

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
December 16, 2014

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

Roll Call

Council members present were Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Ellie Rees, Ty Sees, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Zboray and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Paul Ruane and Harry Wynn were absent.

Public Comment

The eleven visitors present introduced themselves.

Brian Crebs, Fire Chief, requested that the funding that is in the Borough's 2014 budget earmarked for the radio upgrades. He explained that they don't anticipate spending that money in 2014 and requested that it be reserved for the radio upgrades which will be necessary in the future. Mr. Troup moved to move \$11,220 from the Fire Department capital purchase expenditures to the General Contingency Fund earmarked for the Fire Department and placed back into the General Fund as an income account in 2015 designated for the radio purchase. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Marlin Sowers, from Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc. introduced himself and informed council that his company has provided Adam Klock with the company's prices for UCC services. He asked if there were any questions. Mayor Zboray asked what other municipalities were served by the company. Mr. Sowers replied that Upper Augusta, Lower Augusta, and West Chillisquaque. Mr. Troup stated that the council would hold an Executive Session in January to discuss the topic. Mr. Sees questioned if the company has a satellite office. Mr. Sowers stated that they have an office in Montandon.

Council member Harry Wynn arrived at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Drew Starook requested that the Borough approve payment of the \$30,000 for apparatus replacement for the Number 1's fire truck. Mr. Troup moved to accept the Number 1's profit/loss statement and to approve the payment of \$30,000 for apparatus replacement. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Shikellamy Middle School Project

Mr. Justin Ross from Larson Design Group informed the council that the Shikellamy School Board is considering two options for the slope of the property along Hanover Street where the Shikellamy Middle School is being built. He provided sketches to the council and explained that the slope option, without the wall, is currently in the approved plans. The original plan

included covering the slope with ivy. However, ivy will take some time to grow and cover the ground and will require a considerable amount of maintenance. The ground will be about five feet higher than it currently is and the slope will be too steep to seed with grass and maintain. The alternate plan is to erect a wall for stabilization of the slope and maintenance. The fence is 22.5 feet from the sidewalk. The school board has not yet made a determination. Mr. Ross stated that there is nothing in the Borough ordinance that would prohibit the change of plan; but would like the council members' opinions. The grade of slope for the alternate plan is 1.5:1. The terraced wall is more costly than either of these options. Both walls would be over five feet and would require a fence.

Mayor Zboray stated that he spoke to a resident on Hanover Street who is having additional surface water on his property. Mr. Ross stated that he has been at the residence three times and is working with the property owner to solve the problem. He said that he couldn't speculate that the project is causing the problem. Mayor Zboray stated that the resident hadn't had this problem before. Mr. Ross said that he would continue to work with the resident.

Mr. Sees asked if the drainage would be tied in to the drain system. Mr. Ross responded that in addition to the wall option, there would be a footer drain on the back side. The difference in cost between the all-grass option and the option of the wall, with a drainage system is approximately \$160,000. A second wall would add approximately \$69,000 additional cost. Mayor Zboray questioned why the fields are being built so high. It was explained that the existing road that ran behind the school building will remain close to the same level and the fields will be raised to that level.

Mr. Sees asked about the opinion of the school board. Mr. Kelley said that the school board discussed whether they would be able to include the wall without having a change. Mr. Ross stated that the option with the single wall was included on the plans as an addendum to the project at the cost of \$179,000. The highest point of the wall is at the corner of Permastone Avenue and Hanover Street and it tapers slightly going toward Fifth Street. The wall would be built with a modular block. Mr. Sees said that his personal view is the option with the wall. Mr. Ross stated that the reason the slope is so steep is so the fields will be regulation size. Mr. Wynn stated that he thinks the option with the wall is preferable. The plan is for the fields to begin fifteen yards from the fence. No access to the fields is planned from Hanover Street. Mr. Ross explained that if a stairway access is provided from Hanover Street, an ADA access must also be provided. Mayor Zboray questioned what would be on the Fifth Street side of the fields. Mr. Ross said that the wall will continue around the corner and taper into the ground. At about one third of the way into the soccer field, the grade will match with Fifth Street. The council's consensus favored the alternate plan with the wall.

Mayor Zboray asked what type of trees would be planted. Mr. Ross replied that the landscape architect is determining the species to be planted.

Brian Crebs, Fire Chief, stated that he has received questions about the location of the contractor's fence near the fire hydrant on Prince Street near Permastone. He said that the fire department has no problem with the location of the fence.

Mr. Wynn asked if anyone approached the district about the pin that was located in the corner of the old fence, adding that someone coming down Strawbridge Road hit the concrete and

the pin was in the concrete. Mr. Ross responded that they had trouble setting the benchmarks but it was squared away. Mr. Reed said that he has been asked about moving the fence back because people must walk in the street and not on the grass. He was told the fence will not be moved. Mr. Ross said that if anyone has any other questions, the Borough Office knows how to reach him.

Mr. Sees asked if the fields would be the last things done. Mr. Ross responded that it is the contractor's decision. ECI Construction and Gutelius are the contractors. The electrical contractor is G.R. Noto Electrical.

Mr. Klock asked about stockpiling the stone at the tennis courts for the Borough's use in the future. Mr. Ross stated that there is a construction meeting tomorrow at 1:00. The question arose about who would load it and haul it.

Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Reed moved to approve the council meeting minutes of October 21, 2014. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

- Mr. Klock stated that they must find a location in the Borough Building which can be locked for the server. He said that he would like to make room in the office in the hallway.
- The sewer department is moving forward with obtaining a DSL internet provider with a higher broadband capacity than the current provider.
- Mr. Klock heard today that the sewer construction drawings have received a verbal approval from the building code official.
- A groundbreaking should be held sometime in January. A bridge loan may be required for a short time until the PennVest funding is obtained.

Mr. Reed asked if the sewer department employees are willing to help with the snow removal. Mr. Klock stated that they are available. Mr. Wynn stated that he heard that the county couldn't reach Ted when the police had contacted them about the road conditions. Mayor Zboray stated that Ted was out at 5:00 a.m. and other street employees were also out plowing.

Legal Services Agreement

Mr. Klock made a motion to accept a legal services agreement with Ryan Tira's office, McNerney, Page, Vanderlin & Hall, to provide legal services with respect to the PennVest loan for the sewer project. The rate is at \$150 per hour. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray stated that he attended the municipal leaders meeting on December 10th with Representative Lynda Schlegel-Culver. Topic discussed was the federal flood insurance.
- Property tax relief is being discussed in Harrisburg.
- The deadline for collecting toys will be Monday, December 22nd.
- There are issues with the flags on the Barry King Bridge. Mayor Zboray stated that he spoke to Ted McCollum about a month ago and crew was busy with the leaf pickup.

Mayor Zboray stated that he spoke to Ted yesterday and he said that because the bridge is in Point Township, they could borrow the Borough's bucket truck to take them down. The Mayor stated that the Borough put them up and should take them down. It was noted that the flags on the Barry King Bridge do not last long because of the wind.

- Two benches are being delivered tomorrow. The one is being purchased by the Moyer Fund and will be placed in King Street Park. The other is in memory of Robin Bolig and will be placed in the Riverview Cemetery. Mayor Zboray requested that the street department be permitted to put the bench together and move it to the Riverview Cemetery. Council approved.

Emergency Services Board Report - no report

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Reed stated that the committee did not meet.
- Barb Kistner is planning another work party for the Girl Scout House.
- Mr. Reed anticipates having the plans for the gymnasium from the engineer for the next council meeting.

Finance

2015 Proposed Budget

Mr. Klock asked about the final contingency line item in the budget. He said that the budget that was emailed out had a contingency of \$82,000. Verbal changes were made at the last meeting. Mr. Sees stated that the first budget did not include the amounts for social security or Medicare. Also, changes in income were implemented. The budget to be voted on is the budget that was revised at the last meeting. Mr. Sees noted that the budget does not include a tax increase. It was noted that the \$4,000 budgeted for "playground" was designated for the 2nd Street Playground.

Mr. Sees moved to adopt the 2015 proposed budget. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Sees moved to approve the advertisement of Ordinance 2015-1 (Tax Levy Ordinance). Mr. Klock seconded the motion. The ordinance includes the following millage rates for 2015: General revenue purposes - 22 mils; Debt service - 2.3 mils; Fire equipment - 2.7 mils; Recreation - 1 mil. A 2% discount is provided for tax bills paid by April 30th and a 10% penalty is assessed on tax bills paid after June 30th. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved to accept the Capital Blue Cross health insurance rates for 2015. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Mr. Klock asked what the difference was in the rates from the Benecon plan. Mr. Sees said that the police budget alone was a little over \$32,000. Mr. Sees stated that the Benecon plan included just two rates, single or family where the Capital Blue is based per individual on the plan, on age, where you live, and whether or not you smoke. Mr. Klock stated that he thought the total difference was between \$65,000 and \$70,000. Mr. Sees added that the increase in

Benecon was about \$9,000 for a family plan. Council voted unanimously to approve the 2015 budget.

Personnel - No report

Public Safety

Mr. Troup stated that Jonathan Apple had sent a list of events for council to approve for 2015. Mr. Troup commented that there is a whole list of parades and events for them to go to but this year they couldn't put the signs out for the Halloween Parade. He questioned how they can get people to go to these events. Mr. Crebs stated that he can't get them out for emergencies. Mr. Wynn stated that maybe the Borough could contact the radio station to announce that help is needed to put out the signs. Mr. Sees moved to approve the 2015 Fire Police Events; Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Rules - no report

Streets - no report

Old Business

1. Mr. Klock provided quotes for a new phone system and for the installation of the new system. He said that this is a hardwire system. The Borough Secretary stated that the current phone system is voice over internet. The Borough Office and Police Department each have fax machines that are hardwired. Mr. Klock questioned how many phone lines are required. He said that he doesn't have quotes for that and the council doesn't need to vote on the telephone service tonight. He would like to vote on the quote for the equipment for the Borough Office and the Police Department. He said that the cost would come out of next years' budget. Mr. Klock stated that the company would bring service to the building. The Borough would run the lines in the building. The internet will be high speed through Service Electric. Mayor Zboray asked why the Borough needs a sophisticated phone system. He said that he calls people on their cell phones. Mr. Klock stated that the phone system has an auto-attendant and there is no human intervention. Mr. Klock stated that messages had not been received by an employee. The Borough Secretary stated that this is not true and Mr. Klock is believing the wrong person. She noted that the office receives calls because people cannot get through to the code officer on his cell phone. They say that they leave messages that aren't returned or they get a message that the mailbox is full. Mr. Troup asked what phone number is provided. The Borough Secretary responded that she provides both cell numbers. Mr. Troup stated that the street supervisor/ code officer should only use one cell phone. Mayor Zboray stated that he doesn't need the mayor phone; people may call his home number. Mr. Klock asked what questions the Borough Secretary has about the phone system. She stated that Chief Kriner and Ann August were looking at the system and had questions; she does not know what they are. She added that Chief Kriner had left a message for the company's representative but had not heard back from him. Mr. Sees asked why Mr. Klock was suggesting to just purchase the phones at this time. Mr. Klock stated that the other decision is to determine whether the Borough has one, two, or three hardwired phone numbers. He said that until the equipment is installed, council wouldn't have to make that decision.

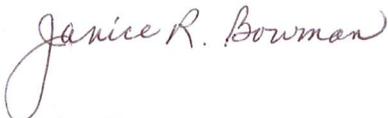
There is also a financing option for the equipment. Mayor Zboray stated that he feels the council should save money for the taxpayers and questioned why they would spend money for this phone system. Mr. Troup suggested that the Finance Committee review the phone system quote.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Reed, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$38,770.44; Norry Playground Fund bills total \$51.03; Liberty Splashland bills total \$32.26 and Sewer Department bills total \$52,902.35.
2. Mr. Wynn moved to appoint Jim Sanders as the Borough Sewage Enforcement Officer and Kenneth Young as the Alternate SEO. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. Mr. Wynn moved to transfer \$2,416.14 (BINGO proceeds) from the Parks & Recreation account to 2nd St. Community Center account. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
4. Mr. Sees moved to transfer \$200 (Mertz Bequest) from the Parks and Recreation account to the 2nd St. Community Center Account for history displays. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
5. Mr. Reed moved to transfer \$649.85 (Savidge Trust funds for Christmas decorations) from the Parks and Recreation Account to the General Fund. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
6. Mr. Wynn moved to approve the handicapped parking space request from Roberta Carl of 571 Front Street. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. PennDOT had been contacted and said it was up to the Borough to approve and maintain. Mr. Sees noted that the handicapped spaces should be reviewed annually. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary