

***MINUTES OF THE
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Monday March 13, 2017***

Members of the Tipton Borough Council met on Monday March 13, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at Borough Hall for the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Mr. Stauffer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present Mr. Stauffer, Mr. Biltcliff, Mr. Beck, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Wagaman and Mr. Gehman. Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny, Solicitor Ms. London, Mr. Garmin (engineer representative) and visitors were also in attendance. Mr. Arndt was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Jost, seconded by Mr. Wagaman the minutes of February 13, 2017 were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Dolny presented to council a letter received from Berks Autism Benefit Dance Committee thanking the Borough for past donation and to request a donation for the event this year. Mr. Wagaman made a motion to make the same donation as previous year. Mr. Jost seconded this motion passing unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Gehman to grant waiver for land development as outlined in letter of record. Mr. Wagaman seconded this motion passing unanimously.

Ms. Lorah made a motion to remove right turn keep moving sign under stop sign by White Palm Tavern per requested by letter from owner of White Palm Tavern. This motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed 5 to 1 with Mr. Gehman in the negative.

Ms. Lorah made a motion to refund the money the Tipton Memorial Pool received for a pool gift certificate that was purchased for a resident due to relocation of the recipient. Mr. Beck seconded this motion passing unanimously.

A complaint letter was made regarding a number of properties in the Borough. Mr. Dolny presented council with the findings of this complaint and the steps that have already been taken to remedy some of these complaints. After review council chose not to take any further action regarding any of these complaints.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Biltcliff announced that the snow emergency will begin at 10pm tonight and that all vehicles will need to be removed from the snow emergency routes.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Mrs. Sally Jost questioned the effectiveness of the recent speed limit sign the Borough purchased.

Mr. Bob Rauenzahn asked when and how the meeting was posted and advertised.

Solicitor's Report

Ms. London updated council that the hearing for the land swap between the Borough of Topton and the Blanchard's will be held on March 22, 2017 at 9am.

Ms. London advertised as required Ordinance 2-2017, MS4 Steering Committee and is ready for adoption. Ms. Lorah made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wagaman passing unanimously.

Ms. London requested an executive session for legal matters.

Secretary's Report

Resolution 11-2017 – Setting Borough Fee Schedule

Motion was made by Mr. Wagaman, seconded by Mr. Arndt passing unanimously.

Ms. Lorah made a motion to change our utility service from Windstream to Service Electric. Mr. Wagaman seconded this motion passing unanimously.

Mr. Dolny stated the information regarding Well No. 5 would be discussed during the Engineer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs Committee – (Mr. Stauffer) –

Mr. Stauffer announced this year's Street Fair will be on May 20th. The centennial committee meeting for planning of the Street Fair will be on Monday, March 20th at the Borough Hall.

Personnel Committee – (Ms. Lorah)

None

Finance Committee – (Mr. Wagaman)

Mr. Wagaman made a motion to pay bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)

None

Parks & Recreation Committee – (Mr. Beck)

Mr. Beck and Mr. Dolny updated council on the outcome of the public meeting for Project P.R.O. Mr. Beck made a motion to verify and accept that park plan as presented with the minor alterations of placement of another bathroom as well as movement of the proposed bridge. Mr. Wagaman seconded this motion passing 5 to 1 with Mr. Gehman in the negative.

Resolution 12-2017 – Pool/Recreation Feasibility Grant

Motion was made by Mr. Wagaman to apply for the Pool and Recreation Center Feasibility Grant. This motion was seconded by Mr. Beck passing 5 to 1 with Mr. Gehman in the negative.

Resolution 13-2017 – DCNR Topton Park Playground Grant

Motion was made by Ms. Lorah to apply for the DCNR Grant for the 1st phase of the Topton Park Playground. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wagaman passing unanimously.

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the Topton Memorial Pool rates for 2017 as presented. Ms. Lorah seconded this motion passing unanimously.

Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the YMCA Summer Park program for 2017. Mr. Wagaman seconded this motion passing unanimously.

Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –

Mr. Gehman made a motion to award the Town Square Paving Project to Landis C. Deck & Sons Site Contractors, Div. of H&K Group, Inc. with a base bid of \$457,247.50 and adding alternate #3 in the amount of \$8220.00. Mr. Jost seconded this motion passing unanimously.

Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –

None

Engineer's Report

1. Sewage Treatment Plant

Russ is waiting to hear back from the ex-DEP official that he met with in order to determine measures he can take in order to improve efficiency in operating the plant which would lead to cost savings

Harry Garman will be meeting with Russ in order to finalize the wasteload management report so that it can be submitted to DEP prior to the end of the month. Although, the report will not be projecting any overload in the next five years, it comes very close on the organic loading where the projection for the year 2021 is 749 lbs/day compared to the rated capacity of 750 lbs/day.

Last week, we meet with Russ and Frank to look at installing a water recycling system which would take water from the dichlorination tank and pump it in a closed loop around the plant where recycled water could be used for chemical feed systems, the influent screen and washing tanks and equipment at the plant. It is estimated that approximately 50,000 gpd or more can be saved from the drinking water system.

2. Sanitary Sewer System I & I

Last month, Mr. Rehab advised that they would need to adjust their proposal to perform video inspections of 35 laterals in the Borough from \$215 each to \$230 for a total price of \$8,050.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority will be meeting on March 29, 2017 and it is possible that they will announce grant awards for the small water and sanitary sewer grants. If no announcement is made during this meeting, the next meeting will be in late May.

3. NPDES Permit Renewal

Marcus met with Ed. Boito at DEP and discussed the status of the NPDES Permit for sewage treatment plant. Mr. Boito will look into the status of the permit application and see if he can get it moved up the priority list and report back to Marcus.

4 Well # 5.

We recently met with Marcus and Scott to discuss the permitting for Well # 5. Scott had obtained price quotation for new well pump and chlorine contact tanks. Due to the long period of time that the well was not in use, it is certain that DEP, at a minimum, will require a new well pump test and new source sampling before issuing any permit. Inasmuch as turbidity has been an issue in the past, it may be wise to perform a series of pump tests at varying rates in order to determine when and if turbidity is an issue. If a pump were to be purchased, it should have a VFD so that the pumping rate can be controlled. Once a safe yield is determined, the size of a chlorine contact tank can be determined and it also can be determined if a filtration system is necessary.

We also discussed the amount of water that is used at the sewage treatment plant. It is estimated that 50,000 gallons per day or more is used at the plant. We will look into installation of a recycling system; whereas, water from the treatment plant's effluent will be used for chemical addition, influent screen spray washing and washing down tanks from yard hydrants. A new meter has been installed on the water line feeding the plant; however, we do not have any meter readings to confirm how much water is used at the plant.

Pursuant to our meeting, Marcus met with Ed Boito, the government liaison at DEP, and discussed permitting for Well # 5. Mr. Boito raised a couple of red flags: one is the fact that the well has been inactive for so long, DEP may require that it be re-drilled and the other is the fact that the well's proximity to Weis Street (is about 86' away from the edge of shoulder) and DEP may not approve this location due to wellhead protection concerns. Mr. Boito will talk to the decision makers at DEP and get back to Marcus with any information he has. It may be a good idea to meet with DEP after we hear back from Mr. Boito. In the meantime, Mr. Boito recommends that the Borough does not purchase any new equipment.

Mr. Jost made a motion to approve the purchase of a new vertical pump for well no. 5. Ms. Lorah seconded this motion with it passing unanimously.

5. Toad Creek Improvements

DEP comments were received last week. Alex Ulmer of BIA is in communication with DEP to clarify several of the comments.

6. Borough Park Master Site Plan

Based on feedback from the Borough Council and Public meeting, a revised plan was submitted to the Borough Manager today (3/17).

7. Borough Town Square Improvements

Bids were received on Friday, 3/10 and Landis C. Deck & Sons, Site Contractors, Div. of H&K Group, Inc. is the apparent, lowest responsible bidder. BIA recommends this contractor for approval. Borough Council needs to decide which (if any) Add Alternates will be added to the contract.

Old Business

None

Executive Session – Legal

Entered: 8:53 PM on motion by Mr. Wagaman, seconded by Mr. Beck passing unanimously.

Exit: 9:24 PM on motion by Mr. Wagaman, seconded by Mr. Beck passing unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned at 9:25 PM on a motion by Mr. Wagaman, seconded by Mr. Gehman.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on April 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Sherry D. Palinkas
Administrative Assistant/
Open Records Officer