

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**April 3, 2012**

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Leonard Zboray offered an Invocation.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Gregory Carl, Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, James Troup, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ty Sees was absent.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Ray Pfleeger from Milton presented a letter and pictures to the council regarding property he owns at 126-130 Second Street and requested that the Borough intervene in a problem with the neighbor concerning a private alley.

Mr. Tira responded that the issue was raised by Mr. Pfleeger at the work session last month and that he has researched the ownership of the private alley. He advised that both deeds reference the alley as a private alley owned by Mr. Mordan and that this is an issue between the property owners.

Councilman Ty Sees arrived at 7:15 p.m.

- Mr. Pat Ward, President of Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Inc., introduced himself, explaining that his firm has submitted a proposal in response to the Borough's request for engineering services. He added that he is attending the meeting to show his interest and to learn about how the Borough conducts business.
- Mr. Zach Stotter, from the Susquehanna River Clean-up Project, informed the council that the group will be cleaning up the shoreline of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River from the Chillisquaque Boat access to the Point on May 5<sup>th</sup>. He is requesting the council's permission to place dumpsters from Jeff's Recycling near the Fire Police Building for metal and recyclable items that are gathered during the cleanup. He explained that Penn DOT will have requested that the bags of garbage be placed along Route 11 for pick up on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Following the clean-up a volunteer appreciation picnic is planned at pavilion. Mr. Stotter requested that the council waive the rental fees for the pavilion.

Mr. Wetzel moved to approve the Susquehanna River Clean-Up Project and to waive the fee for the use of the pavilion. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve. It was suggested that the event be included in the Pineknott News.

- Mr. Gary Klick stated that he had informed the council several meetings ago about a business that has an exorbitant amount of signs on their building. Mayor Zboray stated that the Borough does not have an ordinance regulating the number of signs on a building. Mr. Wetzel explained that the Rules Committee is working on the cat ordinance and would consider a sign ordinance when the cat ordinance is finalized. Mr. Wetzel also stated that the signs on this business would be grandfathered in if an ordinance is adopted. Mr. Reed suggested contacting the business owner and requesting that the signs be removed. Mayor Zboray volunteered to contact the business.
- Ms. Susan Smith, Director of the Columbia Montour Hospice & Home, invited the council to a celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maria Hall on May 31 at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Michael DeFeo introduced Boy Scout Troop 332 and explained that the nine members of the troop were present to satisfy the merit badge Citizen of a Community.

### **Municipal Engineer Proposals**

Municipal Engineer proposals were received from four engineering firms, Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Inc., Larson Design Group, Inc., Mid-Penn Engineering, and Bassett Engineering.

Mr. Pat Ward, President of Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Inc. provided some information about his company including municipalities and authorities that are current clients.

Council requested that copies of the proposals be emailed to them so they may discuss them at the next meeting.

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Reed moved to approve the council meeting minutes of February 21, 2012. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Mr. Rees abstaining.

Mr. Rees moved to approve the council meeting minutes of March 6, 2012. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Zboray reported that the unmarked police cruiser has been ordered from Zimmerman Enterprises.
- Mayor Zboray participated in a conference call with PPL Electric Utilities hosted by Don Bernhard, Director of Community Affairs. He discussed procedures to notify public officials during emergencies, outages and storms.

- A new Pineknott Park sign is being designed by a Boy Scout who is replacing the old sign for an Eagle Scout Project. He will attend a Community Development Committee meeting to get approval for the design of the sign.
- Mayor Zboray sent an email to Joe McGranahan, chairman of the Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway Committee. Mr. McGranahan read the email to the Chamber and said that it would be used for the updates on the thruway project.
- On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Zboray swore in the Northumberland Fire Police.
- Mayor Zboray attended the 17857.org meeting. The Point Township Supervisors voted unanimously to contribute toward the Pineknott News to have a combined newsletter for the Borough and Township. The understanding is that the ad revenue will be sufficient to cover the paper and mailing costs and the Township will pay half of the incurred cost for the Borough employees' time in the assembly of the newsletter. If the ad revenue does not cover the costs, the supervisors are to be informed in order to increase the aid to 17857.org.
- Mayor Zboray attended the County Area Agency on Aging meeting on Friday with state representatives for a discussion on how to help seniors. They are looking into other ways the state can help seniors with property taxes. Transportation issues for seniors were also discussed.
- Chief Fink was asked by Shikellamy Fifth Grade Teacher Bill Zeigler to assist with the instruction of rifle shooting at Fifth Grade Camp. The only cost to the Borough would be for gas expense; no labor costs are involved. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Carl, the council voted unanimously to approve Chief Fink helping at the Fifth Grade Camp as requested.
- Mayor Zboray presented the following Proclamation for National Library Week:

**“WHEREAS**, libraries and librarians have historically served as our nation’s great equalizers of knowledge by providing free access to all, regardless of age, ethnicity, or socioeconomic background;

**WHEREAS**, our nation’s libraries are ideally positioned as the community’s center of information technology that fuels educational and economic opportunity for all;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries have moved far beyond just being book repositories, becoming agile institutions serving the real-life needs of our citizens;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries provide Pennsylvanians with the knowledge and information they need to master 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literacies that are essential to their success as students, parents, money managers, health consumers, and citizens;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries help our citizens achieve Basic Literacy, which leads to a better trained and skilled workforce, and a growing economy;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries help our citizens achieve Information Literacy, where a command of new online resources and technologies leads to enhanced job skills and the ability to fully participate in a digital society;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries help our citizens achieve Civic and Social Literacy, which leads to the ability to participate and contribute effectively to their community, government and society and to connect with one another through civil discourse;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries help our citizens achieve Health Literacy, which leads to healthier, more productive lives;

**WHEREAS**, our libraries help our citizens achieve Financial Literacy, which leads to greater self-sufficiency and stronger economic futures for all;

**WHEREAS**, libraries are part of the American dream, places for education, opportunity and lifelong learning;

**WHEREAS**, libraries, librarians, library workers and supporters across America are celebrating National Library Week.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I *Leonard M. Zboray, Mayor* proclaim National Library Week, April 8-14, 2012. I encourage all *Borough of Northumberland* residents to visit their local library this week to take advantage of the wonderful resources available at your library.

Leonard M. Zboray, Mayor"

- Mayor Zboray informed council that work continues on the Police Department Rules and Regulations.
- The switch from the paper daily logs to the computerized version was made easily making data collection easier. There is a glitch with the fuel consumption data which they are working on to ascertain if it is the software or an error with the data entry.
- Officer evaluations will begin this month.
- The Police Department is involved in the Aggressive Driving Grant. The wave will run until the end of April.
- The Northumberland Christian School has invited Mayor Zboray to a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Zboray plans to attend. He congratulated the school on this milestone.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

- Mr. Slodysko stated that the Street Committee will meet next Tuesday.
- Street signs have been ordered.
- Mr. Slodysko reported that a leak has been discovered in the roof at the Girl Scout House.
- Mayor Zboray thanked Tom and his staff for replacing the flags on the Priestley Bridge. Mr. Slodysko stated that the flags on the Barry King Bridge will also be replaced.
- Mr. Troup informed the council that PPL has received a request from a resident on Lincoln Street for a street light base to be removed from her driveway. PPL is agreeable to removing it, providing the council approves. Mr. Slodysko advised the council that enough light is obtained in the neighborhood from other street lights. Mr. Carl made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klock, to request that PPL remove the street light. The vote to approve the request was 6-0-1 with Mr. Troup abstaining.

## **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

No report

## **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Wetzel stated that the board met last night. The Number 1's new fire truck will be here in a few months. The board would like to provide a more detailed budget to submit to council and is requesting that the fire companies help in this effort. Mr. Rees stated that the council had previously approved that the money in the Fire Apparatus Account be given to the company toward payment of the truck.

## **Northumberland Sewer Authority**

Mr. Klock reported that a meeting was conducted in Sunbury with the Sunbury Sewer Authority and DEP regarding the options of contracting with Sunbury to treat the borough's sewage or constructing a new facility at the Point. He provided information from minutes of the meeting. DEP specified that they would put the NSA under a consent order which would include the requirement for the NSA to address, over time, the inflow and infiltration issues that they have with the aging sewer system. By fixing the leaks, if the option selected is to treat in Sunbury, the flow would be significantly reduced and the rate is based on the flow. With a new facility, it would still be necessary to eliminate the leaks. The group has about six months to review the options and to commit to DEP which option is selected. In the meantime, the NSA must purchase nitrogen credits. The NSA currently receives credits for treating waste from other areas. If the option chosen is to contract with Sunbury, those credits would transfer to Sunbury with the potential to negotiate their value. DEP is requiring Sunbury to prove that they can remove excess stormwater from their system in order to accept the flow from Northumberland. Mr. Klock stated that the minutes were prepared by Pat Ward of Uni-Tec Consulting Engineers, Inc. Mr. Ward noted that the elected officials approve the planning of whatever is determined by the authorities therefore they should be aware of what is going on in the planning process. Mr. Klock said that the option of contracting with Sunbury has become more attractive since DEP has approved the elimination of certain aspects of the initially proposed design. He stated that as information becomes available he will share it with the council.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Community Development**

Mr. Carl announced that the committee would meet on Monday night at 7:00 p.m. He said that Jon Apple will be invited to attend to discuss the options for the Fire Police building. Mr. Klock stated that he met with Jon Apple over the weekend to look at the area at the Recycling Center for a possible location for a shed for the Fire Police.

Mr. Carl stated that the plans for the stair tower at the pool have been submitted for approval.

