

Borough of Northumberland

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175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
June 21, 2016

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, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department; Brian Probst, Street Department Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Ellie Rees and James Troup were absent.

Public Comment

Brian Crebs, Fire Chief, stated that the council received an email concerning a letter about a special meeting that the Fire Police held on Sunday afternoon. He noted that in speaking with Captain Apple today, he feels that there are errors in the letter. He feels that their meeting on Sunday afternoon was premature and a result of a miscommunication at the end of the Emergency Services Board meeting last Monday. Mr. Crebs explained that the Emergency Services Board is in the process of restructuring the Fire Department and at this point they were interested in asking if it made sense to also restructure the Fire Police. He said that the letter references a discussion in their meeting concerning a transfer of assets and cutting ties with the Borough. He said that neither of those are his desire. He also said that if the Fire Police are going to have a meeting to discuss these topics, they are welcomed to invite him. He said that in reality they are looking to start a dialogue with the Fire Police as far as how they might assist them moving forward and how they might make some adjustments to better serve the community. He does not feel that there is a problem and if anyone is gleaned that from this letter he said that he wants to formally apologize on behalf of the Fire Department because it wasn't their goal.

Mr. Troup arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Sees asked if the Fire Police have to be incorporated as part of the Fire Department or if they can remain autonomous from the Fire Department but somehow become more involved. Mr. Crebs stated that he is looking to consider whether to restructure officership and responsibilities and as far as their projects go.

Mr. Sees asked Mr. Apple if he felt Mr. Creb's interpretation of the letter was a fair account. Mr. Apple said that it was.

Council Meeting Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council voted 5-0-1 to approve the council meeting minutes of June 7, 2016. Mr. Troup abstained.

Northumberland Sewer Department

Mr. Brian Book, an engineer with RETTEW, informed council that he and Jeremy Deitrick met with two of PennDOT's engineers last week to discuss the construction project on Route 147. They are reconstructing the stormwater lines and are requesting that the utilities relocate their lines if any conflicts exist. Mr. Book said that in some cases, it is affecting the laterals. But in other cases, it affects the main. Because this main is shared with Point Township, they should also be consulted. The main is gravity fed so it is not possible to raise and lower it based on the conflicts with the storm drains. PennDOT requests that the Borough engage an engineer up front to design the plans. The Borough must upfront the cost of the engineer and follow PennDOT protocols; PennDOT reimburses the Borough for 75% of the engineering costs. PennDOT will pay for the cost of construction and invoice the Borough for 25% of that cost, a portion of which will be Point Township's. The plans and specifications are to be provided to PennDOT by December 31, 2016.

There were potentially 133 conflicts. They were able to clear approximately 80 of those. There are six conflicts that must be moved and the remainder are being questioned. Mr. Book explained that if the main must be relocated, it would be costly. A conservative estimate of the total cost of the work is \$1.6 million. The Borough's share would be 25% of that amount less the amount shared by Point Township.

Mr. Book also provided a sample Resolution that the council must pass in order to be reimbursed for the engineering work and a sample letter to provide PennDOT with an estimated cost in advance of the project being "incorporated" and subsequently bid.

Mr. Book said that he spoke to Bill Siegel at SEDA-COG. It does not look like there is much potential for finding money. There could be CDBG money, but a survey to determine low to moderate income would be required.

Mr. Deitrick noted that PennDOT does allow a few years for the pay back.

Mr. Book said that the Borough may hire any engineer to design the plans. Mr. Ruane noted that the Borough hired RETTEW to determine the conflicts with the utility. He requested that Mr. Book provide an estimate for the design plans.

Council members questioned why PennDOT did not tell them before of these costs to the Borough. Mayor Zboray suggested that letters be sent to Representative Culver and Senator Gordner regarding the fact that these costs to the Borough were not disclosed previously.

Mr. Book explained that if PennDOT moves some of the proposed storm drains, the number of conflicts would be reduced. He also noted that the sewer line runs under the SUNCOM building to reach the Queen Street Pump Station. Mr. Sees asked if there is an estimate of how this would affect the rate payers. The responded that they had not looked at that. Mr. Book estimated that the cost might run around \$10 per year per residence if the Borough would pay the entire amount.

Mr. Sees asked if the Sewer Department's capital project fund is for what is going on now. Mr. Deitrick replied that there is funding budgeted for I&I. This estimate includes correcting conflicts along the entire project which includes Water, King and Front Streets.

Mr. Ruane requested that Mr. Book provide a proposal to prepare the plans.

Mr. Ruane stated that a construction meeting was held at the sewer plant today. He noted that Fulkroad will not meet the completion date of August 1, 2016. Discussion took place regarding the penalty for the delay of the completion date. Mr. Book advised council to have a large enough punch list that the Borough withholds enough money to cover any penalty amount.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Zboray reported that he and Gabe DeMarco collected meter money on June 14th and replaced some batteries and repaired some of the meters last week. \$1,840 was collected.
- Mayor Zboray received several compliments on the downtown area being trimmed and mulched and the mowing at the property on Hanover Street. He thanked Mr. Probst and the street department for their work. Mr. Probst noted that three people were at the property for an hour working on the Hanover Street property. A bill will be sent to the owners. Mr. Ruane noted that the code office has the contact information for the mortgage company.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Probst informed the council that the truck was taken to Sunbury Motors to have the transmission repaired. While repairing the transmission another problem was discovered that must be repaired in order to pass inspection. An oil leak is dripping on the exhaust, creating a potential fire hazard. The cost for repair is \$1,058.20. Mr. Troup stated that he would like to see a breakdown of the labor cost.

Dr. Cianflone made a motion to approve the repairs to the 2004 Ford F550 at a cost not to exceed \$1,058.20. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Probst stated that he met with representatives from Shikellamy School District about establishing a school zone at the new middle school. He said that he gave the information to the Police Chief. The district would also like stop signs placed on Fifth Street at Prince Street. The district is also requesting some type of barrier between the curb and the sidewalk along Prince Street across from Strawbridge Road. Discussion ensued. Traffic studies and an ordinance would be required before signage may be erected.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- Dr. Cianflone informed the council that the committee met with Rocky Baer to review the plans for the gymnasium. The project will be advertised with a pre-bid meeting set for July 19th at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Wynn made a motion to put the bids out for the gymnasium project. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

- Mr. Boyer noted that there were many people present for the opening day of Liberty Splashland and for Representative Culver's Family Fun Day.
- Mr. Wynn stated that he thought the pool was going to remain opened later this year. Dr. Cianflone explained that there are not enough lifeguards for the extended hours. Mr. Ruane added that the Sunbury pool pays more than we do. Mr. Wynn said that Sunbury had advertised a deal of a family pass for \$37.50 on WKOK.

Finance

Mr. Sees said that there would not be a Finance meeting next week.

Personnel – no report

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Resolution C-2016 about the Police Retirement Contribution was tabled.
2. Cynthia Gunther, minister at the Methodist Church at Sixth and King Streets, has requested permission to host a breakfast program for children this summer providing she can obtain enough volunteers. She stated that she would oversee the program that would be held on week days. Mr. Boyer moved to approve the request. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

New Business

1. Mr. Troup asked about the bill from Greg Carl. Mr. Ruane stated that Mr. Carl was working at the pool several days and that he was with him some of the time. He added that he now knows how to winterize the pool. Mr. Ruane said that Greg has the sprayground working. He found that some of the skimmers were opened and he was there a couple times when there were problems with the pump. Mr. Ruane added that he is coming back to work on the dump tower. Mr. Troup suggested that the dump tower should be replaced with a kiddie pool.

Mr. Wynn questioned items on a bill from the solicitor. Mr. Troup noted that he had brought it up earlier in the year to go with another solicitor who is local and would not charge for travel time and possibly lower rates. Mr. Troup suggested that council could have him continue with the ongoing litigation, but hire someone else as solicitor. He added that he likes the current solicitor and thinks he does a great job but feels it is too expensive. Mr. Wynn made a motion to pay the bills except for the solicitor's bill. A second was not offered. Mr. Wynn withdrew his motion.

Mr. Ruane moved to pay the bills. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council voted 3-3 to approve payment of the bills. Mayor Zboray voted yes. Council members Sees, Troup,

and Wynn voted no. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$14,543.87; bills to be paid from the Park & Recreation Fund total \$10,328.31; Donations Account bills total \$176.75; Liberty Splashland bills total \$2,835.41; and Sewer Department bills total \$109,697.98.

2. Mr. Sees questioned who determined that Greg Carl gets paid \$50 per hour. Mr. Ruane said that this was what he asked for. Mr. Sees asked if this should have come before council. Mr. Ruane replied that there was no council meeting before the work needed to be done. Mr. Sees made a motion to review what council paid Greg Carl for before he does any more work. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane stated that he would give Greg a call to make sure he doesn't work on the dump tower tomorrow. Mr. Ruane said that at the time he had to make a decision of whether to open the pool. He said that the pumps were not working and that is why they had Greg there the second day it opened. Mr. Ruane stated that he was there with Greg for eight hours a day. Mr. Troup asked why they were there for that amount of time. Mr. Ruane replied it was to get the pool going. Dr. Cianflone questioned if Greg was just a consultant who told them what to do. Mr. Ruane responded that Greg was actually doing the work.

Mr. Sees asked if Brian could do the work. Mr. Ruane said that he didn't want to do it. Mr. Sees asked about contacting Brian Luden. Mr. Ruane said that he doesn't return calls. Mr. Troup said that we have a manager at the pool who doesn't know how to get the stuff running. Mr. Ruane said that he is doing alright now. Mr. Ruane said that Greg has checked the sprayground and the skimmers. He has shown them how to check for leaks. He said that no one had known to put plugs in the dump tower so if it rains overnight the water doesn't come into the pool.

Mr. Wynn suggested that they should discuss the rate with Greg. Dr. Cianflone said that if Greg is doing the repairs, he doesn't mind paying him that rate. Mr. Ruane said that he is doing the inspections on the bowl slide too and is training the lifeguards how to inspect it.

Mr. Sees said that council didn't think about it when they went after Travis Fisher. He said that it should have been done at the end of the season last year, not prior to. He said that the cost keeps going up. Mr. Ruane said that Travis didn't know how to winterize the pool either. Mr. Ruane said that Greg is also going to be inspecting Lewisburg's pool.

Mr. Probst stated that it is not that he doesn't want to work at the pool. It is that the work is above his head. Mr. Ruane noted that Mr. Probst has been very busy doing other things too.

Mr. Wynn said that he thinks Greg knows what he is doing and that the reason he backed out before was because of the prior operator of the pool. Mr. Wynn said that he would make a motion to hire Greg as a consultant and to do the repair work. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Probst asked if Greg has a contractor's license and insurance. Mr. Sees asked if there is a breakdown of his hours.

Mr. Book stated that after the PennDOT meeting, Ann spoke to him and Jeremy. They went to the pool to look at the pump and the chlorine sensor. The pump was worn and Jeremy installed a new pump so the pool could stay opened. The old pump was not moving water. Mr. Book said that there are issues with a few things, some might be left go until the end of the year and others may have to be done now. He was told that a new chlorine sensor has been installed. Mr. Ruane said that Boyer's Pools with the samples in the morning and they tell us what chemicals to put in the water. He said that for the last two years, they weren't putting the chemicals in, other than chlorine, and the concrete started flaking off and that is why the metal in the pump eroded. Mr. Book noted that the pump was running for a while without moving water. He added that if it hadn't been for Jeremy, the pool may have had to close. Mr. Deitrick said that there were a lot of leaks on the suction side of the pump so it is pulling air and not keeping its prime. He taught David Mahoney how to get the air out of it. Not knowing where the leak is makes it difficult. The pump sits above the water level. In order to prime the pump, city water is used. The worse the leak gets, the more you have to use city water to prime the pump.

Mayor Zboray said that the only way to find the leaks in the return lines is to tear up the concrete. He said that there is a product that can be run through the lines and finds the cracks and seals them. But he doesn't know if the pool must be closed down.

The office called PA Rural Water as Brian Book suggested. Their equipment is not sophisticated enough to locate the leaks. Mr. Ruane said that the pump was off today and the guys put the dye by the drains and it was not sucked in so the leaks are not in the drains.

Mr. Ruane called for a vote on the motion. Mr. Wynn, Mr. Boyer, Dr. Cianflone and Mr. Ruane voted yes; Mr. Sees and Mr. Troup voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

3. Dr. Cianflone stated that the Borough will not be getting the docks from the Norry Boat Club. He said that the Sunbury Social Club will be getting them.
4. A request was made to close 5th Street from Queen Street to Wheatley Avenue from August 2nd to August 3rd for a public sale at the Groninger residence. Mr. Wynn made a motion to approve the closure; Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Mr. Sees asked if the Borough had ever done that before. Mayor Zboray noted that it was done several years ago for a sale on Orange Street. Mr. Troup recommended that the Fire Department be notified. Mr. Sees added to notify the ambulance service. Council voted unanimously to approve the request.

Mr. Wynn moved to adjourn. Mr. Ruane adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary