

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting February 16, 2016

Borough Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Councilmember Ellie Rees offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Paul Boyer, Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Jim Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Mayor Len Zboray and Council member Ty Sees were absent.

Public Comment

Ms. Fran Bogovich asked about the runoff on Front Street above Prince Street. She said that the water freezes and creates a hazard for traffic turning from Front Street onto Prince Street. Mrs. Bogovich asked if grant funding was received to correct the problem. It was explained that the Borough had received a grant for a study on the runoff from the hill; but did not receive funding to correct the problem. Mr. Wynn suggested that the crew install a new catch basin at the location. Since it is a state road, he requested that the Borough Secretary contact PennDOT to learn whose responsibility it is to correct the problem. She requested that the Street Department salt this area because it is a major issue.

Mr. Jeff Gemberling told council that he recently moved to the area. He stated that he is impressed that the council meeting was opened with a prayer. He is researching a proposed issue that is coming up where PennDOT is going to repair some of the streets. He stated that he would like to be a part of the solution. He also noted that "PennDOT does what PennDOT does." His concern is that the tentative proposal on taking Duke Street off-line, randomly, and running one way on King and one way on Orange is a disaster. Typically, in the past, he has monitored things and worked on accountability. His understanding is that Duke and Front Streets have been rebuilt within the past decade. With his knowledge of what he has done in the past, he feels that there is a safety net that is taken away when a magnitude of vehicles are taken off Duke Street and put on local streets in a residential area. Mr. Ruane said that no tractor-trailers will be traveling through the Borough. Only local deliveries will be permitted. Mr. Wynn added that only trucks up to thirty-six feet will be permitted. Mr. Ruane stated that the Borough has been meeting with PennDOT for over a year and has voiced opinions about the plan. Comments have been sent to the state requesting that one lane of traffic remain open during the reconstruction of Water Street between Duke Street and the bridge. Mr. Gemberling noted that Mifflinburg has five or six traffic lights and the Borough doesn't have any. He questioned why the Borough hasn't requested that PennDOT install more traffic lights. Mr. Gemberling stated that he is willing to be part of the solution. He added that he has tons of time and tons resources. He has

five children. He feels that the Borough should have an independent study done to offer a separate or secondary solution. He stated that if he puts a fence up, and something bad were to happen, he does not go away that easily and he doesn't believe in settlements. He feels that thousands of cars and hour will create trouble for the Borough. Mr. Wynn asked if Mr. Gemberling would like to look into the problem at his cost and advise the council what he feels could be done. Mr. Gemberling said that he does not have the time. Mr. Troup noted that Mr. Gemberling had said that he has unlimited time and unlimited resources. Mr. Gemberling said that he understands that a throughway is coming through here. Mr. Wynn stated that it is ten years in the making. Mr. Gemberling questioned if it is necessary to tear up the streets now or if that could wait until the throughway is completed. Mr. Wynn stated that the state has funding for the project now. It will be done in segments so businesses can be maintained. The current plans are to run traffic out Orange Street and in Duke Street. He stated that PennDOT wants to eliminate one stop sign on each route. Mr. Gemberling noted that with the bus stops, there must be safe places for children to cross the street. Mr. Troup asked if Mr. Gemberling moved here from out of state. Mr. Gemberling said that he's spent some time in Sunbury, but has worked in Michigan, Canada, and New York. He said that he bought a house in the Borough about 24 months ago.

Mrs. Rees asked what Mr. Gemberling could do to be part of the solution. He stated that in the past, he has been hired as part of a "think tank" to review plans, such as PennDOT's proposal. He noted that if he comes to Borough meetings, very little escapes him. Mrs. Rees asked if he is willing to volunteer his expertise. Mr. Gemberling stated that volunteering expertise is probably a moot point because the amount of time required. He said by paying attention and asking the appropriate questions, it keeps everyone on course.

Council member Ty Sees arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Owen stated that his concern is for the safety of the children in the Borough.

Mr. Ruane explained that the council has sent a letter to the state voicing concerns with the plans.

Mr. Wynn stated that when they return the trucks back to running on Duke Street, Water and Front Streets, the state will repair the streets that were used for the detour. The last time Duke Street was repaved was in 2001. The plans now are to reconstruct the entire street. Mr. Wynn noted that truck traffic is hard on the streets. Truck weight limit is now 80,000 pounds; and may be increased to 100,000 pounds. Discussion ensued about the new bridge that will cross the Susquehanna from Point Township to Winfield. The bridge is a 17 pier bridge which will cost \$159 million to erect.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council unanimously approved the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

Mr. Ruane reported that Jeremy (Deitrick) and the engineers aren't here because the construction meeting was cancelled today. He said that the only business to mention is a proposal from

RETTEW to oversee PennDOT's reconstruction of State Routes 11 and 147. The proposal is for RETTEW to review the design of the roadway and identify conflicts with the sewer lines. Mr. Ruane stated that the Sewer Committee will discuss the proposal and determine whether to bring it to the council. Council members will be provided with the proposal for their review.

Street Supervisor/ Code Enforcement Officer's Report- no report.

Committee Reports

Community Development

Gymnasium

- Dr. Cianflone stated that the committee reviewed the architects' proposals. Dr. Cianflone made a motion that council accept B3 Architects proposal. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Mrs. Bogovich said that she thought the council had hired someone to draw up the plans for the gym. Mr. Boyer explained that that person was not an architect and couldn't stamp plan. Council voted unanimously to hire B3 Architects.

Liberty Splashland

- Dr. Cianflone said that the committee plans to increase the hours at Liberty Splashland on Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. They also plan to invite the Northumberland-Sunbury Swim Team to hold their meets and practices here.
- Thursday, June 2nd, will be the opening day. Admission will be free.
- A representative from Representative Lynda Culver's office was present at the committee meeting. They plan to have a Family Fun Day at Liberty Splashland in conjunction with the opening day. They will invite vendors and organizations to provide information and activities for the public. Dr. Cianflone said that they will have some organization sponsor free hotdogs and drinks.
- The committee plans to advertise for a pool manager, assistant manager, lifeguards, and other employees.
- They plan to host theme nights, have "free" days for mothers, fathers to try to get more families to visit.
- Brian Luden will be asked to look at correcting the broken pipe situation which occurred last year because the pipes weren't winterized.

Asset Management

- Dr. Cianflone explained that a database is being completed for every site and department in the Borough. The database will include documentation and accountability for the procedures in the Borough.

Internet System

- Dr. Cianflone noted that the current internet system in the Borough Building needs to be upgraded. The cost is an additional \$80 per month which will be divided among the Borough Office, Police department and Sewer Department.

Tree Planting

- The Masons have volunteered to donate labor to plant trees. The Borough will purchase the trees up to \$500 and the Masons will plant them above Liberty Hollow to help alleviate the water that comes off the hill. The funding will be requested from the Shade Tree Commission.

Pineknotted Park

- Dr. Cianflone stated that the committee is planning to hold a community meeting on March 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Girl Scout Little House. The meeting is being held to discuss what the public would like to see included at the Pineknotted Park area.

United Way Day of Action

- The United Way Day of Action is scheduled for April 15th. The plan is to have the volunteers install the playground equipment at Pineknotted Park. Mr. Troup has had experience installing playground equipment with a volunteer group and explained the process. Mr. Boyer said that the crew will have the apparatus laid out for the volunteers. Ted August has volunteered to put the holes in the ground for the posts.

Girl Scout Little House

- The committee is suggesting to rent out the Girl Scout Little House for parties. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to rent out the Little House at a rate of \$35 for two hours and \$50 for three hours. A deposit of \$100 is required. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mrs. Rees voiced her appreciation to Barb Kistner and the volunteers for renovating the property.

Boat Docks

- Mr. Troup stated that he spoke with Bob Long about boat docks that the Norry Boat Club donate to the Borough. Dr. Cianflone stated that the committee did discuss this possibility and that this is one of the reasons for holding the public meeting at the Little House on March 14th. Mr. Troup stated that the Borough would be able to rent the docks for \$350 to \$400 each.

Finance

Mr. Sees said that the committee would meet next Tuesday, February 23rd, at 6:30 p.m.

Public Safety – no report

Streets

- Mr. Boyer reported that the committee met and discussed an ordinance for street excavations.
- Someone from the street department is to be certified for pesticides.
- Flagger Training is being offered in March at the Point Township Municipal Building at a cost of \$75 per person. Mr. Boyer said that all members of the street crew would attend.
- The committee discussed using Microseal on 7th Street from Orange to Prince Streets.
- The street employees will be repairing the Santa house. A request will be submitted to the United Way for volunteers to paint it.

Old Business

1. C-2016 Police Retirement Contribution

The resolution was tabled until after the arbitration concerning the police contract. The arbitration is scheduled for March 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

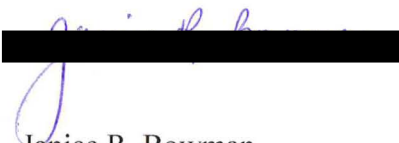
New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council unanimously approved payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$20,276.46; bills to be paid from the Donations Account total \$623.04; bills to be paid from the General Contingency Account total \$625; Liberty Splashland bills total \$35.45; Park and Recreation bills total \$627.73; and Sewer Department bills total \$22,937.98.
2. Mr. Troup informed the council that there is information on PPL's website about changing the street lights to LED lights. Council asked that the Borough Secretary check into it.
3. The question was asked why the Community Development Committee is advertising for the employees for the pool. Dr. Cianflone stated that the committee would like to extend the hours, and the length of the season since school will not start until after Labor Day this year.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane stated that the council would go into an Executive Session to discuss a grievance and that the meeting would not be reconvened. The council meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The Executive Session was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary