

***New Stanton Borough Special Meeting
May 10, 2006***

Council President Scott Sisteck called to order the Special Meeting of Council in conjunction with the Planning Commission members at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the New Stanton Fire Hall. A prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

Roll Call was taken for both Council and Planning Commission.

Those present from Council were Scott Sisteck, Robert Quinn, James Mack, Jerry Ilgenfritz, Wilbur Bussard and Thomas Theis. Also present Mayor Joseph Kazan. Absent was Todd Bartlow.

Those present from Planning Commission were Denise Campbell, Graydon Long, and Frank Balistreri. Absent were James Evans and James Sigwalt.

General Business

Guest Speaker-Alex Graziani-Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County

Mr. Graziani addressed both Council and Planning Commission members about New Stanton; you can't help but get excited this is where all the Western Pennsylvania highways meet. It is an incredible location. In the last four years there were 2000 homes built in Westmoreland County; 75 of them were built in this community. My point is you have an amazing location of these interstates. You just can't sit in this Borough for five or ten minutes and not realize the magnitude of all that comes here. The whole eastern seaboard finds its way here. The Smart Growth Partnership works with communities who are growing and communities that need revitalization. Driving around New Stanton you need both. There are parts of this community that are worn out, so that needs to be thought about how that can be dealt with and then there are other parts of the community that a lot can happen it is just amazing where your location is at. Why did New Stanton separate from Hempfield Township to become a Borough? Graydon Long said because we were not getting any service out of the Township. Council President said one of the things is when you get into a smaller group you get more condensed and individualized attention. Same thing as school groups or whatever the smaller the group the easier it is to manage. When you are looking at smaller land area smaller amount of people a local government put into place would be able to meet the individual needs of the taxpayers. Councilman Ilgenfritz said I think it is phenomenal, we are running this town on basically three miles.

Mr. Graziani said tell me about Center Avenue. Council President said Center Avenue it was already let. The notice to proceed was never given to the contractor. The construction was supposed to start in April and go through this year plus next year. All they will tell us is that it is right of way issues. If they do proceed later this year probably it's going to go into a third season.

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Denise Campbell said where do we start? Do we do feasibility, do we start over with a Comprehensive Plan. I know that there is a lot of money out there because I myself am a grant writer. I know there are ways to do matching funds, ways to do partnerships and multi-disciplinary groups of people. What is the first step? We could sit here and talk about problems all night long. Councilman Mack said could you give us an outline of what would be the most appropriate pathway for us to follow for our size. Mr. Graziani said he would lay out what kind of planning process should take place here for your next months meeting.

Council members and Planning Commission members thanked Mr. Graziani for coming.

Council President thanked Planning Commission members that did attend and told them that they are not obligated to stay for the rest of the meeting but there are some issues here that Planning might want to be involved in, so feel free to stay and listen to the rest of the issues that will be brought up.

Councilman Bussard said we have to get working on this picnic. We have a 12:00 noon starting time, I think we need a finish time. Noon to 6:00 p.m. that is my opinion. Mayor Kazan said that Ken Tomajko would represent the Recreation Board and Rob you were going to be the Councilperson to represent.

Councilman Quinn said I was late coming into the last meeting and I did not pick up my mail and Mr. Steele had a report in my mailbox so I would like to submit it today. Mr. Steele said there were 21 permits issued. Fees collected \$3,421.90. There was an incident at the KFC at the request of the State Police and the Fire Department, the Public Works crew assisted with traffic control and removed the obstruction. The parties at fault will be billed. The signs are being ordered through Anita and as soon as they are in we will install them. There was some concern about the specs but this was cleared up. At the park there were two (2) cherry trees, one (1) serviceberry and one (1) dogwood that did not survive the winter. These were the trees purchased by the residents and dedicated to a loved one. Councilman Bussard said I think the Borough should be responsible for replacing them.

A motion was made by Wilbur Bussard second by Jerry Ilgenfritz that the Borough replaces the two (2) cherry trees, one (1) serviceberry and one (1) dogwood. The motion carried.

Mayor Kazan said I suggest we shop around for those trees to see what the prices are.

Council President said before we get started on Wentsler Avenue, I received a call from Rick Skovensky of Penn DOT. At the last meeting we approved a resolution on the turn back of a portion of Arona Road from where it will intersect with the new Center Avenue all the way to the Cul de Sac at the end. On that stretch there is a bridge and is in need of some repair. We were advised by Penn DOT themselves not to take the bridge as

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part of this turn back program. Penn DOT has now said that they have monies available, and what they would like to do, they are trying to get rid of as many bridges as possible. They would like the Borough to take over the bridge and give us the money to replace the bridge. Using a figure say of \$800,000, if that is what it cost to replace the bridge they would give us that money now. There are a couple of ways we could do this. We could take the money put it in a separate account, invest the money and when that bridge needed to be replaced, we would replace it. Councilman Theis said who would be responsible for replacing the bridge Penn DOT? Council President said no we would be responsible for replacing it. They would give us the \$800,000 up front and we would bid it out. The down side to this is that if they give us \$800,000 today to replace the bridge and we wait ten (10) years down the road to replace it, it might cost more like two million to replace it. Mr. Long said do it right away. Council President said what I said to Penn DOT was look Rick would you give us the money now replace the bridge now, we would still have to bid the project out and do it now as part of the resurfacing of Arona Road because they are going to resurface Arona Road completely before they give it back to us. Make it part of the project. Council President said Rick said there shouldn't be a problem. He said what you would have to do is get our Engineer to take a look at it and basically see how much this bridge is going to cost and set it up for bid and what not. I said to him wait a minute we have our own in house Engineer, the problem is he is not specifically a bridge architect, engineer etc. I said how about if Penn DOT does it. Why doesn't Penn DOT go ahead and spec out the bridge, lay it all out and everything at your expense not our expense. He said they could do that. He said we are willing to build that cost into the amount that they are going to give us to get it down. Mr. Long said why don't you just go ahead and do it. Council President said that was my suggestion to do it now. They said if it comes down to the fact that when they reconstruct the bridge that if there is something unforeseen that happens they will still cover that portion. It is all going to be guaranteed and they will put everything in writing to us.

A motion was made by Thomas Theis second by Wilbur Bussard to accept the bridge subject to Penn DOT paying for the reconstruction & engineering studies and the bridge being done prior to Penn DOT resurfacing Arona Road as part of the turnback program. The motion carried.

Turnpike Reconstruction-Wentsler Avenue

Council President said I would you like to introduce yourselves. I am Tom Brado and with me is Bill Siess and we both work for SAI Consulting Engineers. We are the design managers of this project and tonight we are here representing the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Mr. Seiss is going to give you a brief overview of a project that is going to go between the Irwin and New Stanton Interchanges. It is over a hundred million dollar project. The first phase of that is New Stanton Interchange and what we want to talk to you about tonight is how that project may impact Wentsler Avenue.

Mr. Seiss gave an overview of the whole project which will be a total reconstruction from the Irwin Interchange to the New Stanton Interchange. Mr. Seiss said I am sure everyone is familiar with Old Center Avenue that goes underneath the

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Turnpike. As part of this project when we come through this area that underpass will be eliminated; obviously in anticipation of what you see here in red which is Penn DOT's new Center Avenue bridge. Also part of this project is a mainline structure and what I mean by that is that it is an actual structure of the Turnpike itself that passes above Wentsler Avenue. We need to improve the super elevation of the radius that comes through this area. We have an odd situation being that the Turnpike passes across the top of Wentsler Avenue. Wentsler Avenue passes underneath directly on top of it is another bridge that carries the Turnpike ramps. We have to try and fit this new structure in between this structure and this bridge down below while still trying to maintain all the necessary clearances for the Turnpike as well as for Wentsler. Currently with the plan that we have come up with is to squeeze this bridge in between this structure and this structure. Ideally you don't want to build them this way; they are a little more expensive and harder to maintain but we can do it. We can squeeze this bridge through this area as it comes along that is option A. What we would like to discuss with you tonight is option B and that would be to eliminate this bridge and we would not have to worry about this clearance over Wentsler because Wentsler would be filled in similar to what is proposed at Center Avenue and Wentsler Avenue itself would be dead ended at a desired location on both ends of the street. That is what we are here to discuss with you tonight is the possibility of doing that. Obviously we would not want to do this until the Penn DOT bridge is built connecting Center Avenue to Arona Road. Mr. Richard Theis addressed Council, Planning Commission members and the gentleman from SAI Consulting Engineers and said we don't want Wentsler closed off. I am not interested in saving money for the Turnpike Commission. Penn DOT has been after the Turnpike Commission for I do not know how long because it is a cash cow so you have money so I am not worried about saving money. If Wentsler is cut off it will affect the valuation of my commercial property. I whole heartedly encourage our Council to support my objection to this stupid plan. We folks who live there and a lot of other people are used to going both ways on that road. Councilman Mack said I would like to see a show of hands of those who agree with Mr. Theis and leave Wentsler Avenue open. There you have it the majority of the residents want Wentsler Avenue left open.

A motion was made by Robert Quinn to go into executive session at 8:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Wilbur Bussard to come out of executive session at 9:02 p.m.

Council President said the reason I wanted to talk to Council before we let you sort of finalize your decision, is I wanted to make sure that somewhere down the road somebody didn't say wait a minute no body told us anything about it. As Bill and Tom have explained here there are two options. One is rebuilding the structure with modifications; the other is eliminating the structures. Between the two, the Turnpike is looking at; it's going to cost X number of dollars to build that structure. They are also looking at if we eliminate it; it is going to cost us X number of dollars less to eliminate it. The exact dollar figure probably is still not exactly known what it would be. This money figure would be given back to the Borough to work with some of the residents in the area to work not only for a sort of a compensation for closing the road; it would be compensation for affecting some of the people that are along Wentsler Avenue. The

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bridge that is on Wentsler Avenue belongs to Penn DOT and they would like to get rid of that bridge. Back to the monetary consideration, there is a lot to be worked out and we don't want you to think that you have choice A or B that with choice B there could be some consideration monetarily for those who are being affected. We do not know the exact amount. After much discussion, Councilman Mack said choice A, you keep your road. Choice B they close your road and you get some money. How many of you want to keep Wentsler Avenue? You keep your road.

A motion was made by Thomas Theis second by James Mack to keep Wentsler Avenue open. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Robert Quinn to go into executive session at 9:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Robert Quinn to come out of executive session at 9:22 p.m.

Council President said contact Todd Bartlow about submitting his clearance papers and have him give Recreation Board the message that the lock on the equipment room must be locked or everything comes out and put at the office.

Council President adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Ann Roll

Mary Ann Roll
Secretary