

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
June 25, 2013

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, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Jon Apple, Fire Police Captain; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Jon Apple, captain of the Northumberland Fire Police informed the council that they are back in the building and he thanked everyone who helped make it possible.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that the Wendy Reigel has begun working as the Police Secretary/ Parking Meter Attendant. He noted that she has renumbered the meters and has been busy writing tickets.
- Mayor Zboray presented a flag to Borough Council President Troup that was given to him by the Sunbury Eagles at the flag ceremony in the King Street Park Gazebo on June 14, 2013. The flag had flown over the United States Capitol for the Borough of Northumberland at the request of Congressman Lou Barletta. Mayor Zboray suggested that the flag be displayed in the municipal building.

Council member Greg Carl arrived at 7:05 p.m.

- Chief Kriner, Wendy Reigel, and the Mayor attended "Touch a Truck" on Saturday.
- On July 19th, the Mayor went to Liberty Splashland because of an emergency. He thanked everyone who helped to save the little boy from drowning.
- Chief Kriner acquired a child fingerprint identification kits through a \$419 donation from the Northumberland American Legion Post 44. The kits will be distributed during Pineknotters' Days.
- Fire Police are having a fund raiser at Hoss's in Shamokin Dam on July 11th. In order to participate, patrons must have the email or a card to give to Hoss's. A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Fire Police.
- Mayor Zboray received a thank-you letter from Matt Minnier, stating that he enjoyed the music in the park on June 16th; He appreciates that the September 1st concert will be held earlier in the evening and noted that he enjoys the concerts in the park.
- Mayor Zboray requested that council authorize the Civil Service Commission to conduct testing to update the Civil Service list. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

"Adam Klock stated that the Sewer Department has been actively discussing the purchase of Nitrogen credits. There are a lot of sellers and the market seems pretty positive. We are going to start working on a draft contract. Hazen & Sawyer will discuss the necessary steps. Brian Book stated that there is nothing new to report on the intermunicipal agreements. The C.O.D. load is higher than what was expected. The sewer department has been looking around in and outside of the Borough to see where the higher COD's are coming from. We do know and we do surcharge the bakery, but the COD loads at the plant are higher than normal and it can't just be the bakery by its self causing these high numbers. BOD or COD is "oxygen demand". The difference between the BOD and COD is biological demand. BOD is something that biologically decomposes, such as fats, sugars, food stuff. COD is Chemical Oxygen Demand so it encompasses pharmaceuticals, flour. It has to do with how the test is performed. There is a limit on the BOD but not the COD. The typical wastewater relationship between COD and BOD is 2 to 1, ours is closer to 4 to 1. The problem becomes when doing nutrient removal, it takes longer in the tanks because the COD is oxidizing as well as the BOD. The problem requires us to make the tanks about 15 feet longer about a 20 -25% increases in the tank age. Not a problem but there will be a greater amount of biomass which means there will be a higher amount of sludge wasting. There are three (3) options:

1. Maintain the existing sludge system. The benefit to this is there is not an immediate cost increase.
2. Aggressive estimates are that we need 250,000 – 300,000 gallons of additional sludge storage to handle/treat it. There are things that would need to be done to the sludge such as 38% VSS destruction or SOUR testing.
3. Conservative estimates are that 500,000 gallons of additional holding are necessary

If either option 2 or 3 are chosen it could be placed beside the VLR and make it so that at a later date you could redo the sludge tank and use this as a biological tank if it was ever needed. And in the process move the blowers out of the administration building and move the pumps out of the current digester area so you would have that area t build future tanks.

Adam Klock stated the higher COD was discovered due to the Hazen & Sawyer testing. The option is to go ahead with what we have but there is a possibility that when we start the new process we may need digester capacity now. Brian Book feels we are going to need some capacity; the middle of the road (250,000 gallons) would be the right way to go, moving the blowers and removing the pumps.

The second opinion peer review has to be done before we submit to Penn Vest. We have three bids; KPI at \$6,295.00, Rettew at \$6,750.00 and Glace Associates at \$8,975.00. The requirement is to have another engineering firm do a 30% review in order to be eligible for Penn Vest when spending 11 million of more. Adam Klock made a motion to accept the bid from KPI for a Penn Vest second opinion review. Greg Carl second. All council members present approved.

Adam Klock made a motion to approve a change order to remove from the scope of work, items B-01 thru B-05 I & I related work for Hazen & Sawyer. Harry Wynn second. All present approved.

The site borings that were performed by Rettew have been completed and nothing found in the drilling of the soil that should require anything special or costly for the construction of the treatment plant.

The vehicles titles need to be transferred to the Borough of Northumberland.

Adam Klock made a motion adopt the Boroughs petty cash policy for the Sewer department, not to exceed \$40.00. Harry Wynn second. All members approved.

Adam Klock made a motion to table all bids for the purchase of nitrogen and phosphors credits for consideration to the July 16, 2013, next council meeting. Harry Wynn second. All members approved.

Submitted by S. Michele Cope"

Mr. Book clarified that the contract proposal from Hazen & Sawyer for \$29,500 to conduct the Liberty Hollow watershed study would not include the purchase of signage that is required by the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant. The \$500 remaining in the grant amount will be used toward the purchase of the signage.

Questions were asked about Cindy Lark's restitution payments. Mr. Tira noted that the court sets the payment schedule. To date, she has paid \$2,151.88 and no payments have been received since May 7th.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup announced that the meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Emergency Services Board Report

Mr. Jon Apple stated that the group did not meet and does not plan to meet in July.

Mr. Troup stated that W & L Subaru is donating a van to the Fire Department for a rehab unit.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- 2nd Street Playground Tiles
Council discussed the problem with the tiles on the 2nd Street Playground. The company had not been contracted to install the tiles, but had sent a representative here to oversee the installation. The total cost to install the tiles is \$6,262.30. The Borough would be responsible to pressure wash the area before the installation. Mr. Klock suggested mulching the area instead of having the tiles reinstalled. Discussion ensued. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.
- The college students who are working with the Borough crew cleaned up the gymnasium.
- Fire Police Building
One of the doors at the Fire Police building is rotting away and should be replaced. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to have the Borough crew install a steel door at the fire police building and to get a small air conditioner for the building. Financing is to come from the insurance proceeds in the General Contingency fund.
- 2nd Street Community Center
The college students who are working with the Borough crew cleaned up the gymnasium. Jim Aikey is expected to complete the installation of the countertops and sinks this week.
- Liberty Splashland
Mr. Carl reported that the boy who was rescued at the pool on June 19th is expected to make a complete recovery. Council discussed recognizing the individuals who saved him during Pineknotters' Days. Mayor Zboray commented that the people at the pool were very professional that day. The Borough Secretary also reported that the state inspector was at the pool on Friday and came to the office to check on lifeguard certifications. The inspector noted that there were no violations at the pool and that Jon Ruths, the assistant manager who was on duty, could answer all her questions.

Mr. Sees asked if patrons are given admission for another day if a storm occurs shortly after they have paid their admission. He added that he has been told by some people that they were not given another admission for another day. Mr. Carl responded that if they request a

rain check, they are given one. The rule of thumb is if it is after 3:00, a rain check is not issued. Mr. Carl stated that if Mr. Sees can tell him how many rain checks were denied, he would see that they get them.

- Dog Park

Mr. Reed said that once Tom Slodysko has time, another work party will be organized to install the fence.

Mr. Klock requested permission to purchase metal letters for the two signs for the dog park. Discussion ensued. Mr. Klock moved to authorize the purchase of letters at a cost of up to \$500 for "Howling Hollow". Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Klock asked about the interest rate of the borough's loan for the street project to see if it should be refinanced. The Borough Secretary stated that she would check on the rate, and that the loan was obtained through PennVest.

Personnel - No report

Public Safety - No report

Rules

- Mr. Sees stated that he and the solicitor would finalize the rules for the dog park and bring them to the council for approval.
- Mr. Klock asked if any feedback was received on the animal ordinance. Mr. Sees stated that none was.
- Mr. Sees said that the next committee meeting is on July 8th at 6:00 p.m. The committee members are Mr. Sees, Mr. Wetzel, and Mr. Wynn.

Mr. Wynn asked if there is a law that mandates attendance by council members at council meetings, noting that Mr. Wetzel has missed several meetings. Mr. Tira responded that the court has ruled that council does not have authority to remove someone from council; they must go through a petition to the court. Mr. Troup stated that he write a letter or email to Mr. Wetzel to see if he is still interested in serving on council.

Streets

The storm drains will be installed on Sixth Street so paving may be done.

Mr. Klock asked if Mr. Slodysko is planning to install the crosswalks because he noted the excavator is downtown. Mr. Reed stated that as far as he knows, the storm drains are scheduled to be done first. The excavator may be downtown to plant trees or to install street signs.

Old Business

1. Mr. Klock moved to accept the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant of \$30,000 for the Liberty Hollow Run and to appoint Jan Bowman as the Project Leader. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

2. Mr. Klock moved to accept the proposal of \$29,500 from Hazen & Sawyer to conduct the study of the Liberty Hollow Run. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. The Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System has provided a contract for the council to approve in order to combine the plans for the Borough non-uniform employees and the sewer department employees. Council decided to table the topic until the July 16th meeting.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$22,323.78; Liberty Splashland bills total \$3,927.62; bills to be paid from the Park & Recreation Fund total \$636.69; bills to be paid from the Parking Meter fund total \$684.19; and the Northumberland Sewer Department bills total \$68,991.43.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted unanimously to close the Acorn Little League Checking Account.
3. Mr. Klock stated that the sponsors for the Badlees at Pineknotters' Days were not included in the Pineknottter News. The information in the newsletter was provided by the Pineknotters' Days committee. Mr. Klock also requested that the council members be sent emails to contribute articles for the newsletter and to email them for comment before they are published. Mayor Zboray stated that he has helped to proof read the newsletters. Mr. Troup questioned how Ann August is being paid for her work on the newsletter. It was explained that she is keeping track of her time and that 17857.org will reimburse the Borough.
4. Mr. Tira provided information about the contract negotiations with Service Electric Cable, Inc. A meeting is being planned to discuss the agreement. The Borough currently receives 5% on fees collected for basic cable, approximately \$10,000 per quarter.

Mr. Troup announced that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter and may return for a vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. and reconvened at 9:11 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Sees, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted unanimously to pay the outstanding Coukart bill, with the condition that they accept payment of \$16,690 as payment in full and the Borough has no admission of any wrongdoing or any liability.

Mr. Wynn requested that council adjourn for another Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. and was not reconvened.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary