

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachulo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachulo
TJ Huckleberry
George Butkus
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson (Absent)
Brian Hoffa

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli, Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Robert Ludgate Sr., Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Bryce Zohner, Public Works Director; Police Chief Lee Schweyer, and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachulo stated that he wanted to take a moment to thank our Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Ambulance personnel/First Responders in this community for everything they have done over the last month with the tragedies that we have had here in the Borough. He stated that our hearts and prayers go out to all the families affected.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachulo mentioned that we received a letter from Judy Scott voicing her opinion and her opposition to our BOSS2020 Plan.

Mr. Pachulo mentioned that we received a couple letters concerning the PP& L issue. One is a response letter to Spring Township from PP& L stating that they are undertaking additional review of all routing options. He stated that another letter is from Representative Cox basically stating the same thing from his response from PP&L. He stated that PP&L states that they will hold a public meeting with new routing information when they feel it is pertinent.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that they are moving forward with the demolition of the structures on Penn Avenue and that the asbestos has been removed. He stated that they will be starting with 3920 Penn Avenue and then move to the old Borough Hall second and then finish off the others. Mr. Pachulo questioned if the Historical Society was able to get out what they wanted. Mr. Hart stated that they have identified a couple things that are still in the building and once they start the demo they will remove those items for them. Mr. Pachulo also asked if the Fire Company could still get in for training. Mr. Hart stated yes but the window is closing quickly. Mr. Butkus questioned when we notified the abutting properties. Mr. Hart stated that he would hope that Empire would have notified them since we do not know their schedule. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that at the pre-construction meeting Empire stated that they would. Mr. Butkus stated that it is his understanding that the house attached to 3920 Penn Avenue was not notified that they were starting today and came home to a hole in their wall. Mr. Ludgate stated that he did not get any information on that and neither did Mr. Hart. Mr. Ludgate stated that he will see what the situation is tomorrow. He stated that Empire was prepared to brace that wall if they had too.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he, Mr. Hoffa, Mr. Hart and Mr. Loth will be going to Harrisburg on Monday to meet with the Secretary of Transportation and a representative of the Governor's office. He stated that the meeting was arranged by Senator Argall. He mentioned that two partners of the Spring Market Development are also to attend the meeting. He stated that the goal of the meeting is to find a way to finance the project.

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they are still discussing and looking into starting a Shade Tree Commission in the Borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Hart mentioned that permits have been issued for the Verizon Cell Tower so we should start getting our lease payments.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachulo stated that the first item is the Non-Uniformed Pension MMO for 2017 in the amount of \$56,743.00. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to approve the Non-Uniformed Pension MMO; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachulo stated that they needed to pass a few Resolutions. The first was a Resolution approving and adopting the revised and restated Emergency Operations Plan. Mr. Butkus made a motion to accept the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont.):

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next Resolution they needed to pass is a Resolution naming the Borough Manager as CEO. Mr. Haws explained that in February Council made a motion naming Mr. Hart as CEO but the Pension Auditors would like the position named as CEO. Mr. Huckleberry made the motion to pass the Resolution naming the Borough Manager as CEO; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next Resolution is to ratify and affirm the adoption of the restated Defined Contribution Plan, Borough of Sinking Spring Money Purchase Plan restated January 1, 2013. Mr. Haws stated that they restate the plan every five years. Mrs. Stine made the motion to pass the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Haws stated that the next Resolution is to adopt procedures to govern the procurement of professional services contracts regarding the municipal pension plan as required by Act 205. Mr. Huckleberry pointed out a typo in the Resolution where is stated Township instead of Borough. Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to pass the Resolution with the change; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Butkus asked when the last time we went out for RFP's for the Pension Plan. Mr. Haws stated that he wasn't sure. Mr. Butkus suggested that the Borough should get quotes out for next year.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the last Resolution is to Appoint Representatives to the Cooperative Purchasing Council. Mr. Hart stated that the Borough is a Member of the Cooperative Purchasing Council but we need a new Resolution removing Mrs. Shade from it and adding another alternate. Mr. Hart suggested adding Mr. Zohner since most of it pertains to Public Works. Mr. Butkus made a motion approving the Resolution naming the Borough Manager and the Public Works Director to the Cooperative Purchasing Council; seconded by Mr. Gantner.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer stated that he just wanted to commend all of the officers that were involved in the tragedies that we have had in the Borough over the last two and a half weeks. He stated that it is not easy to respond to some of the horrific scenes that they saw but they handled the job with extreme professionalism.

BRYCE Zohner – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they lost another Public Works employee, Jason Rapp gave his two week notice and his last day is this Friday. He stated that he and Mr. Hart have been doing interviews and have some good quality candidates coming through. Mrs. Gantner asked why we keep losing people. Mr. Zohner stated that he thinks that money is part of it but he also thinks that they don't realize what all the job entails even though he and Mr. Hart are very specific at the interviews. Mr. Hart and Mr. Zohner both stated that during the interviews they are pointing out the salary range and they all seemed happy with it.

BRYCE ZOHNER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR (Cont.):

Mr. Zohner mentioned that they had budgeted \$38,000.00 for a bucket/lift truck to put up the banners and Christmas lights. He stated that Mr. Hart found a dealership that sells used bucket trucks and there are some quality trucks for about \$10,000.00. He stated that they would like to take a trip out there to check them out. He stated that they would like Council's blessing to spend up to \$10,000.00. Mr. Pachulo asked if they wanted to limit themselves to \$10,000.00. Mr. Hart suggested that they raise it to \$15,000.00. Mr. Butkus questioned how much we are actually going to use it. Mr. Zohner stated that it would be used to put up and take down the Christmas Lights and Banners, tree trimming, maintenance of pole lights back as sewer plant, and other general building maintenance. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart and Mr. Zohner to go out and look at the vehicle and give approval to purchase up to a limit of \$15,000.00; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Butkus), ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Zohner mentioned the Penn Avenue Interceptor Crossing and that they have been working on this quite a bit and believe that they have nailed down the material that they would like to use. He mentioned that there is currently an 18" casing underground that they are going to be able to slide a new pipe through vs having to open cut the highway. He stated that they would like to put in an HDPE DR 17 which is a 14" fusible plastic line. He mentioned that the line will be able to hold 2,500,000 gpd of flow. He stated that the quote he received for the whole project is \$134,000.00 and that we are doing it as an emergency repair before PennDOT comes through. Mr. Butkus made a motion to proceed with the project not to exceed \$140,000.00; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that a gentleman from the Auditor General Office is here auditing the Borough's Pension Plans for 2012 through 2015.

Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that Mrs. Kathy Miller from the Historical Society dropped off a flyer for the annual Chicken Barbeque Fund Raiser which is being held on September 10th. She stated that if anyone wanted to purchase tickets in advance to let her know.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received notification from the Gilmore/Henne Foundation about their annual Labor Day Railroad Run that will be held on Monday September 5th. He stated that they are just asking for permission to do what they have done in the past. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Run; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received notice that the Borough was approved for the reimbursement for Winter Storm Jonas in the amount of \$15,392.00. It was discussed to put the funds in the Capital Improvement Account to assist paying for the new salt shed.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

Mr. Hart stated that we are having issues with the property owner of the property that was involved in the fire. He stated that he informed the owner that he has to do exterior cleanup and secure the structure which he has failed to do. Mr. Hart stated that he would like to hire someone to secure the property and clean up the exterior and then bill the owner for it. He mentioned that some of the roof structure is hanging over the sidewalk and he doesn't want it falling down.

Mr. Hart stated that they had a meeting with the Teamsters Union today and they have scheduled another meeting for September 26th. Mr. Butkus asked if they could sit in executive session at some point so everyone is aware of what is being asked for on both sides. Mr. Pachuiolo stated that we will be having an Executive Session at the next meeting so Mr. Hart can prepare something for us to go over then.

Mr. Hart stated that they had discussed before about having an Open House for Council at the Garage, Sewer Plant and the Pump Station. He stated that they are looking at doing it on Saturday, September 3rd or Saturday, September 17th. After a brief discussion it was decided to have it on Saturday, September 17th.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli stated that Mrs. Egelman sent out the information from the Civil Service Commission to all of Council. He stated that they have a candidate for the Police Officer position who scored high and works for the Borough part-time. He stated that he and the Chief believe this candidate will be a good fit. Mayor Cirulli asked for Council's blessing to hire Mr. Jeb Cooper contingent upon him passing the rest of his testing. Mrs. Stine made the motion to hire Mr. Jeb Cooper as a Full Time Police Officer contingent on him passing the rest of his testing; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mayor Cirulli stated that the rate will be \$26.04 per hour while he is on probation which is six months.

Mayor Cirulli also commended the officers that were involved in the tragedies here in the Borough and stated that they did a great job. He also mentioned that the Western Berks Fire Department and all the other departments that responded did a great job on the fire the other day and had it knocked down in no time.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner thanked the Chief for getting their street lights fixed back at Brookfield Manor. She mentioned that the Playground Program ended and the extra week went really well. She mentioned that because of what happened in Brookfield it affected them and she and Mrs. Peterson ended up sitting at the Brookfield Manor Playground all week because of what happened across the street and there were reporters all over the place.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION (Cont.):

Mrs. Gantner asked if there was a way that Council could get some information about what is going on when there is an incident like what happened back in Brookfield or even the fire down the street. She stated that they don't need details but just some kind of information about what is going on would be helpful. Mr. Pachulo stated that they can have a protocol where something like that happens, whether police or fire, that they can send out an e-mail to brief Council on a situation.

Chief Schweyer stated that he contacted Dunkin Donuts about having a social event there like she suggested and they would be willing to host it.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine reminded everyone about the fund raiser at Five Guys for the Western Berks Fire Department to help purchase more smoke detectors on August 30th. She also mentioned that the Red Cross was out yesterday and handed out smoke detectors to people in the Borough.

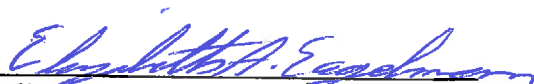
GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that the Sewer Committee will be meeting on the second Monday in September because of the Labor Day holiday. He also mentioned about having to replace the garage at the Sewer Plant.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary