

Borough of Northumberland
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
July 19, 2011

President Gregory Carl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Council member Jonathan Rees offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Gregory Carl, Judith Groninger, Robert Long, James Orner, Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Timothy Fink, Police Chief and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The seventeen visitors introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Troup asked if the council has considered discussing the school with the Shikellamy School Board. Mr. Carl responded that the topic was discussed at the last Community Development Committee meeting and it will be discussed later in tonight's meeting.

Mr. Troup stated that his wife and granddaughter had gone to the pool and found the restrooms were inoperable and dirty. Mr. Carl stated that he would check into it.

Mr. Carl Libby thanked the council for their support for the air show that was held at the Penn Valley Airport this past weekend.

Mr. Leonard Zboray noted that last evening a long-time resident of the Borough, Arlene Sees, passed away unexpectedly. Mr. Zboray noted that her husband, Archie Sees, had served the Borough on council and on the cemetery board. Mr. Zboray asked that those in attendance remember the family in their prayers.

Appointment of Mayor

Mr. Carl thanked the six applicants for offering their service to the Borough. He explained that the term would end this year and the remainder of the two years of this term of office would be on the ballot this fall. Anyone interested in being on the ballot should contact the county committee for his political party.

Mr. Carl asked the applicants to introduce themselves and make a statement.

Mr. Dan Berard stated that he is a people person and can discuss any issue with anyone. He feels that this would be an advantage to being a mayor in town. Mr. Berard has served on

Borough Council, noting that when he chaired the bargaining committee the police contract was passed on the first vote. Mr. Berard said that he saw something that needed to be done so he started the Crime Watch Committee. He and his wife offered their restaurant for meetings and served refreshments.

Mr. John Simeone stated that he is a businessman who owns a Subway in Milton and the ShikShack in Sunbury. He also owns a number of rental properties. He feels that he is a people person and will make his decisions based on facts. He will not miss meetings and will do his best for the Borough.

Mr. Buzz Meachum stated that in the twenty-five years that he and his wife lived in the borough, he has appreciated the many small town benefits such as clean, safe streets, exceptional police and emergency services departments, a wonderful library, many festivals, an exceptional community pool, and homeowners who more and more take pride in their properties. He is interested in becoming Mayor to help the Borough to continue to develop in this positive direction. He has read the duties of the Mayor as defined by the Borough Code and feels that if chosen, he would consider it an honor and privilege to serve as Mayor. He provided a copy of the Mayor's handbook for whoever is chosen.

Mr. Carl Libby, lifelong resident of the area and a graduate of Shikellamy High School, told council that he has served in the U.S. Air Force where he obtained his degree. He has worked at Sunbury Hospital and now services medical equipment. He feels that the skills he has learned in the military and in business will be an advantage to serving as Mayor. He commended the volunteers who work at the pool and the parks for their service in making this a better town. He stated that he would have an opened mind to look at the whole picture in making decisions.

Mr. John Deppen noted that he is honored to be in the company of the other five, fine gentlemen. He explained that he applied for the position in order to serve the community. He feels that there is skepticism and dissatisfaction with government at all levels and feels that this is not healthy for democracy as government can only succeed if we participate. He added that whatever their choice, he feels the council members will choose a very good mayor.

Mr. Len Zboray has been a life-long resident of the Borough. He wants to be Mayor because he likes challenges; he likes people; and he likes to work with people. He has served on Borough Council and on the School Board. He ran the Little League and the Sunbury Softball League for many years. He is a lector and special minister at church. He is proud of the work that has been accomplished by Jake and Sandy Stamel and himself and his wife on the Cemetery Board. He added that he would be very gratified to be the Mayor of the town. As a paperboy in 1958, he delivered papers to then Mayor Don Roseman. When on Borough Council, he served with Mayor William Sabo and has looked up to other Mayors in past years such as Wendell Wetzel. As a people person, he always listens to people and tries to make the best judgment. He would have an open office and take calls from residents.

Mr. Long moved and Mr. Rees seconded a motion to nominate Len Zboray for Mayor.

Mr. Long moved and Mr. Orner seconded a motion to nominate Carl Libby for Mayor.

Mr. Rees moved and Mr. Long seconded a motion to nominate John Deppen for Mayor.

Mrs. Groninger moved and Mr. Rees seconded a motion to nominate Dan Berard for Mayor.

Mrs. Groninger moved to close the nominations. Roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Long, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Wetzel voted to appoint Len Zboray. Mr. Orner voted to appoint Carl Libby and Mr. Rees voted to appoint John Deppen. Mr. Carl abstained. Mr. Len Zboray was appointed mayor and sworn in by Ms. Brenda Hull, a Notary Public.

Mr. Carl again thanked those men who submitted applications for Mayor.

Approval of the Minutes

Upon motion by Mrs. Groninger, seconded by Mr. Rees, the minutes of the June 28, 2011 council meeting were approved by Mr. Reed, Mr. Rees, Mr. Carl and Mrs. Groninger. Mr. Long, Mr. Orner and Mr. Wetzel abstained.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Slodysko informed the council that the street sweeper is now running. The crew is spraying the growth along the edge of the streets. The trees in the King Street Park were mulched. The yellow curbs will be painted, followed by white line painting. Work will be done in the Savidge Room. Mr. Slodysko noted that the pickup truck is inoperable and he has been using his personal truck since we have summer employees and all the borough vehicles are in use. The crew is patching potholes on the Old Danville Highway. Mr. Reed asked if the crew will be cutting the grass and weeds at the properties that are not up to code. Mr. Slodysko stated that the crew has cut grass between the curb and sidewalks. Mr. Tira stated that procedures must be followed with notices sent out before the work can be done. The property owner has a right to have notice each time a violation occurs. Mrs. Groninger noted that the council has determined that the street department should work with the code office. Mr. Reed asked that any weeds that encroach upon the sidewalks be cut.

Mr. Slodysko stated that the crew has been using the mulch that was recently made with the equipment per the agreement with Sunbury. He still has a large pile of mulch to be made available to the residents. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Long, council voted unanimously to provide the mulch to Northumberland Borough residents free of charge. The mulch will be placed outside the fence at the Recycling Center. Residents must load the mulch themselves.

Mr. Slodysko said that the issue of tires being left at the Recycling Center has been resolved. He spoke with the garbage hauler, he does not accept tires and he will not permit them to be left at the property.

Mr. Klock stated that the Sewer Authority would like to borrow the loader to have something to do with manholes loaded. Mr. Slodysko said that Dan should call him as he has in the past.

Mrs. Groninger questioned the preconstruction meeting notes from SEDA-COG and asked the amount of prevailing wage. Mr. Tira responded that the amount of prevailing wage is based on each individual job. She also noted that the notes incorrectly include 2nd Street as being part of the stormwater project. The scope of the project originally included 2nd Street but 2nd Street work was eliminated due to the estimated costs. The project funded by the Community Development Block Grant is to replace the stormwater lines on Hanover Street from 2nd Street to Water Street. SEDA-COG will be informed of the change in scope so the minutes may be amended.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the Code Office's activity for the month of June. He noted that the Code Office is trying to keep up with the ownership of foreclosed properties.

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report

Mr. Orner stated that the authority will meet on July 25th at 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Carl asked for a motion to adopt Resolution D-2011 which provides for the council to hold a joint meeting with Point Township Supervisors regarding the possibility of a joint sewer authority. Mr. Long so moved. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Adam Klock stated that the Borough Council should not be considering a merger; that it should be the Sewer Authority that would determine whether the two entities should merge. Mr. Tira advised that the Borough has the ability to disband the authority and take back the ownership of the obligations and assets of the Sewer Authority. He explained that the Borough does have the ultimate decision making abilities in regard to the Authority. The Borough has the ability to meet with Point Township, noting that they are at a preliminary stage. He added that there would be involvement from the Sewer Authority in that process. Mr. Carl stated that the meeting would be publicized and all members of the Sewer Authority would be encouraged to attend to provide their input. He said that the authority members would be notified of the meeting. Mrs. Groninger added that this is a public meeting for the citizens of both the Borough and Point Township to attend and provide input. Mr. Jim Troup asked if there would be a meeting for just the residents of the Borough to discuss a possible merger. Mr. Long responded that this initial meeting would be for all residents to hear the pros and cons of a possible merger. Mr. Rees stated that he can see the benefits of merging, but feels that the Borough residents should be compensated for the assets of the sewer plant. Mr. Reed agreed that the council must remember that they represent the Borough and are looking out for the interests of the Borough. Mr. Ty Sees provided a copy of the merger agreement from the Milton Sewer Authority which took place in 2000. Milton was compensated by the other municipalities who became part of the joint sewer authority. Copies will be provided to the council members.

Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution D-2011 as follows:

“WHEREAS, Point Township, Northumberland County, Pennsylvania (Hereinafter called Township) desires to organize with the Borough of Northumberland (hereinafter called Borough) a joint sewer authority, to be known as North-Point Sewer Authority, for the purpose of acquiring, holding, constructing, improving, maintaining, operating, leasing either as lessor or lessee, or owning sewers, sewer systems or parts thereof, sewage treatment works, including works for treating and disposing of industrial wastes for the Borough of Northumberland and Point Township and for such other territory as it may be authorized to serve, and

WHEREAS, the Township has informed the Borough of its desire; and

WHEREAS, the Township has requested that the Borough join with the Township in the publication of a notice of a public hearing to be held concerning the adoption of a resolution of the intention to form a joint sewer authority, pursuant to the Municipality Authorities Act, 2001, June 19, P.L. 287, No. 22 §1 (53 Pa.C.S.A. §5601 et seq.), to be known as North-Point Sewer Authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby Resolved by the Council of the Borough join with the Township in the publication of a notice of a public hearing to be held concerning the adoption of a resolution of the intention to form a joint sewer authority.

ADOPTED as a Resolution of the Council of the Borough of Northumberland this 19th day of July, 2011.

Gregory D. Carl, President
Janice R. Bowman, Secretary”

The Point Township Supervisors will be contacted to schedule and advertise the joint meeting.

Emergency Services Board Report

The board did not meet in July.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl stated that the August meeting would be postponed from August 8 to August 15th at 7:00 p.m.

The committee met at the 2nd Street Community Center in July. Topics discussed were:

1. The 2nd Street Community Center
 - Flooring will be installed this month.
 - The Savidge Room is almost complete.
 - Funding has been received toward renovations to the kitchen area.
 - Money has been received from the Sunbury/Northumberland Trust to install sidewalks. Mr. Slodysko is preparing the scope of work to obtain quotes which should be available for the next council meeting.
2. The C.W. Rice Middle School. The committee felt that the school district should be contacted to learn the plans for the former school property. Mayor Zboray volunteered to contact Robin Musto, district superintendent, to request that the council be included in any meetings concerning the fate of the property.
3. The Pennsylvania Conservation Corps. The state has eliminated the PCC program from the general budget for 2011-2012. However, both Representative Culver and Senator Gordner have introduced bills to fund the PCC this year with money from the gas leases and keep the program under the Department of Labor and Industry. Other bills that they have sponsored move the program to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources beginning fiscal year 2012-2013. The Borough has applied for a grant to continue with the renovations of the 2nd Street Community Center.
4. Jolly Hollow. A market analysis was conducted several years ago. Mr. Carl would be in favor of selling the property. Mrs. Groninger said that this property contains part of the Borough’s stormwater system. Mr. Reed stated that the property had been utilized as a skating rink and he would like to explore the possibilities for the property. Mayor Zboray agreed, adding that he would like to see the Borough maintain the land for future generations. Mr. Carl said that if the Borough is going to do something with the property, that would be different; but he doesn’t want to see the Borough maintain the property for years and not do

anything with it. The cost of maintaining the property was questioned. Mr. Wetzel noted the possibility of providing each of the adjoining landholders with a portion of the parcel.

5. Growing Greener Grant. The Borough office has learned of a grant that would provide funds to stabilize the riverbank along the north shore of the Susquehanna from the Joseph Priestley Bridge to the ramp at the Point. The required match would be provided by an outside source and the project would be a partnership between the Borough and a private landholder. If awarded, the grant would provide funding for the engineering study as well as the construction costs. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve the application for the Growing Greener Grant.

Mr. Carl provided an update on the bowl slide project. The concrete piers have been poured for the steel columns and Zartman's will be contacted to set the columns.

Mr. Wetzel received a comment at work from someone whose kids had come to our pool and they are excited about the bowl slide and had good things to say about the facility.

Mr. Wetzel questioned the status of the sale of the former Borough Building. Mr. Tira responded that the subject would be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. Long said that the committee suggests holding an auction to sell old equipment and bicycles that were turned into the police department and never claimed. Council discussed the procedure. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Carl, the council voted unanimously to hold a bike auction on September 10, 2011.

Finance

Mr. Rees stated that the committee met in July to review the 2011 budget. Letters will be sent to department heads for their input toward the 2012 budget. The committee will meet on September 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Expense side of the 2012 budget.

Personnel

Upon motion by Mrs. Groninger, seconded by Mr. Wetzel, council voted unanimously to appoint Jeffrey Bingaman to the post of Deputy Emergency Management Director.

Chief Fink stated that the ENRADD system will be delivered on Friday and training will be held then. Mrs. Groninger noted that the police calls have been published in the Daily Item. She also commented about the amount of time the officers spend in Sunbury, according to the police call report.

Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that one traffic study for parking on one side of Elliott Drive has been completed. Once the other two are completed, the ordinance can be prepared. The next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Rules

Mr. Long said that the committee meeting scheduled for July 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. is cancelled. The committee is waiting for the traffic studies to be completed.

Streets

Mr. Reed asked if anyone has any ideas for ways to fix the bricks in the streets downtown. Discussion ensued. Another ARLE grant application is being submitted. The committee will meet on August 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to approve the \$75 fee for 17857.org. This money will be used to open a bank account for the non-profit group to file for the Article of Incorporation. The original board members are Greg Carl, Justin Dunkleberger, Gene Brosius, Julia Marano and Ann August. The non-profit group's mission is to enhance the quality of life for residents of Northumberland Borough and Point Township. Council voted unanimously to approve the payment.
2. Ms. Michele Cope informed the council that the check from the Sewer Authority to the Borough was located in the Borough Office. It was clarified that the check was located in a Sewer Authority folder and not delivered by Dan Wiand as stated by Mr. Klock in a prior council meeting. Mr. Carl suggested that in the future, a Sewer Authority employee should deliver the check and obtain a receipt.

New Business

1. Mr. Long moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Orner seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Groninger left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

The council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$32,521.41; Liberty Splashland bills total \$9,856.94; 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$5,672.99; Norry Playground Fund bills total \$4,760.34; and Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$964.97.

2. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Long, council voted unanimously to transfer \$9,199.38 from the Liberty Splashland Account to the General Fund for payroll expenses.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Long, council voted unanimously to transfer \$170 from General Fund to the Liberty Splashland Account. This is the pool's share of the first PHEAA payment toward payroll costs.

Mr. Carl adjourned the meeting for an Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. to discuss a lease with TowerCo. II LLC and other legal issues. He announced that the council meeting may be reconvened.

Mrs. Groninger returned to the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Carl moved and Mr. Orner seconded a motion to approve the lease agreement with TowerCo. II, LLC. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tira explained that the Borough's current lease is with Verizon Wireless. Verizon Wireless is selling their interest in the tower to TowerCo. In order to do so, the Borough must approve the lease agreement. This company is independent of cell phone companies. Roll call vote to approve the agreement was unanimous.

Mr. Rees moved and Mr. Long seconded a motion to give Tom Slodysko the authority to purchase a truck from another municipality or under the state contract at an amount within the budget of the rental and equipment purchases line item. Council voted 6-1 to approve with Mr. Wetzel casting the dissenting vote.

Mr. Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary