

Borough of Northumberland

175 ORANGE STREET
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Phone: (570) 473-3414
FAX: (570) 473-3986

E-Mail: office@northumberlandborough.com
www.northumberlandborough.com

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
December 20, 2016

Council President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Paul Ruane, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Brian Probst, Street Department Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Ty Sees was absent.

Public Comment

The 28 visitors present introduced themselves.

Brian Ginck of the Emergency Services Board presented council with a proposed revision for the Emergency Services Board ordinance. Changes include increasing the representatives from each fire company from one member to two members; increasing the members at large from three to five members; adding the fire chief and deputy fire chief to the Board; and removing the Borough residency stipulation.

Mr. Boyer moved to advertise the changes to the ordinance. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Drew Starook, treasurer of the Number 1's, requested that the council approve the loan payment for the Number 1's firetruck. Mr. Ruane noted that the payment is included on the list of bills to be approved.

PennDOT Presentation

Mr. Chris Neidig, PennDOT, thanked the Borough and residents for inviting him back to discuss the reconstruction project for Routes 11 and 147. He noted that several meetings have been held with utilities to schedule the project which is to be completed within three years. He added that there is no truth to the rumor that traffic will be detoured on Prince Street at any time during the project.

Mr. Neidig noted that a meeting was held with the public last December (2015) and a meeting with a focus group was held in June. The detour route was determined at the focus group meeting. The detour brings traffic back on Duke Street as soon as possible around the construction. Mr. Neidig referred residents to PennDOT's website to view details about the project and detours. The website is www.penndot.gov/dukestreet.

When PennDOT was investigating the depth of the utilities, they had the contractor look at the footings underneath the railroad bridge at the underpass. The plan included removing the southern walkway and adding a third lane underneath the railroad bridge. They found that the part of the footer is directly under the sidewalk. They are now proposing to remove that portion of the project out of the bid anticipated to be let out in Spring. Another consultant is on board to determine what can be done to add the third lane by removing a portion of the footer, re-stabilizing the abutment, and making sure everything is safe. This will then be let within the contract and will be coordinated so that it fits in to the three-year construction schedule. They will have extensive coordination with the railroad. The plan is to complete the project with this construction contract.

Mr. Owen asked if Penn DOT has looked at every street where the detours exist. He feels that they are concentrating on Fourth Street as a detour. He suggested that Fifth Street would be a better street since it is a flat street. He also suggested that only local traffic be permitted. Mr. Neidig stated that during construction, they plan to erect message boards and signs at key locations to intercept the traffic. One message board will be at Danville; one on Route I-80 to detour the traffic to Route 15. They will detour traffic north on Route 11-15 from Shamokin Dam.

Mr. T.J. Cunningham, PennDOT, noted that pieces of the project may be changed by the contractor. The phases will not be different but the contractor may change the schedule. The contractor will be required to have a public meeting to inform the public how the project will be constructed. Mr. Wynn asked if PennDOT can tell the contractor how to schedule their work. Mr. Cunningham stated that the contractor will be told what they may not do; but the contractor may come up with a better plan.

Dr. Cianflone asked if the detour would leap-frog. Mr. Neidig stated that the detour is planned to leap-frog and the construction is about two blocks per phase. He noted that the phasing was set up to provide access to all the businesses on the lower side of Duke Street during construction.

Mr. Boyer questioned if traffic will be permitted on both bridges when work is being done on Duke Street. Mr. Cunningham responded that traffic will be permitted on both bridges during most of the project.

Mr. Dale Henry stated that his concern is to eliminate the detour through Sunbury, especially during Sunbury's RiverFest. He feels that PennDOT should hire flaggers to help with the traffic control. He noted that no one from PennDOT has discussed the issues with Sunbury.

Mr. Neidig stated that PennDOT is going to try the intercept as much traffic as possible to detour it away from the Borough.

Mr. Neidig stated that the contractors will work double shifts, five days a week during the construction season.

Mrs. Joyce McPherson asked how the residents who live below Duke Street will be able to get out. Mr. Neidig said that the work on Duke Street will be done in phases. Phase 1 is work on

Duke Street from 8th Street to 7th Street; phase 2 is work on Duke Street from 7th Street to 6th Street, etc.

Mr. Neidig stated that notification of the public will be done by mailer to all the residents; through the newspaper and radio. The public meetings will be held in the evening.

Mr. Boyer requested that someone from PennDOT attend a council meeting each month once construction is started. Mr. Neidig stated that he would attend to keep the council and public informed of the progress.

Mayor Zboray noted that most of the time, only one officer is on duty. He asked if PennDOT has funding available to pay for additional police patrol. Mr. Cunningham stated that this is not possible.

Mr. Neidig said that several meetings have been held with the utilities. UGI and Verizon will be coming in in 2017. PPL will be coming in about the same time as the construction. The utilities work will be completed by 2018. The contractor for PennDOT will do the water and sewer work.

While no state funding is available, Representative Lynda Culver's office will coordinate with Representative Marino's office to look for federal grants for funding to increase police presence to help enforce the detour.

Mrs. Rees asked why the project has morphed into three years. She noted that every meeting she has attended, the project was presented to be two years. Mr. Cunningham then insisted that it was 2+ years from the beginning. Several from the public and Mayor Zboray asserted that the time frame provided was two years at the meetings they attended. Mr. Cunningham apologized. He added that PennDOT has tried to set the stage that there are a lot of utilities under Duke and Water Streets and there is a lot of coordination. The plans are still that the contract will be let in April 2017.

Mr. Owen asked if PennDOT is coordinating with the school district regarding the bus stops. Mr. Neidig stated that they have been coordinating with the school district and will continue doing so.

Mr. Neidig stated that PennDOT finished the coordination with the utilities yesterday.

Mr. Tom Fitzgerald asked why the work wouldn't be scheduled for Water Street first and delay the work on Duke Street until after the bypass is completed. Mr. Neidig stated that the CVST will not be completed until 2024. The bridge is scheduled to be done in 2020. This project will be completed by 2019. Mr. Neidig said that while Duke Street might look good on the surface, the foundation is not good.

Someone asked what happens if something is discovered in one of the phases. Will the project be held up, or will they continue to the next phase? Mr. Cunningham said that each phase would be completed before moving to the next. Mr. Wynn asked what would happen if they find a burial ground. Mr. Neidig said that the archeological areas have been identified.

Someone asked about the speed limits and stop signs. Mr. Neidig stated that the speed limits will remain the same. Some stop signs will be covered in the direction that the detour is moving. New signal equipment will be placed at the current traffic signal locations.

Mr. Neidig stated that they are planning for double shifts on Duke Street. The first three phases on Duke Street are planned to be done in 2017. Nothing will be done on Front Street in 2017. Phases 4-9 on Duke Street will be done in 2018. Work will take place on Front Street in 2018 while work is being done on Duke Street. Route 11 southbound traffic will not be restricted; construction will be done on one lane at a time.

Ms. Jill Bodmer explained that she has attended several meetings, included the focus group meeting, that were held by PennDOT. She feels that PennDOT has tried to keep the residents informed and thanked PennDOT for their work. She added that everyone needs to work together until the project is completed.

Mrs. Joyce McPherson asked where the contractor's construction trailers would be located. Mr. Neidig stated that it would be up to the contractor.

Mr. Wynn asked how the truck traffic would be restricted in that many drivers cannot read English. Mr. Neidig stated that word would get out about the detour among truck drivers.

Mr. Henry asked how long the project would last during the year. Mr. Cunningham stated that the project would be shut down from November until Spring.

Mrs. Rees stated that the council has requested that an additional traffic light be installed on Duke Street. Mr. Neidig stated that the traffic studies do not warrant an additional traffic light. He said that there would be a temporary traffic signal added on Orange Street during the project.

Mr. John Deppen noted that speed limits are not being changed, but some of the stop signs will be covered. The Borough police will have additional work to patrol the detours to ensure the safety of the children and residents and to monitor the truck traffic. He feels that this puts additional pressure on PennDOT and the local representatives to find money to get more help for the police who are already stressed to the limits in dealing with the issues that they deal with every day.

Ms. Louise Spigelmeyer asked if PennDOT has projected numbers of traffic that would no longer be going through town because of the bypass. Mr. Neidig said that they do and he would provide them. Ms. Spigelmeyer noted that PennDOT's long-range plan has Northumberland Borough included for a planning review to look for truck circulation improvements at a cost of \$75,000. Someone noted that this was about widening some of the streets.

Mr. Neidig stated that he would remain until after the meeting in case anyone has any questions.

Mrs. McPherson requested that a stop sign be installed at 6th and Westway. She noted that there are a lot of rental properties between 6th and 7th Streets on Duke and they drive too fast on Westway. Mr. Ruane noted that a traffic study is required.

Northumberland Sewer Department

Mr. Deitrick informed council that there is a payment request from MidState Paving for the manhole rehabilitation project. The amount requested is \$76,836.81 for fifteen manholes. Mr. Boyer so moved. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Brian Book informed council that there is a resolution to be acted upon for reimbursement from PennDOT for the sewer project on Duke Street that is necessitated by PennDOT’s project. Dr. Cianflone moved to approve Resolution L-2016. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

“RESOLUTION L-2016

In accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Design Manual - Part 5, Chapter 8.1.C, the Northumberland Borough does hereby authorize the submission of the attached request for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to provide a .75.00 per centum reimbursement to Northumberland Borough for all costs, less any betterments, incurred in relocating our sewer system infrastructure affected by S.R. 147 & S.R. 11 road work necessitated by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Highway Improvement in Northumberland County.

Also the President of said Municipality be authorized and directed to sign a Utility Reimbursement Agreement on its behalf and that the Secretary be authorized and directed to attest the President’s signature on the Utility Reimbursement Agreement for this highway project.

Adopted as a Resolution this 20th day of December, 2016.

Attest: _____
(Signature and Designation of Official Title)
(Seal)

By _____
(Signature and Designation of Official Title)

Certification

I, _____ of the _____
(Signature and Designation of Official Title) *(Name or Municipality, Borough, Township, Authority)*

attest that this Resolution was officially adopted by the Northumberland Borough at a duly-called meeting of the Borough.

(Seal)

(Signature and Designation of Official Title)”

Mr. Boyer moved to approve the utility relocation letter requesting that PennDOT incorporate the sewer work with their project. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Dr. Cianflone made a motion to accept the utility relocation estimates. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ty Sees arrived at 7:55 p.m.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Dr. Cianflone stated that electrical and drywall work has begun in the gym.
- The committee discussed installing a vertical lift to provide access to the restrooms that are located in the office end of the building. This would eliminate having to construct new bathrooms at the rear of the gym.
- The 8 foot by 9-foot scoreboard and marquee from C.W. Rice are being donated for the gym.

- Ben Heemstra, a candidate for Eagle Scout, requested permission to redo the bull pens at Pineknottter Park as his Eagle Scout project. Dr. Cianflone moved approve the request. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mayor Zboray announced that the Roy and Carol Moyer Trust met on December 9th. They awarded \$1,250 toward the fencing at the Pineknottter Park baseball field. Dr. Cianflone stated that a letter is going to be sent to Lowe's requesting a donation of fencing. Dr. Cianflone stated that he met with some of the coaches. He is talking to Shikellamy about playing games on the field.

Finance

- 2017 Budget – 2nd reading
Mr. Wynn moved to accept the second reading of the 2017 budget. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Sees stated that there will be changes due to the police Act 111 order. He noted that the hours will be reduced regarding vacation, sick, and personal time so there will be savings for the Borough. He said that the ruling is in the final stages. He will receive it from the arbitrator to sign, pass it to the association's attorney for signatures, and then it goes back to the arbitrator for signatures and he issues the final order. Roll call to approve the 2017 budget was 5-2. Mr. Sees and Mr. Troup voted no.
- 2017 Audit Proposal
Mr. Jeremy Deitrick provided a proposal from Klacik & Associates for a total of \$13,750. Mrs. Rees asked if this proposal includes the single audit for the sewer department. Mr. Dietrick stated that it does. A second proposal for \$16,750 was received from Herring, Roll, & Solomon. Mr. Troup made a motion to accept the proposal of \$13,750 from Klacik & Associates. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Mr. Ruane questioned how soon the audit would start. Discussion ensued. The motion was predicated on having the audit completed by April 1, 2017. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel

- Mrs. Rees informed council that the personnel committee recommends David Mahoney for the assistant manager position at Liberty Splashland. She made a motion to hire him for the 2017 season at a rate of \$12.50 per hour with a \$.25 raise each year. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved by a vote of 4-3. Mr. Sees, Mr. Troup, and Mr. Wynn voted no.
- Mrs. Rees informed council that the personnel committee interviewed candidates for the part-time office clerk position and recommends Melinda Martin. She made a motion to hire Melinda Martin as the part-time clerk at an hourly rate of \$10.50 with a \$.50 raise in six months. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved with a 4-3 vote. Mr. Sees, Mr. Troup, and Mr. Wynn voted no.
- Mrs. Rees informed council that Keaton Zarr has applied to be an unpaid police intern with the police department. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to approve the internship. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. He is a student at the Harrisburg Area Community College majoring in police science and from Mifflinburg. A minimum of 200 work hours is required. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.
- Mrs. Rees stated that the Personnel Committee and Teamsters have agreed upon a contract. She made a motion to approve the contract for 2017-2019. Mr. Troup requested that the motion be tabled until the other council members read the contract. Motion tabled.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets

Mr. Boyer informed council that a snowplow was broken. The cost to repair the plow was \$4,500; a new plow is \$6,000. Mr. Boyer stated that to get it repaired would take weeks to get the parts. Bradco said that they could install the new one right away. The old parts have been saved. Mr. Boyer stated that the insurance would cover part of it; the Borough will pay the \$1,000 deductible. The plow hit a manhole. It was unknown where the manhole was located.

Old Business

1. Mr. Ruane tabled Resolution C-2016, the Police Retirement Contribution.

New Business

1. Mr. Wynn moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$74,616.85; Donations bills total \$100; Liberty Splashland bills total \$1,539.51; Shade Tree Fund bills total \$1,650; 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$5,000; and Sewer Department bills total \$115,284.76.
2. Mr. Boyer made a motion to transfer \$6,817.73 from the Contingency line item (489.000) to the General Contingency Account. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. Mr. Wynn made a motion to transfer \$4,000 from the Police Sick Pay line item (410.191) to the General Contingency Account. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Sees noted that this money is earmarked for the payout of sick time when an officer retires. Council approved unanimously.
4. Mr. Boyer made a motion to transfer \$2,700 from the Repairs-Maintenance-Building line item (409.250) to 2nd Street Community Center Account. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council voted 6-1 to approve with Mr. Sees voting no.
5. Dr. Cianflone moved to approve the handicapped parking request at 708 Front Street from Jacklyn Landis. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Mr. Sees noted that all handicapped parking spaces are to be reviewed on an annual basis. Council voted unanimously to approve.
6. Mrs. Rees made a motion that the council meeting time be changed to 6:45 in 2017. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Mr. Sees noted that he has wrestling practice until 7:00 Monday nights and until 7:30 Tuesday nights and he will not miss them for a Borough council meeting. If council is going to continue to move schedules around, he feels it should be kept at 6:30. Mrs. Rees stated that the meetings had been 7:00 for a long time. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Rees revised her motion to change the time to 7:00 in 2017. Mr. Ruane revised his second. Council approved unanimously.

7. Mr. Wynn made a motion that the council have one meeting a month. The council meetings will be the first Tuesday of the month, except for when it conflicts with Election Day, it will be the first Monday of the month; and in July it will be the third Tuesday due to Pineknotters' Days. A work session may be held the third Tuesday of the month, if needed. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane announced that the meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss Personnel issues. He added that the meeting would be reconvened. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

Mr. Troup made a motion to hire RETTEW as consulting engineer for the Sewer Department effective January 1, 2017 with a retainer fee of \$1,800. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Boyer moved to advertise Ordinance 2017-1, the tax levy ordinance for 2017. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Sees noted that he is against the 2 mil increase but the ordinance is a difference perspective because the motion is to advertise the ordinance. Council approved unanimously.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to hire Nicole Hernandez as the concession stand manager at Liberty Splashland for the 2017 season at a rate of \$11.25 an hour with a \$.25 raise every year she returns. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approve 6-1 with Mr. Troup voting no.

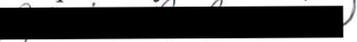
Mr. Sees made a motion to clarify the light-duty program that was established on August 16, 2016, to reflect that the light-duty policy only reflects those on workers' compensation, not a non-work related illness or injury. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mayor Zboray asked how this would affect Officer Shear now. Mr. Sees stated that she would be taken off light duty. Council voted 6-1 to approve with Mr. Ruane voting no.

Mr. Troup made a motion to hire Joel Wiest as the Borough's attorney, on his acceptance. Mr. Ruane questioned if Mr. Tira would be kept on as solicitor for the sewer department, noting that there are several lawsuits involved with the sewer department. Mr. Troup rescinded his motion until more information is obtained.

Mr. Troup made a motion to reimburse Ty Sees for his travel expenses due to the arbitration. Mr. Sees stated that he drove 112 miles round trip two times for a total of 224 miles. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved 6-0-1. Mr. Sees abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary