

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
December 18, 2012

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 Gregory Carl, Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Ty Sees, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Councilmen Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees and Frank Wetzel were absent.

The nine visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mr. Robin Bolig stated that he thinks the park looks nice.

Mr. Pat McPherson stated that he thinks there should be an end-of-month balance sheet for the sewer authority available at the monthly meetings. Mr. Klock stated that the information is available at the monthly sewer authority meetings. He estimated that approximately \$400,000 is in the accounts. He explained that the NSA has two old accounts, a checking account and a money market account and that the Borough has opened two new accounts. He added that the money will be transferred to borough accounts. Mr. Klock explained that at the end of the year, the costs of treatment for the bulk customers are reconciled and if there are overpayments, a reimbursement is made. Mr. Klock noted that the sewer committee meetings will be at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. He also said that Mr. McPherson could contact the office to obtain the exact figures.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Klock moved to approval the council meeting minutes of November 18, 2012. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Roll call vote was 3-0-1 with Mr. Carl abstaining.

Mayor's Report

On December 9, the Mayor attended the Wreaths for Warriors at the Riverview Cemetery. He noted the volunteers that helped to lay the wreaths, mentioning the fire department, the Boy Scouts.

Mayor Zboray attended a meeting with Lynda Schlegel Culver and discussed problems with traffic on the Veterans' Bridge, especially when an accident occurs. Also discussed was the

traffic on Route 11 and 147. Mayor Zboray requested that an electronic sign be posted around Aldi's to inform drivers of traffic delays in Northumberland. He also suggested that a weigh station be established on Route 147 north of the Borough. He stated that PennDOT officials were receptive to his ideas.

Mayor Zboray informed the council that there was a problem with the left turn arrow at the traffic signal on King Street, turning onto Water Street. TRA Electric had repaired the light. Several people noted that the light does not always work as expected. TRA Electric will be contacted again to check on it.

Mayor Zboray recognized Mike Daddario who is retiring at the end of the year. Mike has been a barber in town for many years and has been a volunteer in the Borough.

Mayor Zboray stated that he has received many compliments on the decorations in the King Street Park. He thanked Robin Bolig and the other volunteers who helped to decorate.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – no report

Street Department Report – no report

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

- Mr. Klock noted that he checked his balance sheet and that the NSA bank accounts total \$498,000. The money that was transferred to Borough accounts totals \$314,000.
- Mr. Klock reported that Don Troxell resigned at the NSA meeting held yesterday, effective December 31. Jack Fasold had resigned before and Dean Paul's term expires at the end of the year. Mr. Klock stated that the NSA Board will have to meet a few more times before it can be dissolved.
- Mr. Klock moved to reappoint Dean Paul to the NSA; Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote to approve was unanimous. Mr. Tira advised that other appointments would not be necessary since the authority has a quorum and will be dissolved.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl reported that the committee met on December 10th and discussed the following topics:

- Dog Park – the fence will be installed in the Spring.
- Kitchen – Mr. Carl said that the committee recommends that Jim Aikey be hired to install the counter tops. The quote of \$280 is for labor to install the countertops. The quote to fabricate and install the counter tops is \$600. The Borough would purchase the materials. Mr. Carl moved to purchase the materials and have Jim Aikey fabricate and install the counter tops for \$600. An estimate for the materials was not available. A three-bowl sink and a handicapped sink are required. Funding for the kitchen was obtained through a community trust. Mr. Tira advised that a cap for the materials could be

included in the motion. Mr. Klock asked if quotes for the materials had been obtained and said that the motion should be tabled until quotes are obtained.

- Rental of the Savidge Room – an agreement has been developed for the solicitor to review.
- Some funding is available for renovations to the gymnasium. Mr. Carl said that the committee plans to obtain quotes to replace the ceiling. He added that the Borough Secretary is also obtaining prices to replace the lighting in the gym.
- Mr. Carl stated that Mr. Slodysko has measured the fence at the recycling center. It is 955 linear feet plus a 20-foot gate.

Finance

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Sees, council voted unanimously to approve the 2013 budget. This is the second reading of the budget. The total millage for 2013 is 28 mils. The average property owner will have an increase of approximately \$16.

Upon motion by Mr. Sees, seconded by Mr. Klock, the council voted unanimously to advertise Ordinance 2013-1. This ordinance is the tax levy ordinance for 2013.

Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that personnel issues are to be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety – no report

Rules

Mr. Sees reported that progress is being made on the animal ordinance and the committee will review rules for the dog park. Mr. Tira stated that he has provided examples of rules from other community dog parks.

Sewer

Mr. Klock stated that the NSA would like to put a payment drop box at the Borough Building to accept payments of the sewer bills. He would like one that has slot outside and the box located inside the building.

The 2011 audit was presented without any findings. A copy is in the Borough Office.

Brian Book and Steve Siegfried, representatives from Hazen & Sawyer, were present to report on the status of the capital project. This report is included in the minutes as an addendum.

The Borough will be purchasing credits in 2013 and 2014. Mr. Book said that the PA DEP is considering changing the certification process for the credits. Because of this, he explained that the credit trading market is drying up. He said that he has some draft documents to review with the solicitor about getting a proposal for credits out. He explained that if the prices are not favorable, the Borough could wait until November and the PennVest auction. The number of credits that the Borough will need is

approximately 20,000 pounds. This does not include a buffer. After February 28, Mr. Book thinks that there is some opportunity to improve the plant operation by removing additional nitrogen. An amount is included in the budget for credits.

Mr. Book provided a time line for meeting the first deadline of February 28, 2013. This document is included as an addendum to the meeting minutes. Mr. Book provided a Flow and Loading Memo to the council which is also attached to the minutes. He requested that council review the document and present questions to him at the January meeting.

Mr. Book stated that documents have been located that show where work has been done on the sewer collection system. He noted that more work was accomplished than he had originally been told. However, he cannot locate a master plan and would like more information before setting a schedule for addressing the I & I. He added that until he knows where to spend the money efficiently, he's not going to spend it. Another issue is the Queen Street Pump Station. In quantifying numbers, the pump station can pass 5.5 million and more than that is an overflow. He stated that overflows occurred more frequently than during the flood and will need to be addressed. Mr. Book noted a lack of data on the wastewater plant. He explained that some of the samplings were inconsistent and it is thought that the pipe used to collect samples may have been moved and it was pulling off the very bottom of the raw sewage coming in so it was not a representative sample. This data was reported for over a year. Mr. Book provided a second graph in the memo that excludes the bad data.

Mr. Book explained that he spoke to Dennis Swartzlander, relative to the status of the permit. The categorical exclusion to the Act 537 Plan is the next deliverable on the schedule. The Borough must publish a public notice with details of the plans for the capital project and the user rates and keep it open for thirty days for public comment. Any public comment must be available for review. This should be advertised around January 15th. The thirty day period must be completed by February 28th so the permit may be approved by DEP. The advertisement will be ready for approval at the January 8th council meeting.

Council discussed a meeting date for later in February in order to take action on the plan before the February 28th meeting with DEP.

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Mr. Sees moved to approve Ordinance 2012-2. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. This ordinance accepts the NSA debt of \$471,900.50 which is a self-liquidating debt. The council voted unanimously to approve.

Councilman Stephen Reed arrived at 8:06 p.m.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Troup, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$17,459.96.
2. The #1's requested that the council approve payment of \$30,000 for their new truck. They have provided an audit to the council. Mr. Troup stated that no one from the #1's or the Emergency Services Board had come to the council to discuss the purchase. The total truck payment is \$36,166. The council was informed that the #1's put \$63,000 down on the truck and they spent over \$30,000 for equipment for the new truck. Discussion ensued.
3. Mr. Sees moved to approve the payment of \$30,000 to NNB for #1's fire truck loan. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Sees requested that the #1's provide a copy of the loan paperwork to the Borough. The total loan payment is \$36,166. The council was informed that the #1's put \$63,000 down on the truck and they spent over \$30,000 for equipment for the new truck. Discussion ensued. Council approved the motion unanimously.
4. Several committee members' terms expire at the end of the year. The committees are the Planning Commission (Margaret Weirick), the Shade Tree Commission(Liz Lockcuff), the Tax Collection Committee (Ty Sees, representative, and Jan Bowman, alternate) and the Zoning Hearing Board (Bob Sabol). Mr. Troup stated that he would contact Liz Lockcuff and Bob Sabol to see if they would be willing to be reappointed.
5. Mr. Troup read a letter from Councilman Jonathan Rees resigning his seat on the council. Upon motion by Mr. Sees, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted 4-1 to accept Mr. Rees's resignation with regret. Mr. Klock cast the dissenting vote.
6. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to advertise to fill the vacancy for the council seat. The term expires at the end of 2013.
7. No action was taken on the solvency fee for relief for charges for unemployment compensation.
8. Mr. Klock requested that the second February meeting be moved from February 19th to February 26th. He also requested that all meetings be advertised as voting sessions. Mr. Klock stated that the council had discussed conducting the regular council business on the first meeting of the month and the sewer department business primarily on the second meeting of the month. Mr. Klock stated that Michele Cope could take the minutes of the sewer business during the council meetings. Council discussed the sewer committee reviewing all sewer business and bringing the issues to council that require council action. The sewer committee will meet before the first council meeting of each month. Council discussed the committees and meeting times and decided to determine the committee appointments and meeting dates at the January 8th council meeting.

Mr. Carl moved to advertise the Borough Council Meetings/Work Sessions for 2013. The advertisement will include a statement that action may be taken at all meetings. Mr. Klock seconded the motion which council approved unanimously. Mr. Tira asked if his presence is required all meetings. He was asked to attend the first meeting of each month and if his presence is required at another meeting, he will be contacted.

9. Mr. Ginck stated that he has been on the Emergency Services Board for two months and noted that the ESB is not empowered to make decisions regarding the fire companies. He said that the ESB needs to have some written rules about how to operate. It was explained that when the ESB was first set up it was to oversee the fire department and to have the companies working together. Mr. Troup stated that the ESB does not have the authority to approve the fire companies' purchases. The fire department budget is to be developed by the Fire Chief and the ESB. Mr. Ginck requested some guidance on what their role should be, requesting that the council provide written specifics. He explained that the companies are two separate entities. He noted that the two groups are working well together. Mr. Troup agreed that the ESB should have more power to run the fire department more effectively. It was proposed that the ESB take suggestions to the public safety committee on ways to improve their role. It was noted that Sam Wolfe's term on the ESB expires at the end of 2012. Mr. Wolfe represents the #1's on the board.

Mr. Klock asked how the recruitment efforts are going. Mr. Ginck responded that the signs have been posted throughout the Borough and they are being noticed.

Executive Session

Mr. Klock moved to adjourn for an Executive Session. Mr. Troup adjourned the council meeting at 8:56 p.m. for the Executive Session, noting that personnel issues would be discussed.

The council meeting was reconvened at 9:38.

Mr. Troup moved to allow employees to vision and dental insurance through Benecon at no cost to the Borough. The amount will be deducted from the employee's last check of the month for the following month, pre-tax. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Klock moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary