to redo Chief Schweyer's contract to parallel the union police officers contract for three years; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

**CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:**

Chief Schweyer mentioned that Officer Oxenreider is our First Aide Instructor and that the American Red Cross does not supply mannequins anymore for doing the CPR. He stated that Officer Oxenreider devised a plan of the Borough of Sinking Spring and Western Berks Police Department going in halves to buy mannequins with the equipment being stored here at the Borough. He stated that the Borough's cost would be \$202.50. Mrs. Stine made a motion to go along with the Western Berks Police Department to purchase the mannequins; seconded by Mr. Cirulli. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 3; motion carried.

Chief Schweyer mentioned that Brecknock Township bought more Tasers then they thought at the auction so he was able to secure two (2) Tasers at a cost of \$330.00 each for a total of \$660.00. He mentioned that they cost \$1,000.00 brand new.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Oswald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. White  
Borough Secretary