

Borough of Northumberland

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Borough of Northumberland 175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857 Northumberland Borough Council Meeting March 6, 2018

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 Paul Boyer, Ralph Cianflone, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees, and Orlando Toro. Others present were Mayor Berard; Ryan Tira, Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Brian Probst, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member James Troup was absent.

Penn DOT Update

Ms. Mindy Foresman informed council that work started on Duke Street yesterday and she feels it went well. She asked if there were any complaints and was told there were complaints about the condition of WestWay. Ms. Foresman said that the contractor did fill the potholes and will put blacktop in once the plant opens. She added that they will continue to monitor WestWay.

Mr. Ruane questioned if there is a sign directing customers to Amato's. Ms. Foresman replied that there is a sign and Amato's is accessed from Duke Street from the South. Access to CVS and the carwash is from the North.

PennDOT is looking at the storm water issue on Front Street above Prince Street. Ms. Foresman stated that the runoff problem will be addressed even though it was not in the plans. The gas company is still relocating the gas line. Paving will follow. The north half of Front Street will be paved first and then the south half. Traffic will flow on the opposite half of the street during the paving. Temporary traffic signals will be installed at Front and Orange Streets on April 23rd, and at Front and King Streets on May 22nd.

Mrs. Rees said that council was originally told that the project would take two years; then the time was extended to three years. She noted that now it's reported that the project will be finished in 2020. Joe Whitcomb, from New Enterprise, stated that the contractor's completion date is June 2, 2020, but the physical work should be done by November 1, 2019. Touchups and seeding will be done in 2020.

Mr. Boyer asked if that includes the underpass. The contract for the construction on Water Street which includes widening the road at the underpass will be bid in May. Ms. Foresman added that the traffic signals will be installed in 2019, but the traffic signals are covered by warranty under the 2020 completion date.

Public Comment

Officer Ed Cope provided letters to the council concerning a police officer. Mr. Ruane informed him that council would discuss the personnel issue in Executive Session.

Officer Josh Driesbach stated that he has something to discuss with council in Executive Session.

Mr. Bill Gross informed council that the recycling group received a bill for 10% of the cost of the baler that was purchased. He asked why, saying that they understood the 10% was taken care of by the Borough. He said that he heard that it was thought that the old baler would be sold to cover the 10% but they did not think they could sell it. He added that there are other items at the recycling center that are not being used and could be sold if it is permitted. The Borough Secretary responded that before the grant application was written, people in the recycling group were told that the Borough would pay the 10% match for the new fencing and the camera system, and if the recycling group wanted to apply for funding for equipment, they would be responsible to pay 10% of the cost. She added that this is what was presented to the council when the grant application was approved. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruane stated that the group should make a list of the surplus items that the group wants to sell, and it would be determined if the items could be sold on Municibid.

Mr. Bill Gross asked if no parking signs could be placed at Jolly Hollow. He stated that the no parking signs that had been posted on Orange Street at the dog park are gone. Mr. Sees stated that he thinks it was a temporary situation. He added that he agrees that it should be no parking around the curve because of the school buses traveling that route. Mr. Gross stated that it is not bad where the street is straight; but it is bad along the curve.

Mr. Ken Ruch requested that the garbage truck park closer to the salt shed. He feels that the current location creates congestion and is a safety hazard. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruane stated that he would look into it.

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the council meeting minutes of December 5 and 19, 2017, and January 2, 2018. Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Mr. Sees stated that January 2nd was the only meeting he was at. Mr. Tira stated that presence or absence does not require council to abstain; but they may. Council vote to approve the minutes was 4-0-2. Dr. Cianflone and Mr. Sees abstained.

Street Supervisor's Report

- Brian Probst reported that the roof on the garage was patched; storm lids were replaced; the backhoe was repaired. There were three call-outs for snow.
- Mr. Probst provided a list of surplus items to be sold. Dr. Cianflone made a motion to put the items listed for sale on Municibid. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

- Mr. Probst provided a quote from Walsh Equipment for a Ford F550. The quote of \$81,567 is from the PA Costars #025-021 Municipal Work Vehicles Contract. The truck color will be silver. Mr. Ruane noted that the payments for the truck could be made with Liquid Fuels funds. Mr. Boyer moved to purchase the Ford F550 as presented with a payoff in three years. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Berard stated that it has been brought to his attention that the fence at Jolly Hollow has been damaged

Mayor Berard also reported that he received an email from a resident that a truck took out the street sign at Queen and Third Streets and it has not been replaced. Mr. Probst stated that he has not replaced street signs because they are frequently knocked over. Once the road construction is completed, he will replace the street signs. Stop signs are replaced when knocked over.

Mayor Berard stated that last month, the council did not have a quorum for the meeting. Mayor Berard noted that he had notified the council in advance that he was not going to be present. He stated that the solicitor came to the meeting and the Borough must pay him for his time. He recommended that anyone who knows that they will not be at the meeting, should contact the Borough Office by 4:00 to inform the office. If there will not be a quorum, the solicitor could be contacted that the meeting is cancelled, saving the Borough money.

Mayor Berard had a meeting with Chris Ries, a council member from Sunbury, who is interested in exploring a consolidation of the two police departments. Mayor Berard said that he explained that he would include Point Township in a consolidation. He also informed Mr. Ries that if it was ever to happen, the Borough would not be willing to accept Sunbury's "baggage". Mayor Berard noted that Mr. Ries came on his own. Mayor Berard also stated that he is informing the council because he wants to be transparent.

Northumberland Borough Sewer Department

Mr. Ruane stated that the committee did not meet this evening. He requested a motion to reappoint RETTEW as the engineering firm to oversee the Duke Street Project. Mr. Boyer so moved. Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane read the reports for January and February as provided by MaryKay Clark, the Borough Code Enforcement Officer. For January, two building permits were issued; one zoning meeting; total permit fees are pending; seven complaints were received; six code violations; one street cut; eleven rental inspections for \$385 and one reinspection for \$15; two citations. Car mileage totaled 39 miles. For February, one building permit was issued; one zoning meeting; total permit fees were \$207; eight complaints; six code violations; three street cut permits; eight rental inspections for \$280 and one reinspection for \$15; one citation; back-filling fees of \$1,200. Car mileage totaled 35 miles.

Committee Reports

Community Development

- **Pineknotted Park Ballfield**

Dr. Cianflone reported that the committee met with Dick Simpson who is stepping down as the person in charge of the Pineknotted Park ballfield. John Herring has volunteered to take his place.

- **Liberty Splashland**

Dr. Cianflone reported that Brian Auman, a landscape architect from BSA LA, has provided a proposal of \$2,500 to develop a Park Master Plan at Liberty Hollow Run. Mr. Auman provided a scope of work which includes background data gathering and mapping; master park plan development; plan graphics and fund-raising assistance; project funding partnerships.

Mr. Boyer made a motion to not open Liberty Splashland in 2018 and council will look at alternatives for the property. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council voted unanimously to not open the pool in 2018. Mr. Sees added that a lot of kids grew up there, including himself, and it is painstaking to vote yes.

Dr. Cianflone made a motion to approve the proposal of \$2,500 from Brian Auman from BSA LA for the Liberty Hollow Run Park Master Plan. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Finance – no report

Personnel – Mrs. Rees stated that there are discussions for the Executive Session

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Streets

Mr. Boyer stated that the committee has received the street project estimate sheet from PennDOT and the project will be bid through the COG.

Old Business

1. Mr. Boyer made a motion to award the bid for the Riverbank Stabilization Project and Trail to Mitchell Knorr Contracting. The total bid was \$207,750, \$126,800 for the Riverbank Stabilization and \$80,950 for the trail. Dr. Cianflone seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. The bid tabulation is as follows:

Susquehanna River Streambank Rehabilitation Project

	Company	Total Streambank Stabilization	Total Trail	Total
1	Mitchell Knorr Contracting	\$ 126,800.00	\$ 80,950.00	\$207,750.00
2	Sikora Brother's Paving Inc	\$ 250,900.00	\$170,500.00	\$421,400.00
3	Neal-Lynn, Inc.	\$ 150,482.33	\$132,589.08	\$283,071.41
4	Columbia Excavating, LLC	\$ 132,211.25	\$132,541.00	\$264,752.25

2. A quote was received from the Borough's current electricity supplier, Constellation, for a contract to supply energy until January 2019 at a price of \$.04998 kWh. Dr. Cianflone moved to approve the contract with Constellation at the rate of \$.04998; Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

3. PennDOT has offered the vacant lot at Water and King Streets to the Borough. Council has informally stated that they are not interested in obtaining the property. If the Borough does not accept the property, PennDOT may consider selling it. One of the adjacent property owners has expressed interest. Mr. Boyer made a motion to formally state that the Borough is not interested in the property at Water and King Streets; Mr. Toro seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Priestley Avenue Pipe
Mr. Tira met with DEP and the adjacent property owners to examine the pipe. DEP is opened to having the pipe removed and an open channel created. The property owners have stated that they would maintain the channel but do not have the means to remove the pipe. The office has contacted several people who had worked in the area and are still obtaining information.

5. Paige Electric provided quotes to replace two lights dusk to dawn lights with two new LED fixtures on Route 11 at a cost of \$625 and to install three lights on Queen Street that were damaged during a snow storm at a cost of \$1,500. The Borough will supply the lights. Dr. Cianflone moved to accept the two quotes from Paige Electric; Mr. Sees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

1. United Way Day of Action is set for Friday April 27th. The United Way has requested a response by March 16th. Suggestions received thus far are for volunteers to help clean up in King Street Park and to weed and inspect playground

equipment at the Borough Building. Anyone having additional suggestions should contact the office before March 16th.

New Business



1. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Toro, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills for February and March, including \$250 for dues for the Central Susquehanna COG. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$137,177.62; Liberty Splashland bills total \$351.52; Liquid Fuels bills total \$1316.00; Parks and Recreation bills total \$386.32; and Sewer Department bills total \$174,217.50.
2. A handicap parking request was received from Barbara Beck of 256 King Street. Upon motion by Mr. Sees, seconded by Mr. Boyer, council unanimously approved the request with the stipulation that the need be reviewed annually.

Executive Session

Mr. Ruane announced at 8:19 p.m. that council would adjourn for an Executive Session to discuss litigation and a 2nd stage grievance with police union and another personnel matter. He noted that the meeting would not be reconvened.

The Executive Session ended at 9:40 p.m. without reconvening the council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary