

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting August 1, 2017

Vice President Paul Boyer 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 Paul Boyer, Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Ty Sees, and James Troup. Council member Paul Ruane was present via telephone. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Harry Wynn was absent.

Public Comment

Ms. Lana Gulden gave each council member a typed statement which she then read out loud. She complained about how the street department, on June 20th, had handled the trimming of her trees on her property on Honey Locust Lane as preparation for street paving to take place.

Mr. Boyer stated that the council likes communications from all residents and will communicate back. He noted that the issue would be referred to the Personnel Committee. He thanked her for bringing it to the council's attention and said that they would handle it from here.

As a response to Ms. Gulden's further comments, Mr. Tira stated that the council would look into her complaint and at this point he has no other comment.

Mr. Bob Rowe informed the council that he was here last month about the lights at Pineknott Park. He stated that they are not lit. He added that when the decorations were placed on the lights at Christmas, the decorations were lit, but the lights were not. He said that the poles do not have PPL numbers on them and that they are Borough lights. He believes that there is current going to the lights. Mr. Troup stated that the lights are owned by the Borough and PPL has nothing to do with them. Mr. Boyer asked that Brian contact K&N to look at it. Mayor Zboray stated that K&N would be coming to rewire the third quadrant in the park and could check into it then.

Mr. Matt Persing, President of the Shikellamy Acorn Little League, informed the council that there is a leak in the waterline going to the concession stand. He noted that the bill is \$300 per month. He asked who is responsible to dig the waterline up from the pit to the concession stand. He stated that Todd Fisher has given permission to go through his property to access the waterline. He said that if paperwork must be signed by Mr. Fisher, he can get that. Mr. Tira asked if there is a lease with the Little League. He was told that the Borough does not have a lease with the Shikellamy

Acorn Little League. Mr. Boyer asked Mr. Probst to look at the water line and requested that Mr. Persing get permission in writing from Mr. Fisher. Mr. Persing said that they had this set up to do at the beginning of the year. Dr. Cianflone stated that they did not know that it was going through Todd Fisher's property. He added that this was the only obstacle. Mr. Persing stated that it was either through Mr. Fisher's property or the railroad's and the railroad would take forever because they would have to go under the tracks.

Mr. Persing asked why the Borough decided in the middle of the season that they would no longer mow the Little League fields. He said that they are going to have fall ball for the first time at the field and that you can't see the outfield fence because the weeds are so high. There are weeds around the concession stand and a groundhog hole behind the set of bleachers that a kid could fall in. They saw the big groundhog come out of it. Mr. Persing stated that the Borough has been mowing the field for about sixteen years. The Borough Secretary stated that she spoke to Tom Slodysko who said that they mowed it very rarely. Mayor Zboray stated that when he was president there, volunteers always mowed the fields, the t-ball field, the Acorn field, and even Pineknott Park rather than put it on the taxpayers. Mr. Boyer stated that he mowed when his kids played there. Dr. Cianflone asked if they have a mower to use. Mr. Persing said that they have a mower but no one to mow the grass. The Borough Secretary stated that the fields were being mowed by volunteers in 2011 when the flood occurred because the mowers were flooded because they were in the lower part of the concession stand. Mr. Persing questioned why the crew stopped mowing the fields in the middle of the season when they'd been mowing them for the past several years, at least. He was told that council had never approved that the crew mow the fields.

Mr. Sees made a motion that the Borough continue mowing the Little League fields on behalf of the youth in town. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mrs. Rees asked who mows the other fields. Dr. Cianflone stated that he thinks the Borough mows Pineknott Park. The Borough Secretary stated that volunteers used to mow the Pineknott Park field, but several of the volunteers had passed away. She added that she doesn't know about in the field, but they mow around the field. Mr. Rees asked who mows the fields like the AYSO fields. Mr. Boyer stated that the AYSO fields are owned by Weis Markets and they take care of the fields. The Borough Secretary had a question about the t-ball field because it is not Borough property. Mr. Persing said that the field is covered under the Little League insurance and the property owner's name is on their insurance. Mr. Tira stated that if the Borough is going to maintain the field, while the league has an arrangement with the property owner, the Borough should have an arrangement with him. Mrs. Rees asked about the history of the mowing, stating that she had heard that up until 2011 volunteers mowed the field. Then in 2011 when there was a flood, the Borough mowed the field to help out. The Borough Secretary stated that she doesn't know that the Borough was mowing then. She noted that the Little League held a fundraiser to repair the damage to the concession stand but she doesn't know about the mowers. Mr. Ruane stated that he knows that the kitchen was done over but he doesn't know anything about the mowers. Mr. Boyer said that when his kids played, he mowed the field. Mrs. Rees asked how long ago the volunteers were mowing. Mr. Boyer replied about 30 years ago. Mr. Sees asked if Mrs. Rees knew how hard it is to get volunteers. Mr. Persing stated that he has a hard time getting people to coach and does not have volunteers willing to mow the fields. He said that other towns will be coming here to play fall ball which will start in about two weeks. Mrs. Rees asked how long the Borough is expected to cut the grass. Dr. Cianflone suggested that the crew cut the grass until they get volunteers. Mr. Persing stated that the kids are the ones who are going to suffer having to play on a field with eight inches of grass because between work and coaching, no one has time to mow the grass. Mrs. Rees stated that she can appreciate that, adding that it is very rare to find

volunteers these days. She said that she has lots of great ideas of what to do for the children in our community besides mow grass at the Acorn Field. Mr. Sees said that for the little bit of cost that it's going to create, he thinks it is the least the Borough can do for the youth of this town. Mr. Boyer stated it would probably be once a week. Mr. Sees added, minimum, depending on the rain. Mr. Sees questioned when did they stopped mowing, who authorized it, and why. Mr. Persing said that he heard different stories as to why; that there is an internal thing between board members and the street department not seeing eye to eye. And not necessarily board members, but people who work for the Borough not getting along with people from the street department. He stated that the street department was told not to go down there, that they were never given permission to be there. Mr. Boyer stated that there is a motion on the floor for the Borough to go down and do the work. Mr. Sees asked Mr. Probst who asked them to stop. He replied Paul, Paul, and Jan. Mr. Troup stated that they never brought it to council. Mr. Sees stated that council is making a motion to mow; why wouldn't there a motion to stop mowing. The Borough Secretary stated that there was never a motion to mow in the first place. She added that to stop mowing was discussed at a Community Development meeting. Mr. Sees stated that the Borough mowed at least six years. The Borough Secretary stated that Tom left in 2014. She stated that she called Tom and asked him. Mr. Boyer stated that there is a motion on the floor. Mrs. Rees requested that Mr. Sees cease from the pounding, adding that she gets scared when he pounds and suddenly puts his arm out in front of her. She said that if he just use his words, it would be helpful. Mr. Sees replied absolutely, that he would be happy to. Roll call motion was taken and passed 4-2. Mrs. Rees and Mr. Ruane voted no. Mr. Boyer requested that the crew go down to the field tomorrow to cut the grass if the weather is nice. Mr. Probst agreed. Mr. Persing said that he appreciates that. Mr. Sees stated that he appreciates the kids. Mr. Boyer stated that council is happy that the coaches are doing this volunteer work. Mrs. Persing stated that there are a lot of people volunteering. Mr. Boyer added that the kids deserve to have a place to play.

Mr. Jon Apple received a letter from the Williamsport Police Department requesting the Fire Police assistance at the Grand Slam Parade in Williamsport on August 16th. Mr. Troup made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

PennDOT Project

Ms. Mindy Foresman, PennDOT project manager for the Duke Street project, introduced herself and Joe Whitcomb, New Enterprise project manager. She informed the council that the project is a little bit behind. They ran into some issues. There is a bridge deck by the doctor's office. When they took the blacktop off, they realized that the top of the deck was unsound so they had to remove that and do repairs on it. With the cure time for concrete, it set them back, along with the rain.

Mr. Joe Whitcomb stated that they plan to finish paving tomorrow from Eighth to Seventh, next week they will lower water lines at night. The week of the 14th, they will begin sanitary work which will also be at night. The daytime operations will be the drainage. They are going to try to get back on schedule. They are now one week behind.

Mr. Boyer asked if they are having problems with traffic. Mr. Whitcomb said that the police are doing an outstanding job. Ms. Foresman added that they have also met with Point Township's chief. They have given suggestions and PennDOT has added signs based on their recommendations.

Ms. Foresman stated that the round table meeting would be held on August 17th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the King Street Park gazebo. It will be a very informal setting and anyone can come with their questions.

Mrs. Rees thanked Ms. Foresman again for taking the covers off the stop signs. Ms. Foresman stated that she thinks traffic is flowing very well. She noted that she came into town from Shamokin Dam and came right to the red light.

Ms. Foresman stated that if anyone has concerns about the project, they could call the hotline number or send an email.

Mr. Ruane was no longer present via telephone at 7:34 p.m.

Council Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve the council meeting minutes of July 18, 2017. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved by a vote of 4-0-1. Mr. Sees abstained.

Northumberland Sewer Department

Mr. Jeremy Deitrick informed the council that the bills should be going out by the end of next week. The first budget meeting for the 2018 budget will be August 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Brian Book provided a written report to the council. The report will be attached as an addendum to the minutes.

Mr. Troup asked what is being done about the delinquent bills. He noted that they total \$117,332. Mr. Deitrick stated that the delinquent bills are sent to Mr. Tira to send out delinquent notices. Mr. Deitrick said that their biggest customer is also the biggest delinquent. Mr. Troup asked if water could be cut off. Mr. Tira responded that it is something that can be done. The council would need to adopt a policy. Mr. Tira noted that there are differences depending on if the property is owner-occupied or a rental. Mr. Dietrick said that there are liens on two of the properties. Mr. Troup asked if Dan Berard has paid and was told no.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that the annual Day of Remembrance in the Riverview Cemetery will be held on Saturday, August 26th. The ceremony begins at noon with registration at 11:00. Refreshments will be available for purchase.
- The seventh annual See You in September Concert will take place on Sunday, September 3rd in King Street Park from 3:00 to 6:00. Memory Lane will play. Special thanks to S. Luther Savidge Trust for sponsoring the event again. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Bring a lawn chair and a friend.
- As of this evening, 237 trucks and cars have been cited and received fines since the start of the road construction on July 9th. Mayor Zboray thanked the police officers for their hard work and diligence in keeping our streets safe. Some of those that were fined were running stop signs.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Ms. MaryKay Clark reported that for the month of July the office issued one building permit and one zoning permit for permit fees totaling \$361. Five complaints were received; 13 code violations

and 2 citations were issued. There was one street cut permit with backfilling fees totaling \$500. Seven rental units were inspected with \$245 fees collected. The mileage on the car totaled 64.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Brian Probst stated that the front loader is in the garage and is being worked on. There was a hydraulic leak. Mr. Probst noted that when they were working on it they discovered there were filters that hadn't been changed since 1997. Mr. Boyer asked if he has gotten all the parts. Mr. Probst responded that he is waiting for them to come.

Mayor Zboray asked that Mr. Probst check on a dip on 5th Street above Hanover Street. He said that it was almost across from the garage doors. The Borough Secretary asked where the blowout was the other week during the storm. Mr. Probst stated that it was just down from the doors at the bakery. He added that they had put cold patch in the area where the water blew out. He will check in out.

Committee Reports

Community Development – no report

Finance – no report

Personnel – Mrs. Rees requested to meet in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets - no report

Old Business

1. It was learned that PennDOT no longer approves the directional signs that are erected on state highways. The Borough Secretary contacted the PA Tourism Signing Trust who now handles the signing program. Signs to the police station would be posted on Duke, Front, and Water Streets. The application fee of \$75 is for the engineer to perform on-site field reviews and the price for one 48" x 16" sign is \$650. No motion was offered.

Mr. Ruane rejoined the meeting via telephone at 7:48.

2. The Borough Secretary informed the council that she met with the Borough's engineer to review the collapsing pipe below Priestley Avenue. After many attempts, she has still not received a response from DEP. The assessment office was contacted to learn if the Borough has a right-of-way for this area. The one property owner's deed does not include a Borough right-of-way. The other deed has not been reviewed. Mr. Boyer tabled the topic.

New Business

1. Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Troup questioned the water bill for the pool. The Borough Secretary stated that so far, this year, the bill is less than it was last year. There was also mud that ran into the pool during a bad storm a few weeks ago and water was replaced. Mr. Boyer asked about

the purchase of safety glasses. Dr. Cianflone stated that the committee had discussed purchasing them in bulk. Roll call vote to pay the bills passed by a vote of 5-1. Mr. Sees voted no.

2. Christopher Herrera requested permission to host a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament on the basketball court sometime around the end of August or in September. He would charge each participant and provide prizes for winners. Remaining funds would be donated to the playground. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to permit the 3 on 3 tournament with the stipulation that the participants sign a waiver. Mr. Tira noted that the tournament does not pose more of a risk than permitting anyone to use the courts as is done currently. Mr. Sees noted that he would like to see that all the details are worked out before the tournament. Dr. Cianflone amended his motion to include that Mr. Herrera provide specifics for the Community Development Committee meeting and that there is no cost to the Borough. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Boyer adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. The meeting was reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

Mr. Boyer announced that the 1st Addendum to the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Northumberland and the Northumberland Police Association would bring two officers, Joshua Dreisbach and Rachel Shear, up to scale with surrounding police departments based upon their prior experience that was not included when they were hired. Officer Dreisbach had five years' experience and Officer Shear had eight. Mr. Sees asked what their current wage is and what the new wage would be. Mrs. Rees stated that the amounts are approximately \$5,000 for one and \$6,000 for the other. She noted that this is rounding up.

Dr. Cianflone made a motion to approve the 1st Addendum to the collective bargaining agreement between the Borough of Northumberland and the Northumberland Police Association. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Mr. Sees noted that Officer Dreisbach would get about a \$4,600 raise and in January would get another \$3,500. Officer Shear will go to Step 6, from \$47,188.95 to \$55,000 with an increase to \$57,000 in October. He stated that he wanted to make sure that everyone is clear on the increases. Chief Kriner explained that Officer Shear will go to Step 6. Mr. Sees said that the \$57,000 amount was highlighted. Chief Kriner stated that it was erroneous on his part. Step 6 is correct. Mr. Sees noted that Step 6 is \$52,388.67, now, and goes to \$55,276.64 in October, which is an increase of around \$8,000. Mrs. Rees stated that she values the police officers and what they do for us. She said that she is thankful that the Borough has them and that the council has the opportunity to make things so that their previous work experience brings them more in line with what they may be getting elsewhere. Mr. Sees stated that he values the police officers and respects what they do, putting their life on the line in their duty. He said that the negotiations in the course of the arbitration, the officers were awarded everything that they were entitled to. Based on the fact that the arbitration cost the Borough \$16,000, and the fact that it was an award by law, that the award should at least stick for the next five years until that contract is up, and then we have an opportunity to sit down and negotiate again. Mr. Boyer asked Officer Dreisbach if the addendum was approved by the association. Officer Dreisbach replied that it was. Mr. Boyer, Dr. Cianflone, Mrs. Rees and Mr. Ruane voted yes. Mr. Sees voted no, adding that his vote is based on all the reasons he mentioned earlier and it is nothing personal. Mr. Troup voted no, adding that he has no disrespect for any of the police officers. He feels that they do a great job and he appreciates what

they do. He stated that the contract is what was bargained for and it cost the Borough \$16,000 to do that. He feels that they should honor that contract for five years and then go back to the board. Mr. Boyer noted that the vote is 4-2 and it carries.

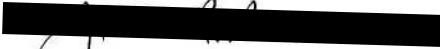

Mr. Boyer asked if there is any other business to bring before council.

Mr. Sees stated that he would like to make a motion that council look into having Rachel Shear, at least, per the contract, undergo a physical examination per the contract to see if she is fit for duty. And then council do something after that, and if she is not, look into possibly hiring another full-time officer until such a time as she is able to return to work and resume her duties. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mrs. Rees stated that she must get a physical anyway before returning to work. Dr. Cianflone asked when her return is anticipated. Chief Kriner stated that it is December. He asked what would happen to the other officer when Officer Shear is able to return to duty. Chief Kriner stated that one candidate has passed the written exam, but has not taken the physical agility test. He is waiting to hear from the Civil Service Commission. Mrs. Rees stated that she sees no point in having Rachel undergo a physical at this time when her own doctor is saying that she won't be able to come back until November or December. Mr. Sees replied that most employers don't keep somebody on the books for over a year and pay their health care and everything else when you have the ability to go out and hire somebody else and still give her the ability to come back when she gets better.

Mr. Boyer called for a roll-call vote. Council voted 2-4 with Mr. Boyer, Dr. Cianflone, Mrs. Rees, and Mr. Ruane voting no. The motion failed.

Mr. Boyer adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary