

# Borough of Northumberland

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**Borough of Northumberland  
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857  
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
June 4, 2019**

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 Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Kaitlyn Simmons, Orlando Toro, and Frank Wetzel. Others present were Mayor Berard; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Jeremy Deitrick, Sewer Department Superintendent; MaryKay Clark, Code Enforcement Officer; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Manager. Council member Ty Sees was absent.

## **PennDOT Update**

Mr. Ted Deptula reported that Front Street is currently being paved. The street will be opened in a few weeks. The concrete pavement is completed at Water and Duke Streets. The macadam will be installed next week. New traffic signals are being installed. The construction work will shut down during Pineknotters' Days. The temporary signal at Front and Orange Streets will remain because work will begin again after the events. Ms. Louise Latsha questioned why the traffic light is required during Pineknotters' Days. She was told that PennDOT does not want to have people get used to no light and then have the lights reactivated. Ms. Mindy Foresman stated that the intersections of Front Street at Hanover and Prince Streets will also be open to alleviate traffic having to turn at Orange Street. Ms. Latsha asked if PennDOT plans to designate two lanes on Front Street before King Street for traffic turning on to King Street. Mr. Deptula replied that when there were two left turn lanes before, the one lane was only for the left turn on Route 11 and people were using it to go to Route 147. Mrs. Rees questioned if people would not notice a red light if it was not activated during Pineknotters' Days. Ms. April Giesen stated that people now go through the light at Orange Street. She feels that PennDOT knows the best and the intersection is difficult for pedestrians to cross without the traffic signal. Dr. Cianflone agreed with Ms. Giesen. Chief Kriner noted that people do not always notice the temporary stop signs on Duke Street. He added that the traffic will not be backed up as far as it is now because the other streets will be open from Front Street.

Mr. Ruane asked if the traffic lights will be LED. He was told that they will be. He questioned if the traffic lights' connections for the generators would be reestablished with the new lights. He added that during a power outage the generators provided power to the lights, so the fire police did not have to remain at the intersections for the duration of the

power outage. Mr. Deptula replied that he doesn't remember the details but knows that the discussion took place early on with the project.

Mr. Deptula said that the underpass will be opened by Pineknotters' Days. After Pineknotters' Days, there will be one lane of traffic coming from Sunbury to Northumberland during the first phase of construction on King Street, from the Priestley Bridge to Priestley Avenue. Traveling to Sunbury will require going through Shamokin Dam and crossing the Veteran's Bridge. Once the work to Priestley Avenue is done, they will work on King Street from Priestley Avenue to Front Street. During this phase of construction, Water Street will only be opened to traffic on Route 11 northbound. Coming south on Route 11 from Danville, traffic will be detoured from Route 11 south to Orange Street to Third Street, to Duke Street, to Route 11 south. One lane will be on Water Street to go to Danville. Traffic coming from Sunbury will have to turn onto Priestley Avenue and turn onto Orange Street to continue to Route 11 north or to follow the detour to Route 11 south or Route 147 north.

Utilities are located close to the surface on King Street. King Street will be completed this year. The first phase will take two months to complete and the second phase will take until Thanksgiving. A map will be made, as-built plans, after construction is completed.

If anyone has comments, they can reach the PennDOT officials on the website or at the council meetings.

All the final pavement will be done next year, including King Street.

### **Public Comment**

- Mr. Walker state that they have received the agreement from the solicitor. Their attorney has recommended one change that the solicitor is making. Mrs. Walker added that her name is incorrect in the document. Mr. Tira responded that he will correct it.
- Margaret Weirick asked if the bowl slide has been sold and when it will be removed. She was told that it has been sold and the contractor planned to be here after his contract with Knoebels ended in May. The amount paid for the bowl slide was \$3,500.
- Barbara Kistner stated that the drains on Priestley Avenue are blocked and the water is not going down. Mr. Ruane stated that the street sweeper should be run Monday and Tuesday and the crew is supposed to go around and clean the storm drains following heavy storms. The street sweeper was to be run this week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Probst stated that the sweeper was at the garage to be inspected. The Borough Manager replied that she has already received the bill for the inspection, and it is dated May 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ruane requested that the sweeper be run every week until the streets are straightened out. Mr. Toro requested that the sweeper be run tomorrow.
- Ms. Gutelius asked if anything has been determined about the pipe that is on her property. Mr. Ruane noted that he was at the property and he thinks it may a drain into her foundation. She stated that it is not. Mr. Tira stated that there is no indication



that it is the Borough's pipe and is not the Borough's responsibility to maintain it. Whoever's property it is on, the Borough should inform the property owner that it should be removed. Ms. Gutelius stated that she put thousands into her property to build a wall. She stated that there is a sulfur smell and the pipe is blocked. She added that she put a sandbag and a rock on top of the end of the pipe. Mr. Toro stated that he looked at the pipe and it's been determined that it is not the Borough's or the sewer department's pipe. Mr. Toro stated that the pipe is on her property and he couldn't do a full inspection on her property. He suggested that she should trace the line to determine where it goes. Since it goes underneath her lawn, the Borough can't follow it. Mr. Ruane stated that two years ago, when the Borough paved Sawmill Avenue, there was no water going onto the road.

#### **Northumberland Borough Sewer Department**

Mr. Jeremy Deitrick informed the council that the rehab project on ten manholes has been completed.

#### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Berard informed council that the police department answered 345 calls for service last month. The police issued 69 traffic citations and three non-traffic citations. They made 63 court appearances, and several arrests for felony and misdemeanor crimes which included unsworn falsifications, drugs, and thefts. The police answered 40 assist calls; 16 to Point Township, 10 to Sunbury, and 14 to other agencies. They traveled 1,629 miles. One officer was hurt on duty last week. He will be out for an extended amount of time.

Mrs. Bogovich asked how many times other agencies like Sunbury and Point Township assist the Borough police. Chief Kriner reported that Point Township assists almost every day, Sunbury not as much.

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

Mr. Probst provided the council with a written report of the work done by the Street Department during May.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Streets**

Mr. Toro stated that now that the street sweeper is back, he would like to implement the painting of the curbs, which is long overdue. He would like to minimize the activities in town, use one worker to cut grass and remove trash, and utilize the other workers to paint the curbs. Mr. Toro added that he would volunteer his time to help. Mrs. Bogovich asked if the Borough is getting college students to help. She was informed that no one has applied.

##### **Community Development**

The committee had a conversation with the president of the Little League. He does not feel that the two teams from Little League should have to pay the fee to use the Pineknott Park ballfield. The volunteer who oversees the ballfield, Jon Herring, has recommended that if the Little League does not pay the fee, they should not have

access to the shed for the bases and electricity for the scoreboard. The other teams that play on the field have all paid the fee. The president of Little League had said that he was told that Little League had never paid the fee. The fee is \$50 per team and there are two Little League teams that use the field. Proof that Little League had paid the fee in past years was printed out for tonight's meeting. Last year, the Borough spent over \$6,000 for ballfield expenses and income from the ballfield was just over \$200.

In 2005, the Borough Council had passed a motion that the electric bill be put in the ball team's name. However, they realized that there were numerous teams that played on the field so the bill could not be put in just one team's name.

Mayor Berard stated that he was informed that the Little League has spent money on the field. Mr. Wetzel stated that if they can show documentation, they should bring it forward so council can discuss it.

Mr. Herring had noted at the committee meeting that one of the coaches had said that he would pay the \$50 fee for the one team if Little League won't pay it. Mr. Herring also noted that the teams do not clean up and rake the field after their games. The scoreboard was left on all night after one of the games.

Dr. Cianflone made a motion to give John Herring the authority to lock the shed and provide access to the teams that have paid the permit fee. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Finance – no report

Personnel

Mrs. Rees reported that the Playground Program will begin this summer. The committee would like to hire Nicole Hernandez as the supervisor at a rate of \$11.65 per hour and would like to hire Madison Klinger as the Assistant Supervisor at a rate of \$9.00. Mrs. Rees so moved; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. An application has been submitted to the Anselmo Trust for funding for the program. The Trustees have not met yet.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets – no report

## **Old Business**

### **1. Priestley Avenue Stormwater Project**

The Walkers' attorney had recommended that an expiration for the easement be included in the agreement. Mr. Tira added an expiration date at one year from when the agreement is recorded.

### **New Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Wetzel, seconded by Mr. Toro, council voted unanimously to pay the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$57,532.73; Parking Meter Account bills total \$88.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Community Center Account bills total \$7,256; Liberty Splashland bills total \$36.57; and Sewer Department bills total \$74,386.84.
2. A handicap parking request was received from Linda Hixson at 465 Hanover Street. Dr. Cianflone moved to grant the request; Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
3. The committee that is raising funds for the 250 Birthday Bash has requested permission to sell the bicycles that are in the trailer at the Recycling Center. They are bikes that have been turned in to the police department and no one has claimed. Mr. Wetzel made a motion to allow the committee to have a bike auction. Mrs. Rees has seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
4. The corn hole tournament that was scheduled for Sunday has been canceled because only one team had registered.

Mr. Ruane announced that our solicitor, Ryan Tira, has been elected Judge in Lycoming County. He has received the Republican and Democratic parties' nomination. Council congratulated him.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Manager