

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
July 16, 2013

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

Council members present were Gregory Carl, Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, James Troup and Harry Wynn. Others present were Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Ted McCollum, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Mayor Len Zboray and council members Ty Sees and Frank Wetzel were absent.

Public Comment

Eight visitors introduced themselves. No public comment was offered.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

“Mr. William Carlucci, Attorney for Point Township Sewer Authority was present. Mr. Carlucci is requesting authorization of the sewer committee to talk to Point Township and Upper Augusta about amendments to the treatment agreement. The 14 year old agreement needs some tweaking or amending because Point Township may end up pay 50% due to the growth in Point. For the record, Ryan Tira stated there is a willingness for the sewer committee to meet with Point Township Sewer Authority representatives to discuss the potential modifications of the existing treatment agreement.

Jeremy Deitrick, Superintendent stated that we are one of the last counties in the State to get around to Act 167 Watershed Plan. Recently KPI Technology has been solicited to send out information for the County. Hazen & Sawyer and Jan Bowman helped get the application completed for the Storm water Plan Advisory Committee which will be forming on July 29. Adam Klock made a motion to allow Jeremy Deitrick to submit the application to the Storm water Plan Advisory Committee that he and Jan completed. Greg Carl second. All members present approved. Adam Klock made a motion to allow Jeremy Deitrick to be the Borough designee at the Storm water Plan Advisory Committee Meetings. Harry Wynn second. All members approved.

Adam Klock made a motion to advertise the four (4) Sewer Department budget meetings in The Daily Item at 4PM beginning in August. The dates are August 5, September 9, October 7 and November 4 to be held at the Sewer Plant. Harry Wynn second. All members approved.

Brian Book from Hazen & Sawyer stated that there were 3 possible PennVest deadlines to submit for funding. They are August 20, November 13 and Mid January. PennVest would have their awards about 2 months later. PennVest has been evolving their rules ever so slightly. PennVest states you must have all of your permits in hand to submit an application. We will not have all the permits in hand by August 20. We have always targeted November 13 as the real deadline because the award would be made on

January 15. The PennWorks application was submitted for a 5 million dollar package. They have 13 million dollars total in grant dollars then they make up the difference in loan dollars. We would know about the PennWorks money in late September. The terms of the loan are 2% for 20 years; the grant could be anything up to 75% of what we asked for. The preliminary design identified higher than normal BOD / COD coming into the plant. The biological process has been modified. The increased BOD/COD (food) will create more biomass. We had adequate sludge digestion tank age at the treatment plant prior to finding this. At this point since it has been identified we believe it is necessary to look at expanding the digesters. There are 3 options to take care of this extra load coming into the plant.

1. Stay the course with the project as it was conceived.
2. Look at adding 1 additional tank which would be in the shape and configuration of the biological tanks. But would be currently used as a digester. This could add 1 million dollars to the project. We would reallocate money which was set aside for an early I & I project. There is not an anticipated change from the original 11.9 million dollar budget.
3. Build 2 tanks, each would be 300,000 gallons. Jeremy Deitrick asked to have the blowers out of the existing administrative building.

They are proposing and additional \$80,000 if option 2 is chosen or \$100,000 if option 3 is chosen to have the blowers moved. Adam Klock made a motion to allow Hazen & Sawyer to proceed with option 2 to provide the additional tank age for digestion, 280,000 gallons of capacity. Harry Wynn second. All members approved.

Clerks report given to council. Another check came in from Cindy Lark. Billing system customer login is available. The 3rd quarter invoices have been created and mailed. Harry Wynn questioned if any payments, checks or cash were left in the office at any time. Michele Cope stated that cash is not accepted but there are checks that come in and will wait until there is enough for a deposit slip. Harry Wynn made a motion to make daily deposits from sewer. This means whether it is 1 check or 17 checks. Adam Klock second. All members approved.

Submitted by S. Michele Cope”

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of May 7, 2013.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted 4-0-1 to approve the council meeting minutes of May 20, 2013. Mr. Carl abstained.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted 4-0-1 to approve the council meeting minutes of June 4, 2013. Mr. Carl abstained.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of June 25, 2013.

Street Supervisor’s Report

- Mr. Tom Slodysko reported that the street signs are being installed.
- New storm drains will be installed on Sixth Street.
- A storm drain at Brickyard Avenue and Queen Street collapsed. Mr. Slodysko described the problem and informed the council that he has repaired the drain.
- Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Deitrick have televised sections of the storm drain that runs from Water Street, under SUNCOM, Priestley Avenue and the railroad tracks, to the North branch of the Susquehanna River. A collapse has occurred where a corrugated pipe has

eroded. More exploration will take place and they will determine how to fix the problem. Mr. Book stated that he will meet with Tom to review the storm drains.

- Mr. Slodysko stated that the streets will be paved and lines will be painted before school begins.
- The 2004 truck has been painted. The 2006 truck is in the garage at Sunbury Motors. The hydraulic tank was leaking and the back hinge to the dump has snapped.
- Mr. Slodysko explained that the playground matting sits on top of concrete, as recommended by the company. He said that this is the “ultimate” base for the matting. He said that there was a question about the perimeter matting. The matting was originally going to be set on cracker dust. That was the cheap option, but it wouldn’t hold up after being jumped on so the committee opted to install the concrete base. He said that he did the concrete work and Bob Long had helped with the matting. He also said that they were never told to put in expansion joints. He noted that the purpose of the border ramps was to transition the change in height between the ground and playground surface. Mr. Slodysko stated that the mats along the fence side of the playground have not shifted at all. He suggested that there should be a meeting with Bob Long and the others who did the installation work under the guidance of the representative from the company. Discussion ensued. The company had been informed last year about the problem with the tiles. Mr. Tira suggested that since the six years full warranty on the soft tiles ends on July 25th, a letter could be sent to the company, clarifying that the tiles are defective and reserving the Borough’s claim. The council agreed and requested that the solicitor draft the letter to the company.
- Mr. Wynn suggested replacing the 2004 truck. Mr. Slodysko stated that the F550 is the minimum size truck that is required by the department. Mr. Wynn requested that Mr. Slodysko look into the pricing through the state contract.

Emergency Services Board Report - no report

Code Enforcement Officer’s Report

Mr. Ted McCollum provided a written report to the council on the activity of the Code Enforcement Office for this past month. He requested that the council permit him to complete the Northumberland County application form for blighted properties and apply for funding to improve the Neidig property on Duke Street. The property will be sold by the Tax Claims office on November 13th with an opening bid of \$1,500; however, the property owner has not yet been served because he is incarcerated. Mr. Tira advised that the council would also be required to adopt Act 90 of 2010. Mr. Klock moved to permit Mr. McCollum to submit the application to the county. Mr. Reed seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Carl stated that the playground tiles have already been discussed.
- 2nd Street Gymnasium
The gymnasium has been cleaned out by the college employees. Bruce Killian has provided estimates to drywall the stage and the gymnasium ceiling. Mr. Carl moved to approve the estimate of \$6,000 to drywall the stage area from Mr. Killian. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Troup stated that he can see putting garage doors on the building and putting the police cars and borough trucks in it. Mr.

Klock questioned what the plans are for the gym. They were told that several groups had donated money toward renovations for a gymnasium. The Valley Players had shown interest in using the stage for performances. Plans had been completed that include handicapped restrooms on both sides of the stage. Mr. Carl stated that the walls and ceiling in the gym must be done no matter what the area is used for. Mr. Reed stated that the committee has been discussing the building for quite some time and tonight is the first he's heard of using the gym for a parking garage. Mr. McCollum questioned if a sprinkler system would be required if the gym were used for theatrical productions. He was told that this had been looked into and it is not required. Council voted 2-3 to have the stage area drywalled at an estimated cost of \$6,000 and the motion failed.

- Dog Park

Mr. Klock is working on the sign for the dog park. He said that rather than two signs on either end, he would like to put one sign in the middle that says Howling Hollow Dog Park. Mr. Klock is talking to a metal artist to see if he will create metal sculptures of small dogs and large dogs to designate the areas for the two sizes of dogs. Mr. Reed stated that they need to measure for the fence to separate the small dog park. He added that progress has been slow because of the heat and other activities in town.

Finance

Mr. Troup stated that the committee would start working on the budget on August 15th at 6:30 p.m. The committee will not meet this week.

Personnel

Mr. Troup read the following resignation letter from Councilman Frank Wetzel:

“Dear Council President and Members,

Let this serve as my official notice that effective today, Friday, June 28, 2013, I resign my seat as a member of the Northumberland Borough Council.

I find that I don't have the necessary time to commit to this position as I have in the past and for that reason have decided to resign and allow someone else who has new ideas and time to finish my term.

I have enjoyed my time on the board serving my community and thank everyone, especially the voters, for the privilege and opportunity.

I wish everyone much success in your efforts to make this an even better community to live and one we all can be proud of.

Sincerely, Frank E. Wetzel”

Mr. Wynn moved to accept his resignation; Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Klock requested that the vacant seat be advertised. Mr. Tira advised that the council has thirty days to appoint a new council member. Mr. Klock questioned why the deadline to submit applications had been before the council meeting. He was told that the deadlines had been advertised as earlier in the day so copies of the applications could be made and provided to the council. Mr. Klock moved to advertise the vacancy in the Daily Item to be submitted with the deadline for applications as the council meeting on August 7, 2013. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel had been the chairman of this committee so a new chairman will be appointed.

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. PMRS contract
Mr. Troup stated that the personnel committee would review the contract.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. This includes the Sewer Department bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$33,814.33; 2nd Street Community & Municipal Center bills total \$660; Parking Meter bills total \$684.19; Liberty Splashland bills total \$8,589.13; Park & Recreation Fund bills total \$293.71; Donations Account bills total \$746.43; and General Contingency bills total \$1,096.83.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to transfer \$314.28 from the General Fund to the Liberty Splashland Account. This is for the 1st PHEAA payment,
3. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to transfer \$26,191.69 from the Liberty Splashland Account to the General Fund for payrolls through July 19, 2013.
4. Jon Apple explained that SUN Home has a generator and has offered to allow the Borough to connect the traffic lights at the Duke and Water Street intersection to their generator when the power is out. Currently, the police and fire police monitor the light whenever the power is out. Mr. Apple stated that they also monitor the traffic signal at the King and Water Street intersection. Mr. Troup moved to obtain quotes for an electrician to install a hookup for a generator at the Duke & Water Streets traffic light at a cost not to exceed \$400. Mr. Carl seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
5. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Jimmy Neitz to serve as the Borough's representative to the Central Susquehanna Council of Governments.
6. Mr. Tira stated that he is waiting for the proposed rules for the dog park in order to review them.

7. Mr. Tira asked if a council member would be available to meet with Service Electric to review the cable franchise agreement. Dates proposed are August 5th through August 9th. Mr. Troup stated that he could be available if the meeting is late in the afternoon.
8. Mr. Tira stated that the Coukart matter has been resolved for \$16,690. He has received the receipt from the company.

Mr. Tira stated that he has personnel issues to discuss in Executive Session. Mr. Troup stated that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session and the meeting would not be reconvened.

Mr. Klock moved, and Mr. Wynn seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman,
Borough Secretary