

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
February 17, 2015

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Council member Ellie Rees offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Adam Klock, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Ted McCollum, Street Supervisor/Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Mayor Len Zboray and council members Stephen Reed and Ty Sees were absent.

Public Comment

Mr. Robert Rowe informed the council that several vehicles that are not licensed are parked on borough streets. He stated that he has spoken to several people about these vehicles and nothing has been done. Mr. Rowe also reported that during snow removal, parked vehicles are not being moved so snow can be removed. Mr. McCollum stated that an officer was out last Wednesday to ticket the cars that were parked in the downtown area between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Rowe asked Mr. Troup why he called Mr. Rowe a troublemaker when he called him last year. Mr. Troup stated that he felt he had no business talking about some of the items that Mr. Row brought up. He added that it is not something that is discussed in council and that Mr. Row should contact the individual directly with his questions.

Mr. Row said that he had questioned why the street department did not remove snow from the lower end of Queen Street last year when they were only three car lengths from the end. He said that the officer he talked to said he swore at the street guys and that he did not do that.

Mr. Troup stated that he was referring to personal issues that Mr. Row was trying to address with him which is something he will not discuss.

Mr. Troup said that as far as the cars, he would speak to legal counsel and the police chief. Mr. Rowe provided pictures of several vehicles that should be removed. Mr. McCollum stated that this is a code issue. He noted that the vehicles must be registered and inspected. Mr. Troup gave the photos to Mr. McCollum. Vehicles that are for sale are parked along the CVS parking lot. Mr. McCollum said that the owner of the property is unknown. Mr. Ruane stated that according to the maps, CVS owns the property.

Cathy Bellve, 679 Duke Street, provided pictures of the old sheds that had burned down during a fire and the new sheds that were erected after the fire. She said that no permits were

issued for these sheds and the sheds are larger than the old ones. Mr. Ruane stated that he spoke to Ted about it.

Ms. Bellve said that a member of her church, Mr. Hetrick, had stopped and asked if he could see the house because it was his homestead. She said that they were having trouble with one of the neighbors with the parking out back. Mr. Hetrick showed them where the parking line was in the back. He said that there used to be stakes there which are no longer there. He also told them that the property line is not straight, like everyone thinks. She said that when she got home today, there were Northumberland Fire Police no parking signs posted behind her home and that her mother-in-law saw Ted (McCollum) put the stakes where they park. The neighbor wants to put a garage up; but that property never had a garage. Mr. Hetrick had told them that a two-car garage was behind the property where she lives. She said that the neighbor was with Ted when the signs were put up. Mr. McCollum said that the neighbor's property is twenty feet wide and he measured the width to install the stakes. Ms. Bellve stated that the property would have to be surveyed. Mr. McCollum said that they each have two parking spaces which she refuted. Mr. Ruane stated that the Borough can't determine the boundary line. Mr. Ruane stated that the property would have to be surveyed. Ms. Bellve stated that they had put shale down, so they probably covered up the stakes. Ms. Bellve added that Ted is in cahoots with the neighbors. Mr. Ruane stated that zoning permits are required for the sheds. Copies of the permits are provided to the county so the property records can be updated for tax purposes. Ms. Bellve stated that she has called the police about the neighbors' pot parties but no one comes. Discussion ensued about calls to the Borough about garbage in the back yards of their property and the neighbors'. Ms. Bellve said that dirt has been placed across West Way. Mr. McCollum stated that he has talked to the person who put it there and the dirt will be removed within two weeks. Mr. Troup stated that the no parking signs will be moved. He noted that the Borough would not have the property surveyed; it would be up to the property owners. Ms. Bellve said that Mr. Brosious's sidewalks are cleared and theirs are cleared; but the other neighbors have not cleared their sidewalks. She added that the Borough trucks are traveling too fast for conditions when plowing. When the street department plows 7th Street between Duke Street and West Way, they are traveling in the wrong direction on a one-way street. Ms. Bellve showed pictures of the garbage on the neighbor's front porch. She said that the neighbors harass her mother-in-law when her son and she are not home. Mr. Troup stated that she should talk to the police department about the problem. She replied that she is taking the issue to Mr. Apfelbaum's office.

Mr. McCollum asked if their van has been moved. He was told that the vehicle needs a fuel pump. They said that the neighbor has a camper out back. Mr. Ruane stated that several years ago, the neighbors had he had gone to the railroad and the railroad had their neighbor clean up the stuff that was on the railroad property. Ms. Bellve added that Ted had told them that one vehicle may be on their property that is not licensed; but may not be on the street. Mr. Ruane stated that the neighbors should try to work together. Discussion ensued about the various vehicles that are parked behind the properties.

Ms. Bellve said that when she lived in Rockefeller Township, she was required to obtain a zoning permit. She said that the reason her neighbors' are being required to get zoning permits is because she has been calling and complaining that they have not gotten permits.

Mr. Troup stated that he would talk to the police department about the sidewalks not being cleared, the zoning permits are being taken care of, and the property line is between the neighbors to have determined.

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Ruane, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of December 2, 2014.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

Mr. Klock reported that the department is waiting for a second quote for third party inspection of the treatment facility. The engineer had indicated that it could wait until the first meeting in March.

Mr. Klock emailed the 2014 reconciliation to council. He moved to approve the 2014 reconciliation report for bulk customers. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mr. Wynn stated that he did not receive the document. Mr. Klock emailed to council members this afternoon. Mr. Wynn stated that he has not looked at his email this afternoon. He was provided with the report. Mr. Klock withdrew his motion until later in the meeting.

Mr. Klock explained how the reconciliation was calculated. He said that there are shared costs with the bulk customers. There are other costs that are associated with just the Borough collection. They determine what costs should be shared and the percentage of flow determines the amount of the bulk customers' shared cost. Mr. Klock explained that at the beginning of each year, they budget an estimated cost per thousand of gallons to treat the waste from the bulk customers. The dollar amount went up this year because of the cost for the new treatment facility. He said that the cost is estimated at \$4.50 for every thousand gallons that is metered at the metering points coming from Point Township and Upper Augusta. They tried to provide an estimate on the amount of flow. He noted that it can't be exact because they don't know how much rain there may be, how much flow the bulk customers will be sending to the treatment plant, and the exact costs of treatment. Every quarter, the bulk customer is billed based on the flow that comes into the Borough. At the end of the year, they take the actual flows and the actual costs. He noted that in past years, sometimes the bulk customers have overpaid and are issued a refund. Other times, they underpay and pay the difference at the end of the year. For last year, Point Township owes \$55,000 plus and Upper Augusta owes just over \$5,000. Mr. Klock said that with regards to the money that Point Township owes and remains unpaid, that issue is in the courts. Mr. Klock stated that at their last meeting, Point Township voted not to paid their fourth quarter bill. If payment is more than thirty days late, they incur a 10% fee on the bill. He said that they have known that for some time and have incurred this penalty almost every quarter for the past two years. He said that he thinks they are in upwards of \$50,000 in late payment fees. Mr. Klock stated that the sewer committee has suggested that they pay the bill in protest so they don't incur the penalty. He said that Point Township has not provided the Sewer Department with any calculation supporting their claims that the amount is inaccurate. Mr. Wynn asked if they have paid anything. Mr. Klock stated that they have paid some but are over \$200,000 in arrears. The Borough is litigating the delinquent payments. Mr. Troup noted that the people who will suffer will be the Point Township residents. Mr. Klock agreed, noting that there are over \$50,000 in late payments that they didn't need to incur. Mrs. Rees thanked him for his explanation, thanking him for working so hard on it. Mr. Klock replied

that he had reviewed the information but Jeremy (Deitrick) and Ed (Margel) had calculated the reconciliation.

Mr. Klock stated that the reconciliation summary is Point Township owes \$55,759.41 and Upper Augusta owes \$5,570.85. He moved that council accept the 2014 Sewer Department reconciliation with those amounts determined to be owed by Point Township and Upper Augusta respectively. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mr. Klock noted that this is the summary of the totals for each line item. The Sewer Department has the ability to break down the summary for every cost incurred for every cost category if anyone would like to see it. He said that it will be available for the bulk customers as well. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

- Mr. Klock stated that last year the council passed an ordinance that set the sewer fees to bulk customers and Borough customers that included monthly flat rates of \$10 for collection, \$15 for treatment, and \$4.00 per thousand gallons of water usage metered. He read from the document, "When any single connection to the Borough's waste water collection system contains multiple billing units, the Borough shall assess sewer rentals and charges as appropriate as though each such billing unit was in a separate structure and had a direct and separate connection to the Borough's waste water collection system." The question came up on billing rental properties where there is just one water meter for several rental units. The question was whether to bill the flat fee for each apartment unit serviced by the meter plus the water usage that is metered at \$4.00 per thousand gallons of water. Mr. Klock stated that he would like to make a motion to specify that each dwelling unit be assessed a monthly flat fee as defined in Resolution M-2014 and the total usage would be billed to the owner of the meter. The bill will specify the amount of the usage plus the fee for each unit. It would be the owner's responsibility to determine how the cost is shared among the dwelling units. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Emergency Services Board Report

There is a vacancy on the board.

Street Supervisor/ Code Enforcement Officer's Report

- Mr. McCollum stated that the street sweeper is parked in the garage at the sewer plant and the representative is coming on Thursday to make the warranty repairs.
- Mr. McCollum ordered two more loads of salt today which brings the total to around 183 tons. The Borough's allotment is 200 tons.
- The bed of the bucket truck has some rust holes in it. It will be repaired with a sheet of diamond plate. He said that the truck runs really good and is an asset to the Borough.
- All equipment maintenance is up to date.
- Mr. McCollum stated that he would like council to consider hiring Todd Wenrich full-time. He added that he has proven himself over and over again and Mr. McCollum could use the extra help. He said that he would like to bring him on full-time as of April 1st. Mr. Ruane stated that the Finance committee would have to review the request. Mr. Wynn noted that Finance and Personnel have to look at it.

- Mr. McCollum said that he's had 24 complaints, 6 violations, and one street cut. He said that he has noticed street cuts that are sinking and will contact UGI about repairing them.
- Mr. McCollum stated that his BCO certification should be coming the week of March 2nd. He said that he will also have a certification to inspect manufactured home installations. He said that the homes come inspected from the factory so the installation inspection is all that is needed. Mr. Klock asked if Ted will be able to do everything that Jim Soos is doing. Mr. McCollum said that he can control the permitting administratively, but cannot conduct inspections.

Mr. Troup stated that the department must shovel the sidewalks at the Girl Scout House and at the Borough Office. He said that he came by the Borough Office on Sunday afternoon and the sidewalks were cleaned past the police station entrance but not from there down. He said that the walks must be shoveled before the church services on Sunday. Mr. McCollum stated that he would have to send someone in to shovel the walks. Mr. Troup replied that it doesn't matter; the Borough has to have its sidewalks cleaned. Mrs. Rees clarified that Borough does not sponsor church; a group of people are renting the building for services on Sunday mornings. Mr. Ruane stated that residents and the Borough have twenty-four hours to clear the sidewalks.

Mr. Klock said that a while back he had forwarded proposals from BCO's to the code officer and asked him to review the proposals and look at their references and come up with a recommendation for 2015. Mr. Ruane stated that Mr. McCollum is to be the BCO. Mr. Klock said to do the inspections. Mr. Ruane said that the school has paid \$30,000 for the inspections for the new building. He asked what it would cost the Borough adding that the council can't change inspectors in the middle of the project. He also said that the company that Mr. McCollum is recommending is too strict. Mr. Ruane said that the COG has Light-Heigle. Mr. Ruane asked what percentage is given to the Borough. Mr. McCollum said that the amount is calculated. Mr. Ruane said that he would like to see it in writing. Mr. Klock said that the reason he asked for the quotes is because they have had problems with the current company that are well-documented. Mr. Ruane explained that this is why the Borough has to have a BCO here. The BCO can overrule the inspector. He said that several years ago, the inspector was going to have a contractor take out a concrete floor because he wasn't called to inspect it. As BCO, Mr. Ruane overruled him. He added that the BCO is the guy "on the hook" for anything. The topic was tabled. Mr. McCollum said that he would have additional information for the next meeting. Mr. Ruane questioned, if the fee from this company is \$30,000 and a new company charges \$45,000, who would have to pay the difference. He said that before any change is made, more information is needed.

Mr. McCollum stated that he gave the producer and director of a production company a tour of the gym. He would like to lease the gymnasium for dinner theater and is going to submit a letter of intent. He would also like to use the kitchen. Mr. McCollum said that if the capacity is kept at 300 people or less, and the square footage is less than 12,000 square feet, it doesn't have to have a sprinkler system. Mr. Ruane replied that the council knows that; they are trying to have the plans cut down from over 400 people. Mr. McCollum said that the theater company would volunteer to do the painting and hang the curtains. The company has liability insurance. The Borough would have to provide the materials. Mr. Ruane asked who is going to provide the chairs. Mr. McCollum stated that he has all that. The company would like to

lease the gym from the Borough and if someone else wants to lease it, they could lease it from him. He would like to produce eight to eleven shows a year. Mr. Klock stated that with this group and the people from the church, there are a number of willing volunteers. It was noted that volunteers from the church installed the screen that is on the other side of the room.

Committee Reports

Community Development - no report

Finance - no report

Personnel - no report

Public Safety

Mrs. Rees stated that the Borough's very fine fire chief came to the meeting tonight. He is interested in seeking funding through various grants for several projects. One is a fire safety simulator for junior firefighter promotion. He would like to have this for Pineknotters' Days. Mrs. Rees said that the cost is \$1,275 plus shipping. The fire department would also like to purchase a hydraulic cutting tool for \$8,000. The tool they have does not cut through boron. The Emergency Medical Services - Quick Response Service (QRS) sometimes arrives on the scene of an emergency before the ambulance service. Mr. Crebs would like to apply for a grant for an AED at a cost of \$3,000. Mrs. Rees said that during the committee meeting, Jan suggested the various foundations that could be applied to for the funds. Mrs. Rees made a motion to authorize the Borough Office to apply for grants for the fire department's list of items. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mrs. Rees informed the council that the fire department is looking long term to build a training center using forty-foot long shipping containers. They would like to look into the possibility of locating it on the Recycling Center property. Mr. Klock asked if they have considered a shared training center with Point Township where they could provide the land. He noted that they have more space than the Borough. Mr. Ruane said that it didn't come up at the meeting. Discussion ensued. Mr. Troup stated that his thoughts are going through Relief and the Northumberland County Firemen's Association. Mrs. Rees informed council that 50% of the firefighters are certified and that the Borough's department is the only one in the area that is growing.

Mr. Klock said that he would like to formalize a committee to plan Oktoberfest at the Point to benefit the Fire Department. He has spoken to Brian Crebs and Brian Ginck and they are in favor of it. Mr. Troup said that the fire companies could obtain a one-day special license which would be a rider on their liquor license. Mr. Klock said that a nice thing about the Point as the location is that people could park at Pineknott Park and walk under the bridge to the Point. Mr. Klock stated that he would like to advertise the meeting in the Pineknott News. Mrs. Rees stated that she did not see a need for the Public Safety Committee to oversee the event. Mr. Ruane agreed, adding that the Fire Department should be involved with the planning. Mr. Klock said that he spoke with Frank Wicker and Travis Fisher about entertainment.

Rules

Mr. Ruane stated that the committee met; however, nothing came out of the meeting for council action. Mr. Klock suggested that the council review the rental ordinance that was adopted by Sunbury.

Mr. Wynn suggested that there should be a limit on the amount of time allotted for public comment.

Streets

Mr. Ruane said that the committee has developed a list for paving which was sent to the utilities. The streets the committee is suggesting to be paved this year, depending on the funds, are King Street around the park and between Sixth and Seventh Streets, Wheatley Avenue from Pond Avenue to Seventh Street, Sawmill from Hanover Street to Prince Street, Park Avenue from Duke Street to NNB's parking lot and from King to Orange Streets, and Orange Street between Sixth and Seventh Streets. Mr. Klock stated that the Sewer Department has work to be done on Wheatley Avenue. Mr. Ruane said that he would attend the COG meeting tomorrow night and find out when the information is due to the COG for the bid advertisement. Mr. Ruane said that the committee is planning what streets will be planned next year. The Borough's PennDOT representative will be here to provide estimates so the committee can finalize the bid for this year.

Old Business

None

New Business

1. The Borough Secretary added one bill from the Dust Butlers to the list of bills to be approved. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mrs. Rees, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bill to be paid from the General Fund total \$15,435.80 and Sewer Department bills total \$69,957.54.

Mr. Wynn left the council meeting at 8:42 p.m.

2. The Borough Secretary stated that the police no longer require the security service for their evidence since it is now in the basement of the Police Department. Council agreed that a letter be sent to discontinue A-1 Security service for the Police Department.
3. The Borough Secretary informed the council that Joanna Rees, the Borough's tax collector, has provided a list of delinquent per capita taxes from 2014. Mr. Troup moved and Mr. Ruane seconded a motion to have Statewide collect the delinquent per capita taxes from 2014. Council approved unanimously.
4. Mr. Klock recommended that the digital recorder be placed on the table because at the current location on the window sill it does not pick up everyone's comments.
5. Mr. Ruane asked if anyone has heard anything about the school district using the ballfield. The Borough Secretary stated that she had an email from Steve Reed and a

phone call from Dick Simpson, and neither had not heard from the district. Discussion ensued.

6. The Borough Secretary stated that she has heard from Mark Delisio of Hazen and Sawyer that DEP has approved the recommendation in the Liberty Hollow and Front Street Drainage System Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study for the Liberty Hollow pipe replacement. He also asked if council would approve the next step in the contract. However, she recommended that the study be provided to PEMA/FEMA to learn if additional funding would be available through FEMA. Council agreed.

Mr. Klock moved to adjourn. Mr. Troup adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary