

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
November 5, 2012

Council President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Greg Carl, Adam Klock, Jonathan Rees, and James Troup. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Levi Woodward, Acting Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Stephen Reed, Ty Sees, and Frank Wetzel were absent.

Eighteen visitors introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mr. Dan Berard stated that a sign had been posted at the recycling center stating that the Borough Council wants to take over recycling. He asked if that is true. Mr. Troup stated that the council had previously discussed forming committees for various locations in town, such as the pool, recreation, the new dog park, the ballfield, and the recycling center. He said that it was suggested that someone from Borough Council could be involved with the recycling center to see what is going on because council does not know what money is made there. He noted that the council does pay the bills for the center and that by having someone involved, they could see what is needed there and help make it better. Mr. Klock stated that some of the garbage haulers are offering single-stream recycling and they are taking away from the Recycling Center. He said that it was brought up at a previous meeting that perhaps the Borough could offer single stream recycling so the Borough could get the revenue. He stated that no decision was made to take over the recycling center but that the Borough is taking a loss at the Recycling Center. He feels that the Borough should be paid back for the expenses before the groups take their profit. Mr. Bill Gross asked where Mr. Klock takes his recycling. He replied that he takes it to Sunbury because the hours of the recycling center are not convenient for him. Mr. Gross stated that the center is opened every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning. Mr. Gross said that the Borough has received grant funding and has purchased items that are used by the Borough with the money. Numerous items were mentioned, including the chipper, the leaf box, a portion of one of the Borough trucks, the recycling truck, and the wood chipper. The land at the Recycling Center was purchased with a grant. The Borough also applies for the performance grant each year which is based on the quantity of the collected recyclables. As of September, the Borough spent \$2,340 for expenses at the recycling center. Mrs. Judy Groninger said that she does not feel that the council should even consider taking over the recycling because they will then lose the volunteers. Mr. Troup stated that no one had said anything about wanting to take it over. He said that council just wants to make it better

and help the volunteers. He also said that the only reason anything was brought up about it is because the council budgets \$4,000 for the recycling center and they would like it to be more profitable. He noted that expenses are going up and the budget is very tight. Mr. Gross stated that the Borough did provide curbside recycling several years ago and volunteer groups were lost because of it. Mr. Troup stated that he is not in favor of curbside recycling. He invited the volunteers to attend the Community Development Committee meeting to discuss recycling. Mr. Bill Skumanich asked about the garbage hauler who is at the center each Saturday. He was told that the council had asked Elmer Danley to have a truck at the center each Saturday as a convenience to residents so they could get rid of garbage when they recycle. Mr. Danley charges the Borough for the garbage from the recycling center dumpster and from the dumpster at the garage. He does not charge extra during the summer when the pool also has garbage and the dumpster is emptied more frequently.

Mr. Berard asked why the Borough sold the Borough building for \$47,000 less than what they were offered from the #1's a year ago. Mr. Troup stated that he was not on Borough Council at the time an offer was made. Mr. Berard stated that the #1's offered \$105,000 six months later. No one recalled receiving that offer. Mr. Carl stated that council members met with members from the #1's and that they were interested in a price that was agreed upon and then they met with their attorney and came back with a much lower offer. At that time, the council did not feel that they could accept the lower offer when the building was appraised much higher. At auction, the building sold to the #1's for \$73,000.

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Troup, council approved the council meeting minutes of October 16, 2012 by a vote of 2-0-2. Council members Rees and Carl abstained because they were not present at the meeting.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that the Borough established an Emergency Center during Hurricane Sandy. He stated that one of the cameras at the traffic light at King and Water Streets was moved out of place by the wind and a contractor was contacted to replace the camera.
- The planters that were purchased with a grant from the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation have been placed downtown. Small pine trees have been planted in them.
- Christmas decorations have been ordered. Funding for the new decorations is from the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation. Purchases include new LED lights, lighted snowflakes, a large bow to be placed on top of the lighted sign, and live trees that will be decorated by various community groups.
- The Kickstarter campaign is online to raise funds for the renovations to the gymnasium. The media will be contacted for publicity.
- The first two sections of the new police policy manual have been emailed to the council members.
- Volunteers will be decorating the King Street Park next week. Contact the Borough office to volunteer your time.

- The new flagpole and light have been installed. S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation funded them. Funding was also received from the S. Luther Savidge Charitable Foundation for the fence for the dog park.
- Mayor Zboray thanked those who helped with the emergency operations center. He said that he has the report provided by Brian Crebs, if anyone would like to review it.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report – no report

Street Supervisor's Report – no report

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Northumberland Sewer Authority Report – no report

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl stated that a quote of \$7,500 has been received for the fence at the Jolly Hollow dog park. Mr. Klock stated that he has a volunteer with an auger who is willing to help install the fence.

Mr. Carl moved, and Mr. Klock seconded the motion to purchase the fence at a cost of \$7,500 for the dog park at Jolly Hollow. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion. Mr. Klock suggested that council consider the name for the park.

Finance

Mr. Rees reported that the committee would meet next Wednesday, November 14th, at 6:30 to complete the 2013 budget. He requested that all council members attend the meeting to help balance the budget.

The Borough Secretary stated that she attended a meeting with PPL to learn about changing out lights to reduce electric costs. Mr. Klock stated that the sewer plant is reviewing energy costs. The Borough's contract with Constellation Energy expires at the end of the year.

Personnel – Topics will be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety - no report

Rules

The Rules Committee will meet on Monday at 6:00 p.m. The solicitor is drafting the animal ordinance.

Sewer

Mr. Klock provided information from the NSA. He said that their office is interested in providing online services to their customers for paying the bills.

Mr. Klock moved to purchase the utility software from the Better Business Solutions of Danville, PA at a cost of \$6,663.00 and a yearly fee of \$110. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Klock added an addendum to the motion to verify that the Borough would own the data and the company would assist with data migration if the Borough should change companies in the future. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion. The new billing software is to be implemented for January 2013.

Brian Book, P.E., Senior Associate with Hazen and Sawyer, provided the Engineer's Status Report to the council. Highlights of the report are:

1. At a meeting with DEP, it was learned that DEP is unwilling to change the Consent Order & Agreement (COA) schedule due to indefinite issues or for indefinite outcomes.
2. Point Township indicated that they will not participate in an Act 537 Planning process for treatment of the combined wastewater, per a letter from Attorney Lin Davis.
3. The existing system is non-compliant because of a failure to implement the 92.8 selected upgrade in 2011 and the existence of sanitary sewer overflows. DEP indicated that the COA requires compliance on implementing the 92.8 selected upgrade and they are allowing the Borough to address the I&I. They had previously implied that the I&I might be addressed later.
4. The Alternative Analysis shows that the Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) Alternative and the Sunbury Municipal Authority (SMA) Interconnection are similar in costs. However the SMA Interconnection cannot comply with the COA so it is not recommended.
5. The NPDES Permit Transfer is complete, but was not submitted. It should be completed as quickly as possible in order to comply with the Court Order
6. A copy of the preliminary analysis of the sewer system funds was included.

Mr. Book also provided a Final Report of the Alternative Analysis. This report included a proposed implementation schedule, culminating with the issuance of a Certification of Substantial Completion for the construction of the SBR by July 31, 2015. The estimated project cost is \$10,900,000 with total annual costs for 2025, the mid-point of the design life, estimated at \$1,069,775. The cost estimate does not include any I&I reduction work. The report explains that reduction of the Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) significantly reduces the treatment costs and should be addressed immediately. The new plant will comply with the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. Until the plant is operational, it will be necessary to purchase nutrient credits. The estimated cost is \$1,000 per month from October 1, 2012 to June 15, 2015.

The possibility of PennVest funding was discussed. Mr. Book explained that PennVest does a study of the economic conditions of the community. If they have money and can fund the project, they will provide grants and loans to lower the cost to the customers to the rate determined by the study. By applying for funding for all of the project at once, the Borough may obtain more funding than would be

received by applying for funding just for the cost of the SBR and not the cost to address the I&I. Mr. Book noted that the current maximum interest rate is 1.86% for Northumberland County. The local unit debt act filing will provide a projection of where the money comes and goes for the sewer system.

The complete reports are on file in the Borough Office.

Mr. Klock made a motion to move forward with the NPDES permit transfer application from the NSA to the Borough and accept the consent order agreement from the DEP with the concession that they remove mention of the SBR process. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to accept Hazen & Sawyer's Alternatives Analysis Final Report.

Mr. Book provided council with a projection of the sewer department budget on an annual basis to fiscal year 2025. A 5% rate increase (\$20) is proposed for 2013 and additional \$20 increases are proposed for 2014 and 2015. Once the new plant is running, the projected annual fee per residential customer is \$600. Mr. Book noted that this is a high estimate. Mr. Book said that there are things that can be done to have the plant be as energy efficient as possible.

Since Point and Upper Augusta Townships are customers, it was recommended that an engineer determine realistic percentages for the three municipalities so Point and Upper Augusta know what their financial obligations will be for their shares of the treatment plant project. Mr. Klock stated that NSA currently is carrying the debt service for the Queen Street Pump Station for all three municipalities and they pay monthly invoices. He added that he does not feel the Borough should have to carry the debt service for the other communities. Mr. Book recommended that Dave Henning, the PennVest representative for this area, be contacted to learn whether there will be one or three borrowers for the project.

Mr. Book recommended that proposals be solicited from service providers for preliminary I&I work. He also recommended soliciting engineering proposals. Mr. Klock requested that Mr. Book submit a proposal.

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. The auction of the former Borough Building was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Rees suggested that council put the money in a contingency fund for the future. He said that this money could be used at the beginning of the year, instead of obtaining a tax anticipation note. He asked if there was a way to designate a specific amount that could be saved for this purpose. Mr. Woodward said that he would look into the proposal.

New Business

1. Two additional bills were added to the list of bills: \$220 to Voss Signs for “No Parking Temporary Police Order” signs and \$1,140 to Hazen & Sawyer for the WWTP Alternatives Analysis. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$65,806.45; Liberty Splashland bills total \$264.07; Park & Recreation bills total \$29.96; Parking Meter bills total \$684.19; and Shade Tree bills total \$2,113.99.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Carl, council voted unanimously to reimburse the Anselmo Trust \$1,000 for the Lemonade Day funding which was not spent because Lemonade Day was cancelled this year.
3. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Klock, council voted unanimously to approve the payment of \$18,867.43 to the Volunteer Fireman’s Relief funding. This is the amount allocated by the state in accordance with Act 205 of 1984.
4. A question was asked about hiring someone to paint the entryway to the Borough Office. Mr. Klock and Mr. Troup volunteered to paint the entryway in order to save the Borough money.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup announced that the meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and would not be reconvened.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary