

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
November 13, 2018
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Josh Bennett Linda Echard, Tom Smith, Tom Theis and Ray Strosko. Mayor Ronald Echard. Also: Borough Engineer Emil Bove, Borough Solicitor John Campfield and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin. Absent: Todd Bartlow and Scott Sistek.

Call to Order

President Raymond Strosko called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Invocation

Linda recited a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Approval of Bills – \$25,139.46

Linda made a motion seconded by Tom T. approving the bills in the amount of \$25,139.46. Motion passed with 3 yes votes (Tom T., Linda and Ray). Josh abstained, and Tom S. voted “No”.

Approval of Minutes – October 2, 2018

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Linda approving the minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting. Motion passed with 3 yes votes (Tom T., Linda and Ray). Josh and Tom S. abstained.

Guests

Rob Cammarata, NSVFD Chief

Rob was not in attendance due to the fire department being called out of the for a motor vehicle accident.

Opportunity for Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda

Ray asked if there were any public comments on items not on the agenda. There were none.

Council Additions to Agenda

Ray asked if any council members had items to add to the agenda. Jeff asked to add *Discussion on Broadview Road speed limit*, *Discussion on Frye Hollow stop sign*, and *Discussion on the Youngwood - New Stanton Intermunicipal Agreement*.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

Ray asked if there were any public comments on agenda items only. There were no comments.

Agenda

1. Review Solid Waste Bids

Jeff passed out a bid tally sheet that the council reviewed. Two proposals were received, one from Waste Management and the second from Green Ridge (DBA Republic). From initial review it appears that Republic is the low bidder.

John McGoran from Republic Services was present. He stated that the borough also added e-waste collection. Residents can call when they have e-waste and Republic will schedule an occasional pick-up date (e.g., once-a-month).

Council stated that they will review the bids and consider making a decision at the December meeting.

Ray invited Jake Morris, of 239 Melrose Drive, who entered the room after the meeting had started, to speak. Mr. Morris expressed concern about a water issue that he has on his property. He stated that the water is coming from the hillside behind his house. The water has also been making its way into his house and onto Melrose Dr. He stated that the problem has never been this severe and he asked if the borough could take a look at the situation. Mr. Morris stated that he spoke to the borough's Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Herrod, before the meeting and he said he will look into it. He also had photos for Emil.

2. Discussion & M/V to adopt a tentative budget of \$965,600 and advertise the proposed budget

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to adopt a tentative budget of \$965,600 and to advertise the proposed budget. Motion passed with all voting in favor except for Tom S. who voted "No".

3. Discussion regarding parking

Linda mentioned that the original reason for bringing this up was cars were being parked on Edgewood Drive. A resident on the street had expressed concern about a neighbor parking on the street, but the issue has since been resolved. Tom T. brought up about parking on Pennsylvania Avenue being an issue and Josh mentioned concern about parking on Florence. Jeff stated that Scott put notices on cars up in that area where there are "No Parking" areas as well as "No Parking November to April" areas. Tom S. brought up the idea, which had been considered in the past of no parking on one side of the street throughout the entire borough. Jeff stated that the committee that had looked at this and were then looking at no parking 30' from the intersection. John stated that he recalled this issue being that each street had to be looked at individually. Tom S. also said that money for signage was expressed as an issue. Linda said that the side that the fire department wanted to designate as no parking needed to

be checked because it seemed that it was not always the most appropriate side. Ray asked Jeff to dig up the stuff that the committee had been working on.

Ray stated that the borough issued a handicapped parking sign a resident on Woodmere. Ray stated that Scott H. is issuing warnings to those parking in the “No Parking” and “No Parking November to April” areas.

4. Discussion regarding banking

Jeff reported that Dollar Bank has been reaching out to the borough to bank with them. They agreed to provide us with 1.5% on all of our bank accounts. At present only some of the accounts are collecting interest. First Commonwealth has agreed to do the same on our existing accounts. S&T Bank has agreed to give us 1.6% if we switch all our accounts to them. Jeff stated that a S&T employee informed him that the loan from the bank on the new borough building does not require that we keep our general account there. The mayor suggested that we should not making any changes. That we should keep our money at both S&T and First Commonwealth. Dollar Bank would be too far away. This was the general consensus of council to keep to the status quo.

John stated that a couple of years ago he provided information on a change in the law that allows from more than just a checking account or CD. He said that he would resend the information.

Tom T. asked about brokerage firms. John said it is permitted. He said that they may be to advise the borough.

5. M/V to open a Roundabout Account transferring \$31,000 from the General Account

Jeff stated that the Budget Committee recommended transferring the \$31,000 listed in the 2018 budget to a new Roundabout account. After discussion, John stated that the borough does have money from PennDOT in a separate account from the sale of the Rachel Drive property. He stated that after PennDOT is paid for the improvements to Rachel Drive there should be a balance left in that account which council could consider using to improve the roundabout.

Josh made a motion seconded by Tom S. to table the transferring of \$31,000 from the General Account to create a Roundabout Account. Motion passed unanimously.

6. M/V to open a Stormwater Account transferring \$25,000 from the General Account

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to create a MS4/Stormwater Account by transferring \$25,000 from the General Account. Motion passed unanimously.

7. M/V to apply for a Westmoreland County Act 152 Demolition Program grant to demolish the old borough building

Jeff said that as part of this grant request we will need a certified estimate stating the cost of the demolition. He also stated that council may put a little bit of money toward the

demolition as a match. Emil said that the property would have to be tested for asbestos at a cost of \$500 - \$1,000.

Linda made a motion seconded by Josh to apply for a Westmoreland County Act 152 Demolition Program grant to demolish the old borough building. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion about why the carpet wasn't torn out of the basemen of the old borough building when it first got wet.

8. M/V to renew Westmoreland Cleanways membership at \$25

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Josh to renew the borough's annual Westmoreland Cleanways membership at \$25. Motion passed unanimously.

9. M/V to donate to Youngwood Volunteer Hose Company No. 1

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to donate \$500 to the Youngwood Volunteer Hose Company No. 1. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion regarding having the borough building landscaped

Jeff stated that the front exterior of the building is getting mold out in it. It is likely from the mulch. He received a bid from Pro-scape for power washing the front, removing the mulch and putting in fabric and stone for approximately \$1,200. This did not include plants.

He called Trump Landscaping for a bid but has not heard back. Linda stated it would be a good time to put the plants in.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to have the borough building landscaped. Motion passed unanimously.

11. M/V to install a fire hydrant in MAWC Easement at Hampton Inn

Emil and John reviewed the situation.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to have a MAWC waterline easement run from Broadview Road to Rachel Drive and to install a public fire hydrant in the easement near the Hampton Inn. Motion passed unanimously.

Ray announced that there was an Executive Session on October 23rd at 4:30 PM regarding personnel.

12. M/V to pay \$1,776 hotel invoice for emergency shelter for Capri and Suburban Trailer Court flood victims

There was a discussion on the use of *EMO/former CD account* with a balance of \$1,622.35.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to use the EMO/former CD account to pay the hotel bill and to pay the balance out of the General Account. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Nominations for Citizen of the Year

It was decided to solicit resident input on possible nominees.

14. M/V to add a street light to School Street

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Josh to have a street light installed on School Street if there is West Penn Electric pole on which on which to install it. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion regarding disposal of old computers

Josh made a motion seconded by Tom T. pass Resolution 2018-900 regarding the disposal of four old computers. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Discussion regarding Broadview Road speed limit

Jeff relayed the electronic speed data that was gathered before and after the 25 MPH speed limit signs were placed on Broadview Road. Tom S. thought it would be a good idea to make the speed limit 25 MPH given the new housing subdivision that is planned for Broadview Road.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Tom T. advertise the amendment of the traffic ordinance for consideration at the next meeting to change the speed limit on Broadview Road to 25 Miles per hour. Motion passed unanimously.

17. Discussion regarding Frye Hollow stop sign

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Josh to advertise the amendment of the traffic ordinance for consideration at the next meeting to place a stop sign on Frye Hollow Road at the intersection with Pine Drive and Thermo Village Road. Motion passed unanimously.

18. Discussion regarding Youngwood Intermunicipal Agreement

Josh made a motion seconded by Tom T. approving the draft of the Youngwood – New Stanton Intermunicipal Agreement and sending it on to Youngwood Borough for their consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Administrative

Planning Commission Liaison – *Chairperson Jay Gomolak*

Jeff stated that the Planning Commission received a subdivision request and will be meeting on November 28, 2018.

Borough Manager – *Jeffrey McLaughlin*

Jeff reported that:

- He submitted the portion of Center Avenue and Shrader Hollow Road with the concrete median to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission project “Wish List”. He stated that our argument is that the roads are borough streets in name only. They are essentially toll 66 on-ramps.
- He is receiving two quotes for our workmen’s compensation insurance one from our present carrier and one from our present property and liability insurance carrier. The latter stated that we may be able to save money by getting two policies, one for the firemen and the one for borough employees.
- He has been attending a 3-week zoning class in Ligonier Township – in the evenings on November 5, 12, and 19th.
- He attended a flood plain seminar at the Westmoreland Conservation District at the end of October.
- Due to a scheduling conflict the community Christmas Party sponsored by the Recreation Board cannot be held on December 8th. The only date available at the fire hall is Dec 2nd Council agreed to send out a flyer to residents letting them know of the new date.

Code Enforcement – *Scott Herrod*

The report was included in the agenda packet.

Solicitor – *John Campfield*

John provided an update on the Penn Allen tax appeal. He stated that the appraiser has started . Between the three taxing bodies the borough receives 4% of the tax revenue.

John pointed out that the Hempfield School District is filing tax assessment appeals on properties which sell for in excess of 250% of the assessed value. Two appeals were filed for properties in the borough. The school district was successful in getting one of them raised.

John stated that substantial changes are being made to the Uniform Construction Code on the state level. He stated that we need to have copies of the updated code at the borough building. Mike Stack is looking into the cost.

Engineer -- *Emil Bove*

Emil reported that the contractor that is supposed to do the 2018 paving is seeking an extension to April 30, 2019. There will no additional cost. The work may still be done this year, but they are seeking the extension just in case.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Josh approving an extension to April 30, 2019 for the paving as long as the extension does not cause any additional costs. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom T. mentioned that one of the lights is out on the Rachel Dr. roundabout. Jeff stated that he reported that to PennDOT and also forwarded them the electric bills that we have been paying for reimbursement. We should not have been paying the bills since we have not yet accepted the roundabout.

There was discussion about having the Public Works crew painting the speed hump while we wait for them to be replaced.

Business

Fire Department Liaison – *Chairperson Thomas Smith*

Tom reviewed the Chief's report which was included in the agenda packet.

Recreation Board Liaison – *Chairperson Josh Bennett*

Josh reported that Trick-or-Treat went well and that preparations are being made for the Christmas party.

Jeff stated that the Recreation Board's meeting minutes were included in the packet.

Executive

Council President

Ray thanked Linda, Ron, the staff and everyone else that pitched in on for the Veterans' Day program.

Mayor

Ron stated that the Veterans Day program went very well. He was told that it was the best program yet.

Tom asked about the cost to hang the Veterans' banners. Jeff would get a price. Linda said we would wait and hang multiple banners at once.

Council Committees

Personnel and Human Resources – Scott Sistik

Jeff reported that staff members have been submitting their goals for 2019. He will forward them to the Personnel Committee for review. Linda asked if Jeff had received his goals yet, but he said he had not yet.

Public Works/MS-4 and Parks – Chairperson Ray Strosko

Ray reported that the PW crew prepared the trucks for plowing and salting. Ray reported that the cost for the pipe to install French drains along 1st and 3rd base at the big ball field will be \$5,000. Ray told John B. to order the pipe because it is getting harder to get because of all the rain. Tom S. said we need to get the pipe installed before the spring. Ray said he would like to get the

fence installed right after the French drain is installed. Ray also said he wants to get rid of the weeds between the outfield fence and the creek.

Tom T. stated that Public Works is running out of place to dump. There was a discussion dumping at the park at the end of the trail. Emil will have the Conservation District look at the site.

Jeff reported that Public Works paved Oak Street with help of Youngwood's Public Works.

Building and Real Estate – Chairperson Linda Echard

Linda stated that we are applying for a grant for demolition of the building.

Special Events

The Veterans' Day event was discussed earlier.

Workplace Safety – Chairperson Thomas Theis

Jeff reported that the next meeting was scheduled for November 20th at 9:30 AM.

Finance – Chairperson Scott Sistik

In Scott's absence there was no report.

Executive Session

Josh made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:34 PM for matters of litigation and real estate.

Todd made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:50 PM.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary