

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
May 1, 2012

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

Roll Call

Council members present were Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, Ty Sees, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Greg Carl and Frank Wetzel were absent.

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Tamara Runyan stated that she has a wonderful neighbor, Adam Klock. She said that he told her to stop feeding the cats because he has a problem with cats in his yard. Ms. Runyan said that she will continue to feed the cats because one has four kittens. She explained that Mr. Klock had taken the Sunday paper to her and noticed that she had food for the cats on her porch. Three of the kittens are missing and Ms. Runyan said that Mr. Klock took them out to the farm. Mr. Klock stated that he did not trap or take any kittens to a farm. He added that he has photos of the cats that he did trap and took to a farm. Ms. Runyan said that there was an article in the newspaper about Mr. Klock having to walk his dog on a leash in his yard because of the cat feces in his yard. She said that she has never seen Mr. Klock walk his dog on a leash; she has been awakened by him calling his dog in the night because he lets him run loose. Mr. Klock said that his dog stays in his yard and that he has had to walk his dog on a leash in the evenings when it's dark and he can't see what the dog is getting into. Ms. Runyan stated that his dog runs throughout the neighborhood. Mr. Klock asked what this has to do with a cat ordinance. Ms. Runyan replied that there should not be a limit on the number of cats that may be kept in the house. She concluded her comments by stating that Mr. Klock should not lie about keeping his dog on a leash; but that Mr. Klock is a very good neighbor.

Terri Propst asked why Northumberland does not have a Spring clean-up. She said that some residents cannot afford to take their garbage to the dump. She stated that Selinsgrove used to have a Spring clean-up and that Sunbury has a clean-up. Mr. Slodysko stated that clean-up was done years ago and that it took many weeks until it was completed. Mr. Troup stated that with the limited number of crew members, it would be difficult for them to conduct a clean-up. The cost of transferring the garbage to the Lycoming Landfill would also be too prohibited. Ms. Propst asked if the Borough has an ordinance about cleaning up after a dog. She was told that

there is and that if she sees someone walking a dog and not cleaning up after their pet, she should call the police and take a picture with her cell phone, if possible, to prove the violation.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of April 3, 2012.

Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, the council meeting minutes of April 17, 2012, were approved by a vote of 4-0-1. Mr. Sees abstained.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray noted that the new unmarked police vehicle is in transit. It will arrive within the next two weeks. Mayor Zboray asked how the council would like to sell the 2003 Ford Crown Victoria. Discussion ensued. The vehicle has transmission problems, the extent of which are unknown. Mr. Sees made a motion to advertise the vehicle on Muncibid with a \$1,500 minimum reserve. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.
- Mayor Zboray sent a thank-you letter to Tom Bohner for removing the signs from the Washington Tavern.
- The Mayor and Chief changed the batteries in the parking meters and put numbered labels on them. He thanked Ann August for printing the labels.
- Mayor Zboray said that a tree was down on Front Street at A Street. He has contacted PennDOT about the trees that are along the side of Front Street lying on the guide wires. PennDOT will not trim the trees; they will respond if a tree falls on the street. The Code Office is contacting the property owners to ask them to remove the trees. Mr. Troup suggested contacting Verizon since the trees are on their guide wires. Mayor Zboray will follow up on the issue.
- Mayor Zboray attended the 40th anniversary of the Northumberland Christian School and said it was a great event.
- 17857.org did not meet because it was Election Day. The meeting will be rescheduled.
- Mayor Zboray contacted Dan Saxton about the high grass and weeds around the tennis courts and football field at the C.W. Rice building. The school district's agreement with the borough is for the tennis courts, not for any of the land around it. Mr. Saxton said that the district will take care of the high grass and weeds.
- Mayor Zboray attended the NorthPoint Sewer Authority meeting. He said that he spoke with the NSA member that were there and requested that the 2nd payment of \$25,000 be made to the Borough. Mr. Troup stated that it would be a good idea for the public and council members to attend the authorities' meetings. The NSA meets on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- On Thursday at noon, the Northumberland Ministerium will host a prayer service at the flagpole in King Street Park as part of the National Day of Prayer.
- The police will continue to enforce the intersection blocking at Duke and Water Streets and King and Water Streets.
- Mayor Zboray is meeting with the Red Cross personnel on Friday to map the 5K walk for Making Strides against Breast Cancer that is scheduled for this fall.

- Officer Kevin Rushton has requested permission for his brother to ride along with him on patrol on May 11th. His brother will be entering the police academy in the fall and will be pursuing a career in law enforcement. Mr. Tira advised that a citizen who rides along with the police should sign a waiver. Chief Fink stated that the department does have a waiver to be signed. Mr. Tira also advised that anyone riding along should remain in the vehicle when the officer is on a call. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to permit Officer Rushton's brother to ride along with him on May 11th.
- Ann Kerstetter and her Band of Cronies will perform a free concert in the King Street Park this summer.
- Memory Lane will hold a concert on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.
- Mayor Zboray has spoken with Nancy Gautsch VanKirk about a visit from Dutch VanKirk this year. Mr. VanKirk, a native of Northumberland, was the navigator on the Enola Gay and has written a book, My True Course: Dutch VanKirk Northumberland to Hiroshima. Mr. VanKirk will conduct a book signing in Northumberland. Several dates are being considered.
- Mayor Zboray noted that the fundraiser at the Social Club for the Acorn Little League went very well.

Street Supervisor's Report

- Mr. Tom Slodysko stated that last Friday, he and the street department worked with the United Way volunteers at Pineknott Park. He said that they did not clear the area along the river because of the amount of poison that is there. Instead, they cleared out the area under the bridge and on the Point side of the bridge. Some of the volunteers cleared the weeds from the fence line between the ballfield and the railroad property. Mr. Slodysko noted that this was a fantastic group of volunteers.
- Mr. Slodysko dug out the sink hole on Prince Street. They have installed stone and plan to monitor the street. Another sink hole has developed at Fifth and Prince Streets. He plans to redo this area. Mr. Sees questioned if Bimbo could be charged due to the number of heavy trucks that travel this street. Mr. Tira noted that a traffic study would have to be completed before the road could be posted with a weight limit. Once a weight limit is established, a restriction may be posted. If the trucks exceed the limit, the company could post a bond.
- Two locations on Susquehanna Road need repaired. Mr. Slodysko said that he was told that Mr. Troxell opened the one and the gas company bored under the road at another location. Mr. Slodysko will check if permits were obtained.
- Mr. Slodysko said that several locations on King Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets will be repaired once hot patch is available.
- The street signs should be delivered next week.
- A tree in front of the Girl Scout house was removed because it was diseased.
- The 2004 GMC was taken to the Paul Stine garage for repair. Discussion ensued about the vehicle and the repairs that had been made.

Sewer Authority Report

Mr. Klock reported that both the Northumberland Sewer Authority and the North Point Sewer Authority met. The North Point Sewer Authority met last Thursday. Mayor Zboray was present

and asked that the \$25,000 payment be made to the Borough. Mr. Klock stated that Montie Peters said that the NSA should be asked for the payment. The township supervisors commented that they may install a packaging facility to treat their waste. Mr. Sees stated that both the NSA and North Point agreed to explore the options of building a new facility in Northumberland or contracting with Sunbury to treat the sewage. If the NSA is dissolved, the Borough would assume the responsibilities of the NSA, and a treatment agreement with Point Township could continue.

Mr. Propst stated that he has been having a problem with sewage odor on Priestley Avenue. He explained that the problem has been ongoing. Mr. Klock stated that they should attend the meeting on Thursday at 7:00 at the Sewer Plant. He added that if they cannot make the meeting, they should contact the office and ask that the topic be put on the agenda.

Mayor Zboray stated that Mr. Peters had asked him how the people in the borough would react if we were to send the sewage to Sunbury, rather than it being processed in the Borough. Mayor Zboray had replied that based on the estimates from Brinjac, the savings would be approximately \$2,000,000 by sending the sewage to Sunbury. The Mayor said that if money could be saved by sending the sewage to Sunbury, he felt that the residents would be in favor of that option. Mr. Klock added that the residents' quality of living would improve. By eliminating the sewer plant, the Borough residents would not have the odor, which Point Township residents do not experience. The Borough would still maintain the collection system and infrastructure. Because the treatment costs would be based on flow, replacing old lines would lower the amount of flow and the costs. Mr. Klock explained that the treatment costs would be calculated every year. He said that Mr. Ramer explained to him how the rate would be calculated on only the collection system. He also noted that Upper Augusta has been a customer for many years and has had no problems with the billing. Additionally, the PUC could be contacted if it was felt that the costs were higher than warranted. The only costs that would be permitted would be collection costs and a share of the cost of any capital improvements. The smaller discharge events that have occurred in the past few years would go away with the size of the line that would be built going to Sunbury. As part of the plan, the Borough must address the inflow and infiltration in the Borough to reduce the amount of storm water that is going into the sewer.

Mr. Klock explained that the Northumberland residents would be billed for treatment costs, which would be the bill from Sunbury, plus collection costs for maintaining the collection system in the Borough and the overhead. He noted that eventually the number of staff required in the Borough could be reduced once the collection system is repaired and if treatment is in Sunbury. He added that this would be in the future and he does not anticipate any layoffs since by that time some employees would be eligible for retirement.

The NSA has received an official letter from their attorney, John Sheridan, which informed them that the IRS has abated all penalties and accrued interest for the taxes that had not been filed by Cindy Lark and a refund will be issued to the NSA for the interest that was paid.

W & L had filed a complaint about a back bill and NSA's solicitor will be responding to them.

Committee Reports

Community Development

The Borough Secretary informed the council that she has been looking for tables and chairs to purchase for the Savidge Room. The S. Luther Savidge Community Trust has provided funding for furnishings for the room. It would be possible to purchase 125 folding chairs, 14 tables, one dolly for chairs and one for tables at a total cost \$5,887. She requested that the council approve the purchase of these items and will compare prices to obtain the best price. Mr. Rees moved to authorize the Borough Secretary to spend up to \$6,000 to purchase these items with funds from the Savidge Trust. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Troup stated that he had visited Liberty Splashland and looked at the structure that is being built for the bowl slide. He added that he was impressed.

Mr. Klock questioned the amount of time that the street crew has spent on the project and felt that the Borough should be compensated for the time that is being spent on the bowl slide. He said that he would like to review the time sheets to see the amount of time that has been spent by the crew on the bowl slide.

Finance

Mr. Rees stated that the budget was reviewed. He noted that when the budget was passed, the amount budgeted for the solicitor was for one meeting per month, not two, so this line item is over-budget. The amount spent for vehicle fuel is also higher than the amount budgeted for this part of the year.

Mr. Rees explained that when the 2004 GMC truck was purchased last year, \$18,242.03 was borrowed from the General Contingency Fund. The money was budgeted in the Streets budget this year for the truck so the General Contingency Fund may be reimbursed. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Rees, council voted unanimously to transfer \$18,242.03 from the General Fund to the General Contingency Fund.

Mr. Rees moved to transfer \$1,000 from the General Fund to the Shade Tree Account. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The fund currently has approximately \$3,000. In the past, the fund was used to purchase trees and to pay to have the trees downtown sprayed. Mr. Klock suggested that the money not be transferred at this time. Mr. Rees said that he would be inclined to transfer the funds at some time this year unless there are extenuating circumstances, but he withdrew his motion.

Personnel

Personnel issues will be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety

Mr. Klock stated that the video of the public meeting in Sunbury regarding the Clean Harbors facility at the former Celotex site has been received from DEP. He suggested having a public viewing of the video or making it available in the office for anyone wishing to view it. Mr. Sees suggested tabling the topic until Mr. Klock views the video and can report on the length of it. Mayor Zboray recommended posting a date for the viewing on the website and in the next newsletter.

Rules

Mr. Sees stated that he hopes to have an animal ordinance prepared by the end of May. He has reviewed Lewisburg's and Selinsgrove's animal ordinances and thinks that these are reasonable ordinances that could be used as models for the Borough's ordinance. The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 14th at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Klock noted that the majority of the cats that are being treated at the mobile cat clinic are pets, not feral cats. He said that this clinic takes business away from the local veterinarian. Mr. Klock stated that he would rather support the local veterinarians. A local veterinarian has stated that she is okay with the mobile clinic treating feral cats, but not domestic cats. Mr. Klock added that our local veterinarian is willing to work with the council. He suggested that the committee meet separately from the committee meeting to develop an ordinance to present at the meeting.

Streets

Mr. Reed informed council that Barry Garverick from PennDOT has provided some estimates to replace the downtown bricks with stamped concrete. He requested that council provide some direction for the committee because of the costs of the project. He asked if the council wishes to install stamped concrete or to pave the crosswalks to asphalt. Mr. Klock suggested that instead of spending the money for stamped concrete, a fund could be established to provide an incentive for downtown business to improve the appearance of their properties. Mr. Slodysko stated that paving the crosswalks would cost almost as much as installing concrete. He estimated that paving may be about \$5,000 less. One cost is for traffic control which requires specific signs, flashing lights, and following the PennDOT specs. It was also noted that this funding is tax money or liquid fuels money that is specified for street repairs. Mayor Zboray asked if it would be possible to replace the bricks that are in the crosswalks. Mr. Slodysko responded that the concrete that is under and on either side of the bricks is breaking up.

The bid for stamped concrete has been prepared by Mr. Garverick. The advertisement will state that the Borough will conduct a mandatory pre-bid meeting so all contractors will be present to view the project site and obtain the same information. It was estimated that the project will be completed in two phases with each phase requiring street closures for five days. The ad also includes a clause that the Borough may reject all bids.

Mr. Troup moved to advertise the bid for repairing the downtown crosswalks with stamped concrete. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0-1 with Mr. Reed abstaining due to owning the building at the corner of Queen and Front Streets.

Old Business

1. Fire Police Building

Workers from Career Link will be coming to clean and repair the restrooms at the rear of the Fire Police Building that were damaged during the September 2011 flood. FEMA will not be contributing toward the Fire Police Building since the Borough had insurance on the building.

2. Mr. Slodysko stated that a representative from PEMA will be coming to look at the pipe along the parking lot at the pool.

New Business

1. Mr. Rees moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$29,049.71; Liberty Splashland bills total \$2,882.12; and Acorn Field bills total \$2,971.69.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, council unanimously approved payment of the bills for budgeted items due before June 8, 2012.

Mr. Troup requested a motion to adjourn the council meeting for an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Rees moved to adjourn. Mr. Klock seconded the motion.

The council meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary