

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
November 4, 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, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Chief of Police; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Ted McCollum, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Ellie Rees and Ty Sees were absent.

Public Comment

Five visitors present introduced themselves.

Mr. Jon Apple informed the council that the Fire Police would like to add Wendy Reigel to their roster. Mr. Reed so moved. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Reed, council unanimously approved the council meeting minutes of October 1, 2013.

Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council unanimously approved the council meeting minutes of October 15, 2013.

Sewer Department Report

Mr. Klock informed the council that the reconciliations are back from the auditor and will be distributed to the bulk customers. The 2014 draft expense budget has been distributed to the bulk customers for their review. Per the treatment agreement, the budget is to be provided to the bulk customers by the end of October. This is only the expense budget.

Mr. Brian Book explained that council must take two actions in order to be able to apply for PennVest funds. They are the resolution and a letter of responsibility stating that the Borough is the right entity to apply. Mr. Book stated that there are issues that he must review with council first. He explained that the engineers need to know the exact count of the EDU's. He needs to know the income side of the budget, not just the expense side. He asked if he should work with Jeremy to put the numbers together. Mr. Klock responded yes. Mr. Book asked Mr. Tira if council should act tonight to authorize some group to meet and sign the two documents, or council could hold a special

meeting. Mr. Tira recommended that the council conduct a special meeting to adopt the resolution and to consider the application to PennDOT. A resolution must be approved for Penn Vest before the November 13, 2013 deadline.

Mr. Klock moved to conduct a special council meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2013 to approve documents for the PennVest application. Mr. Carl seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting will be advertised.

Mr. Book informed the council that a letter has been received from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission regarding possible archaeological sites at the project area. They are requiring a Phase I archaeological survey of the project area to locate potentially significant archaeological resources. Mr. Book recommended hiring an archeologist to conduct the survey as required. Mr. Book stated that he has worked with two companies and could obtain quotes from them for council to consider at the meeting on November 11th.

Mr. Klock asked what the process is for obtaining the nutrient credits. Mr. Book said that Kelly Township must have the credits verified and tell DEP that they are selling them to the Borough. Mr. Book has not heard from Kelly Township and said the he will contact the engineer for Kelly Township to see where the process stands.

Mr. Book stated that the Liberty Hollow watershed workshop was conducted on October 23rd and everything is fine with that project.

Mr. Klock stated that the sewer committee has had correspondences with Point Township regarding the inter-municipal agreement. A date will be scheduled for a public meeting to discuss the proposals. Possible dates were discussed. Mr. Book advised that the surcharge portion of the agreement should also be sent to ButterKrust since the current surcharge that ButterKrust is billed under mimics the old agreement. Action to change the ButterKrust agreement was taken at the second meeting in October.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray informed the council that he attended the October 22nd PennDOT meeting and received a lot of information. Topics discussed were the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. When there was an accident on the bridge, traffic came through Northumberland and created problems in Northumberland. PennDOT is installing new roads and signage to alleviate the gridlock in Northumberland. The mayor discussed a temporary sign on Route 80 for a detour when there is an accident that creates gridlock in Northumberland. He noted that the accident on Route 11 the other week closed the highway for five hours. The mayor has obtained several road signs for the Fire Police from PennDOT. PennDOT has their stockpiles ready for the winter and will alternate the plowing on the state highways. They plan to provide more access to their emergency line. Mayor Zboray told them that the Borough was not notified when road repairs were scheduled for the Borough. He provided the Borough's email address to them and they will inform the office of future road repairs. Mayor Zboray noted that PennDOT has been very responsive and he was very happy with the meeting.
- Veteran's Day celebration is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on November 10, 2013 at the Riverview Cemetery.

- Tomorrow is Election Day. Mayor Zboray urged everyone to get out and vote.
- The ribbon cutting for the Howling Hollow Dog Park was held on Saturday, October 26th.
- Thirty Christmas trees have been ordered from the Southside Fire Company in Riverside; they have given us a discount. Volunteers will be decorating the trees.
- New Christmas decorations for the King Street Park were ordered thanks to a grant from the S. Luther Savidge Community Foundation.
- Three new benches have been placed in the King Street Park, donated by the Northumberland National Bank, the S. Luther Savidge Community Foundation, and one in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Strauser from the knitting club.
- Mayor Zboray said that he has received a letter from Mayor Persing regarding the invitation to attend a meeting about the animal control ordinance. Sunbury will discuss the meeting at their next city council meeting and if there is interest, someone will attend the meeting in Northumberland.

Mr. Wynn stated that he has spoken with Mr. Mutchler, a PennDOT assistant engineer, who informed him that they are considering the installation of a barrier in the center of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge which would reduce the width of the lanes to eleven feet. The cost is estimated to be over \$1,000,000. If they are unable to install the barrier, they will consider installing rumble strips. Mayor Zboray stated that Mr. Mutchler understands the traffic issues in the Borough and has worked hard for us.

Police Chief's Report

Chief C.L. Kriner provided the council with a monthly report. Mr. Tira stated that he has provided his comments regarding the police policies to the Chief and the Chief is reviewing them.

Mr. Wynn asked how much time is spent in the office on reports. Chief Kriner stated that it depends on the work load. He explained that he was called to a death and must spend many hours completing the reports. Mr. Wynn asked if Wendy Reigel can handle the reports so the police can be out of the office. Chief Kriner stated that she may not handle the investigative and criminal reports. Mr. Wynn said that he thinks the citations for the month could double if the police were on the streets more often. He feels that if Ms. Reigel could handle some of the traffic reports, the police would have more time to patrol. Chief Kriner explained that Ms. Reigel works six hours a day and is already very busy with the meters and street sweeper violations. Mayor Zboray stated that in addition to the checking the meters, she is writing tickets, fixes and calibrates the meters, sends out letters and writes citations. Mr. Troup asked how much time the officers spend on the streets. Chief Kriner stated that in the first seven months of the year, 11,000 miles were put on the cars. The Borough is one square mile. Mayor Zboray added that many people don't recognize the unmarked car when it is out on the streets. Chief Kriner invited the council to stop over to see the records management system so they can better understand what the officers must do. Mr. Troup asked if there is a log for the vehicles and Chief Kriner replied that there is and council is welcomed to look at it. Mr. Wynn stated that he sees a number of people run the traffic light at Duke and Water Streets. Mr. Troup added that early in the morning, many people are travelling faster than 25 miles per hour on Duke Street. Mayor Zboray stated that the officers are enforcing the law and they are busy. He said that the council is welcomed to ride along with the police to see what they do.

Mayor Zboray stated that the Borough must make a decision. If the people want 24/7 coverage, the council must look at staffing at the level it was previously. Mayor Zboray noted that the Sergeant

was promoted to Chief; the Sergeant position remains unfilled; and an officer has been hired at a lower income level to replace one at a higher level. There had been five full-time officers and one part-time officer who worked around 39 hours a week. There are now four officers working full-time. Mrs. Bogovich asked what had happened with a joint force with Point Township that was discussed several years ago. Mr. Reed stated that the council had decided it wasn't the right thing to do at the time. Mr. Carl stated that he does not want less than 24 hour coverage. Mayor Zboray agreed, adding that he had read a letter a few months ago from a gentleman who had a medical emergency and Kevin Rushton had helped to save him. Mayor Zboray asked the members of the public to raise their hands if they would be willing to have less than 24 hour coverage. No one responded. Mr. Troup stated that no one wants to go to less coverage. They are questioning why the officers aren't on the streets more and why they aren't at the locations that council has brought up to them. Mayor Zboray stated that the officers are busy and there is no wiggle room in the schedule. They had been able to occasionally have two officers on duty at the same time. One would be running the ENRADD while the other was on a call. Mayor Zboray said that the Chief is working many hours and not charging the Borough overtime for the number of hours that he is working. Chief Kriner assured the council that other officers are also working hard. He requested that the council members stop over to see him in the office so he can show them what the police are doing. He feels that if council would do that, they would understand. He added that Matt Lauver was here on Friday for five hours on his day off for a death investigation. Mayor Zboray told council that the officers spent their own money for candy for the Halloween Parade. The officers walked behind the cars and one of them had just finished a twelve hour shift. He still wanted to walk so the community would know that they are here and are friendly and want to help people. Mayor Zboray stated that our officers go above and beyond the call of duty.

Street Supervisor's Report – no report

Emergency Services Board Report – no report

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ted McCollum provided the council with a written report and added that the mileage on the code car for the month was 119.

He informed the council that the Exchange Hotel would be razed on November 13th. He stated that he is waiting for a certificate of insurance. The Amish are going to take the building apart as opposed to having an excavator in there, creating a lot of dust. Mr. McCollum has distributed twenty notices to the residences in the area informing them of the demolition and requesting that children be kept away from the structure. He added that the demolition should be done by Saturday, November 16th.

Mr. McCollum stated that the tax sale for the property at 572 Duke Street is scheduled for this month. The Northumberland County Planning Commission is willing to pay half of the acquisition costs and would pay to have the building demolished through the blighted property program. The opening bid is \$1,487. If the Borough pays for half of the acquisition, Mr. McCollum thinks that the Borough can make money from this. Mr. McCollum stated that he has spoken with Pat Mack of the Planning Commission several times. Mr. Mack has requested that someone from the Borough attend the Tax Claims sale at 10:00 a.m. on November 14th to bid on the property. Mr. McCollum thinks that once the property is sold, the Borough and County would share the profits. Mr. Tira asked what the official agreement is between the Borough and the County. At this point, there is

nothing official in writing. Mr. McCollum stated that he could speak to Mr. Mack before the sale. Mr. McCollum stated that the lot could possibly be sold to a neighbor. Mr. McCollum also stated that Ben Apfelbaum, the district justice, had talked to him about possibly utilizing this lot for a community garden. Mr. Apfelbaum and others, including handicapped individuals, have created public gardens in other areas. Mayor Zboray stated that he does not feel this location would be a good place because it is on Duke Street and there is no parking. Mr. Tira asked what would happen to the property if it cannot be sold. Would the Borough and County own it jointly? He stated that more information is needed for council to make a decision. Mr. Klock stated that the council could consider the proposal at the special meeting on November 11, 2013 if that meeting is changed to a general meeting since the next regular council meeting is November 19th, after the tax claims sale.

Mr. Klock moved and Mr. Troup seconded a motion to make the November 11, 2013 meeting a general meeting. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. McCollum stated that he is working with Senator Toomey's office with a federal grant application for the property at 264 Water Street. Senator Toomey's office is working with T. Ross to have the property cleaned up. T. Ross is federally licensed for VA remodeling services.

Mr. Klock asked about the hearing for the Queen Street property owner. Mr. McCollum stated that the property owner did not show up for the hearing. The district justice set the maximum fines for the violations.

Mr. Reed asked about the plans for the Exchange Hotel property. Mr. McCollum stated that the new owner is proposing to construct a twin town house. This is not definitive. The property owner is waiting until the spring to start any construction. Mr. Reed asked if he would use the footprint of the old building. Mr. McCollum said that the footprint is too big. The townhouse would be a total of 1400 square feet; 700 square feet is required for each dwelling. Mr. Troup stated that he thought a zoning hearing was required. Mr. McCollum said that the property owner is going to have the lot surveyed. Mr. Wynn stated that it would then have to go before the zoning hearing board. Mr. McCollum said if it doesn't meet set-back requirements. It would still have to go before the zoning hearing board because of the lot size. Mr. Klock asked if the foundation would be fenced off for the winter. Mr. McCollum responded that the foundation is going to be caved in and filled with clean fill and tamped down. Dave Ramer owns the property.

Mr. Troup received a letter from Tom Marino's office supporting Ted McCollum's proposal to provide a veteran and his family, or a small group of veterans, a home at the 264 Water Street property.

Mr. Wynn left the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Council Appointment to Borough Planning Commission

Upon motion by Mr. Troup, seconded by Mr. Reed, Adam Klock was appointed to the Northumberland Planning Commission as the council's representative. The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, November 6th, to review the plans for the Shikellamy Middle School.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Carl stated that the committee would meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11th.
- Mr. Reed informed the council that the opening for the Dog Park was well-received. Villager Realty is donating benches for the park. Mr. Troup is going to get poles to build a small bridge across the creek. In the future, the group would like to put solar lights on existing poles. Landscaping will be done. Doggie clean-up bag dispensers are going to be donated.

Mr. Wynn returned at 8:12 p.m.

Jim Troup stated that he has driven past the dog park on several occasions and the park is being utilized. Mayor Zboray thanked Mr. Klock for providing prizes and treats for the dogs during the opening day. Many dogs and owners came in costume. Mr. Reed suggested that the dog park be included on one of the entrance signs to the Borough. Mr. Tira stated that the council may want to include an age limit on the rules sign. Mr. Reed stated that the expenses for the park are over budget. Mayor Zboray asked that the newspaper article include a request for donations for the park. Mr. Klock stated that he has pictures

Fire Police Building

Mr. Carl stated that an architect is required to draw up a floor plan for the Fire police building in order to obtain an occupancy permit. A door to separate the common area from the fire police private area and exit lights are also required.

Mr. Klock made a motion to approve hiring an architect at a cost not to exceed \$400 and to authorize himself and Jon Apple to conduct the hiring. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved and Mr. Klock seconded a motion to hire Tom Mowrey at a cost of \$1,125 to complete the masonry work and install the door at the Fire Police Building. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wynn moved and Mr. Klock seconded the motion to approve the quote of \$349 from H & N Electric to have lighted exit signs installed in the Fire Police Building. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Carl showed council a map of the unopened Fifth Street which is owned by the Borough between Lincoln Street and the half-way point toward Jefferson Street where the property is privately owned. He explained that the crew has been called there several times to take care of trees that are rotting. He said that it is a maintenance issue and a liability issue. Mr. Carl has spoken to the neighbors and they are willing to take over the property, and will pay to have it transferred. Mr. Klock suggested that the council wait until the final report for the Liberty Hollow watershed is received in case this area is included as part of the solution to alleviate water runoff.

Mr. Carl said that he has spoken to Bruce Killian and he plans to start the stage project between the holidays.

Mr. Klock thanked Tom Slodysko and the crew for cleaning out the trees and brush along the riverbank at the Point. He said that they've done a nice job and the area looks great.

Finance

Mr. Troup said that the committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. on November 21st to work on the budget.

Personnel

Mr. Troup said that the council will discuss personnel issues in the Executive Session. He added that the personnel committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7th.

Public Safety

A meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on November 7th.

Rules – no report

Streets

Mr. Reed informed the council that the work has begun on the crosswalks at Queen and Front Streets. Mayor Zboray stated that the original base had not been installed correctly.

Old Business

1. The Borough Secretary informed the council that the bids for Susquehanna Riverbank Rehabilitation Project had all come in over budget. A meeting was held with the low bidder, Columbia Excavating, and DEP to see if the project could be partially completed. The low bidder and DEP are both willing to work with the Borough. The available funds are \$72,000. The contractor is willing to keep the bid bond open until the final completion date of April, 2015, in case the Borough is able to obtain additional funding to complete the project. Mr. Tira advised that since the contract was bid per unit price, the scope could be revised and the additional amount could be included at a later date. Mr. Carl moved to award the bid to Columbia Excavating at a reduced scope not to exceed 2,700 tons of material and 7 logs with the possibility of completing the project if additional funds are secured. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Troup, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$84,432.31; bills to be paid from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant total \$2,950; Liberty Splashland bills total \$335.96; Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$3,511.00; Parking Meter bills total \$684.19; 2nd Street Community and Municipal Center bills total \$28.47, and Sewer Department bills total \$109,604.06.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Carl, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$5,688.84 from the General Fund to Liberty Splashland account. This is the amount received from the Degenstein Foundation for wage reimbursement for the work-study program.
3. Several committees will have openings at the end of December. Matt Markunas is currently on the Planning Commission. His term expires at the end of the year and he will be moving

out of town next year. Other committees with terms ending are the Shade Tree Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board. The members on those committees may be willing to be reappointed. Letters will be sent to them and the vacancies will be posted on the Borough website and Facebook. Mayor Zboray suggested that the vacancies be posted on the sign in the park.

4. A request for a handicap parking space at 630 Queen Street was received from Shirley McCloskey. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted unanimously to approve the request.
5. Gary Smith had requested permission to take the two organs that are in the gymnasium for scrap. The organs had been advertised on the website and Facebook and no one has responded. Mr. Klock moved and Mr. Wynn seconded the motion the allow Mr. Smith to take the organs for scrap. Council approved unanimously.
6. Mr. Tira noted that the street opening process is addressed in Chapter 50 of the Borough Code. The code requires that the street is restored to its former condition. Mr. Reed stated that he would check with the gas company about the street cut that was made on Prince Street and when it would be paved. Mr. Wynn said that there used to be an ordinance that if a street is repaved, the utility had to make improvements before the paving or if they had to open the street within a year after the paving, there would be a \$10,000 up front fee. Mr. Tira stated that he is unaware of that requirement, but thought there could be a bond provision.
7. The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on November 6th to review the plans for the new middle school is opened to the public.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary