

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**November 2, 2015**

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray an Invocation.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Paul Boyer, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Ted McCollum, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

**Oath of Office**

Mayor Zboray administered the Oath of Office to Barbara Kistner.

**Public Comment**

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

Ms. Linda Brown, a resident of the Borough, commented on the maintenance of the streets in the Borough. She stated that when she moved here a few years ago, the Borough had nice tree-lined streets. She feels that the Borough is discouraging people from having trees. She stated that she has had to call the Borough Office to learn when the street department would be picking up leaves. Every year, she is told that leaf pickup begins when eighty percent of the leaves fall. This year it was published in the newsletter that leaf pickup would begin today. She and her neighbors put out their leaves and they were not picked up. She tries to shield her leaves so they do not blow onto other people's property. She also noted that the street department does not maintain the storm drains so she has cleaned them off. She said that the leaves are slippery and she's seen cars slide into the intersection.

Mr. McCollum stated that the machine was hooked up and ready to go but discovered that it needs an electronic valve and is not operational. The part was ordered last week and will be in tomorrow. Ms. Brown responded that the he should have made sure the machine was ready to go before he advertised the dates for leaf pickup. She said that she tries to put her leaves out so they get picked up by the Borough and do not blow onto her neighbors'.

Ms. Brown said that before school was out, the gas company began tearing up Sixth Street. She noted that the street has not been repaired and asked why the gas company is allowed to leave a street like that for six months. Mr. Troup stated that the gas company is a public utility and the Borough cannot prevent them from working. Discussion continued about the leaf schedule and cleaning storm drains. Mr. Troup stated that it is difficult with a three-man crew and that the council would work to see that the leaves are picked up.

Mr. McCollum said stated that there is a crew for the gas company is working on Hanover Street and they will be coming down Seventh Street and King Street, making repairs.

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion by Mr. Ruane, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council voted 5-0-1 to approve the council meeting minutes of July 7, 2015. Ms. Kistner abstained.

### **Liberty Hollow Culvert Replacement**

Mr. Brian Book, Hazen & Sawyer, explained that a change order for the project may be approved along with awarding the project to the low bidder, Mid-State Paving & Excavating.

Mr. Book explained that the apparent low bid for the Liberty Hollow Stormwater Replacement project was from Mid-State Paving & Excavating. Because the bid was too high, changes have been made to reduce the bid to \$120,234. This was accomplished by deleting items 10 - asphalt base course (\$8,050), 11 - asphalt wearing course (\$4,900), 13 - traffic control (\$700), 14 - Partial Deletion less 65cyd (\$44,525), and 18 - Anti-Flotation collars (\$40,150). A new bid item, 14a, was created for a grade control structure built out of gabions at a cost of \$6,750 and an increase to the bid item 21 for additional GeoTextile at an additional cost of \$8,000. Mr. Book explained that the solicitor was consulted about awarding the bid with these change orders in effect and noted that Mid-State Paving & Excavating remains the low bidder. An emergency permit will be supplied by DEP so the work can be completed by the end of the year as stipulated by the agreement with FEMA.

Mr. Troup moved to award the bid with the change orders for the Liberty Hollow stormwater replacement project to Mid-State Paving & Excavating. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

### **Northumberland Sewer Department Report**

Mr. Book introduced two engineers from Hazen & Sawyer, Mark Strahota, a licensed engineer in the State College Office, and Mark Bottin, manager of the Philadelphia office. Mr. Book explained that Steve Siegfried's last day with the company was last Friday and his last day will be November 13th. He and Steve Siegfried are both moving on with another firm in State College. He said that this is not a reflection on the Borough's project and that he would check on it from time to time. Mark Strahota and Mark Bottin will be taking over. The inspector for the project is staying on. Mr. Troup welcomed the new engineers and extended thanks to Mr. Book and Mr. Siegfried for their work on the project.

Mr. Book said that the solicitor had sent out an email for Jeremy Deitrick, Adam Klock, Ed Margel, and Brian Book to be deposed in regards to the Point Township vs. Northumberland Borough matter. The depositions will be scheduled between now and the second week of December. Mr. Book stated that he would make himself available.

A letter was submitted at the first October meeting that listed additional tasks that have been expended by the engineering firm on the wastewater upgrade project in order to manage the General Construction Contractor. Mr. Book explained that the additional cost to date for the design services during construction is \$111,950. Additional ongoing costs for the design services during construction are \$8,220 per month. The additional costs to date for the resident

project representation is \$64,900. He has spoken to the Borough's solicitor who responded that the Borough could make a claim against Fulkroad, the General Construction Contractor, and may be able to recover these costs. However, the outcome is not guaranteed. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ruane moved to pay Hazen & Sawyer a total of \$176,850 for additional cost to date for design services during construction and resident project representation. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Book noted that there are work change directives issued for Fulkroad, Myco and Lecce. The first, for Fulkroad, is for an additional \$1,500. The second is for Myco at a negative \$11,000. The third is for Lecce for decrease in contract price of \$3,000 and the fourth is to Lecce for an increase of \$5,000. The total changes orders total a decrease in cost of \$10,500. When the Borough receives the actual change orders, more details will be provided. No action is necessary at this time.

Myco Mechanical has submitted application for payment number four in the amount of \$16,619.07. Mr. Troup moved to approve the payment. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Book noted that there is paperwork that will be required for Jeremy (Deitrick), Ed (Margel), Mark (Bottin) and Mark (Strahota) to sign in order to continue to execute the documents that Steve Siegfried and Brian Book have been signing.

Payment has not yet been requested by the contractor for the I&I rehab project. The work has been completed and was well done.

Mrs. Rees thanked Mr. Book for the work that he and Steve Siegfried have done for the Borough.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Zboray announced that the Veterans' Day Service will be on November 8th at 1:00 p.m. at the Riverview Cemetery.
- The meters were done last week. Gabe DeMarco is calibrating them which must be done every two years. A few will be replaced.
- Wreaths for Warriors is set for December 6th at 2:30 at the Riverview Cemetery. Volunteers include the Boy Scouts
- The Bloodmobile will be on November 10th from 1:00 to 6:00 at the American Legion Post 44.
- Patrol Officer Kelly Roth is working on her PhD. She has requested permission to have college students conduct a survey in the Borough. Mr. Boyer moved to approve permission for Officer Roth's students to conduct the survey. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Information regarding the questionnaire will be posted on the Borough website. The students will also be given solicitation cards to show the residents.

- Mayor Zboray stated that Brendan Kelly has requested permission to work as an unpaid student intern with the police department next spring. Mr. Troup so moved. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Kevin Romansik was hired by the Riverside Police Department so the Borough will be losing him as a part-time officer. Mayor Zboray stated that the Borough now has no one on the Civil Service list. He requested that council approve advertising for candidates to take the Civil Service test. Mr. Wynn so moved. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Mr. Troup questioned if there is any way to speed up the process; if it would be possible to conduct all the tests in one day. Chief Kriner said that he would coordinate the tests with the Civil Service Commission. It was noted that it is their responsibility to conduct the tests.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

- Mrs. Rees reported that the board met this evening. They met with an attorney, Jill Neggy, about consolidating the fire department.
- Tomorrow the emergency support services are holding a bake sale here for Election Day.
- The Board is please with the response that they are getting from volunteers at fires. There were twenty-three responders at the fire at the Sun-Ray Cheese plant and earlier twenty volunteers had gone to the prison.
- On October 31st, they held a "Light the Night" event. They were pleased that 1,000 people attended.

### **Street Supervisor/ Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. McCollum reported on the activity of the Code Enforcement Office for the month: twenty - seven complaints; nine violations; two citations; four inspections; eight street cuts; and four building permits.

Mr. McCollum has provided a letter that he would like to send to UGI for council's review. Mr. Troup stated that the letter is fine as is.

Mr. McCollum requested that council approve the purchase of a new truck, plow and spreader. He stated that he has the money in the 2015 budget to cover the first of three loan payments of \$18,751. Mr. Wynn made a motion to purchase the truck; Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Mr. McCollum stated that the truck has a three year bumper to bumper warranty. Mrs. Rees questioned if Ty knows about the payment for next year's budget. Mr. McCollum replied that the information was provided. Mr. McCollum stated that he would like to keep the 2004 truck as a spare, in case one of the other trucks becomes inoperable. Council voted unanimously to approve. Mr. Ruane noted that money could be spent from the Liquid Fuels fund toward a truck payment.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Community Development**

- Mr. Boyer reported that the committee has received email quotes for playground equipment. The price for a merry-go-round is \$11,388.27 and for the spinami, the price is \$12,280. He said that if \$5,000 funding is received from BIMBO and the Borough could provide some additional funds, one of the two items could be purchased next year.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Troup noted that playground equipment has been purchased for Pineknott Park and has not yet been installed.

- The Joseph J. Anselmo Sr. Community Trust has approved a grant of \$5,000 for Liberty Splashland to be used for operating costs.
- The Borough Secretary stated that she received a call from Troy Smith asking if the council has approved the plans for the gymnasium. Council discussed the size of the lights that are on the plans. Quotes have been obtained for the drywall for the gym. Ms. Kistner asked what experience Mr. Smith has had. She suggested that additional information be obtained from professionals regarding the lighting and sound system. She requested permission to contact an electrical engineer to review the plans. Gelnett Sound Systems has been contacted by the Borough Secretary and will be coming to make suggestions regarding a sound system and the acoustics of the gym.
- Ms. Kistner reported on the progress at the Girl Scout House.
- Mr. Ruane moved to purchase a projector at a cost of \$1,079 plus \$300 for a mount for the Savidge Room. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruane and Mr. Boyer voted yes; Mrs. Rees, Mr. Troup, Mr. Wynn and Ms. Kistner voted no. Motion failed.

#### Finance

- The committee will meet at 6:30 on Tuesday, November 24th, to finalize the 2016 budget.
- The committee recommended that council approve the following budgeted donations:
  - \$4,000 to the General Contingency Account for future police sick pay-out
  - \$5,000 to the General Contingency Account for future Fire Apparatus down payment
  - \$1,000 to the Community Development Committee
  - \$1,500 to the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library
  - \$1,000 to the Penn Valley Airport Authority

Council also received a request to approve the payment of \$100 toward the upgrade to the health officer's computer. Sunbury is also contributing. The upgrade will cost approximately \$200. Mr. Ruane made a motion to approve the budgeted donations and the \$100 for the computer upgrade. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

- The S. Luther Savidge Trust had provided \$9,800 to purchase cameras for the police cars. The cost of the cameras was \$10,030. The payment was made with funds from the Donations Account. The Borough Secretary requested that council approve transferring the additional \$230 from the General Fund to the Donations Account. Mayor Zboray explained that right before the cameras were ordered, the company came out with a newer one which pans around a larger area. They cost \$230 more than the cameras that were originally going to be purchased. Mr. Boyer moved to transfer \$230 from the General Fund to the Donations Account; Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Troup said he understands the tablets for the police vehicles are not working correctly. Mayor Zboray said that they are being exchanged for a different style.

#### Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that an Executive Session would be held to discuss personnel issues.

Public Safety - no report

Rules - no report

#### Streets

- Mr. Ruane stated that UGI will be required to pave half of the street, per PennDOT specifications. Mr. McCollum had attended a seminar with PennDOT and learned that depending on the number of street cuts made in a block, the company could be responsible for paving the entire width of the street.
- Mr. Ruane informed council that he would like to get the paving bids out earlier next year so paving can be completed in May.
- Mrs. Rees questioned if UGI could be held responsible for any damage that may be done to the plows due to the condition of the streets. Mr. Wynn stated that they will be held responsible.

#### Old Business

1. Mr. Troup appointed Ms. Kistner to the finance, personnel and sewer committees.
2. Lynda Schlegel-Culver had sent an outreach survey to council asking for their input about how she can best outreach in the community. Discussion ensued.

#### 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 \$84,412.34; Liberty Splashland bills total \$179.87; bills to be paid from the Park and Recreation Fund total \$5,969.00; bills to be paid from the Donations Account total \$451.41; 2nd Street Community Center bills total \$15.46; Liquid Fuels bills total \$73,984.62; and Northumberland Sewer Department bills total \$10,686.45.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Troup, council unanimously approved the handicapped parking request from Dorothy Swank at 635 North Avenue. Handicapped parking

#### Executive Session

Mr. Troup announced that the council would conduct an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. He added that the meeting would not be reconvened.

Mr. Wynn moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary