

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
June 5, 2018
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Linda Echard, Scott Sistek, 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: Council member Josh Bennett.

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 – \$34,698.18

Scott made a motion seconded by Tom T. approving the bills in the amount of \$34,698.18. Motion passed with all voting in favor except for Tom S. who voted no.

Approval of Minutes – May 1, 2018

Todd made a motion seconded by Scott approving the minutes of the May 1, 2018 meeting. Motion passed with all voting in favor except for Tom T. who abstained.

Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2018

Todd made a motion seconded by Tom S. approving the minutes of the May 1, 2018 meeting. Motion passed with Todd, Tom S., Ray, and Ron voting in favor and Linda, Tom T., and Scott abstaining.

Guests

Rob Cammarata, Chief New Stanton Fire Department

Rob reviewed his monthly report a copy of which was provided to council. He also asked if council had any questions on the department's request for a new truck. Tom T. asked about the cost. Rob estimated \$700,000 with essentially the same features as the 1999 truck it would replace. Tom S. asked what would be done with the old truck. Rob said that he thinks it should be sold. He stated that at present it would be worth between \$50,000 to \$75,000 but he felt that the value would drop in two years because it will be 20 years old in two years and fewer departments would be willing to purchase a truck of that age. He suggested that the borough get

on a schedule and replace each truck every 20 years. Tom S. asked about the size of the truck. Rob stated that it is sized to carry all the necessary equipment. Rob stated that he needed to know what council is thinking so that he can develop specifications and a budget. He said it would take one year to put together the specifications and get bids which we would be able to accept or reject.

Executive Session

Todd made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:44 PM.

Todd made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:38 PM

Ray stated that the Executive Session was for matters of personnel.

Opportunity for Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda

Ray asked if there were any public comments on items not on the agenda. One person asked to speak:

Richard Nedrow, 205 Florence Dr.

Mr. Nedrow expressed his concern about the amount of noise resulting from the widening of I-70 to six 6 lanes. He said that when he sits on his deck it sounds like an airport. He asked if there was a possibility of creating a noise buffer.

Council Additions to Agenda

Ray asked if any council members had items to add to the agenda. Tom asked to add the following items: concerns regarding Chanticleer Storm Sewer work, wasting money, and the non-emergency phone number listed on the new park sign. Linda asked to add a discussion on the possibility of a farmer's market at the park and a discussion on borough payroll. Todd asked to add a discussion on speeding on Pine Drive.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

Ray asked if there were any public comment on agenda items only. There was none.

Agenda

1. M/V to Approve Sell Subdivision

John stated that this should be considered as a resolution, Council would need to approve the estate's request for modifications to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) in adopting the resolution. He passed out a copy of the proposed modifications, which would be to sections 510.B., 513.C. and 611B. of the SALDO and how they apply to the estate. Emil and John reviewed each of the modifications.

Linda made a motion seconded by Tom S. to approve Resolution 20-18-896 granting the final approval of the Marjorie M. Sell Estate Subdivision Plan Number 2 including the

modifications to sections 510.B., 513.C. and 611B. of the SALDO listed in the document provided by Solicitor Campfield. Motion passed unanimously.

2. M/V to Approve Consolidation of Lots at Parcel #ID: 64-04-14-0-182

Jeff stated that he had letters stating that the Planning Commission recommending both the Sell Subdivision as well as the consolidation of lots at parcel ID #64-04-14-0-182.

Scott made a motion seconded by Todd to approve Resolution 2018-897 to approve the consolidation of two adjacent parcels of property currently owned by Jordan and Elana Widziszewski being lots 308 and 309 in the Stanmont Plan of lots, Phase III. Motion passed unanimously.

3. M/V to Donate/Sponsor Five Star Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation

Jeff said the borough donated \$200 toward the trail in 2016. Jeff and Emil reported that the Westmoreland Conservation District is renewing discussion regarding bringing the trail to New Stanton. The permission of the railroad however still needs to be resolved.

Tom T. made a motion seconded by Scott to donate \$200 to the Five Star Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion Regarding Chanticleer Storm Sewer

Tom S. stated that Mr. Long who lives near the recently completed Chanticleer Storm Sewer project, was still waiting for the borough to plant grass on the access road to the retention pond and wanted to know if trees were going to be planted or a fence installed at the site. Jeff stated that the borough installed a shortened access road off Center Avenue, originally the plan was to run it from Reagan Way. Jeff said that there was some hesitancy to cover the new road with dirt because it is steeper than coming from Reagan, but after discussions with John Barnes he informed Mr. Long that it would be seeded. Mr. Long seemed agreeable to that. Tom S. said that he would tell Mr. Long that if he wanted the borough to create a buffer to contact Jeff

5. Discussion Regarding Wasting Money at the Park

Tom S. said that we wasted money on the dog stations. He felt that we had too many waste stations. Jeff stated, that the idea was to make it convenient for dog owners so that they would be more likely to clean up.

Tom asked why the port-a-potty was still located near the rest rooms at the park. Jeff stated that the port-a-potty was originally placed there in the spring when the bathrooms were not opened because of threat of pipes freezing due to low temperatures. Jeff stated that it should have been moved to its typical location near the small field after the bathrooms were opened. At this point, because baseball is nearly over it was agreed to just have the port-a-potty removed from the park.

6. Signs at the Park

Tom S. felt that the new signs at the park, listing an emergency phone number (911) and a non-emergency number (John Barnes'), should list two non-emergency phone numbers in case John is unavailable. Jeff asked if Tom wanted Jeff's number added. Tom said that was up to council.

Tom S. also said that he spoke to Jeff regarding the addition of a swing set at the park. He conveyed that Jeff felt that we should develop a plan for the park so that we can decide what type of amenities to add and where to place them. He said that we cannot wait on the idea for 6 months and pointed out that the plan would help us get grants, but that we would need to be willing to provide a match. Ray said that the Parks/PW Committee would discuss.

7. Discussion Regarding Starting a Farmer's Market

Linda said that she would like to see the borough investigate the idea of a farmer's market. There was general agreement that council wants Linda to explore the idea. Tom T. suggested the park and ride as a possible location. Todd suggested the old borough building site. Linda and Tom S. suggested the park.

8. Discussion Regarding Speeding on Pine Dr.

Todd reported on a conversation he had with a resident of Thermo Village Road regarding speeding and asked if a median or trees alongside the road could be a way to calm traffic. Emil said the road is too narrow for a median. Tom. S. said people drive 55 MPH in the residential area of Thermo Village Road. He asked that we monitor the road with the electronic speed sign, get the data off the sign, and to send it to the state police. He pointed out that we paid extra for the sign to have that capability.

Scott asked about the Pine Drive and Thermo Village speed humps. Jeff stated that he heard from a representative of Fay last week who stated that a paving contractor was in the area on another job and they were hoping to have him install the speed humps. The alternative strategy is that Emil is going to get a price to have the borough install them and bill Fay.

Emil reported on the proposed Route 119 project for Youngwood.

9. Discussion Regarding Borough Payroll

Linda stated that a couple of borough employees had inquired about returning to getting paid on a weekly basis instead of every other week. Jeff stated that it was assumed that going to every other week would result in some work savings. Emil stated that his employees are paid every week using Paychex. Scott suggested touching base with other boroughs to see how they handle it. It was decided to have the staff investigate the cost to go to every other week and to also investigate using a payroll service like Paychex.

Reports

Finance – Chairperson Scott Sistik

Scott reviewed the financial report: checkbook balance: \$594,327.63; total all savings accounts: \$1,599,305.76 and taxes remitted from April 26, 2018 through May 31, 2018: \$94,477.63.

Administrative

Planning Commission Liaison – *Chairperson Jay Gomolak*

No report.

Borough Manager – *Jeffrey McLaughlin*

Jeff reported that:

- The fire department provided us with a check in the amount of \$5,515 – the profit from the recreation ticket sales.
- The auditors will be getting us the audit in the next couple of weeks and will be available to attend the August meeting. He stated that the auditors found that we made a math mistake on the 2018 budget, underestimating the amount of tax revenue that we should receive.
- The electric pole has been installed at the park and the pole building now has electricity.
- He and the Public Works employees attended the G-Conference on Friday, May 18th and he also attended on Saturday, May 19th.
- He included the PSAB annual conference agenda, which runs from, Sunday, June 10th through Wednesday, June 13th, in the agenda packet so council members can recommend sessions for him to attend.
- He spoke to a representative of FedEx, who is appreciative of the recognition regarding their volunteer efforts on Earth Day at the park over the last several years. Jeff said that Fed Ex representatives would attend the July 3rd meeting. Tom S. suggested that we get a photo of them working next year and submit it to the paper.
- The two public works employees that have flip phones would rather not carry two phones (work and personal) on off hours with them. Jeff stated that an app could be added to their personal phones, giving them a work number with a different ring tone. He stated that the cost, which we would reimburse the employees, is \$25 a month. Tom S. stated that we pay \$44 per month each for their phones. There was consensus to proceed with the idea.
- Jeff stated PennDOT will be holding a public meeting in the council chambers on June 13th regarding the Route 119 ramp improvements including the new lighting. He stated that he had checked with Ray.

Code Enforcement – *Scott Herrod*

The report was included in the agenda packet.

Solicitor – *John Campfield*

John asked Emil to speak on the driveway permit Dollar General needs. Emil stated that we could give Dollar General permission to access the site off Post Avenue. This would be a risk for them because they have no guarantee of getting a driveway permit from PennDOT for Pennsylvania Avenue. John stated that Dollar General should pay all engineering and legal fees before a driveway permit is issued.

Scott made a motion seconded by Tom S. that a driveway permit be issued to Dollar General provided they pay all necessary fees. Motion passed unanimously.

John stated that we sent documents to GetGo months ago, but we have not yet heard anything back.

John reported that the hearing on the proposed Broadview Estates zoning change will be held on June 19th.

Tom S. stated that the developers should be establishing escrow accounts. Jeff stated that GetGo has established an escrow account and is sending us a check replenishing the balance. Emil said that Anita has a formula that she uses to determine the escrow amount.

Engineer -- *Emil Bove*

Emil reported that as per council's request he researched the idea of a 25 MPH speed limit on Broadview Road. He stated that the Broadview Estates developer did an engineering and traffic study which reported that East bound traffic went 40 MPH and West bound went 32 MPH at the 85 percentile. Linda pointed out that this meant 85% percent of the drivers went slower than those speeds. Emil stated that Broadview Road can be posted as 25 MPH by designating the area residential. Tom S. said that people are going to go as fast as they want and asked whether we would get a petition from the residents advocating the 25 MPH speed limit. Ray said purchasing new lower speed limit signs would be a waste of money. Todd said that we need to do what we can as a council. Further discussion ensued. There was consensus to place the electronic speed sign on Broadview Road to determine how fast people are going.

Emil reviewed the proposed 2018 paving plan.

Tom S. reported that at the last meeting there was talk about replacing the merry-go-round at the park for \$1,599. The Public Works crew repaired both merry-go-rounds at the park for approximately \$210.

Jeff reported that the PW crew repaired 5 catch basins in Chanticleer and they are working to install a new catch basin on Woodmere, up the street from the catch basin at the intersection of

Woodmere and Shelton, which needs to be replaced by a contractor. Emil said that he has a contractor looking at that catch basin to see if it can be repaired as opposed to being replaced.

Business

Fire Department Liaison – *Chairperson Thomas Smith*

Tom S. stated that the Chief covered everything in his presentation.

Recreation Board Liaison – *Chairperson Josh Bennett*

No report.

Executive

Council President

No report.

Mayor

No report.

Council Committees

Personnel and Human Resources – Scott Sistik

No report.

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

No report.

Building and Real Estate – Chairperson Linda Echard

No report.

Workplace Safety – Chairperson Thomas Theis

No report.

Announcements

No announcements.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary