

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2015***

Members of the Tipton Borough Council met on Monday August 10, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at Borough Hall for the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stauffer with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Arndt, seconded by Mr. Jost the minutes of July 13, 2015 were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Topton EMS has requested use of the Weis Street parking lot on September 24, 2015 for a fundraiser. Mr. Jost made a motion to allow. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously.

Maxatawny Township sent a letter regarding a proposed zoning map change for council to review, no comments were made.

BHHS Telecom submitted a letter requesting approval for coordinating a possible 5K run. The run apparently takes place entirely outside of the borough limits and no action was needed.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Ashley Nelmes addressed council regarding water and sewage usage. Her letter is included in the minutes. Matter is tabled pending more research and until the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter usage is available.

Leon Moyer informed council that he completed successfully all requirements needed to carry a firearm.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Personnel Committee – (Mr. Stauffer)**

No Report

**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)

New truck was available for council to see.

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – (Mr. Beck)

On motion by Mr. Jost the Borough will start the process of removing the bullet boardwalk structure. Consideration of leaving the swings as long as possible, releasing a statement to the press, and arranging a time for those who have name boards remaining to come claim them will all be taken into consideration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed 6 to 1 with Mr. Arndt voting in the negative.

**Streets Committee** – (Mr. Arndt) –

After reviewing the intersection at Callowhill and Barkley Street, Mr. Dolny felt we should move forward with a study to place a 4 way stop at the intersection based on safety reasons. A motion was made by Mr. Arndt to proceed with the study. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously. Estimated cost would be \$2,400 for the study.

It was also brought to the council's attention that due to the remodel of Speedway, a dumpster was placed next to the building that is partially in the alley. Mr. Dolny will check and if needed have the dumpster moved or cones placed.

Mr. Arndt made a motion to alter road signage at two locations, first adding at the intersection of Centre Ave. & Main St. an "Except Right Turn" sign to the stop sign, and secondly removing the stop signs at the intersection of Haas St. & Keller St. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed 4 to 3 with councilmembers Lorah, Wagaman, and Staffer voting in the negative.

Mr. Gehman made a motion to remove the stop signs on High St. at the intersection of High St. & Heffner St. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arndt, but was defeated 3 to 4 with councilmembers Beck, Lorah, Wagaman, and Staffer voting in the negative.

Resident Leon Moyer questioned how the removal of the “Except Right Turn” sign at High St. & Hass St. came about. Council explained it occurred during a regularly scheduled meeting by motion.

**Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –**

Mr. Gehman commented on the DEP home inspections being conducted by the Borough. We have met this year’s quota however, moving forward we are finding residents that are just not cooperating. Solicitor London directed to move forward that penalties can be from the Sewer Usage Ordinance.

**Public Affairs Committee – (Ms. Lorah) –**

N/R

**Mayor’s Report –**

N/R

**Secretary’s Report**

- Mr. Dolny presented to council a request for water and sewer connection by Longswamp Township on behalf of Paul Hilbert 556 State Street. Council advised Mr. Dolny to prepare an agreement and proceed.
- Mr. Dolny advised council of a residential complaint, during an earlier storm a neighbor’s tree was damaged and is currently hanging on their property. The Borough Office had already sent a letter to the property owner as a courtesy, however nothing has been done. Asked can the Borough do anything else in regards to assist the property owner? Solicitor London stated that at this point there was nothing more the Borough can legally do.

**Engineer’s Report**

**1. Sewage Treatment Plant Copper Limit**

Last month, it was reported that the Copper level during the month of May was 0.025 ppm

and for the month of June it was 0.016 ppm. During July it was 0.020 ppm. The permit limit is 0.025 ppm; therefore, there have not been any permit violations in 2015 thus far.

We had previously discussed the necessity of bumping the pH value higher and that it would be very expensive to do this with the magnesium hydroxide. Recently, when cleaning the wet well globs of the magnesium hydroxide were found to be accumulating at the bottom of the tank. This reinforces the idea that raising the pH up to around 9.0 would be very difficult as well as very expensive with magnesium hydroxide.

As previously considered, last week a change was made by switching to caustic soda for increasing the pH. Russ has reported that after six days of using the caustic soda, he is able to raise the pH to 9.0 as it enters the wet well and the pH in the plant's effluent is at 7.4. At this point we do not have any values for the copper in the plant's effluent while using caustic soda to boost the pH; but, it looks promising that caustic soda may be more cost effective than the magnesium hydroxide. Russ is purchasing the caustic soda from Univar in 220 gallon totes on a temporary basis. If the lab reports, when available, indicate effective copper removal with the use of caustic soda, arrangements will be made to purchase the product in bulk. Protective suits have been purchased and the operators are taking extra precaution in handling the caustic soda.

## **2. Topton Home Water Connection**

I recently spoke with Steve Daniels of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries and we tentatively set a meeting date for Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. An alternate date is Friday August 28<sup>th</sup>. He is most interested in knowing what the water rates will be and how much up front expense they should anticipate.

## **3. Home Inspections**

DEP has directed the Borough to perform 75 home and/or business inspections each year for the purpose of identifying and eliminating any illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system. It appears that the required number of inspections will be completed by the due date.

Additionally there are a number of homes that were previously inspected and illegal connections were found. A notice was provided to the owner to disconnect the illegal connection and notify the Borough when the work was completed; however, in most cases the Borough has not received any notice that the work was done.

## **4. Washington Street Injector Station**

Russ has informed us that once he received a street address, he was given a number by Windstream, the spare dialer was installed and everything seems to be working just fine.

## **5. Weather Protection for Influent Screen**

Pursuant to last month's meeting Frank, Russ and I met a couple of times to discuss a structure for the influent screen. The first meeting was to identify the equipment to be covered by the structure and to identify obstructions and get measurements. Pursuant to the first meeting we prepared a material cost estimate for building a pavilion type structure made of pressure treated lumber and steel roof. We also, obtained pricing for some pre-engineered steel carports. Once we had some cost estimates we met again to review the two options and compare the costs as well as discuss the pros and cons of each option.

The material costs for a build it yourself pavilion type structure is about \$3,500. In addition to the material costs, there would be extensive labor requirements in building the structure and once the pavilion was built, it would be necessary to purchase heavy duty canvas tarps and wrap the pavilion each winter.

A pre-engineered carport with walls on three sides, each wall having windows so that there will be ventilation during non-freezing months will cost \$6,080 installed. This price does not include a footer or foundation wall. This option will also eliminate the need to purchase the heavy duty canvas tarps and the need for wrapping the structure each winter. The pre-engineered carport is designed for this locale for snow and wind loads. For an additional \$300, certified drawings, sealed by a professional engineer, are available if required.

It was the consensus of the group to recommend that the Borough purchase a 24' x 31' pre-engineered carport with 10 sidewall height and three sides enclosed with walls and a total of six windows for the installed price of \$6,080 plus the cost for pouring a concrete footer and foundation.

## **6. Birch Alley Sanitary Sewer**

The Utility Service Group, Inc. of Camp Hill, PA reviewed the television inspection videos for two sanitary sewer runs between MH 100 and MH 98 and MH 98 and MH 96 in Birch Alley from Weiss Street south towards the Borough boundary. Upon reviewing the videos USG prepared and submitted a quote to perform sanitary sewer repairs for the defects found in the video. Their proposal is to perform root cutting and obstruction removal at four (4) locations and to perform five three (3) feet long point repairs with cured in place pipe lining at a cost of \$10,240. Inasmuch as the quotation is less than the \$10,400 limit for a sole source purchase, no other quotations are necessary unless the Borough wanted to obtain additional quotes.

## **7. Sanitary TV Inspection and Cleaning Services**

Russ has been informed that Captain Clog will no longer be available for routine sanitary sewer services such as closed circuit TV inspection or sewer cleaning. Russ had checked with Lehigh County Authority who indicated that they may be available in an emergency situation provided that their services were not required in one of the municipalities in their service area at that time. Russ had also search for other companies that provide this type of service, and found Kline's Services from Salunga, PA. (Lancaster Area) and Mr Rehab from Mechanicsburg, PA. Inasmuch as Klines is closer to Topton than Mr. Rehab, which may be critical in emergency situations, Russ is looking for authorization to hire Kline's Services from time to time when needed for sewer inspections and or repairs.

Kline's Services general rates for some basic services are portal to portal as follows:

- GapVax Super vacuum & Flusher Truck with Operator - \$205/hour
- Vacuum straight truck or hook truck with sealed vacuum container - \$115/hour
- Main Line Camera with color pan & tilt - \$188/hour
- Offsite disposal of liquids - \$0.15/gallon; of solids - \$150/ ton

## **8. Toad Creek Improvements**

Preliminary plans have been submitted to the Borough for review. **The Borough and BIA will be pursuing additional Grant funding. BIA has been in communication with the Conservation District and will be supplying them with additional information.**

**9. BHSD Elementary School**

In June, the Borough approved the land development plans for the minor improvements at the elementary school. As requested by the Borough, Ryan Kern attended a site meeting at the school on June 23<sup>rd</sup> to view the existing pavement for the tennis courts. Ryan Kern viewed that the courts have a minimum of 4-inches of asphalt and 4-inches of stone sub-base. **Construction has commenced.**

**10. Mocha Mike's**

In June, the Borough received an application to install a Mocha Mike's free-standing unit at the Dollar General site. BIA reviewed the plans and determined that the Land Development process will need to be followed. BIA issued a review letter on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for consideration by the Borough. **To date, a resubmission has not occurred.**

**Solicitor's Report**

Ms. London reviewed the 5 year PennDOT Winter Maintenance Agreement, Resolution 7-2015. Mr. Wagaman made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Gehman and passing unanimously.

- Asked for executive session regarding legal matters. On motion by Mr. Wagaman and seconded by Ms. Lorah the motion passed unanimously and the meeting entered executive session at 9:15PM
- On motion by Mr. Wagaman and seconded by Mr. Jost the council exited executive session at 9:30PM

**Old Business**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 9:30 PM on a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Beck.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on September 14, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Marcus V. Dolny  
Borough Secretary