Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
December 15, 2015

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 James Troup, Harry Wynn, Paul Boyer, Barbara Kistner, Ellie Rees, and Paul Ruane. Others present were Mayor Zboray; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Dietrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ty Sees was absent.

Public Comment
Jon Apple, Captain of the Fire Police, thanked the council for supporting their quest for a new vehicle. They received a check last week for $5,000 from Community Aid which puts them over the amount needed for the vehicle. Any extra funds they receive will be used for lights and details, etc.

Council Meeting Minutes
Upon motion by Mr. Ruane, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted 5-0-1 to approve the council meeting minutes of November 17, 2015. Mr. Wynn abstained.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department
Jeremy Deitrick stated that the engineers are unable to be present tonight. He said that Job Conference Number 15 was held on December 1st. Job Conference Number 16 was held today. Council members Paul Ruane, Paul Boyer, and Barbara Kistner were present.

Myco has submitted Application for Payment Number 5 in the amount of $4,954.95. Mr. Boyer moved to approve the payment; Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

A change order request from Lecce was denied. The item in question was wire labeling. The engineers felt the at this work is required by the contract.

Liberty Hollow Stormwater Project

- A request for a time extension has been submitted to PEMA.
- Mid-State has signed the contract and change order documents.
- DEP has approved the permit for the proposed work.
- Hazen & Sawyer has questioned if council would like an official proposal for construction phase services for the project. The amount provided is estimated not-to-exceed $11,300. Discussion ensued. No action was taken.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Fulkroad has requested permission to use the area at the car lot for storing materials. Discussion ensued. Mr. Boyer made a motion to permit Fulkroad to store material at the car lot site in exchange for repairing the lot with stone when the project is completed. The solicitor is to prepare a written agreement. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane stated that at the last council meeting, he forgot to include Ed Margel in the raises for the employees at the sewer department. Mr. Ruane moved to approve a 2% raise for 2016 for Ed Margel. He noted that the raise was included in the 2016 budget. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray informed the council that he has administered the oath of office to Joshua Dreisbach this evening. He is the new part-time officer. He is the only person who has applied for full-time patrolman position and has passed the Civil Service test with "flying colors". The Civil Service listing is posted in the Borough Office. Mayor Zboray requested that council consider hiring him as the fifth full-time officer.
- Mayor Zboray thanked Barbara Kistner for serving on Borough Council and for all her hard work at the Girl Scout Little House.
- The Moyer Community Trust met the end of November and awarded $250 for a faucet, sink and handicap bar for the Girl Scout Little House bathroom; $600 for concrete for the pavilion on the 2nd Street Playground; and $817.77 for the merry-go-round fund. Mayor Zboray stated that he told them that when they meet next year, the Borough will request more funding for the merry-go-round.
- Mayor Zboray stated that the PennDOT meeting regarding the reconstruction of Routes 147 and 11 is being held tomorrow evening at the high school.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Boyer stated that the Fire Police would like to purchase two gas heaters for the building. UGI will install a gas line to the building. Mr. Boyer made a motion that the council allow the Fire Police to purchase the heaters and hire someone to install them at a cost not to exceed $1,000. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- The committee discussed obtaining quotes from an architect to draw up plans for the gymnasium. Ms. Kistner said that she has recommendations for two architects.
- Mr. Boyer said that the concrete should be poured for the pavilion as soon as possible so the tables may be put under roof before we have snow.
- The committee discussed the recycling center and feel that the garbage truck must be moved to the rear of the recycling center and the boat docks to the side of the recycling center so there is more room for people dropping off recyclables.
- The Santa House needs repaired for next year. Ms. Kistner has volunteered to help.
- The committee discussed resurrecting the Facebook page in order to provide notices to residents, etc. They feel that with the PennDOT projects, the public could be informed of traffic congestion and any public meetings. Mr. Boyer noted that Ann August would

monitor it daily. He made a motion to reinstitute the Borough's Facebook page. Ms. Kistner seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council approved 5-1 with Mr. Troup voting no.

Finance - tabled until Mr. Sees arrives

Personnel - no report

Public Safety

Mrs. Rees reported that the Emergency Services Board met last week with the attorney, Jill Nagy.

Rules - no report

Streets

- Mr. Ruane stated that the concrete should be poured at the pavilion this week. He was informed that the Street Supervisor is off for the next three days. Mr. Ruane said that it should be done early next week.
- The crew is using the street sweeper to pick up leaves. Mr. Troup stated that the leaves should be removed from the storm drains.
- Mr. Ruane stated that a meeting was held with Lynda Culver and PennDOT. They learned that the state is pushing the removal of signs in the right-of-way. Signs are not going to be permitted in agricultural areas. They must be erected in commercial-business districts. The property owner must agree to have a sign erected.
- The committee discussed obtaining a generator for the Borough Building. The old generator from the sewer plant was discussed. An electrician will be consulted to determine what would be required.
- Mr. Wynn noted that the street supervisor's written report states that the '06 F550 is in the shop for leaf dust plugging the evaporator resulting in no air to the cab. Mr. Wynn said that he told the supervisor and the crew that when they are picking up leaves, they should not run the air conditioner because it sucks in the dirt and blocks up the evaporator.

Old Business

1. PennDOT has requested that the Borough sign a Temporary Occupancy agreement regarding the closing of Route 11 and restricting access to Pineknotter Park and the Point in 2018. Discussion ensued. Approval was tabled until after the PennDOT meeting for the public tomorrow night.

Council member Ty Sees arrived at 7:50 p.m.

New Business

1. Mr. Wynn moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Rees questioned the $300 bill to the American Arbitration Association. Mr. Sees stated that the police filed for arbitration so the Borough has to pay this fee per Act 111. Mrs. Rees asked if this means the police have decided not to sign a contract. Mr. Sees responded that we have until February 3rd to get a contract. Because the police filed for arbitration, the Borough is responsible to pay $300 per Act 111 which specifically states

that the municipality is 100% responsible for paying for arbitration. Mrs. Rees asked if there is a chance that they will agree to a contract. Mr. Sees stated that he believes there is and added that the Borough is giving them a reasonable offer. He added if we do go to arbitration, he is going to tell them that they don't get 2015 or 2016, per the act, because they failed to file property for 2015 and 2016. So everything would remain status quo until 2017. He noted that it would be to their benefit to go back to 2015 and get retro. Mr. Sees added that we don't want to not give them what they are really entitled to; but per the law, they really aren't entitled to it because of arbitration. Mrs. Rees asked why, if they have until February to agree to the contract, they've filed for arbitration now. Mr. Sees explained that they filed improperly. They missed the date by three days. They had to file 110 days before the new budget submission date which technically is December 31st of this year. They filed 107 days before the new budget submission date. He noted that in 2015, they refused to bargain until November so they definitely missed that deadline. He added that the solicitor sent them a letter to that effect. Mr. Sees stated that he hopes there will be a contract to bring to council before February.

Council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total $95,269.21; Liberty Splashland bills total $197.57; Shade Tree Fund bills total $400; Park and Recreation Fund bills total $521.67; Donations Account bills total $2,035.77; Sewer Department bills total $32,100.87; and Sewer Department PennVest bills total $117,116.09.

2. The Northumberland #1 Fire Company has requested that the council approve releasing the $30,000 that is budgeted toward their truck payment. They have provided the council with their Financial Statement. Mr. Wynn moved to approve the $30,000 truck payment. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

3. Mr. Boyer made a motion to transfer the balance of the 489.000 line item (contingency) of the 2015 budget as of December 31st to the Borough's General Contingency Bank Account. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

4. Mr. Wynn made a motion to transfer $2,400.51, the amounts remaining in line items 454.300 (mulch, seed, etc. for parks) and 454.372 (maintenance King Street Park) to the Park and Recreation bank account for future park maintenance. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

5. Mr. Wynn moved to close the Chesapeake Bay Grant Fund account and transfer the balance to the General Fund. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. The Chesapeake Bay Grant has been closed. Council approved unanimously.

6. Mr. Boyer moved to close the Fire Apparatus bank account. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Sees stated that he has a few observations regarding the budget. He stated that in 2015, the 2% bonuses were to be separate from the wages. He said that Mrs. Rees had asked if the

employees would receive the additional pay on a weekly basis in 2016. He stated that with the raises, they would be paid weekly. He said that technically, it would be a 4% raise on their base salaries for the employees who received the bonuses in 2015 instead of raises. Discussion ensued about difference of including the 2015 bonus with the 2015 base rate for calculating the 2016 pay rates. Mr. Troup stated that the purpose of the bonuses in 2015 was so they weren't added into the next year's salary. The Borough Secretary stated that the only employees who were treated that way were the few office employees and anyone who wasn't in a union. Mr. Sees stated that the figures that are in the budget include the 2% increase in 2015 and a 2% increase in 2016. The Borough Secretary stated that the difference in her pay for 2016 would be $19 if the increase is based on 2% for 2015 and 2% of the total compensation of 2015 for 2016 instead of 4% on the base pay for 2015, excluding the bonus. Council agreed that the pay for 2016 for these employees should be calculated with 2% for 2015 and 2% of the total compensation of 2015 for 2016.

Mr. Sees stated that the actual cost for the police health insurance for four full-time officers is $94,906.44. The amount budgeted is $115,137, leaving $20,230.59 to apply toward health care for a full-time fifth officer. Mr. Troup stated that council would discuss the fifth full-time officer in Executive Session. Mr. Wynn asked if the employees have a deductible. Mr. Sees stated that there is no deductible. Employees pay co-pays and all employees except for the police contribute 7% toward the monthly premiums. Mr. Sees questioned if some of the amount in the contingency line item in the 2016 budget should be moved to the police health insurance line item. He asked if there is money in the General Contingency bank account that is not designated for a specific purpose. He was told that there is. It was determined to keep the contingency line item for 2016 as approved.

Mr. Sees moved to accept the 2016 budget as previously approved. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Mr. Troup stated that there would be no tax increase. Council voted 6-1 to approve the budget with Mr. Wynn voting no.

Mr. Troup read Ordinance 2016-1. This ordinance sets the tax rates for 2016. Mr. Troup made a motion to advertise ordinance 2016-1. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Troup noted that it is his four year on borough Council and that they have not raised taxes.

Executive Session

Mr. Troup stated that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. He said that the meeting would probably be reconvened. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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

Mrs. Rees made a motion to hire Joshua Dreisbach as a full-time police officer as of January 4, 2016. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Boyer made a motion to advertise for a part-time officer. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Troup thanked Barbara Kistner for volunteering to serve on the council. He said that he appreciates everything she did and is looking forward to everything she is going to do. She replied that she enjoyed the experience and learned a lot. Mr. Boyer added that she is going to be on the gym committee and the park committee.

Mr. Troup adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary