

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 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
TJ Huckleberry
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa (Absent)

Other officials present were: Charles Haws, Barley Snyder; 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.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that last Friday they met with representatives from Sunoco. He stated that unfortunately they were not offering anything in terms of helping to pay for the road but they were talking about the potential for dealing with other programs. He stated that they were friendly but not directly helpful. Mrs. Gantner stated that she believes that we should put more on the County because it is a regional problem and more of a County issue. Mr. Huckleberry asked where we are on the RATS list. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Alan Piper recently and that Mr. Piper felt pretty comfortable telling him that it is likely to get moved ahead so that the allocation would become available October 1, 2018 and would be for PennDOT to hire a design engineer.

Mr. Ludgate explained that Mrs. Hollenbach and Mr. Loth attended a program called TAP (Transportation Alternative Projects) this past summer which talked about funding under TAP. He stated that Mrs. Hollenbach dug into that project and found out that it could fund Stormwater projects. He stated that Mr. Matt Mack in their office came up with the idea to use the Broad Street Ditch. Mr. Ludgate mentioned that he and Mr. Hart attended a meeting concerning the funding under TAP because we had missed the deadline and he asked for reconsideration. He stated that we

REVITALIZATION (Cont.):

were reconsidered and that they were received favorably. Mr. Hart mentioned that we received a letter of support from them for the project. He stated that he was going to ask for \$100,000.00 but was urged to apply for a lot more so he has applied for enough to upgrade the ditch to the point where it is handling stormwater management for all of our downtown project as well as our MS4 obligation. He stated that the grant would cover 100% of the construction cost and that the Borough would be responsible for the engineering and administration of the operation and acquiring the right-of-way if required. Discussion ensued concerning the right-of-way. Mr. Ludgate stated that the selection won't happen until January. Mr. Haws mentioned that we have five years to implement with the MS4 if we don't get the grant next year.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned the Green Light Go grant and that he is waiting for an estimate for LED lighting so he can add it to the grant application. He also mentioned that he had a meeting with STV to make sure they are on target for getting a contract let at the end of this year so construction can begin next Spring on the Phase Two highway works. He stated that the one urgency on that is the \$150,000.00 grant from DCED must be used by the end of June next year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that there was no unfinished business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Revised 2018 Police MMO. He mentioned that the numbers had to be reworked to include the police contribution for 2018. He stated that the new 2018 Police MMO amount is \$94,865.00. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the revised 2018 Police MMO in the amount of \$94,865.00; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the next item is the Annual Community Shredding Event. He mentioned that there is a change of venue this year and that it will be held at the Lower Heidelberg Township Building on October 21, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to participate in the Shredding Event; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF LEE SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that they received a \$100.00 donation from St. John's Lutheran Church and that he already sent them a thank you letter. He also mentioned that their phones went out again the other day and that it was sporadic on Penn Avenue. He stated that he spoke with Verizon and that they may be digging up Penn Avenue again because the wires were damaged during one of the construction periods.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER

Mr. Ludgate mentioned that there was an issue with the Pedestrian Safety Project and the Close Out. He stated that he submitted information two or three weeks ago and has not heard anything new. Mr. Hart stated that they are still working through that and that there are issues but he doesn't know for sure what they are.

BRYCE ZONER – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:

Mr. Zohner mentioned that the Solids Handling Study is going on and that they have had two pilot tests so far and two more are scheduled. He also mentioned that they met with In Pipe, the company that we currently purchase our bugs from, to discuss the performance of their product in our plant. He stated that it was a productive meeting and that he is waiting for them get us some information and we will go from there.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the contractor finished the punch list items at 3922 Penn Avenue. He stated that he has not heard back from the residents.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he contacted Comcast to look at upgrading our phone system and getting away from Verizon. He stated that they gave him a rough price which is right around what we are paying now. He also mentioned that he is looking into switching payroll services.

Mr. Hart stated that the Budgets are moving forward and that he has a meeting scheduled for October 10th with the Finance Committee to review it.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he and Mr. Haws met with representatives from Eagle Disposal to discuss some of the issues that we have been having. He stated that we now have a new Route Supervisor who is following the truck around and that the complaints have dropped.

Mr. Hart mentioned the sidewalk project on the Western End of Penn Avenue that we did and the bridge loan that we had to take out for it. He stated that so far, we have not had to use the loan because we had enough money on hand to pay the contractor and the reimbursement checks came in quicker than anticipated. He mentioned that the loan had to be refinanced twice and comes due in March of 2018. He stated that he has to put in the budget the \$63,000.00 to close it out. He also mentioned that the \$2,100,000.00 loan has to be drawn down by December 1st of this year so the rest of the funds will need to be pulled out and put into a separate account until needed for construction.

JAMES PACHUILO – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mr. Pachuillo reminded everyone about Western Berks Fire Department's Town Hall Meeting on September 28th at the Lower Heidelberg Township Building.

T. J. HUCKLEBERRY – FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Huckleberry stated that he was contacted by a business owner about the corner of S. Hull Street and Penn Avenue and the new curbing and handicapped ramp. He stated that PennDOT has not come in yet to put the paving down. The business owner stated that residents are tripping and threatening to sue him because of the issue. Mr. Huckleberry stated that he had asked Mr. Hart to send a letter to PennDOT and forward a copy to our elected officials to see if we can't get this expedited. Mr. Hart stated that he did send a letter off right away and e-mailed it to the Senator's office. He stated that he received a call yesterday from the contractor and that they will be here tomorrow to start working on it again and get things completed. He stated that the contractor is only looking at finishing up the sidewalks that they disturbed, mill off only half of Penn Avenue to Cacoosing Avenue and just put a scratch surface back on. He stated that Kinsley is the contractor and they stated that they were also hired by UGI to do the trench restoration on the 3800 block of Penn Avenue.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they made a motion to hire Lauren Jones for the Library at the last meeting and that she has turned down the position.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Borough is going to do the Memorial Day Parade in 2018 since we canceled this years due to rain. She stated that Wernersville Borough had called about it.

Mrs. Gantner stated that Mrs. Bohn contacted her because she noticed that the hiring of the Part-time Playground leaders was never ratified at the meeting in June. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to hire Emily Nelson at \$9.50 per hour starting June 12, 2017 and to hire Kylie Ludwig, Chris Walters, Max Gadebusch, Nick Seleulski, Emma Stone, Emma Maurer and Caroline Ramsey at \$7.55 per hour starting June 12, 2017; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES –6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that Council would go into Executive Session for a personnel issue. Council went into Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.


RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 7:47 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary