

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth White called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli, Charles Haws, Borough Solicitor; Tom Ludgate, Ludgate Engineering; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Public Works Director; Regina Shade, Borough Manager and Elizabeth White who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that he received an e-mail from Mr. Huckleberry with a letter that he sent to Western Berks Ambulance thanking them for their outstanding efforts during their son's emergency delivery last week.

BUSINESS:

The first item on the agenda was to ratify the hiring of Christine Weida as the Children's Coordinator at a rate of \$14.00 per hour. Mrs. Peterson made the motion; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

The next item was the Police MMO for 2015 in the amount of \$78,056.00. Mr. Butkus made the motion to approve the MMO payment; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried. Mrs. Shade mentioned that we do get money from the state to help reimburse the pension plan.

The next item was the Solicitation Ordinance. Mr. Haws stated that the revisions were made and the Ordinance was advertised. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pass the Ordinance; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

BUSINESS (cont'd):

The next item was the Yard Sale Ordinance. Mr. Haws stated that the changes were made and the Ordinance was advertised. Discussion ensued concerning who would issue permits and who would enforce. Mr. Haws stated that it was listed under Code Enforcement. Chief Schweyer stated that if it occurs over the weekend the Police Officers could take a report and give the information to the Code Enforcement Officer on Monday. Mrs. Stine made a motion to pass the Ordinance; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

The next item was the Sunset Apartments Escrow Release in the amount of \$61,270.80. Mr. Tom Ludgate stated that they recommend the release. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Escrow Release; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that the Gilmor/Henne Railroad Walk/Run will be held on Monday, Sept. 1st at the Railroad House and that registration is at 9 a.m.

The annual Shred Event will be October 18, 2014. No businesses will be allowed. It is at the National Penn Bank located in Robesonia.

REGINA SHADE – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that our Workers Comp is with PIRMA and that they are updating their records and sent a new Agreement that needs to be signed. She stated that she and Mr. Haws both reviewed the Agreement and that it is the same as it was. Mr. Butkus asked if we could go out to bid on these. Mrs. Shade stated that we would not qualify because we have too many claims. She stated that we could try and see what happens if Council would like. Mrs. Peterson asked how much we pay a year. Mrs. Shade stated that it is about \$20,000.00 for all the departments. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve signing the Agreement with PIRMA; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

Mrs. Shade also mentioned that she has another agreement that needs to be signed by Mr. Pachuillo. Mr. Haws stated that it is in regards to the Pedestrian Safety Project on the west end of the Borough. He stated that PennDOT sent us three (3) copies of an Agreement that they prepared for execution between the Borough and M.J. McTish and Associates which provides for the work and services to be performed on this project. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to authorize Mr. Pachuillo to sign the Agreement; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Hart mentioned that Utility Water Pump #3 went down under the contractor operations. He stated that they had it pulled, sent it out and found that it is going to require a major rebuild. He stated that we had \$7,000.00 set aside in the budget for that repair but the price came in at \$11,000.00. Mr. Butkus asked how much a new one would cost. Mr. Hart stated that a new one would be about \$27,000.00. He asked Council for approval to have it repaired. Mr. Hoffa made a

MICHAEL HART – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: (Cont.)

motion to authorize having the pump rebuilt; seconded by Mr. Butkus. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried. Mr. Butkus asked when the other two have been serviced and checked. Mr. Hart stated that he did not know and that when it was under contract they gave him next to no information on anything. Mr. Butkus stated that they will start building into next year's budget to look at and rotate the other two through the maintenance cycle.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he is still looking for other pricing to get the other Storm Drain fixed.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that A&N Elite LLC is requesting an escrow release of \$2,965.00 for the sewer. They are also requesting relief from line flushing and televising the line since they are private lines and on private property and are their (A&N's) responsibility to maintain and service these lines. Mr. Butkus stated that it should be televised to make sure that it is secure and not leaking. Mr. Smith & Mr. Hart both stated that it was air tested. Discussion ensued. Mr. Butkus stated that his recommendation to Council is to follow the Ordinance which states that it must be done. Mr. Smith stated that the cost for the line flushing and televising is \$280.00. Mr. Butkus made a motion to stick with the Ordinance and that they need to do the work before Council releases the Escrow; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer stated that he received a request for a Handicapped space from Mr. Federowicz at 260 Keller Avenue. Mr. Butkus suggested that we review all the handicapped spaces to see if they are all still needed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve the handicapped space and noted that they should be reviewed yearly; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

Chief Schweyer stated that he received a letter from Brian Gotshall from the County regarding the new radios which are not in operation yet. The letter states that the County wants the Municipalities to do touch ups on all the radios. He stated that it will cost \$70.00 per radio to have Radio Maintenance do them and they would need three touch ups before the October start date. He stated that Mr. Gotshall is recommending that each Municipality get a laptop computer with his specifications. The County would provide the municipality with coaxial cables for the computer and we would have to sign an agreement for the software and we could do the touch ups ourselves. He stated that he contacted Lynx and got a price of \$615.00 for the laptop that we need. He also mentioned that he spoke with the Chief from Western Berks and they are willing to go in and pay half the computer cost. He stated that one department would have to be the main entity, which would be us, and Western Berks would have to sign a proxy agreement with us. He mentioned that one of our Police Officers also works for Western Berks and could be the one in charge of doing the touch ups. Discussion ensued. Mr. Pachulo stated that they will table the issue until next week's Council meeting.

CHIEF SCHWEYER: (Cont.)

Chief Schweyer also mentioned that he was thinking about getting two in car cameras but thinks he is going to scrap that idea and go with body cameras. He stated that they have been approved for use and cost a lot less than the in car cameras and provides more ninety percent more coverage. He stated that it will be in his budget for next year.

Mr. Haws stated that he went over the Proxy Agreement and he is ok with it. Mr. Butkus stated that if the rest of Council is ok with it he would agree to purchasing the laptop and sharing with Western Berks. Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion. Mr. Butkus made a motion to approve purchasing the laptop and signing the agreements; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that at the last Movie Night they had 350 people there. She mentioned that she is working on the Fall/Winter Newsletter and would like to get it out by mid-October. She asked everyone to get their stuff to her by the third week in September. She also mentioned that we could rent out our movie equipment to other organizations with Mr. Metzgar setting everything up.

She asked Council if they wanted to do anything for the Wernersville's 100th Anniversary Parade on September 13th. Mrs. Stine stated that Council could just walk and carry the banner.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson stated that there was an incident at the Library with a patron and the Police were called in. She mentioned that there have been numerous incidents with this same person but not to the point where it escalated this time. She stated that Mr. Nelka is drafting a letter to excuse that person from the Library for at least a year unless he comes back remorseful or something. Chief Schweyer stated that the letter should go out certified mail. Mrs. Shade suggested that Chief Schweyer talk to Mr. Nelka. Mr. Butkus stated that the letter should go out both regular and certified mail in case they refuse the certified they would still receive it regular mail.

Mrs. Peterson also mentioned that there are some new programs that are coming to the Library. She stated that they are going to start a Lego Club and start an evening story time.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that on September 2nd Columbia Avenue will be closed for construction and he will have Fire Police stationed each day from 8 am until 6 pm at Woodrow and Penn running the traffic light. Mr. Hart stated that it will be closed from Vester Place to Woodrow Avenue but the traffic coming onto Columbia from Penn will be restricted.

GEORGE BUTKUS – SEWER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Butkus mentioned that their meeting will be moved back due to schedule and the holiday. He also mentioned that they are reviewing the proposed Ordinance making it mandatory to recycle. He asked Mr. Hart if he found anything pertaining to the grass clippings in the Code Book. Mr. Hart stated that he did not. Mr. Butkus stated that they will add it in to this Ordinance stating that you may not blow the grass into the street.

Mr. Butkus asked if they needed to review the Snow Emergency Ordinance or at least start re-advising people about what the Snow Emergency Routes are. Mayor Cirulli stated that it can go in the Newsletter.

SOLICITOR – CHARLES HAWS:

Mr. Haws mentioned that several months ago the Borough received an inquiry from Verizon about locating a Cell Tower out by the Playground. He stated that they hired Legal Counsel who has come up with an issue. He stated that he confirmed with Mr. Hart that it is in an R-1 District and that it is Borough owned property. He stated that the Cell Tower would not be a Borough use it would be a private commercial use and would need a variance. He stated that looking through the Ordinance he doesn't see any specific provision to put a Cell Tower anywhere in the Borough. He stated that they don't want to go through a variance but that may be there best option since the Borough is in favor of it and it is not identified anywhere we have to allow it. Discussion ensued. Mr. Haws stated that this can wait until next meeting and that we can amend the Ordinance and allow it in an area. Mr. Pachulo stated that they would table it until next meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 8:15 p.m.


RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:23 p.m. Mr. Pachulo stated that they received a letter from a union employee that was representing some other union employees and they would like to reopen their collective bargaining agreement with the Borough. Mr. Butkus made a motion that Council does not have grounds to open the Contract at this time; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES- 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Butkus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. White
Asst. Secretary