

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**June 2, 2015**

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Len Zboray offered an Invocation.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Stephen Reed, Ellie Rees, Paul Ruane, Ty Sees and James Troup. Council member Adam Klock was present via telephone. Others present were Mayor Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; C.L. Kriner, Police Chief; Budd Reader, Sewer Department Assistant Superintendent; Ted McCollum, Code Enforcement Officer/Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Harry Wynn was absent.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Fran Bogovich questioned when the street sweeper would be taken up on the hill section to clean the streets of the cinders from the winter. Mr. McCollum stated that the street sweeper cannot be taken on the hill because there are no curbs which are needed as a guideline for the street sweeper and the tree branches hang out over the street. Mrs. Bogovich stated that there is curb line on the hill. She said that there is residue from the winter and the people on the hill and the streets should be taken care of. Mrs. Bogovich stated that the street sweeper was run once a month on the hill in the past and there was never a problem. Mr. McCollum said that the brush on the machine needs a guide. Mr. Troup stated that the issue would be addressed by the street committee. Mr. Ruane said that stated that the brush is not needed; they should just take the sweeper up there and run it on the streets. Mayor Zboray said that he had phone calls about it and had called Ted. Mr. McCollum said that he didn't want to damage anyone trees. Mr. Ruane stated that if the tree limbs are hanging low, they should run the sweeper around them. Mr. Troup stated that if tree limbs are hanging down over the street, they should be trimmed. Mrs. Bogovich questioned why the weeds along Strawbridge Road above Prince Street aren't cut back. Mr. McCollum stated that he had the street crew cut the weeds back about thirty feet. Mrs. Bogovich also reported that the weeds have grown up around the fire hydrant on Susquehanna Road. Mr. Troup said that he noted that also and planned to let Ted know about it. Mrs. Bogovich asked how soon the potholes could be filled with hot patch. She said that some temporary patch was placed in the pothole at the corner of Susquehanna Road and Buchanan Avenue. There is another pothole on the corner of Jefferson Street and Strawbridge Road, and one coming onto Prince Street from Front Street. She said that these things should be taken care of and there is a portion of Northumberland beyond Prince Street. Mr. Troup agreed. Mrs. Bogovich also stated that when they plow the snow they only plow one side of the street or down the middle.

Jon Apple, captain of the Fire Police, requested authorization from the council to list the squad vehicle on Municibid. The vehicle was purchased with grant funds. Mr. Sees questioned if the

sale through Municibid would be legal and if the proceeds should be earmarked. Mr. Tira responded that the sale is legal with the proceeds going to the Fire Police toward payment of their new vehicle. Upon motion by Mrs. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion by Mr. Ruane, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted 4-0-2 to approve the council meeting minutes of February 17, 2015. Mr. Sees and Mr. Reed abstained.

### **Northumberland Sewer Department Report**

Mr. Klock stated that he wanted to make a motion to purchase a truck.

Mr. Klock said that there are a couple applications for payment to contractors. Mr. Steve Siegfried from Hazen and Sawyer presented Myco Mechanical's application for payment number one for \$7,384.50. He is recommending payment. Mr. Klock moved to approve the payment. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Siegfried presented Lecce Electric, Inc.'s application for payment number one for \$165,854.48. Mr. Klock moved to approve the payment. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Siegfried explained another item that he had which he did not have a chance to discuss with the sewer committee. He had requested pricing from Fulkroad for the addition of some mud valves or drain valves for the two new digesters. The design intent was those tanks are sloped to a sump and there are sludge transfer pumps to suck the sludge out of there. It did not include the drain valves. Jeremy suggested that he might be nice to have them and Mr. Siegfried agrees that they would provide some additional flexibility. The proposed cost is above the threshold that was established for work change directive. The price for this is estimated at \$16,067.98. He said that he would endorse this. While it is not money that the council has to spend; it is money that would be well spent and the operation staff would thank them for it. He asked that the council provide a work change directive. If council is so inclined, he would proceed with a work change directive and work on the drawing modifications for the contractor. It would ultimately result in a change order for the contractor. Mr. Klock made a motion to move forward with the work change directive for the mud valves at a cost of approximately \$16,000. Mr. Ruane seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Siegfried informed the council that at the last meeting, council authorized Hazen and Sawyer to proceed with the plans for the Liberty Hollow stormwater pipe. The schedule is to get the documents ready to bid by the end of July with the notice to proceed around September 1st, after the pool closes. The Borough Secretary will submit a request for a time extension until the end of the year. Mr. Siegfried stated that this should be enough time to complete the project.

Mr. Troup stated that the price for the jetter truck (trailer) is \$57,155, which is over budget by \$1,854. The price is a costar price. It would replace the flush truck. PipeHunter is the manufacturer. Mr. Klock moved to accept PipeHunter's quote for the jetter trailer. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Troup provided quotes from CVC of \$8,750 and Comfort Specialists of \$8,827 for a heat pump for the office. The quotes include installation and removal of the existing unit. Mr. Troup read the specifications. He stated that the one from Comfort Specialists is a Trane unit and a more efficient unit. Mr. Sees questioned if this item was in the budget. Mr. Klock responded that he doesn't think it was budgeted because the system wasn't failing last year. Mr. Klock stated that there is money for the purchase. Mr. Klock moved to accept Comfort Specialists quote of \$8,827 for the Trane heat pump. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Ruane stated that the Kiwanis is contesting their bill for sewage. He added that they are not the owners of the property; the Borough is and Borough property should be exempt. Mr. Troup stated that they could have Ed (Margel) send them a letter and remove the property from the billing software.

Mr. Klock stated that in the past, when a customer shut off their water service, there was no sewer bill during the time the water was shut off. Now, with the water-based billing, the flat fee is still being billed. He stated that he feels that council should fix this moving forward. Mr. Klock stated that he was made aware of this because he received a bill and is not living in his house. Mr. Troup stated that the property is still connected to the sewer, so he feels they should still pay the flat fee. He noted that if people turn their breakers off, but their meter is still connected, they still pay the flat fee. Mr. Klock said that the sewer department would know if someone is using water because they receive the usage from the water company. Mr. Troup suggested that the sewer committee discuss the topic and take it to council.

Mr. Tira noted that there are sewer department issues to be discussed in Executive Session that relate to a potential litigation claim and a personnel matter.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Zboray thanked those involved with the Memorial Day Service, the American Legion Post 44, and special thanks to Richard Simpson, who did a fantastic job as the keynote speaker for the ceremony.

Mayor Zboray thanked the police department for making extra patrols so the flags at the cemetery were not destroyed this year, as they were last year.

Mayor Zboray read a letter from Bill Geise regarding a camera system for the downtown area. The letter explained that cameras are the last item. The back end systems and network to allow the officers access are the first items to be developed. The system should allow for future expansion as requests are made for additional camera locations. Mr. Geise suggested that the Mayor, Police Chief, and he meet to agree on a direction and need. Mayor Zboray stated that if the council has no objection, he would like to meet with Mr. Geise. Mr. Reed stated that Carl Libby has offered to install cameras downtown for his cost of \$3,900. He said that this is not a live feed; the activity would be recorded. Mr. Reed offered that the cameras could be placed on his building and the police could have access whenever necessary. The Mayor and Chief will discuss it.

Mayor Zboray informed the council that the Police Chief has received a resume from Kevin Romansik. He noted that the original five candidates who have taken the civil service test are

now down to three. Two of the three candidates are current part-time officers. Mayor Zboray requested that the council approve hiring Mr. Romansik at twelve dollars per hour. He noted that one of the full-time officers has resigned. With vacations coming up, he is trying to be proactive so the department may continue to provide round the clock coverage. The council had originally authorized hiring four part-time officers, but had only hired three. Upon motion by Mr. Klock, seconded by Mr. Ruane, council voted 5-1 to hire Kevin Romansik as a part-time police officer at a rate of twelve dollars per hour. Mr. Sees voted no.

Elias Shaffer, a new 9-1-1 dispatcher, requested permission to ride along with an officer in order to become more familiar with the area. Upon motion by Mr. Troup, seconded by Mr. Reed, council approved unanimously to allow the ride along.

Mayor Zboray informed the council that a WWII veteran had a home fire at 730 Strawbridge Road. He thanked the fire department for an exemplary job. Mr. Ruane told Mr. McCollum that he should contact the insurance company to obtain 10% of the claim to the Borough to hold in escrow until the repairs are complete. Mr. Klock questioned if this is still required if the property is not a total loss. Mr. Ruane responded affirmatively. Mr. Klock said that if this is the case, he needs to do the same thing.

Mayor Zboray said that he is concerned about the mud that is coming from the Shikellamy Middle School property. The Borough needs to monitor what the contractor is doing at the property because there are springs throughout the property. There were also issues with them leaving grass in the street from weed whacking. Mr. McCollum said that he would monitor the property. Mayor Zboray noted that when he was in school, sump pumps were running constantly. Mr. Dick Simpson agreed that there are problems with underground springs in the area. Mayor Zboray is concerned about the property owners who live on the lower side of Hanover Street.

Mrs. Bogovich asked who is responsible for filling in the street cuts, the Borough or the utilities, noting that there are several cuts on Susquehanna Road and Jefferson Street. Mr. McCollum stated that he notifies the utilities if it is a cut that was made by a utility.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mrs. Rees reported that the Emergency Services Board met last night.

- The craft fair was held on Saturday with the proceeds going for the support service.
- Ann August was able to secure an Anselmo Grant for the purchase of a simulator which will be used for fire safety programs at Pineknottter Days, Touch a Truck, and school events.
- Tom Diehl, a new board member, asked whether their books were audited. Brian Crebs said that the money that they have is through the Borough.

### **Street Supervisor/ Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. McCollum said that he would like to put some millings along the hole at Liberty Hollow. Discussion ensued. Mr. Sees stated that if the pipe is rusted out along the bottom, the millings would be going into the stream. Mr. Siegfried stated that he would have Chris Brosseau look at the pipe. Pictures of the pipe were taken by Ann August.

Several residents have asked if they may take or purchase some of the bricks at the Recycling Center. Mr. McCollum suggested selling the bricks for \$50 a bucket load and take that money to use for paving. Mr. Troup questioned why they are there. It was originally thought that they could be used as fill along the riverbank. Mr. Troup recommended that the topic be taken to the street committee. Mr. Tira stated that a motion would be required if council decides to sell excess property of the Borough.

Mr. McCollum voiced concern about a building that Eugene Brosius is renting. A storm pipe runs along the building. The corner of the building appears to be sinking and there is a crack inside the building that has become wider. Mr. McCollum has obtained the owner's permission (Judy Groninger) to remove the two shrubs in front of the building to see what is going on. Mr. Ruane stated that the pipe had collapsed and the Borough had new pipes installed along Fifth Street. Discussion ensued. Mr. Tira stated that it should be determined if it is a part of the Borough stormwater system or an underground water problem that is the property owner's responsibility. Mr. Troup stated that once the Borough steps into it, the Borough assumes responsibility and he doesn't think we should do that. He asked if Mr. Brosius contacted Mr. McCollum or if Mr. McCollum contacted him. Mr. McCollum said that he contacted him. Mr. Tira said that a determination should be made as to whether the building is safe to be occupied. Mr. Tira requested that Chris Brosseau look at the property to determine if there is a concern about structural stability with the building. Mr. Siegfried will relay the information.

Mr. McCollum stated that one of the bolts came off the street sweeper. He put lock-tight on it. When the company representative came to repair the sweeper, he brought a new unit instead of fixing the springs for the plunger that shut the water off.

The department is filling potholes.

Mr. Troup said that the dock should be put out at the Point. Mr. McCollum said that if the dock is put straight out, he is concerned that it may rip out the bolts. Mr. Klock stated that the rip rap covers the anchor. Mr. Troup stated that if one piece is put out, people can use it to put their boat in the river. Mr. Troup explained how the docks were anchored at the Norry Boat Club.

Mr. McCollum said that there were twenty-seven street cuts, twelve violations, and thirty-seven complaints, seventeen inspections, three zoning permits, three building permits, and one demolition permits last month.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Troup announced that the council would go into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation issues. The council meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

Mr. Troup read a resignation letter from Ken Smith.

Mr. Klock moved to accept Ken Smith's resignation effective June 2, 2015. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council voted 5-0-1 to accept the resignation with Mr. Sees abstaining.

Mr. Sees made a motion to pay the outstanding bill from Wagner, Dreese, Elsasser & Associates in the amount of \$4,444.38, sixty-five percent of the invoiced amount. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. Council approve by a vote of 5-1. Mr. Klock voted no.

Mr. Ruane made a motion to approve Fulkroad's requests numbers one and four with a letter specifying what is permitted, and denying requests numbers two and three. Mr. Troup seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### Community Development

#### Liberty Splashland

Mr. Reed stated that Jan and Ann have been making phone calls to figure out how to fix the filters at the pool. A company from New York would charge approximately \$10,000 to come to repair the tanks. Boyer Pools could replace the two tanks for approximately \$30,000 but it would take several weeks. Bryan Luden, at Tri-County Water, could install five or six smaller tanks and have it running by Monday. He feels the cost would be between \$10,000 and \$12,000. Several other companies did not respond to the request to repair or replace the tanks. Mr. Reed said that he thinks the pool could still open on Friday because the vessels are backwash vessels and backwashing is done once a week. The parties that are scheduled for the weekend could also be held. The tanks have been emptied; the pool was drained and power-washed; the cracks were sealed and they are starting to fill the pool tonight. Mr. Reed requested council's approval. Mr. Troup moved to have Tri-County Water install the tanks at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Mr. Klock seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

2<sup>nd</sup> Street Playground - The turf will be installed later this month or early July. Mr. McCollum requested about a week's notice in order to remove the sand from the playground and to replace the tiles. He said that he has thirty-five tiles. Mr. Ruane noted that there are three tiles at the pool, too. Mrs. Rees noted that the Anselmo Trust is providing \$14,000 toward payment of the turf, \$7,000 this year and \$7,000 next year. Mr. Sees thanked the Borough Secretary for applying for the funding.

Gymnasium - Mr. Reed stated that Troy Smith is waiting for Mid-State Mechanical to finalize the plans for the HVAC.

Girl Scout House – a work party will be held on June 6th at 9:00 a.m.

Fish pond - Mr. McCollum stated that when the pumps are running, it is leaking. The leak must be in the liner under the waterfall.

Dog Park - Mr. Reed stated that the grass was high and noted that people are not cleaning up after their dogs. Mr. McCollum stated that the dog dirt gets in the mowers. Mayor Zboray said that he spoke to some people from out of town who said that they didn't know they were to carry bags and clean up after their dogs. Mr. Klock said that there is a dispenser for baggies. Mr. Reed said that he had contacted Phil Hallden but the volunteers haven't installed in yet. Mr. Troup said that a notice could be placed on Howling Hollow's Facebook page.

Mr. Dick Simpson said that he was approached about doing a youth baseball camp at Pineknotted Park from 9:00 to 2:00 on July 7, 8, and 9. He requested the council's permission. Approval given.

Mr. Simpson said that the playground equipment was taken out of the shed. He is meeting with Jake Feaster who is willing to see if he could level out the ground for the batting cages and the playground. Mr. Simpson said that he is concerned that someone could throw pieces of the equipment in the river. Mr. Simpson added that the prisoners will be there on Monday and Tuesday to clean out the bank.

Junior Legion, Senior Legion, Little League and the Renegades are all playing ball on the field.

Mr. Reed left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

#### Finance

- Mr. Sees made a motion to transfer \$4,000 from the General Fund to the Norry Playground Fund. This was allocated in the 2015 budget and will go toward a portion of the turf. Mrs. Rees seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.
- Mr. Sees reported that he had a meeting in May to review the budget.
- A letter was sent to the police union on May 22. Mr. Sees stated that he received an email that they would respond but he hasn't gotten anything back yet.
- A request was made of Benecon to provide an itemized bill for the first quarter run-out claims.

Personnel - no report

Public Safety - no report

Rules - no report

#### Streets

Mr. Ruane reported that the crack-sealing company was here last week to seal cracks in the street. They did three hundred and twenty feet and were rained out before completing the proposed work.

Mayor Zboray stated that he has received complaints about people not stopping at the proper location at the red light coming from the Priestley Bridge. He spoke to Mr. McCollum about painting the lines on the street. The sprayer is being repaired, but should be back soon. Mr. Ruane added that an arrow should be painted on Queen Street by the gas station so people know they may only turn right at that intersection.

#### **Old Business - None**

#### **New Business**

1. Upon motion by Mr. Ruane, seconded by Mr. Troup, council voted unanimously to approve payment of the bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$29,750.51; Liberty Splashland bills total \$3,761.19; bills to be paid from the Parks and Recreation account total \$135; and bills to be paid from the Parking Meter Fund total \$91.13.
2. Mr. Klock noted that Northeast Inspection Consultants will conduct the inspections of the sewer project for free. The company will not charge for any open residential permits.

They will also take over the other permits at the same cost. They will do any other inspections for the Borough projects at no charge. Mr. Ruane asked about the permit for the middle school. Mr. Troup said that Building Inspection Underwriters would have to return any payments for inspections that were not completed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Klock will forward the agreement to Mr. Tira before the next Borough council meeting.

Mr. Ruane moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary