

# Borough of Northumberland

175 ORANGE STREET  
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA 17857

Phone: (570) 473-3414

FAX: (570) 473-3986

E-Mail: [office@northumberlandborough.com](mailto:office@northumberlandborough.com)  
[www.northumberlandborough.com](http://www.northumberlandborough.com)

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**December 6, 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, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, James Troup, and Harry Wynn. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Ralph Cianflone and Ty Sees were absent.

## **Public Comment**

Twelve visitors introduced themselves.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Zboray announced that the Wreaths for Warriors went very well. About 250 to 300 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves in the Riverview Cemetery on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. He thanked all who helped. He also thanked all who helped decorate the trees in King Street Park and the other decorations in the Borough. Special thanks were extended to the Borough Street Department and the Decorating Committee members.

Mayor Zboray presented the following Officer's Commendation to Officer Josh Dreisbach:

*"Whereas Northumberland Borough Police Officer Joshua Dreisbach has performed meritorious service while on duty for the Borough of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, its citizens, and the citizens of Point Township, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*

*Whereas the aforementioned officer did exhibit the highest levels of law enforcement professionalism on his September 27, 2016 tour of duty after being dispatched to assist the Point Township Police Department with an unconscious person in Point Township.*

*Whereas the aforementioned prepared and applied the automated external defibrillator (AED) on an unconscious female. After the shock from the AED, Officer Dreisbach continued with cardiopulmonary resuscitation, also known as CPR.*

*Whereas the aforementioned officer's actions saved this elderly female's life. Officer Dreisbach has earned and does therefore deserve this Commendation of Lifesaving Merit signed on this sixth day in the month of December in the year 2016.*

*C.L. Kriner, Chief of Police*

*Leonard Zboray, Mayor."*

Mayor Zboray presented Officer Dreisbach with the lifesaving medal to wear with distinction. Officer Dreisbach was given a standing ovation.

Council member Ralph Cianflone arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Troup asked how many officers have gotten taser training. Chief Kriner responded that two of the officers have been trained and the others' schedules were discontinued because the instructor was sick with the flu. Once he is back to work and able to reschedule, they will be done.

### **Northumberland Sewer Department**

Mr. Mark Bottin, Hazen & Sawyer, informed the council that the plant is operating.

The project was to have been substantially complete by July 5<sup>th</sup> this year. The general contractor is subject to liquidated damages due to the delay of completion. To date, the liquidated damages accrued by the contractor amount to \$178,500. The other two contractors are not subject for this. Pennsylvania DEP has begun issuing penalties to the Borough in the amount of \$100 per day. A letter was sent to DEP to notify them of the startup date of November 15, 2016, and to request that fines no longer be issued. No reply has yet been received.

No payment requests have been made by the three prime contractors.

Mr. Bottin requested additional funding for engineering services due to the contractor not completing their work within the contract duration. Final completion is now projected to be in April 2017. The additional budget requested is \$50,000 for Engineering Support During Construction (Task A10) and \$30,000 for Resident Project Inspection (Task A11). Mr. Boyer moved to pay Hazen & Sawyer up to \$80,000 for costs they may incur through April 2017. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Deitrick stated that Hazen & Sawyer conducted a brief overview of the new facility. The presentation was video-taped and will be made available to view.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Community Development**

Dr. Cianflone stated that the contracts are out to the drywall contractor and the electrician and construction may start by the end of the year. Members of the church have volunteered to help with painting the gym. Dr. Cianflone informed council that Nathan Boyer offered to donate the scoreboard that was in the C.W. Rice gym.

Mrs. Rees stated that discussion about surveillance cameras for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Playground has been discussed in council and in community Development. She made a motion to approve the purchase of surveillance cameras at a cost of up to \$600 from the building fund. The price includes the cameras and recorder. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

#### **Finance**

- Herring, Roll & Solomon 2015 Audit

Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve the 2015 audit. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

- Herring, Roll & Solomon 2016 Audit Proposal

Mrs. Rees made a motion to approve the 2016 audit proposal. The total of the proposal is \$16,750: \$6,000 for the Borough audit; \$6,000 for the Sewer Department audit; \$4,500



for the single audit for the Sewer Department; and \$250 for the DCED report preparation. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Mr. Deitrick asked if prices were solicited from other auditors. The response was that they were not. Mr. Deitrick requested permission to obtain additional prices. Discussion ensued. Mr. Troup made a motion to table Mrs. Rees's motion. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved by a vote of 4-2. Mrs. Rees and Mr. Ruane voted no. Mr. Ruane noted that the proposal should be by the cost, not an hourly rate. Mayor Zboray asked if the price will be just for the sewer department or for everything. He was told that it would be for everything.

- 2017 Budget – 1<sup>st</sup> reading

Dr. Cianflone moved to approve the 2017 budget. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council voted 5-1 to approve the 2017 budget with Mr. Troup voting no. The second reading of the budget on December 20 will be advertised.

#### Personnel

Mrs. Rees stated that there is another meeting scheduled with the Teamsters.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to permit Rachel Shear to do light duty work for the police department. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion. Mr. Troup requested that council go into Executive Session to discuss the personnel issue.

#### Executive Session

Mr. Boyer moved and Mr. Wynn seconded the motion to go into Executive Session. Council concurred. The council meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss the contract. The meeting was reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. Tira stated that after further discussion by council, it's been clarified that there already is a return to work program policy in place that applies to light duty for both work related and non-work related injuries. The intention of council is to follow that and the motion is not necessary. Mrs. Rees stated that she is happy that there is someone who wants to come back to work with the Borough and withdrew her motion. She said that she wouldn't have made the motion unless she was led to believe that this was some enormous oversight on her part. Mr. Boyer stated that he retracts his second.

#### Personnel, continued.

Mrs. Rees stated that council is received applications for the part-time clerk position.

#### Public Safety – no report

Mr. Brian Ginck informed the council that the Emergency Services Board is in the process of combining the firefighting aspects of the Northumberland Hook and Ladder and the Northumberland 1's. When the Board was first established, their job was to settle any squabbles between the two companies. The squabbles ended some time ago. When the department merges, they will be running another business. His vision is to grow the Emergency Services Board because they will have a much stronger role in the Fire Department. Mr. Ginck noted that Jim Groninger has been attending their meetings and helping them as an advisor. Recently there was an opening on the Board, and they would have liked to have Jim, the ordinance stipulates that members must reside in Northumberland. Mr. Ginck stated that he would like the council to revise the ordinance

to permit someone who does not live in the Borough to be on the Board. He also recommended that the Board be expanded with two members from each company, five members at large, and the Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. Mr. Troup agreed, noting that there are members of the fire companies, Borough employees, and police who live outside the Borough. So he agrees that representatives to the Emergency Services Board should be permitted to live outside the Borough. He added that the fire companies have come a long way and he commends them. Mr. Ginck stated that he does not know what the logistics are. Council recommended that the Emergency Services Board revise the ordinance to reflect what they want and present it to the council. Mr. Ginck said that he noted that there is a candidate to be appointed on tonight's agenda. Mr. Ruane stated that Orlando Toro is interested in serving on the Board. Mr. Ginck stated that Bob Fisher had attended their last meeting and would also be an asset to the Board. Council thanked Mr. Ginck.

Rules – no report

#### Streets

Mr. Boyer stated that he and Paul Ruane attended the workshop with Representative Lynda Culver. Rep. Culver called PennDOT to learn the construction schedule. They also questioned whether PennDOT is considering Prince Street as a detour. It was decided that someone from PennDOT would attend the December 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Discussion ensued.

#### Old Business

1. Resolution C-2016 Police Retirement Contribution was tabled until the police contract is settled.

#### New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wynn, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council unanimously approved payment of bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$48,875.47; 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Community and Municipal Center bills total \$918.00; Liberty Splashland bills total \$240.78; Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$641.41; Donation Account bills total \$257.12; and Sewer Department bills total 38,555.01.
2. Upon motion by Mr. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Wynn, council unanimously approved the following committee appointments:
  - a. Russell Meachum to the Zoning Hearing Board
  - b. Margaret Weirick to the Planning Commission
  - c. Susan Morroni to the Shade Tree Commission
  - d. Orlando Toro to the Emergency Services Board

There is a vacancy on the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission oversees the testing for police officers and would be involved in a hearing on any discharges. This is a six year appointment.

3. Mr. Wynn moved to approve a handicapped parking request from Shirley Wolfe at 583 Front Street. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.



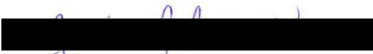
4. Mr. Boyer moved to approve Jim Sanders as the Borough's Sewage Enforcement Officer and Kenneth Young as the alternate. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
5. Mr. Ruane made a motion for a side agreement with Keith Mull to allow him to carry over eight vacation days to 2017. Mr. Wynn seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

**Executive Session**

The Borough Secretary requested that the council hold an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Ruane stated that the council would go into Executive Session and that the meeting would not be reconvened.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary