

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
October 15, 2013

Council 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 Gregory Carl, Adam Klock, Stephen Reed, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ellie Rees was absent.

Public Comment

The visitors present introduced themselves.

Jennifer Dorman addressed the council about the sewer bill for her small business which is located in her house. She stated that she has received a letter that the water would be shut off in her home if she does not pay the sewer bill for her business. She has always paid the sewer bill for her residence. She stated that she has an office in one room of her home but there is no water in the office. She stated that no customer has ever used her bathroom. Ms. Dorman provided the Schedule of Equivalent Dwelling Units and noted that the first item states that each retail store, business, industry or office attached to or forming a part of owner's residence A. Having ten (10) or fewer employees, etc., - has one Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU); B. Each additional ten (10) employees, etc., or fraction thereof – has ½ Equivalent Dwelling Unit.

Mr. Klock stated that the committee had changed the schedule several years ago and part A is just ½ EDU. Ms. Dorman stated that this is the schedule the secretary sent to her today.

Ms. Dorman said that not all home businesses are being billed, some because they do not have signs out. Mr. Klock explained that questionnaires were sent to all businesses in town and that eventually the billing system may be switched to a water usage system. Ms. Dorman stated that she feels that there has to be a better way to implement billing. She has called the water company and that she uses less than the normal use for a family of three. Ms. Dorman says that she understands that the Borough needs to be paid for the sewage that is collected by the sewer plant. But, she feels that there has to be a better way to bill businesses that use water. She has no running water in that room and will not pay the bill, but will go to court.

Ms. Dorman stated that her current bill shows a payment of \$10.50 for her office. She stated that she has not paid this and wants it taken off her bill as a matter of principle. Ms. Dorman said that she pays the bill for her house so the water to her home should not be shut off. Mr. Klock stated that this is the fee schedule. Mr. Wynn was asked how many employees she has in the business. She responded none. She said that the average stay of her customers is a few minutes. Mr. Book stated that the Borough bills a category of customers. One EDU is billed for a single family residence, whether there is one person or a family. Any small home business is billed ½ EDU regardless of the amount of water used. Mr. Book explained that a plant must be built capable of treating all the water based on the number of EDU's. She would like them to be fair and would be willing to help develop better criteria for billing. Ms. Dorman noted that she is angry at the system, not at the people sitting here.

Mr. Book told council that billing must be done one way or the other. He said that the records at the NSA were not complete and that businesses are now being billed that were not billed before.

Bid Opening

Mr. Troup conducted the bid opening for the Susquehanna River Streambank Rehabilitation Project. The bids were as follows:

Company	Bid
Columbia Excavating, LLC	\$ 133,887.50
A.R. Popple Construction, Inc.	\$ 134,500.00
G & R Charles Excavating, LTD	\$ 137,540.00
Maxwell Trucking & Excavating, Inc.	\$ 186,346.00
Mid-State Paving, LLC	\$ 219,212.50
Trinity Excavating, Inc.	\$ 248,175.00
Spotts Brothers, Inc.	\$ 282,101.00
Rutledge Excavating	\$ 288,242.50
Dave Gutelius Excavating, Inc.	\$ 288,375.00
Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.	\$ 292,769.00
Bill Anskis Company, Inc.	\$ 322,320.00
JD Feaster Earthworks, Inc.	\$ 499,994.00

The apparent low bidder is Columbia Excavating, Inc. Mr. Troup stated that the bids would be reviewed and council would have a decision at the next council meeting which is Monday, November 4th.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Reed, council approved the meeting minutes of September 17, 2013 by a vote of 5-0-1 with Mr. Sees abstaining.

Street Committee Report

Mr. Reed reported that the crosswalks downtown will be repaired next month at a cost of \$5,120. The work will be done Monday through Thursday during a three week period.

Mr. Reed stated that the committee is planning to replace Tom's truck. Prices were obtained for a Ford F150 and a Ford F250. The F250 can haul anything that must be hauled. There is no plow for the truck. There is money in the budget and additional money was received for the sale of the leaf vacuum that could be designated toward the purchase. Several years ago, the Borough had adopted a resolution to purchase through the Harrisburg program. The Borough Secretary will check to see if the program has this truck at a lower price. Mr. Sees questioned if the Borough needs the T-tag before the pick-up or the pick-up before the T-tag. Mr. Slodysko stated that the T-tag is being proposed for next year's budget. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted 5-1 to purchase the Ford F250 from Sunbury Motors at the cost price of \$25,497.00. Mr. Sees cast the dissenting vote.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Klock stated that the committee is continuing to work on treatment agreements. The superintendent and engineer recently met with representatives from BIMBO to discuss their last bill which was on the high side. A verbal agreement was reached. Mr. Brian Book stated that Jeremy prepared a spreadsheet for the council's review. In the past, NSA had done things differently. Mr. Book said that the restrooms at the EarthGrains (BIMBO) facility are a separate bill. The industry bill is in question. In 2000, they paid a base charge for 5500 gallons of flow (gpd) and they then paid a surcharge based if they exceeded 250 mg/l BOD or if they exceeded 250 mg/l of TSS. Mr. Book explained that at some time around 2007, the NSA stopped billing for the 5500 gpd. The company stated that they had contacted Cindy Lark and she told them that the method was changed and they were no longer to pay this amount. The company felt that they should have been charged for the 5500 gallons and Mr. Book agrees. At some point, the NSA began charging a double surcharge, one surcharge for an overage of BOD and one for an overage of TSS. They had an argument with the past engineer and the NSA about having a double surcharge, but since they were not charged for the initial 5500 gallons, they felt it was coming out in the wash. Mr. Book said that it might have been, but there is no science behind it.

A high sample was taken in August. If the calculation is done the way it has been billed in the past, the August bill would be the combined total of the two surcharges, \$7,777.40. The September bill would be \$1,773.24. The high sample in August may or may not be correct. Jeremy's proposal is to bill them \$5,743 for August and \$1,093 for September. These numbers are based on the higher of the TSS and BOD numbers. Going forward, the company will be billed for the base flow plus the overflow charge. Mr. Book would have the company take additional samples and throw out the high one and the low one and average the rest of the numbers. A surcharge for the higher of the two surcharges, either TSS or BOD, would be added to the base charge. For the fourth quarter, they hope to get a revised treatment agreement in place and bill accordingly. Their sample changes throughout the month.

Mr. Klock moved to allow the Sewer Department to bill EarthGrains the amounts that were calculated by Jeremy for August and September. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Mr. Sees asked what the base rate would be. Mr. Book said that the company told them that the rate is based on 5500 gallons. The base rate would be 5500 gallons divided by 250 gallons per EDU. The base rate would be 22 EDU's at \$400 per EDU, or \$8,800. Mr. Book stated that the base rate would be looked at going forward. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion. The document will be provided to EarthGrains to review.

Mr. Reed left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray stated that the Borough has received the new bench that Libby Green ordered. The bench will be placed in front of the lighted sign at the King Street Park. Another bench is coming that will be placed at the 2nd Street end of the park.
- Mayor Zboray announced that Veterans' Day would be observed Sunday, November 10th at 1:00 at the veterans' section of the Riverview Cemetery.
- New parking meters were installed. When the meters are covered for Christmas, Wendy will take them all out and recalibrate them and repair any that require repairs.
- The check for \$7,000 from the Savidge Fund was received. The Mayor, Mr. Carl and Mr. Slodysko have looked that the work to be done in the park to replace the brick walkway around the gazebo.
- The police cruiser has been sitting down by the midrise to slow down traffic.
- The Police Chief has obtained used furniture from Geisinger for free.
- Mayor Zboray will attend a meeting with PennDOT on October 22nd. The mayors in the area have been invited. PennDOT will address winter strategies, introduce staff members, update the incident response for Veterans' Memorial Bridge and expectations for winter and what they are hoping to do to keep the traffic flowing around the area.
- Mayor Zboray met with Chris Barker from EarthGrains. The Borough may be able to get some of the 2013 money. The mayor is hoping to get \$9,000 for 2013 and \$9,000 for 2014. One think that had been discussed is installing an electronic board at the end of the park. Other ideas were to install a sprinkler system in the park or an upgrade to the electric service in the park. The company will use their own electric company to keep the price down.
- The Mayor met with Ann August at the 17857.org meeting today. He has passed out handouts for the public meeting for the Liberty Hollow Run study.

Street Supervisor's Report

- Mr. Slodysko explained how the work will be scheduled for the downtown crosswalks. The downtown businesses will be informed of the schedule.
- Mr. Slodysko stated that the applications have been received for the part-time casual employee. He stated that the bargaining unit employees had been okay with hiring a part-time employee, but that there is an issue with the term casual and the employee may be asked to pay a fair share. Mr. Troup said that the Personnel Committee would discuss it.

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Committee Reports

Community Development

Mr. Carl stated that the committee met last night. Topics discussed were:

1. Fire police building – Mr. Carl said that Mr. Klock had discussed the possibility of renting out the building with Jon Apple. Mr. Carl and Mr. Slodysko met with Jim Soos today to see what would be required if the building would be rented out. Mr. Soos said that the fire police area must be separated from the main room. This would require installing a door with some masonry work around it. An

addition of a sink to the main room and lighted exit signs would be required. It would also be necessary to obtain architectural drawings for the layout of the building. Discussion ensued. Mr. Carl obtained a quote of \$1,200 to complete the block work from Tom Mowrey. Mr. Klock stated that he would have someone draw up a plan. The topic will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

2. Central PA Rowing Association

The group would like to relocate and they are considering multiple sites. They are interested in using land beyond the sea scout dock. They would clear out the land and possibly construct a pole barn for their boats and equipment. Mr. Carl will set up a meeting to view the area with the group if council is receptive to the idea. Mr. Klock stated that he would be in favor of pursuing this idea. Council agreed. The group would plan regattas which would attract a large crowd. They would coordinate the scheduling with the ballfield schedules.

3. 5th Street Extension between Lincoln Street and private property

The Borough owns a section of 5th Street Extension situated between Lincoln Street and private property. There are several large trees on the property that will require attention. The crew has been there to remove large limbs that have fallen. Mr. Carl suggested that the Borough turn the ground over to the property owners on either side of the unopened street. He has spoken to them and they are willing to pay for all costs associated with transferring the property to them. Discussion ensued. The topic was tabled until the next council meeting.

4. Dog Park

Mr. Klock stated that he has looked at the bills and the total is about \$500 over budget. The fencing is almost complete. The grand opening will be on October 26th. Mr. Klock noted that signage is needed for the rules and a donor list. Mr. Sees provided a list of Rules and Regulations and liability waivers for the Howling Hollow Dog Park. The solicitor had advised that these rules could be approved and revisions could be addressed at a later time. Temporary signs with the rules could be laminated and hung until permanent signs are made. The rules could also be distributed at the opening. Mr. Book offered to have the signs laminated at his office. Mr. Sees moved to approve the rules for the dog park and the waivers. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Council approved the motion unanimously.

5. Animal Control Ordinance

Mr. Klock wrote a letter to other municipalities in the county inviting them to attend a meeting to determine their interest in adopting a county-wide animal control ordinance. He requested that the council approve sending the letter. Mr. Wynn moved to approve the letter; Mr. Klock seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Finance

Mr. Sees announced that the committee would meet on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel – to be discussed in Executive Session

Public Safety

Mr. Wynn stated that the corner of Strawbridge and Prince Street has a right turn, keep moving sign. He would like to have a three-way stop at this corner. A traffic study is required before an ordinance can be adopted. Council also discussed raising the speed limit on Strawbridge Road from 25 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Klock council unanimously approved obtaining a traffic study for a three-way stop at the intersection of Strawbridge Road and Prince Street and increasing the speed limit to 35 miles per hour on Strawbridge Road. Council approved unanimously.

The committee will meet on November 7th at 6:00 p.m.

New Business

1. Mayor Zboray stated that he has been asked about hosting a wine and beer festival during the "See You in September" celebration on August 31, 2014. The fire police would be in charge of the event to raise money to purchase a new vehicle. The Savidge Trust had told the Fire Police that they would consider matching funds for the vehicle. Mr. Troup stated that the only problem he had when he was chief was that they never used the vehicle. Mayor Zboray said a special permit could be obtained. He asked if council would be in favor of the event before they make plans. Council approved.
2. Mr. Carl moved to pay the bills. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Mr. Sees asked what the uniform budget is for the police. The budget is \$450 per officer. There is also a provision for new officers of clothing and accessories per the contract. Mr. Sees questioned the Hinkle's Welding bill for repair to a post that was damaged during the paving. The Borough Secretary stated that if the damage was done by Meckley's Limestone, Inc., they would be billed for the repair. Mr. Sees stated that the bill should be sent to Meckley's. Council voted 3-2 to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Sees and Mr. Wynn voted no. Mr. Wynn stated that he thinks the bill from Hinkle should be deleted from the bills before payment. Mr. Troup stated that he feels if damage is done by a contractor, the bill should be sent directly to the contractor. Mr. Carl moved to rescind the vote to pay the bills. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Carl moved to pay the bills excluding the Hinkle's Welding bill which is to be directed to Meckley's Limestone, Inc. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved 4-1 with Mr. Sees casting the dissenting vote. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$12,507.08; Liberty Splashland bills total \$115.00; 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$3,162.00; the Sewer Department bills total \$2,787.32.

Mr. Carl left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup stated that the meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss negotiations and may be reconvened. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Mr. Troup reconvened the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

New Business, continued.

3. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted unanimously to set Trick-or-Treat night for October 31, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Wynn moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary