

# Borough of Northumberland

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## **Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting March 3, 2020**

President Paul Ruane called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Mayor Dan Berard offered an Invocation.

### **Roll Call**

Council members present were Denise Guilbault, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, and Orlando Toro. Others present were Mayor Berard, Jason Kelso, Acting Borough Solicitor; C. L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; Vernon Morgan, Street Supervisor; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council members Ann Boyer, Kaitlyn Simmons, and Frank Wetzel were absent.

### **Public Comment**

Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop #342 attend the meeting to observe local government in action. Members of the troop introduced themselves.

Mr. Pauline attended the meeting on behalf of his mother, Carmela Pauline. Mrs. Pauline had moved to Washington D.C. with her daughter and has since passed away. Mr. Pauline stated that his sister was paying her mother's bills and was one day late in paying the sewer bill. He said that his mother always paid her bills on time. He requested the council waive the late fee. Mr. Ruane stated that the fee has never been waived before. He asked the amount of the late fee. He was told it is \$13. Mr. Pauline stated that it is not the amount; it is the principle. Mr. Ruane stated that he would like to pay the late fee. He added that he knew Mr. and Mrs. Pauline and would take care of the late fee. Mr. Ruane said that he would leave the money at the Borough Office for the sewer department.

Mr. Dan Mahoney introduced his attorney, Thomas Boop. Mr. Boop explained the situation regarding the unopened Fifth Street adjacent to Mr. Mahoney's property. The street is 60 feet wide. A portion of Mr. Mahoney's driveway extends into the unopened street. Mr. Mahoney had the property surveyed and would like to acquire ownership of the unopened street. Brooke Woodring, the property owner on the other side of unopened Fifth Street, has signed a quit claim and has no interest in the property. The Mahoneys are requesting that the Borough adjoin in the quit claim deed so the unopened street may be transferred to the Mahoneys. There are rights-of-way on the property which would remain. Mr. Boop has forwarded the deed to the Borough's solicitor, Melissa Kelso. Ms.

Kelso has informed him that the Borough has legal expenses in the amount of \$690 and Mr. Boop noted that Mr. Mahoney has agreed to pay this amount to the Borough.

Mrs. Rees made a motion to transfer the Borough's interest in the unopened portion of Fifth Street as requested by Mr. Mahoney, contingent upon Ms. Woodring's agreement and execution of the proposed fees, and Mr. Mahoney's payment of all fees associated with this matter. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Robert Rowe commented about the condition of the ground on the other side of the railroad tracks from his home.

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to approve the council meeting minutes from January 6, February 4, February 18, 2020. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Berard noted that the Borough has a new Street Supervisor, Vernon Morgan. He welcomed Mr. Morgan to the Borough.

Mayor Berard reported on the activity of the Police Department for the month of February. The police had 241 calls for service. Thirty-two traffic citations and 92 parking tickets were issued. The police had 31 court appearances. There were 23 assist calls for the month; 10 to Point Township, 3 to Sunbury, and 10 to other agencies. The Borough Department was assisted by Point Township officers 8 times and by Sunbury officers once. 1,944.6 miles were traveled for the month.

### **Northumberland Borough Sewer Department**

Mr. Deitrick requested that council approve a motion to accept the reconciliation summaries for Point Township Sewer Authority and Upper Augusta Sewer Authority. Point Township will receive a credit of \$172,040.44 toward the amount they owe to the Borough. Upper Augusta will receive a check in the amount of \$11,890.47.

Mrs. Rees moved to accept the reconciliation summary for Point Township and Upper Augusta Township; Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Deitrick informed council that the work at the Emanuel Pump station is completed.

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Ms. Clark reported that for the month of February, one building permit and one zoning permit were issued for fees totaling \$324. She received five complaints and issued 8 code violations. Two street cut permits were issued with backfilling fees totaling \$557.30. There were 13 rental property inspections with fees totaling \$650. 25 miles were traveled for the month.



### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Morgan reported that he has been looking at Borough property and equipment. With the nicer weather, the crew will be getting outside to work in the parks and will be running the street sweeper.

### **Committee Reports**

Community Development – no report

#### **Finance**

Ms. Rees reported that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the 2019 budget and the current year budget to date. She noted that the Borough finished 2019 in the black and the current budget is tight, but the Borough is doing okay.

#### **Personnel**

Mr. Ruane stated that the council has received a letter from the police association to begin the bargaining process for the contract period beginning January 2021.

Public Safety – no report

#### **Rules**

Dr. Guilbault made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-2 (Quality of Life). Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. This ordinance is an update on maintenance of property, lawn care, and snow removal with tickets issued for violations. Council approved unanimously.

#### **Streets**

Mr. Toro stated that the street department is going through a change and will work with Mr. Morgan to serve the Borough the best way possible. Mayor Berard asked whether the Borough is hiring a new laborer. Mr. Ruane stated that someone will be hired. Mr. Toro stated that the committee is working with Mr. Morgan and follow his guidance. Until a full-time employee is hired, the Borough will utilize WorkForce on an as-needed basis.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Priestley Avenue Culvert**

The Borough Manager informed council that the paperwork for the temporary right-of-way has been signed by one of the parties and is being returned to the attorney. After the other party signs the document, the attorney will send it to the Borough to be signed. Following this, the document will be recorded. The Borough Manager is working on the paperwork that will be submitted to DCED.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Payment of Bills**

Two new bills were added to the list: \$250 for the 2020 dues to the Central Susquehanna Valley COG and \$504 to WorkForce. Mrs. Rees moved to pay the bills; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

2. Fire Police Building – Heating System

Mr. Jon Apple explained that the current system is not adequate, and the small heaters are electric and require a considerable amount of electricity. He has obtained a price of \$3,100 from Austin Wade of Star Mechanical to install a new heating system for the building. They are requesting that council approve using \$1,100 from insurance money received when the building was flooded, and the Fire Police will raise the other \$2,000.

Mrs. Rees so moved. Dr. Guilbault seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Apple informed council that YBC donated siding for the front of the building which will be installed this spring. The Fire Police are going to paint the rest of the building.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Ruane announced that the council would hold an Executive Session for litigation and may reconvene the meeting for a vote. The council meeting was adjourned for the Executive Session at 7:34 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded at 8:22 p.m. The council meeting was not reconvened.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Manager