

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**May 17, 2011**

President Gregory Carl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Gregory Carl, Judith H. Groninger, Robert Long, Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member James Orner was absent.

The visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Brosius reported that the Luther Savidge Trust has awarded \$20,000 to complete the Savidge Room in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Community Center, \$1,000 for shade trees for the playground, and \$500 for a picnic table that is handicapped accessible.

The Northumberland Christian School has received funding from the Savidge Trust toward a playground that is being constructed at the corner of Pond and Sheetz Avenues.

The Sunbury-Northumberland Trust will meet on June 2, 2011. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

**Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Slodysko reported that he spoke with the Borough's PennDOT municipal services representative learned that the Borough is responsible to install handicapped curbs on Hanover Street at Front and Water Streets. PennDOT is responsible for installing the curb ramps on Front and Water Streets. A change order is being prepared to add six more handicapped curb ramps with truncated domes, and ninety more feet of regular curbing to the street paving project. This change order will increase the Meckley's Limestone Products, Inc. total bid to \$66,735.25.

Mr. Long moved to accept Meckley's Limestone Products, Inc. original bid of \$55,504.25 for paving and curbing on Hanover Street and to accept the change order that is pending from

PennDOT. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve the bid and change order.

Mr. Slodysko explained that the Borough's SuperZ lawnmower has been inoperable for four weeks, waiting for a part that is on order. Mr. Slodysko said that he would like to purchase a Bushhog mower from Rovendale Ag and Barn, Inc. This is an American-made mower that is being rented for \$400 per week. The company will sell the \$8,872 mower to the Borough for \$6,654 which is less than the state contract price. This is a brand new mower with a 3 year commercial warranty. Mr. Slodysko requested to use part of the funding that was to be used toward a bucket truck with a higher lift to purchase the mower. He feels he will still have enough money remaining in the budget to purchase a bucket truck with a lift similar to the current bucket truck.

Upon motion by Mrs. Groninger, seconded by Mr. Long, the council voted unanimously to purchase the Bushhog mower for \$6,654.

Mr. Slodysko noted that minor repairs throughout the streets will be completed.

Mr. Slodysko stated that the sidewalks will be completed at the police station end of the building once the weather permits. He has contacted a contractor to assist with the installation.

Mr. Slodysko informed the council that trees that were planted along the Route 11 by the Sewer Authority fence are dying. It is the trees that are on the lower side of the entrance gates. He requested permission to have the soil tested to determine the cause. It was suggested that the Penn State extension be contacted. The trees were purchased through a forestry grant. The oak trees that were purchased at the same time and planted at the point are fine.

The 6-foot diameter storm pipe along the Liberty Splashland parking area is cracked and sink holes are developing above the pipe during heavy rains. Five holes were covered during the past three weeks. This pipe extends from the creek above the pool to Prince Street. The pipe was originally installed to enable the enlargement of the parking lot at the Kiwanis Building. To replace the concrete pipe, Mr. Slodysko estimated the cost to be approximately \$24,000 for material. Three possible options were considered. They are concrete pipe, plastic pipe which would require strapping it down or concreting it in, or removing the pipe altogether and installing rip-rap and a guardrail along an open trench. The last option would eliminate a row of parking spaces at the Kiwanis Building. Mr. Slodysko said that it is currently not a safety hazard because the holes only occur during heavy rains and the crew covers them as necessary. Council requested that quotes be obtained for the three ways to fix the problem.

Mr. Slodysko noted that the river had flooded the Point and Hanover Street launch areas. Many of the stones in the parking lot at the Point have been washed away. The Fish and Boat Commission Grant will be considered.

Mr. Slodysko informed the council that the sub-base of the asphalt is eroding along the western side of Empress Tree Lane due to heavy rains and no curbing along this street. The street crew will make repairs to alleviate the problem.

#### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Adam Klock reported that at the authority's workshop, a recommendation was made for a new hire for the sewer plant. The Board will vote on the applicant at the next regular meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

The cost to purchase credits is being explored. This estimate will be used to gauge the cost effectiveness of purchasing credits and delaying the upgrade or to upgrade the plant now.

The invoices for the previous Queen Street pumping station upgrade were reviewed. After the former clerk left employment with the Sewer Authority, new invoices were not generated as had been agreed upon with Point Township Sewer Authority and Upper Augusta Township. The bylaws state that customers are still responsible to make payment whether or not an invoice is received. An outstanding balance of approximately \$415,000 plus interest is due from the Point Township Sewer Authority and \$18,000 is due from Upper Augusta. A CPA will be hired to determine the exact amounts that are owed. The two entities will be given the option of a payment plan or paying the lump sum.

Mr. Klock said that the Authority would like to formalize a land-lease agreement with the Borough similar to one which was written several years ago but not signed.

### **Emergency Services Board**

The Board will meet on June 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Community Development

Mr. Carl reported that the next committee meeting will be held on June 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The walls were poured for the pool for the bowl slide and the bowl will be set in place this week. The pool will open on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The hours of operation are 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., weather permitting.

Verizon Wireless has received all the required approvals and permits and construction of the cell tower is scheduled to begin this summer.

Mr. Reed reported that only one person called about the Farmer's Market and this was someone who does scrapbooking.

#### Finance

Mr. Rees stated that the committee will meet in July to review the second quarter of 2011.

#### Personnel

The committee has developed a new job description for the Chief of Police. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to accept the new job description for the Chief of Police.

Mrs. Groninger noted that much of the solicitor's bill is for personnel issues dealing with grievances.

## Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that the committee met tonight with the Rules Committee to discuss parking issues. Three of these will require traffic studies – no parking on one side of Elliott Drive; increase in the length of no parking on Orange Street from the intersection at Fifth Street due to the ladder truck turning onto Orange Street; and Depot Avenue from Queen Street to Wheatley Avenue. The committee also recommends offering parking passes to residents in the downtown area for \$50.00 per year.

The committee is in favor of applying to PennDOT for “yield to pedestrians” signs to be placed at various crosswalks on Duke Street.

The committee will meet on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## Rules

The committee met with the Public Safety Committee. The committee will meet on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## Streets

Mr. Reed stated that everything was already covered tonight.

## Old Business

1. Frye’s Interiors had submitted to low bid of \$11,688.15 for the flooring for the Savidge Room. Since the S. Luther Savidge Trust has awarded \$20,000 for the Savidge Room, the money for the flooring would be covered. Mr. Long moved and Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion to accept the bid from Frye’s Interiors. Council voted unanimously to approve. The bid had been advertised in the Daily Item.
2. The sale of the old borough building will be discussed in the Executive Session.
3. Applications for the Fish and Boat Commission Grant are due by May 31, 2011. In-kind services can be used as the Borough’s 50% match. Mr. Long moved to apply for a grant to improve the parking area at the Point and to install rip rap along the shoreline. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
4. Because the Code Enforcement Officer was not present, the Code Enforcement Officer’s Report for April was read by Mrs. Groninger:
  - 6 permits were issued
  - 1 permit was denied
  - \$684 was collected in permit fees
  - 1 complaint was received
  - 10 code violation letters were sent out
  - 2 council meetings were attended
  - 159 miles were put on the car
  - Permit fees of \$495
  - One street cut
  - 12 rental inspections
  - Inspection fees of \$420

## **New Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Rees, the council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. The bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$16,989.27; the Liberty Splashland bills total \$4,296.31; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Community and Municipal Center bills total \$15.21; and the Norry Playground Fund bills total \$100.00.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Long, the council voted unanimously to transfer the \$8,964.25 remaining from the \$9,000 in the 2011 budget in the General Fund to the Liberty Splashland account.
3. Point Township has requested that two council members attend a meeting with the Township and Upper Augusta Township supervisors to discuss the agreement with the Sewer Authority. Mr. Carl will attend and if Mr. Orner cannot attend, Mr. Long will rearrange his schedule to attend. The meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
4. Mr. Steve Cimino voiced a complaint about the Northumberland County Election Board. He stated that he did not receive notification that the 2<sup>nd</sup> ward polling place was changed from the Girl Scout House to the building behind the Episcopal Church. Others commented that they also did not receive notification. Council requested that a letter be sent to the Election Board.
5. Mr. Klock noted that the Sewer Authority is aware of one property that has three rentals and landlord is not paying sewer bills for the all rental units. Mr. Klock stated that there are three electric meters on the building. He was informed that the last time that a hearing was held for landlords who were not paying the rental fees, the district justice ruled in favor of the landlords because the Borough did not provide deeds that stipulated property ownership. The code office is preparing to cite landlords that do not comply with the Borough ordinance and will provide copies of the deeds. The district justice for the Borough has changed.

The council meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss real estate and personnel matters. Mr. Carl announced that the meeting may be reconvened after the Executive Session.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Reed, the council voted unanimously to reduce the asking price of the former Borough Building at 219-221 Second Street to \$140,000. The reduced price is based on market research done by Villager Realty.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary