

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
April 21, 2015

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Council member Ellie Rees offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were James Troup, Harry Wynn, Stephen Reed, Ellie Rees, and Paul Ruane. Council member Adam Klock was present via the telephone. Others present are Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Ted McCollum, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Mayor Len Zboran and council member Ty Sees were absent.

Public Comment

Three visitors introduced themselves.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Ruane, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of January 6, 2015.

Upon motion by Mr. Ruane, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve the council meeting minutes of January 20, 2015.

Northumberland Sewer Department Report

Mr. Klock stated that a meeting will be held on Friday, May 8, at 3:30 p.m. to discuss the stormwater collection system and options for funding the system.

Mr. Klock informed the council that the sewer department has obtained a quote of \$1,500 from Hazen and Sawyer to revisit the rate study for businesses. The earliest any new rates could be applied would be 2016. The study is to ensure that businesses are paying their fair share for the flat rate portion of the sewer bill. This year, businesses are paying the same for the flat rate portion as residences. Mr. Klock moved to accept the proposal from Hazen and Sawyer for \$1,500 to revisit the rate study which will be conducted by a sub-consultant. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Rees questioned if the study would be paid for by the Sewer Department. Mr. Troup responded that it would. Mr. Wynn said that if the change was done in mid-year, it would place an unforeseen burden. He said that he thinks it should wait until the first of next year. Mr. Klock said that it wouldn't take effect this year. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Steve Siegfried stated that the council did not have a quorum at the last meeting and questioned if council would take action to authorize someone from the Borough to execute a change order not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Klock moved to authorize the Sewer Superintendent position to authorize work change directive not to exceed \$10,000, plus or minus. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mayor's Report - no report

Emergency Services Board Report

Mrs. Rees informed the council that a vacancy exists on the Emergency Services Board and Tom Diehl is willing to serve. Mrs. Rees moved to appoint Tom Diehl to the Emergency Services Board. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Street Supervisor/ Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. McCollum reported on the improvements that have been made on the bridge on King Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets. He said that there are some drainage issues inside the arch that Chuck Hopta, the county engineer, is looking into. The street is supposed to be paved tomorrow. Mr. McCollum added that when that happens, he will remove the barricades. He chose to leave them up now for safety.

Mr. McCollum reported that he has installed the new swing seat and a portion of the tunnel on the playground. He said that he has gotten a quote of \$1,979 for forty-one cubic yards of playground mulch if council chooses to go that route. He added that it is from a company on 890. The Borough Secretary stated that if it is Lloyd's, on route 890, they do not sell playground mulch. Mr. Simpson stated that a company in Danville sells playground mulch.

Mr. McCollum stated that he will be running the street sweeper tomorrow morning. He explained that the apparatus, the manifold, is where the lines are leaking. He was able to disconnect it and reseal them. The only problem is that where they put their secondary filter, the housing with the copper sleeve elbow, is dripping and he doesn't want to take it apart because he might break it. He said they are still waiting on one fitting that's dripping. He noted that he personally can live with the drips, adding that they are spraying water on the street anyway. He said that he would be downtown tomorrow. He said that he and Steve Carr have been working on it and that he has two of the four lines fixed for less than \$100. Mr. Troup asked if they (the company) showed up today. Mr. McCollum responded that they did not. Mr. McCollum said that they were to come back to fix the piece that was installed by the company which is leaking. Mr. McCollum added that he is okay with that. Mr. Ruane said that he was to come two weeks ago. Mr. McCollum stated that if he has to incorporate to get the warranty, he will. But he feels that it's not bad. Mr. Ruane said that we should get it fixed because the Borough shouldn't be paying \$250,000 for something that is leaking. Mr. Wynn stated that if he comes back up to fix it, the cost is \$98 an hour travel time. This is not for what he installed but for the other piece that is cracked. Mr. McCollum responded that he could do that, it is just the reducer. He said that he has the "reducer" coming from Municipal and that would fix the brass fitting at the filter. Mr. Wynn stated that he was told by the company representative that he would like to have the machine in King of Prussia. Mr. Wynn explained that because of the cost, and being frozen, he can go over the machine and make sure nothing else is broken. The way the machine froze, even the high-pressure washer pump could have been frozen and cracked. Mr. Troup asked if they couldn't do it here. Mr. Wynn said that they could at a cost of \$98 per hour travel time. Mr.

Troup said that we would still have to have someone take it down and the cost for the gas. Mr. Wynn stated that everything that has to be done to the machine is due to it being frozen up. Mr. Troup stated that he thinks we bought a lemon because we've had problems with it when we bought it. Mr. Wynn said that he personally has never bought anything that didn't have a problem when he brought it brand new. Mr. Wynn stated that he thinks it was frozen prior to being winterized. Mr. Reed asked if we couldn't wait to see if the fix works. Mr. McCollum stated that he went over everything and it was operational. There were a couple clogged nozzles. Troup suggested that we have the warranty work done on it and take care of the other piece and get it on the street. Mr. McCollum stated that the mechanic said that next February they have to update the programming on it. Mr. Troup said that this winter it would be stored inside.

Mr. McCollum stated that they are working on repairing the potholes. He got a pop-up canopy to put on top of the cold patch. Several locations of potholes were reported. Mr. McCollum stated that a grate on Second Street across from the 7th Day Adventist Church will be repaired.

There were five street cuts last month. A company will be coming in next month to cut back and repair the holes that were made by the utilities.

For codes, there were five violations, 21 complaints, and 12 inspections. Mr. McCollum issued a stop-work order at 885 Water Street because the contractor did not get a permit. He provided the owner with Jim Soos's card to give to the contractor to address.

Dr. Ralph Cianflone has purchased the property at 253 Orange Street. He plans to tear the house down and put a parking lot there.

Mr. McCollum met with Jim Soos to discuss the permit numbers. Mr. McCollum will be issuing the permits now since he is listed as the Borough's Building Code Official on the state Labor & Industry website. He added that he will use the fee schedule from 2011 which is the current one. Mr. Ruane asked if the owner of the property Water Street who is putting up a fence obtained a zoning permit. Mr. McCollum responded in the negative. Mr. McCollum asked if the permit would be based on the fees that are in the schedule and Mr. Ruane stated that it would.

Mr. Klock asked if the council would address the BCO quotes in the Executive Session and Mr. Troup said yes.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Mr. Reed stated that the committee met. He provided council with the revised drawing for the gymnasium. For the restroom area, there are now two toilets for the men and two for the women, each with a handicapped accessible area and with changing stations. The area to the right of the steps is considered concession area. The drawing shows a counter top. Mr. Reed stated that he does not feel there should be a counter top, just an area for concessions so it the closets where the chairs can be stored are accessible. The lighting is shown on another page of the plans. They are basically the high-efficiency fluorescent lights with cages around them. The plans have to be stamped and Mr. Reed said that Troy Smith has someone who will stamp them. Mr. Reed stated that there is approximately \$37,000 in the account for the gym and an additional \$50,000 expected

from the Joseph Epler estate. Quotes have been received for the drywall. A company from Berwick had provided the lowest quote. Mr. Reed stated that someone from Mid-State Mechanical is providing specs for the heating/cooling system. He noted that the church group that meets here is very interested in using the gymnasium and would like to keep moving forward with the project. Mrs. Rees asked about the highest number of occupancy. The response was 270. The drawing also shows space for wheel chair placement. Mrs. Rees agreed that she would like to see the project move ahead. Mr. Ruane asked if the heating/cooling units would be placed on top of the bathroom area and Mr. Reed responded that this is what was discussed. He asked if council was okay if we start to obtain quotes to proceed on the work. It was mentioned that the first thing to be done is to get the plans stamped and approved by Building Inspection Underwriters. It was discussed whether a utility sink is necessary on this level. Other discussion was about insulation above the ceiling. When the new roof was installed, insulation was included under the roof. Mr. Reed made a motion to proceed with getting the plans stamped. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

- The United Way volunteers will be working at the Girl Scout house this Friday.
- PPL's crew is coming Friday to install the playground equipment at Pineknotter Park. Mr. Reed asked if that date could be changed. Mr. Troup responded that this is the date that they have; it's the Day of Caring. Mr. Reed said that Ted is running into problem with water there and getting the mini in there. Mr. McCollum added that he is afraid that the hole would fill up with water. The holes must be forty-two inches deep. Mr. Dick Simpson stated that he was there today and that while there is water in some areas, the area where the playground equipment is to be installed is higher. Mr. Simpson said that there is a problem with water in the concession stand due to a broken pipe. Mr. Simpson requested that Ted go down and hand dig a hole, if he has to, since this is a set date for the PPL volunteers. Mr. Wynn suggested that he rent a hand held auger. Mr. McCollum stated that the holes must be eighteen inches in diameter and forty-two inches deep according to the plans from PlayWorld. He said that he has laid it out and added that he could go down and dig one hole to see what happens. But he wouldn't want to use a hand-held auger. Mr. Troup stated that the volunteers will be there on Friday morning to help install the equipment. Mr. McCollum said that the sixteen holes are to have six inches of stone and then filled with concrete. He added that he has ninety-six bags of concrete. They are sixty pound bags. He has gotten the sonic tubes to install in the holes at a cost of \$339.
- On Thursday a representative from the prison will meet with Dick Simpson to look at the project to clear out the brush and weeds from the bank between the ballfield and the river.
- Mr. Reed stated that Darvin Straub is building shelves for the community room.
- Mr. Reed spoke with a company that installs an artificial turf material for the playground. The cost is \$5.50 per foot. The estimated footage is 4,000. The cost would be \$22,800. The material is guaranteed for fifteen years. The last quote obtained from PlayWorld for a rubberized surface was around \$59,000. Mr. Reed stated that the available funds are around \$11,000. He suggested that the Borough could apply for grant funds for the remaining cost. The Borough Secretary suggested that funding could be applied for from the Anselmo Trust, requesting some for this year and the remaining amount for next year. Mrs. Rees stated that she is excited that the council is making the playground safer for the children. She stated that it makes sense to apply for the grant and felt that until the surface could be installed, the council either close the playground or put mulch on it. Mrs. Rees questioned Mr. Wynn about the PlayWorld quote. He explained that the

company had said that the minimum cost would be \$59,000 and there is no guarantee that the company would give us anything. He thinks that this artificial turf material is the way to go. But he does not think that mulch or sand should be put there at this time. He feels the playground should be closed until the surface could be installed. Mr. Reed said that all the bad tiles would be pulled up and replaced. Discussion ensued. Council determined that the playground would remain open. Mr. Reed is to contact the company to have them come and provide a definite price. Mrs. Rees asked if something could be done to the tiles that have lifted up on the edges. Mr. Wynn made a motion to move forward with installing the artificial turf as was presented at a price of \$22,800 or less. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Troup stated that he would like to know that we have the money before purchasing the turf. Mr. Klock suggested that Mr. Reed try to have the price reduced. Council voted 4-2 with Mr. Klock and Mr. Troup voting no. Motion carried.

- Mr. Simpson was approached by the Shikellamy Booster Club for permission to have a "senior night" at Pineknottter Park ballfield on May 11th. They are not able to have a "senior night" at their ballfield because they do not have lights. Mr. Troup moved to grant the Shikellamy Senior High Baseball team permission to use the Pineknottter Park ballfield on May 11th with the understanding that they would pay the fee for the lights. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Mr. Simpson stated that the team will prepare the field for their game. Council approved unanimously.
- The Borough Secretary explained that at the last meeting when there was no quorum, those present discussed purchasing four picnic tables from the Industrial Arts Department from the Mifflinburg High School. The deadline for the purchase was before tonight's meeting date. The Borough Secretary ordered the four tables and suggested that they could be placed in King Street Park. Mr. McCollum had looked at the tables at the Liberty Splashland pavilion and they are in good condition. The tables that are currently in King Street Park are not in poor condition. Mr. Troup suggested that one could be put at the dog park. Mr. Reed replied that there are currently two at the dog park. Mr. McCollum suggested that a concrete pad be poured to put the tables on to make it easier to mow around them.

Finance - no report

Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that the council would discuss personnel issues in the Executive Session.

Public Safety

Mrs. Rees informed the council that Fire Chief Brian Crebs and Hookies' Captain Brian Ginck are present. Mrs. Rees made a motion for permission to pursue forming a legal identification for the Northumberland Fire Department. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mr. Crebs stated that the Fire Department is looking at a long-term objection for consolidating the Fire Department. Phase 1 is to form the Northumberland Fire Department as a legal entity. This is an exploratory phase in that they are talking to a couple lawyers for information so that both companies in the Borough agree. Phase 2 is to develop a long-term financing strategy, and what the leadership of the organization would be; and Phase 3 is to determine the hard assets of the department. Mrs. Rees

added that both fire companies and the Emergency Services Board are in favor of this. They would like council's permission as well. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Mrs. Rees stated that the Northumberland Fire Department would like to use the back of the property at the Recycling Center as a training area. She made a motion to allow them to use the property. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Mr. Troup asked if there is enough room at this location. Mr. Brian Ginck responded that there is enough room for them to move some "seainers" in there and train. They would like to have at least two and possibly three "seainers" for their training facility. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Rules - no report

Mr. Wynn said that he thinks it would be nice if when a council member cannot be present, he inform the council before the meeting. He noted that at the last council meeting, he knows Jim was sick, but Ty and Steve were not present and Adam could not be counted toward the quorum. Mr. Wynn said that Steve had informed the office that he would not be present but Ty had not notified anyone. Mrs. Rees added that Jim had emailed everyone but no one knew that Adam would not be present but on the telephone. She noted that the Borough paid for a lawyer to come. Mr. Klock stated that he would be calling in to the meetings for a while. Mr. Wynn stated that he doesn't know that Mr. Klock may physically call in for every meeting. Mr. Klock responded that they have been over this numerous times. Discussion ensued. Mr. Troup said that this should be discussed in an Executive Session.

Streets

- Mr. Ruane provided council with the paving bids. Meckley's bid was \$129,027.50 and Eastern Industries' bid was \$219,000. Mr. Reed questioned how it would be handled with the gas company. Mr. McCollum stated that he would not give them a street cut permit. Mrs. Rees moved to accept Meckley's bid of \$129,027.50. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane made a motion to engage Midland Asphalt Materials to use 500 gallons of crack sealing at a cost of \$7,650. This cost is to do the crack sealing and for the traffic control. He said that this should be done so we don't lose our streets. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Mr. McCollum questioned if this would be done in the fall. Mr. Ruane responded that they will be in the area in two weeks and would do the work then. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Ruane said that the gas company is going to be installing new gas lines. Mr. Reed stated that the company will pay for half of the cost to pave King Street around the park and will pave King Street from curb to curb between Fourth and Fifth Streets since the Borough had just paved this block last year. Mr. Ruane stated that the company representative should come to discuss the work with the council. Mr. Reed said that they are starting to mark the streets. He questioned if anyone had come in the office to obtain permits. The Borough Secretary stated that no one had as yet nor had she heard anything from the Wilkes Barre office where the letters are sent each year that list the Borough's paving projects.
- Mr. Reed asked if the council had determined that the street department would conduct leaf pickup one time during the spring. Mr. Troup stated that the council had approved it

because some leaves don't fall until after the leaves are picked up in the fall. Mr. Ruane suggested that leaves be picked up next spring and that the residents are notified.

- Mr. McCollum announced the following brush drop-off dates: May 12, 14, 19, & 22 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He stated that brush includes shrubbery and limbs no larger than four inches in diameter. Leaves may be taken down and put on the pile. No grass or roots will be accepted. The announcement will be published in the Daily Item.
- The Borough Secretary stated that the application for grant funding for dirt, gravel, low volume paved roads is due next month. She requested council's approval to apply for funding for WestWay. A traffic study is required. Mrs. Rees so moved. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mrs. Rees requested that a sign be put up on the playground about playing at your own risk. Mr. Troup stated that he would contact the solicitor to see about the verbiage. Mrs. Rees asked if signs are posted that designate the age for the apparatus. She was told by the Borough Secretary that there were signs on the equipment at one time; however, she does not know if they are still there.

Old Business

1. Mr. Troup moved to approve Resolution B-2015. This resolution designates the signers for the Sewer Department PennVest Bank Account. They are James Troup, Adam Klock, Ty Sees, Ann August, Jane Sanders-Ressler, and Janice Bowman. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
2. Mr. Ruane moved to accept the high bid of \$1,350 for the 2006 Ford Crown Victoria, the police vehicle that was posted on Municibid. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Mr. Reed made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mr. Wynn questioned the bill for \$400 to replace the hitch on the Ford F550 because the truck was stuck on personal property. He said that he doesn't think the Borough should be responsible for it. Mr. McCollum stated that he had taken the truck down a driveway off of Susquehanna Road to try to pull a woman's vehicle out and bent the hitch. He said that he now knows that he can't go on personal property. Mr. Troup stated that he feels if he was plowing for personal gain, he should pay for it. But since he was plowing for the Borough, he shouldn't be charged this time. Council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$36,924.25; Parking Meter bills total \$385.59; Liberty Splashland bills total \$118.11; and Sewer Department bills total \$36,880.78. These totals include the bills that were provided to the Borough Council on April 7th.
2. Mr. Ruane made a motion to adopt Resolution C-2015. This resolution reduces the Police Pension Plan member contribution to 1.5% for 2015. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Mr. Troup asked if by lowering their contribution, it would increase the Borough's contribution. The Borough Secretary stated that the police contract provides for a contribution rate of 1.5%. The original ordinance for the pension plan includes a 5% contribution rate so the council must adopt a resolution each year to reduce the amount. Council approved unanimously. The resolution is as follows:

"BOROUGH OF NORTHUMBERLAND
RESOLUTION NO. C-2015

WHEREAS, Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County, by Ordinance No. 465, entered into an agreement, dated January 18, 2000, with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to provide a police pension plan; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 11 of said Agreement allows for the Borough to annually waive or reduce the required employee contributions; and

WHEREAS, Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County now desires to reduce the required member contributions for calendar year 2015 from five percent (5%) to one and five-tenths percent (1.5%).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED this 21st day of April, 2015, that in accordance with Ordinance No. 465 and the Agreement, dated January 18, 2000, the Borough agrees to reduce the required member contributions to the police pension plan for calendar year 2015 from five percent (5%) to one and five-tenths percent (1.5%); and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be filed with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to so indicate the Borough's intent.

DULY ADOPTED this 21st day of April, 2015, by Northumberland Borough, Northumberland County.

TALLY OF VOTES – YEAS _____ NAYS _____

ATTEST:

Secretary

BY: _____
President"

3. Enza Welker of 555 Hanover Street requested a handicap parking space. Mrs. Rees moved to honor her request.

Mr. Klock left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Reed seconded the motion for a handicap parking space at 555 Hanover Street. Discussion ensued. Council approved unanimously.

4. The Northumberland/Point Township Kiwanis Club requested permission to use the gazebo in King Street Park on June 18, July 16, and August 20. The club plans to meet at 6:00 p.m. and have dinner in the park. They will host a reading time for the community from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ruane made a motion to approve their request. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. The council approved unanimously.

Mr. Klock returned to the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Troup announced that the council would go into an Executive Session at 8:46 p.m. to discuss a sewer matter and a personnel issue. He said that there is a possibility of returning to vote.

The council meeting was not reconvened.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary