

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY July 11, 2016***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday July 11, 2016 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. Biltcliff, Mr. Beck, Mr. Arndt, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Wagaman 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. Arndt, seconded by Mr. Jost the minutes of June 13, 2016 were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boy Scout Troop 585 requested to have their car wash on July 30, 2016 with a rain date of August 6, 2016. They have requested to use the parking lot in front of pool and the car wash would be held 9am-1pm. Ms. Lorah made a motion to approve this and Mr. Wagaman seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

It has been brought to the Borough's attention that we have had multiple complaints regarding community members being out all hours of night and trespassing onto private property to play Pokemon Go. We have notified the community that if there are issues with trespassing that residents should contact State Police.

**Mayor's Report –**

Mayor Biltcliff reported that he has had many compliments regarding Topton's fireworks on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Biltcliff also stated that the summer is going very smooth in Topton.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

None

## **Solicitor's Report**

Ms. London updated council that she has contacted other municipalities regarding the Service Electric cable agreement but has had no response at this time. She will keep council updated.

Ms. London also informed council that she has prepared a storm water agreement for the East Penn Parking lot as well as a Maintenance Agreement pending final inspection. Mr. Arndt made a motion to sign this agreement and Mr. Wagaman seconded this motion and passed unanimously.

Ms. London informed council that Pool litigation is now closed and check received for \$15,000 will be deposited into project "PRO" account.

## **Secretary's Report**

Mr. Dolny reported that Topton Memorial Pool Café lead employee David Jachimowicz' has terminated his employment due to a family move. Mr. Dolny requested a motion be made to promote Hunter Miller into lead position in the Pool Side Café with a \$0.25 hourly increase. Ms. Lorah made the motion and Mr. Jost seconded this motion and passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Stauffer applauded all the events and activities in the Borough so far this summer.

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

Ms. Lorah updated council that job opening has closed and that she will be starting the interview process soon.

Ms. Lorah also made a motion to change Sherry Palinkas' probationary period from the original 6 months as noted in original offer letter to 3 months. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

### **Finance Committee – (Mr. Wagaman)**

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

### **Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)**

Mr. Jost requested the approval for our public works crew to purchase new brushes for the street cleaner. Mr. Dolny informed Mr. Jost that they may purchase them as its built in budget.

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

Mr. Beck commented that public meeting for Project “PRO” had lower attendance then hoped for but that we are moving on to next step.

Mr. Beck also requested for the mulch to be turned at playground to bring newer mulch to the top.

### **Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –**

Mr. Arndt inquired regarding properties through Borough that have overgrown weeds that protrude into the streets and sidewalks.

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

Mr. Gehman was absent

Mr. Dolny made council aware that we are in process of getting quotes to bring Well #5 back on line.

## **Engineer’s Report**

### **1. Sewage Treatment Plant – Copper Limit**

Last month it was reported that the copper levels were creeping upward. Russ has made some adjustments in the chemical feed rates and thus far the copper level has remained below the permitted limit.

### **2. Sewage Treatment Plant – Annual Reporting**

Last month we revised and submitted the 2015 Annual Wasteload Management Report to DEP as requested in their letter dated May 5, 2016. To date we have not received any comments on the revised report.

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

Borough personnel installed the lighting inside the car port enclosure and since then, on a couple of occasions, Russ needed to work on the screen very early in the morning while it was still dark. Russ said that the lighting is good and enables him to work on the screen while it is dark outside.

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

Last week, Harry Garman met with Marcus and Russ to review the findings of the recent smoke testing as well as closed circuit television inspections of the sewer system.

During the smoke testing it was discovered that there were a number of locations where defects were discovered in the sewer system. Some of these defects include broken vent caps and broken pipes on private property. Marcus intends to notify the property owners of these defects and advise them that repairs must be made.

There are also a number of defects where smoke was observed coming out of the ground just behind the curb. It is believed that the cause for this may be a poor connection between the private building sewer and the public sewer lateral. Typically the building sewer is a 4" pipe and the sewer lateral is 6" and it is not known how these connections were made. Council should decide if the Borough is to make these repairs. It is our understanding that the Borough can make vacuum excavations; therefore, excavating with a backhoe may not be necessary.

There were a few places where smoke was coming out around manholes. Further investigations of these areas should be done. One area is in Haas Street on the north side of the railroad tracks. The influent screen was jammed up a couple of times due to an accumulation of stones in the unit. It is possible that the stones are getting into the sewer at this location. Also, there was smoke coming up through the sidewalk across from the middle school. Russ will be making arrangements to get televised inspections in both these areas.

As per DEP's directive, the Borough is to conduct 75 house inspections each year; there are about 40 homes remaining to be inspected by the end of August; otherwise, there will be a violation of DEP's directive.

### **6. NPDES Permit Renewal**

Recently, we were advised by DEP that the new permit may not be issued prior to the current permit's expiration date of August 31, 2016. If this is the case, the Borough shall continue to operate under the expired permit until such time as the new permit is issued.

### **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 is revising the plans and will be contacting DEP this week to schedule a meeting.

**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 was held on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. BIA is currently preparing the report.

**9. Borough Town Square Improvements**

Per discussions with the Borough, the construction date for Home Avenue has been pushed back to the beginning of 2017 and will be bid with the entire Town Square project. This will help save construction costs and allow property owners more time to perform sidewalk and curb replacements.

**Old Business**

Mr. Arndt requested more information regarding steps needed for Legion to pave their parking lot.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 7:47 PM on a motion by Mr. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Wagaman.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on August 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

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