

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
November 11, 2013

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Harry Wynn, Adam Klock, Ellie Rees and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Superintendent; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Greg Carl, Stephen Reed, and Ty Sees were absent.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Old Business

1. Sewer Department

Scott Armbrust from Hazen & Sawyer was present for the meeting. Brian Book, engineer with Hazen & Sawyer, was on the phone and spoke about the PennVest application. The application is for \$13,787,287. He explained that council could take two actions; to pass a resolution to apply for the PennVest loan and to approve a Letter of Responsibility. Mayor Zboray asked how this application affects the other PennVest loan that the Borough has in place. The Borough has a loan for stormwater work. Mayor Zboray asked if this current loan would have any effect on the new application being approved. Mr. Book stated that the documents would require changes to reflect the current loan.

Mr. Klock moved to approve Resolution N-2013 PennVest application with the correction to the application that indicates that the Borough has an outstanding PennVest loan. Ms. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Klock moved to send a Letter of Responsibility to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Mr. Book questioned if the motion includes the provision that if the solicitor determines that the Letter of Responsibility needs changed to reflect the Borough's current loan for the stormwater project that it would be acceptable. Mr. Klock amended the motion to reflect this provision. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Book explained that the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has requested that the Borough have an initial archaeological investigation. Mr. Book provided quotes from two archaeological consultants to conduct the investigation. The quotes are \$2,450 from Rue Environmental LLC and \$3,057.70 from Heberling Associates, Inc. Mr. Troup asked if Rue Environmental LLC provided a time frame to complete the work. Mr. Book stated that he was told that the company would have the work done in two weeks.

Mr. Troup made a motion to hire Rue Environmental LLC at a price of \$2,450 to conduct the archeological dig and to have the work videotaped. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Book asked if Ted McCollum provided the non-conforming use letter. Mr. McCollum has provided a Report and Decision on Nonconformity Application. Mr. Book requested that a copy of the letter be given to Mr. Armbrust to take back to the office.

Mr. Book asked to borrow the Liberty Hollow presentation boards for a meeting on Friday in State College.

Mr. Klock stated that Mount Carmel has called to see if the Borough is interested in buying nitrogen credits from them. Mr. Book said that Harrisburg had walked away from a deal with them. Mr. Klock moved to allow himself to negotiate a purchase price for nitrogen credits for 2014 and 2015 at a cost not to exceed \$1.00 per credit. Mr. Troup seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Duke Street Property

Mr. Troup stated that no new information has been received from the Northumberland County Planning Commission about the sale of the Duke Street property. Mayor Zboray stated that one of the neighbors is interested in purchasing the property. No action was taken.

3. Benecon Health Insurance

Mr. Troup stated that the council is in a quandary. Mr. Sees was to obtain quotes from Geisinger and other insurance companies and it is November 11th and the council does not have anything. Benecon has called to ask if the Borough is renewing the health insurance policy for 2014. Mr. Klock stated that the numbers are needed for the budget. Benecon has provided Borough with the premiums and an agreement for health insurance for 2014. The increase is 13.4%. The monthly premium for an individual plan is \$1,030.67 and the monthly family plan is \$2,359.01. Mr. Klock asked if Mayor Zboray would help him contact other insurance companies before the next council meeting. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wynn made a motion to accept the Benecon plan for 2014 with the possibility to opt out in six months and obtain a new policy if the terms of the contract allow the Borough to opt out. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary