

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY January 9, 2017***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday January 9, 2017 at 7:01 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. Beck, Mr. Arndt, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Wagaman and Mr. Gehman. Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny, Solicitor Ms. London, Mr. Kern (engineer representative) and visitors were also in attendance. Mr. Biltcliff was absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Beck the minutes of December 12, 2016 were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Mr. Dolny shared with council a letter the Borough received regarding a donation request from Brandywine Heights High School for their mini thon. With a motion made by Mr. Gehman and seconded by Mr. Arndt council voted 6 to 1 not to participate in this donation.

**Mayor's Report –**

None

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Phillip Rollman spoke to council regarding employee's raises this year and presented council with a demographic report he acquired.

Bob Rauenzahn questioned the previously approved Fire Tax and Sewer rate increase. He also asked about the procedure for advertising Borough Council meetings.

**Solicitor's Report**

Ms. London updated Council regarding Longswamp Township matters and upcoming hearings.

Ms. London presented council with revised and re advertised sewer rate increase Ordinance 1-2017 (previously 6-2016). Mr. Wagaman made a motion to sign and adopt Ordinance 1-2017 with sewer rate increase as approved by council. Ms. Lorah seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

## **Secretary's Report**

### Resolution 1-2017 – Bank Depositories

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

### Resolution 2-2017 – Auditor

Motion was made by Mr. Jost, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing unanimously.

### Resolution 3-2017 – Engineer

Motion was made by Mr. Jost, seconded by Mr. Gehman passing unanimously.

### Resolution 4-2017 – Solicitor

Motion was made by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Beck passing unanimously.

### Resolution 5-2017 – Property Maintenance Code

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

### Resolution 6-2017 – Treasurer

Motion was made by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Jost passing unanimously.

### Resolution 7-2017 – PMRS Administrative Officer

Motion was made by Mr. Jost, seconded by Mr. Beck passing unanimously.

### Resolution 8-2017 – Manager

Motion was made by Ms. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Jost passing unanimously.

### Resolution 9-2017 – Zoning Officer

Motion was made by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Affairs Committee – (Mr. Stauffer) –**

None

### **Personnel Committee – (Ms. Lorah)**

Ms. Lorah made a motion to remove Alex Lord from probationary status and extend to him full time status. Mr. Jost seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.

### **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. Dolny updated council on current status of grants for Project PRO

Mr. Dolny also informed council there will be a public meeting regarding Project Pro with unveiling of the final plan.

**Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –**

Mr. Arndt spoke about resident complaint regarding garbage issue

Mr. Dolny and Mr. Arndt addressed the intersection of High and Main St and will meet in the near future to review this.

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

None

**Engineer's Report**

**1. Sewage Treatment Plant**

On Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup>, Harry Garman met with Russ Pilgert and Frank Jost at the sewage treatment plant in order to check out the influent screen. It was determined that the screen was installed in accordance with the design drawings and that modifying the installation, by adjusting the angle of the screen, would likely create more problems than it would solve.

After discussing Russ's concern over the screen's capacity, it was learned that his primary concern was based on the fact that as the flow into the chamber reaches about 0.5 MGD, the water level on the upstream side of the screen rises above the top of the inlet pipe. He is concerned that allowing the level to rise above the top of the pipe could result in sewer backups in the basements of the homes along Furnace Street.

Pursuant to his site visit, Mr. Garman reviewed the record drawings of the sewer system upstream of the screen all the way up to MH #7 where the line from Furnace Street ties into the Interceptor. The Interceptor is a 14" diameter asbestos cement sewer pipe and the minimum grade of this pipe is 0.43%. The maximum capacity of the sewer was calculated to be 2 MGD and the depth in the pipe at a flow rate of 1 MGD was calculated to be 7 inches. Mr. Garman further determined that there would be no effect of backwater in the 14" A.C. sewer beyond the first manhole and that the invert elevation of MH #7 is more than 10' higher than the invert at the screen.

Based on these calculations, Russ was advised that he could allow the depth in the channel to rise near the top of the channel, without opening the by-pass gate and have no fear of causing any problems in the Furnace Street area.

Russ continues to work on ways to operate the plant in a more efficient manor with the assistance of an ex-DEP official. Recently data loggers were installed in the aeration tanks to continuously measure the dissolved oxygen levels. Hopefully, once sufficient data is obtained it may be possible to install timers on the blowers which would limit their run time during certain periods of the day and save on electrical costs. Currently, the blowers run continuously.

## **2. Sanitary Sewer System I & I**

While Mr. Garman was in the Borough on December 28<sup>th</sup>, the sanitary sewer lateral at Advanced Carbon Technologies building on Washington Street was televised by Russ. During the TV inspection, it was noted that at the cleanout there was a small but steady flow of clear water, as the camera was pushed out towards the street, there was a sag in the line and after the sag the flow was much greater. Being there was a water curb box a few feet away, Scott was notified of the situation; however, he checked the water line and found that it was not leaking; therefore, the increase in flow must be from a spring.

Last summer, we received a proposal from Mr. Rehab to perform TV Inspections of 35 laterals where smoke was observed during the recent smoke testing of the sewer system. We will contact Mr. Rehab and ask if their quote is still good; if not we will ask for a revise proposal.

We have not heard anything regarding the application for a PA Small Water and Sewer system grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority to date.

## **3. NPDES Permit Renewal**

The NPDES Permit for sewage treatment plant has not yet been reissued by DEP.

## **4. Well # 5.**

To the best of our knowledge, the well pump has not yet been rebuilt and returned to the Borough. Once the pump is received and reinstalled, pump testing can be done so that the safe yield can be determined and any water quality issues can be identified.

## **5. Toad Creek Improvements**

BIA submitted the Permit Application and plans to BCCD and DEP in late December. BIA continues communication with Kent Himmelwright of BCCD and we await their review.

## **6. Borough Park Master Site Plan**

BIA received no comments on the report from the committee. BIA will finalize the report and plan and submit the week of January 16 to Borough Council for review. If requested, BIA can present the plan at the next Council meeting and respond to any questions.

## **7. Borough Town Square Improvements**

Plans have been submitted to the Borough Manager & Council for review. A draft of the Specs and Bid Package has been prepared and we are awaiting authorization from Council to proceed with advertisement of the bid. We need final determination from Council for the following:

- Schedule – Draft Invitation to Bid has been submitted to the Borough Manager. Are the subject dates acceptable to the Borough?
- Planter strips – Remain as is or replace with concrete?
- Railroad – Update?
- Add Alternate – Alleys to be added to the project?

## **Old Business**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 8:17 PM on a motion by Ms. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Arndt.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on February 13, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

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