

***MINUTES OF THE
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONDAY June 13, 2016***

Members of the Tipton Borough Council met on Monday June 13, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at Borough Hall for the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to order by President Mr. Stauffer who relinquished meeting to the most senior council member Mr. Gehman due to medical issue. Mr. Gehman started meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Beck, seconded by Mr. Jost the minutes of May 9, 2016 were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Resident Patricia Regensberger email regarding horse droppings was read and discussed by council. Per Religious Freedom Act situation is out of our hands but will make suggestion to resident to contact Penndot to get guidance.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Biltcliff reported that he was very happy with turnout of rain delayed Task Force Celebration and music in park this past Thursday and hopes for good attendance at future events.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Frank Schoch of Lehigh Industries approached council to request variance to waive SALDO review. Mr. Schoch supplied photos as well as descriptions to the where abouts he would like to place the structure in question. Mr. Schoch was advised that even if we were to waive the variance that we would be unable to waive any county reviews required and that he should contact the county to discuss options with them.

Solicitor's Report

Ms. London requested an executive session for legal matters.

Ms. London requested motion to sign agreement to renegotiate cable franchise agreement that is up in 2017. Mr. Arndt made a motion to sign agreement and was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.

Ms. London informed council that 229 W. Weis St. has gone into bankruptcy and she will

file to collect on lien on the property.

Ms. London also requested motion to sign land swap agreement. Ms. Lorah made a motion to sign agreement and was seconded by Mr. Arndt and passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Dolny informed council that we have started to receive money from recycling and building grants to reimburse previous projects that will now be placed into the Project "PRO" fund to go towards the 1st phase of this project.

Mr. Dolny also informed council of a Greenway & Trails grant with a 15% match he would like to apply for. Mr. Beck made a motion to give Mr. Dolny the authority to apply for this grant on behalf of the Borough of Topton. Ms. Lorah seconded this position and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs Committee – (Mr. Stauffer) –

Mr. Stauffer complimented the success of the Community days and thanked all that was involved.

Mr. Stauffer is looking forward to the next big community event, the fireworks on July 8th with a rain date of July 9th.

Personnel Committee – (Ms. Lorah)

Ms. Lorah updated council that low sewer plant internship applications that we have now posted for a full time position sewer plant operator/public works.

Finance Committee – (Mr. Wagaman)

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

Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)

None

Parks & Recreation Committee – (Mr. Beck)

Project “Pro” committee continues to move forward. Reminder that the Public Meeting will be held on June 20th at Brandywine Middle School Auditorium at 7:00pm.

Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –

Mr. Arndt updated council that plans for repaving Town Square is almost complete and will go out to bid in possibly August.

Mr. Arndt also requested updates on parking issues in Town Square area and was informed by Mr. Dolny that State Police have been involved and will be ticketing and that if anyone needs to report a violation they should contact State Police.

Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –

None

Engineer’s Report

1. Sewage Treatment Plant – Copper Limit

During May, although we do not have the final average concentration for the month, Russ has reported that the copper level is creeping up with the warmer weather. Russ will closely monitor the copper levels and make any necessary adjustments to the chemical feed rate in order to keep the copper levels within the permitted limits.

2. Sewage Treatment Plant – Annual Reporting

In a letter dated May 5, 2016, Aaron Baar of DEP sent a letter to the Borough regarding a review of the Borough’s 2015 Annual Wasteload Management Report. Mr. Baar requested that the Borough address his comments and submit a revised report to DEP by June 5, 2016. A letter was prepared, addressing each comment, and a revised report was submitted to DEP on June 6, 2016 (June 5th was a Sunday). Two copies of the revised report have been made for the Borough’s records.

3. Weather Protection for Influent Screen

Borough personnel will be installing the lighting inside the car port enclosure in the near future.

4. Sanitary Sewer System I & I

During the past month, Russ has performed smoke testing of the entire sanitary sewer collection system. During this testing he took pictures of locations where smoke was observed or obvious defects were found. He sent the photos to our office and we prepared folders with prints of the photos noting the defects at each location. There were a total of

66 photos, most of which were outside the street right-of-ways. There are numerous locations where smoke indicated broken pipes and locations where there were uncovered vents flush with the ground. We will get together with Russ to compare the areas where the sewer mains have been video inspected with the areas identified during the smoke testing in order to plan for addressing these issues and preparing a recommendation for action. Two copies of the photo catalog were put together for the Borough's files.

As per DEP's directive, the Borough is to conduct 75 house inspections each year, thus far 30 house inspections have been completed; thus, 45 remain to be done. These are to be completed by the end of August.

6. NPDES Permit Renewal

Last week, we placed a telephone call and also sent an email to DEP asking for an update on the status of the NPDES Permit Application which was submitted in late February; we have yet not received any update. The current permit expires on August 31, 2016.

7. Toad Creek Improvements

A kick-off meeting was held with BCCD on 2/19/16. A pre-application meeting was held with DEP on 5/3/16. BIA is proceeding with design plans and permit documents. The proposed Land swap with the Blanchard property is in process. BIA will be scheduling a field meeting with DEP for late June/early July.

8. Borough Park Master Site Plan

BIA met with the committee on March 21st to review alternative site layouts for the park. The committee discussed a number of issues which resulted in a hybrid plan of various proposed changes and improvements. The public meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 20th.

9. Borough Town Square Improvements

A BIA representative met with the Borough's Road committee on May 31st. Plans are being prepared with the intent to bid and construct Home Avenue later this year.

10. Paving of Alleys

Ryan discussed the possibility of paving some of the alleys during other paving projects.

Old Business

Ms. London informed council she has not had any response from Longswamp Township requesting a \$10,000 escrow account.

Executive Session – Legal/Personnel

Entered: 8:10 PM on motion by Mr. Jost, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing unanimously.
Exit: 8:27 PM on motion by Mr. Stauffer, seconded by Mr. Beck passing unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourned at 8:28 PM on a motion by Mr. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Beck.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on July 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

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