

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall by President James Pachuillo. After the Pledge to the Flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

James Pachuillo
T.J. Huckleberry (Arrived at 8:10)
George Butkus (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

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

Mr. Pachuillo requested a moment of silence to honor our fallen heroes and those who serve us on a daily basis at home and abroad in the Armed Forces and our first responders.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2015 Council Meeting and the August 26, 2015 Workshop Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Vaughan Zimmerman of VIST/Tompkins Insurance who is the Borough Health Insurance Broker addressed Council concerning the health care. He handed out the current Capital Blue Cross options and mentioned that if the Borough stays with Capital directly the rate for the current plan would go down 2%. He also mentioned that the Dental Insurance rates remained the same. He stated that they included a vision option, which the Borough currently has with the Capital rates, and it looks like they go up 3 or 4%. He mentioned that they looked at one other vision provider where the plans are similar and the rates are similar. He mentioned that they are also looking hard at Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PMHIC) were many of the Berks County Municipalities, when it makes sense, go there and stay because it makes sense. He stated that what the coop does is you share in the good claims experience and have dollars that come back to you. He stated that it is invisible to the subscribers and it is administered by Benecon. He stated that three (3) years ago we tried to get a quote from them and they declined to quote but this year they came back with a quote. He stated that the Borough will have to renew their current Capital benefits for one month and if we decide to move to Benecon then it would start November 1st. Mr. Zimmerman introduced Ms. Robin Richardson of Benecon. Mr. Pachuillo mentioned that we have two collective bargaining agreements in the Borough and he wanted to make sure that if we

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT (Cont.):

move to Benecon that it would be the same or better coverage. Mr. Zimmerman stated that it will be the exact same coverage that they have now only administered through Benecon. Ms. Richardson gave an overview of how the cooperative works. She explained that the cooperative allows municipalities to join together so that they can self-fund their benefits without the risk of self-funding. She stated that the biggest way that you save money by being in the cooperative is to retain premium dollars that typically go to the insurance carrier. She stated that in the proposal that they presented it shows that about \$163,239.00 will remain "in house" and is designated to pay claims on behalf of the Borough. She mentioned that the estimated savings at maximum claim costs (worst case scenario) over fifteen months is \$20,055.00 and if the Borough comes in at the expected claim costs the savings would be \$53,749.00 less whatever the cross share obligation is to the other cooperative members. She also mentioned that the benefits will be matched to the existing Capital Blue Cross plan design. She stated that they do limit the Borough's liability on each plan participant's claim and purchase Stop Loss Insurance to protect the Borough's dollars if a claim reaches a certain threshold. She also mentioned that they put Aggregate Insurance in place to protect the entire cooperative in case all the municipalities run poorly in any given year. She stated that because the PMHIC groups are self-funded you do not have to accept all the State and Federal Mandates that are issued on groups. She stated that in PMHIC they do not cover Autism mandates, they offer a 90 lifetime max for inpatient substance abuse and 120 lifetime max for outpatient, they have to keep the same co-pay for generic and generic non preferred and the vision is not offered through Capital Blue Cross but Mr. Zimmerman is covering that through his side. Mrs. Peterson asked how they determine the Cross Share amounts. Ms. Richardson stated that it is strictly based upon the size of the group and the Borough's Cross Share would be 30% but they would only take what is necessary of that 30% and the rest would go back to the Borough. Mrs. Shade mentioned that it would be a three (3) year commitment. Ms. Richardson mentioned that the Borough would have to pass an Ordinance or Resolution and then there is a Trust Agreement which outlines the three (3) year commitment. Mrs. Peterson asked how often they pay out the surplus. Ms. Richardson stated that the first distribution is delivered in April (about 75%) of the following year, the second distribution is in June and then the remainder in the Fall.

Mr. Pachuiolo asked for a motion to renew with Capital Blue Cross for one month and move to PMHIC with Benecon as the Administrator on November 1, 2015. Mr. Hoffa made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Pachuiolo asked for a motion for the Vision Insurance to go with Option 2, Vision Benefits of America 12/12. Mrs. Peterson made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Shade mentioned that she forwarded an e-mail to Council that she received from our Liability and Workers Comp Insurance stating what a great job Mr. Hart and Mr. Zohner are doing on the Public Works buildings and the buildings back at the Sewer Plant.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to approve the bills for August 2015. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Commissioner Jared Renshall addressed Council and gave the report for August. He mentioned that they are getting the Budget process started. He stated that he has an Authorization Form from the Berks County Department of Emergency Services that needs to be signed by all four (4) municipalities that the Fire Department Services. He stated that the Authorization Form gives him the power on behalf of the Boroughs to establish, maintain, review and revise the Run Cards for the municipalities. He stated that Run Cards show what apparatus is getting dispatched to certain types of calls. Mr. Pachuillo asked for a motion to authorize signing the Emergency Services Run Card Authorization. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Peterson. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried. Mr. Renshall mentioned that the Run Cards are only for the fire side not for any medical calls

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the first item is the Solicitation Permits. Mr. Haws stated that he was asked to take a look at the form and propose some language that would address trying to keep solicitors from getting out into traffic. He stated that he looked at the Ordinance and will prepare a revised Permit Application and have a draft for the next meeting.

Mr. Pachuillo asked if there was any new information on getting a Junior Council Person. Mrs. Shade stated that she has been in contact with Mr. Chris Daubert at the High School and he is going to try to find us a candidate who lives in the Borough.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pachuillo stated that the only item is the Shred Event. Mr. Pachuillo stated that it will be held on Saturday, October 24th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the National Penn Bank in Robesonia. He mentioned that it is for Borough residents and that businesses are not included.

CHIEF SCHWEYER:

Chief Schweyer mentioned that the delineators were installed last week and that two of them were knocked down already. Mrs. Shade stated that she received a letter and maps that need to be signed. She mentioned that the letter states that the Borough will maintain the delineators. Mr. Pachuillo recommended that they sign the plans and visit this issue as time goes on. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize Mrs. Shade to sign the plans; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

ROBERT LUDGATE SR. – BOROUGH ENGINEER:

Mr. Ludgate stated that the S. Hull Street Bids that were opened at the Workshop Meeting have been reviewed by Ludgate and they found them to be in order. He stated that he checked the prices for the low bidder and it all looks good. He stated that they do have to get the Notice of Award out and get the Contract signed so that we can get a Notice to Proceed. Mr. Haws mentioned that Council gave authorization at the last meeting subject to review. Mr. Ludgate stated that he will issue the Notice to Award and send them the Contract.

Mr. Ludgate stated that they received a notice from the Reading Area Transportation Study about requests for projects. He wanted to know if Council wanted to consider any projects beyond the Downtown Official Map work. He stated that it is just a matter of getting things on a list. He suggested adding Mt. Home Road at Columbia Avenue because it is a misaligned intersection and a problem for trucks. He also suggested adding the Columbia Avenue at grade Railroad Crossing for a Planning Study to see what can be done about that at grade crossing.

Mr. Ludgate mentioned the current MTF Grant Application and that he heard from Mr. Loth today. He stated that Mr. Loth has been in contact with DCED and that they are asking questions that are working to refine the Grant Application. Mr. Ludgate also mentioned that BOSS2020 received three (3) proposals back for the Market Study RFP and they will be evaluating them before their next meeting.

Mr. Huckleberry arrived at 8:10.

SEWER ENGINEER – ARRO CONSULTING – BRAD SMITH:

Mr. Smith stated that the Borough is still working under an administratively extended NPDES Permit. He mentioned that, as directed by staff and the Sewer Committee, he prepared two (2) estimates for running a parallel interceptor along Broad Street. He stated that the one estimate is to do the whole length and connect on Reedy Road and the other is to just get us across Penn Avenue and Papparone's parking lot so we would only have to dig them up once. Mr. Hart stated that the current line is in the street and is running at 2/3 full all the time and what they are looking at doing is running a new line down the other side of the right of way to ease up that pressure and give us some area where we can actually maintain a little bit of flow if the Downtown takes off. He also mentioned that they have been hearing that Alcon is looking for more flow and they flow into this line so we have to do something. He stated that it would be good to at least get the pipe under Penn Avenue while all the other utilities are in there next summer. Mr. Pachuillo suggested that they put the Penn Avenue portion of \$174,000.00 in the 2016 Budget. Mr. Ludgate will check the schedule with Larson.

Mr. Smith stated that they are trying to optimize the function of the Mt. Home Road Pump Station. He stated that DEP expressed some concerns about the Pump Station because two pumps were running instead of one.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that he looked through the proposal from Landis Deck and he doesn't see the Contract. Mr. Ludgate stated that it was a standard AIA form so they will send one along with the Notice to Award.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library would like to purchase a Konica Copier for \$1,775.00 out of a grant that they were given earlier this year for \$5,000.00. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to authorize the Library to purchase the copier; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library would like to look into getting a new air conditioning unit and if the Borough would pay for it since they lease the space. Mr. Hart stated that he is not sure how that would work. He stated that the system that is in there is undersized during the day for the daily operations but every morning when he goes over to check it it's 68 degrees in there. He mentioned that he has been talking with Mr. Nelka and they are going to have someone come in to give us an estimate on what they think we need to do.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that it is the 50th Anniversary of the Library this year and they are going to; combined with the Recreation Board, have a Fall Festival on October 24th.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that two (2) people that do the Passports have resigned. She stated that Jennifer's last day was Saturday and Paula is leaving next week which really puts the Library in a bind because they do a lot of Passports. She mentioned that Christina is going to take the test. She also mentioned that Mrs. Bohn is interested in doing the Passports for them in the evening. She stated that they would have to hire her as a part-time employee for the Library and she would cover just to do Passports which is Monday through Thursday in the evening and one Saturday a month. Chief Schweyer mentioned that Mrs. Bohn would need the back ground checks that the other Library employees have. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to hire Mrs. Bohn as a part-time Library employee making circulation pay and Passport money; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Peterson stated that they have two positions to be filled for the ones that are leaving. Mrs. Peterson made a motion to authorize the Library to advertise for the two open positions; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner stated that she and Mrs. Peterson came up with this plan to have a Fall Festival on October 24th at the main playground. She stated that they will have a Costume Party including adults with prizes and they are going to show Cinderella. She asked if there was any way that they could use the Borough Garage to have a winter thing. Mr. Hart stated that it is possible but there are no restrooms.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine stated that they would like to meet with the Police Association on September 16th at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Pachulo stated that they needed to go into Executive Session for a personnel issue. Council went into Executive Session at 8:37 p.m.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 9:04 p.m.

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to authorize Mr. Hart to advertise for a Full Time Public Works Employee; seconded by Mr. Huckleberry. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Pachulo asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report. Mrs. Stine made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Huckleberry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Asst. Borough Secretary