Someone has expressed an interest in the former Borough Building. Mr. Tira advised that the topic be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Reed stated that he is getting bids for fencing for the dog park. He is hoping to obtain funding for the fencing. Mr. Ruane stated that handicap accessibility is required for the dog park.

## Finance

Mr. Rees announced that the committee would meet on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30.

## Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that personnel would be discussed in the Executive Session.

PMRS representatives will meet with Borough employees at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the pension plans. Council members are invited to attend.

## Public Safety

No report

## Rules

Mr. Sees announced that the committee would meet on Monday at 6:00 p.m. to review the cat ordinance. Mr. Klock stated that he does not feel that a TNR program would be feasible if funding is not available. He said that if the SUN Pets Group is not willing to work with the council to obtain financing because they are not willing to compromise on the terms of cat release and where the cats would be relocated, he does not think the program is possible. He said that it could be a hybrid where the TNR program could be implemented if funding is available. Mr. Troup stated that it is the responsibility of the owners. With the TNR program, there is still the problem of cats in peoples' yards who don't want them. Discussion ensued.

## Streets

Mr. Reed stated that the committee would meet at 7:00 on April 10, 2012.

## **New Business**

1. Mr. Rees moved to approve payment of the bills, including the items for the Acorn Field. The items are a hood and fan system, a hot dog roller, a deep fryer, a snow cone maker, shutters for the large window, a rubber mat, and a fence topper. The exact costs of these items are not known because shipping charges may be added. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council voted unanimously to pay the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$35,985.94; bills to be paid from the Parks and Recreation Account total \$433.71; Liberty Splashland bills total \$14,602.64; and Acorn Field bills total \$4,028.95.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to approve payment of bills for budgeted items due before May 4, 2012.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council voted unanimously to approve Resolution I-2012. This resolution authorizes the Borough Council President and Borough Secretary to be the agents authorized to borrow money for the Borough from the Northumberland National Bank for the loan for the police vehicle.
4. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to approve Resolution J-2012. This resolution designates the Borough Secretary as the signer of the Grant Signature Page for the DCNR Grant Application for the Northumberland Riverfront Trail (NRT).

5. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve the PHEAA Remote Access Agreement and Authoritative Source Form. Mr. Sees asked about the hourly rate for the PHEAA employees. It was explained that the wage range for PHEAA employees is \$7.25 to \$10.00 per hour. PHEAA reimburses the Borough for 40% of the wage up to earnings of \$3,600 and the Degenstein Foundation reimburses the Borough for 50% of the wage up to earnings of \$2,500. The students must be eligible for PHEAA grants to be eligible for the work-study program. Applications are available online and at the Borough Office.
6. Harleysville and Nationwide Mutual are entering into an agreement and plan a merger. Since the Borough's flood insurance is through Harleysville, a proxy was sent to the Borough. No action was taken.
7. Northumberland Christian School has requested permission to close Sheetz Avenue from Fifth Street to Pond Avenue from 5:00 p.m. April 20<sup>th</sup> to 3:00 p.m. April 21<sup>st</sup> for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Tira advised that a Special Events permit be submitted to the Borough. Mr. Sees moved to approve the request, contingent upon the permit being obtained. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimously approved with Mr. Rees abstaining.
8. Mr. Klock moved to submit an application to Career Link for workers to clean and repair the damage at the Fire Police building. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council voted unanimously to approve.
9. Mr. Klock attended a DEP meeting in Sunbury regarding the treatment facility that is proposed for the Moran Industry site where they will be treating drill cuttings from the gas industry. Mr. Klock submitted a right-to-know request for a copy of a videotape of the meeting. He stated that there may be fees associated with obtaining a copy of the tape. A public comment session is planned in thirty days and Mr. Klock felt it would be beneficial for the council to view the videotape in that the meeting was very informative. He stated that the estimate is that initially twenty trucks will be going in and out of the site in one day. However, the site has the capacity to treat 1000 tons per day. Council voiced concern about the number of trucks that will be traveling through the Borough. Discussion ensued. Mr. Troup moved to allow Mr. Klock to obtain a copy of the videotape of the DEP meeting in Sunbury under the right-to-know request at a cost not to exceed \$100. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Roll call vote was 5-2 with Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Carl voting no.
10. Mr. Klock informed the council that at the last NSA meeting, the solicitor provided a letter indicating that the second payment of \$25,000 was being challenged and would not be forthcoming until the council can provide justifiable reasons for providing the money. Mr. Klock asked who was challenging the payment and Mr. Troxell stated that he was. When asked if withholding payment was in retaliation for the lawsuit, Mr. Troxell said that in part it was and that they wanted to see how much the lawsuit would cost the NSA before payment would be made to the Borough. The members of the sewer committee had discussed the reasons why these payments were made. The payments were called

donations and began in 2004, and have been made each year since then. Mr. Tira advised that this topic should be discussed in Executive Session since it concerns litigation.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Troup announced that the council would recess for an Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. He added that the meeting would be reconvened.

No action was taken following the Executive Session.

The council meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary