

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014***

Members of the Tipton Borough Council met on Monday June 9, 2014 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. Beck, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Wagaman, Mr. Gehman, Mr. Arndt, and Mayor Biltcliff. Also in attendance were Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny, Solicitor Joan London, and visitors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Jost the minutes of May 12, 2014 were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Topton Post office asked for there to be a Handicap Parking space placed on Barkley St. to accommodate their customers. On motion by Mr. Arndt and seconded by Mr. Jost the motion passed unanimously to grant the request.

Catrina Alderfer asked for a waiver of her utility termination notice based on medical reasons. Mr. Jost made the motion to allow 30 days for payment in full and failure to do so would result in the Borough placing a lien on the property. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously

Topton Fire Company asked for a donation of 4 day passes to the Tipton Pool for the raffle that will be held at the block party, on motion by Mr. Wagaman and seconded by Mr. Beck the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. and Mrs. Schultz of 47 N. Main Street ask council to waive the sewer charges related to their leak in the winter of 2014. On a motion by Mr. Jost and seconded by Mr. Arndt the amount of \$1,053.40 will be credited to their bill. The motion passes 6 to 1 with Mr. Gehman voting in the negative.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Residents voiced concern over a provision in the new quality of life ordinance regarding snow removal.

Mr. Miller inquired about the standing of an application for a handicapped parking space.

Superintendent Andrew Pottiger spoke in regards to the community task force and a successful “take back the park” event. A board has been formed and a new web site established.  
[www.bhctaskforce.org](http://www.bhctaskforce.org)

Mr. Pottiger was pleased to announce there would be no increase for the upcoming budget for the school district.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Motion was made by Mr. Jost to accept the resignation of Renee Sufrinko from the Municipal Authority due to a move, seconded by Mr. Wagaman and passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Gehman to appoint William Moyer to the vacated seat on the municipal authority, seconded by Mr. Arndt and passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Wagaman made a motion to allow the payment of bills. Mr. Jost seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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

Just noted that the Borough properties are looking good.

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

Mr. Beck made a motion to purchase the needed cameras for around the lower park and bullet boardwalk. Seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

Mr. Beck also brought up the deterioration of the wooden playground stating hard decisions would have to be made soon.

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

Mr. Gehman questioned the excessive truck traffic, wishes there was a way to regulate or prohibit. Also revisited the handicap ramp in front of Jak’s on Centre Ave. said he’s been tracking and after 82 times only 4 times had there been a vehicle in the yellow, the ramp has

never been blocked. Said that there is no reason to change anything and that we will just refresh the painted markings.

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

Mr. Gehman said the new unit at the sewer plant is working well, Mr. Jost added that once it is tweaked we shouldn't see any of the issues that its currently having.

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

**NO REPORT**

**Mayor's Report** –

Applauded the emergency crews for their handling of the train incident

**Secretary's Report**

At last meeting Keystone Publishing proposal for ordinance codification was presented, on motion by Mr. Beck and seconded by Ms. Lorah to accept the proposal, the motion passed unanimously.

On motion by Mr. Jost seconded by Mr. Wagaman passing unanimously the Borough of Topton will support the merging of the TCC with Berks E.I.T.

**Solicitor's Report**

Ms. London asked for a motion to advertise an amendment to Ordinance 2-2014 Quality of Life, in reference to changes of procedures, due process, appeals, and also changing the requirement of snow shoveling to be the width of the sidewalk not to exceed 48". A motion was made by Mr. Wagaman and seconded by Ms. Lorah, the motion passes 6 to 1 with Mr. Gehman voting in the negative.

Ms. London also presented advertised ORDINANCE 3-2014 ENTERING INTO AGREEMENT REGARDING THE EASTERN BERKS REGIONAL JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. Mr. Gehman made a motion to adopt seconded by Mr. Wagaman and passed unanimously.

The Joint Comprehensive plan committee is recommending updating maps as needed. Mr. Gehman made a motion that we allow and split the cost with other members accepting 1/3 of the cost, estimated to be \$14,000.00 total. The motion was seconded by Mr. Arndt and passed

unanimously.

Ms London will proceed as needed in regards to the matter of curbing on the corner of Washington and Heffner Streets, on motion by Mr. Gehman seconded by Mr. Wagaman and approved unanimously.

## **Engineer's Report**

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

We have prepared a letter to DEP advising that the Borough has decided to perform a Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) study in order to develop copper criteria for Toad Creek. The plan includes collecting samples from Toad Creek near the Borough Hall, Downstream Borough Limits and at North Park Road as well as the treatment plant's effluent. Sampling shall occur four (4) times, once each season over the next year. The samples will be collected by a DEP approved laboratory and analyzed for ten parameters. Once DEP authorizes the BLM study, the Borough is to hire a Certified Laboratory to conduct the sampling.

During the month of May, the average monthly copper concentration was 0.028 mg/l which exceeded the limit of 0.025 mg/l. This is chiefly due to high limits during the past two weeks of the month when the copper concentration was 0.035 and 0.038 mg/l. It is believed that the copper concentration was high pursuant to an event of a suspected toxic or chlorine dump which resulted in killing the plant's bacteria and adversely affected the performance of the treatment plant. Although it is not absolutely certain to be the cause of the bacteria kill, it was learned that the Topton Home recently began chlorinating their hot water system. Last year, when a similar event occurred, it was learned that the Topton Home was adding chlorine to their hot water as a precautionary method after a case of Legionnaires disease. As of this morning, Russ has reported that the treatment plant has recovered from this event and is now operating much better.

### **2. Sewage Treatment Plant influent Screen**

The side seal plates on the Influent Screen were repaired and the unit was installed a couple of weeks ago. Russ reported today that the screen appears to be working satisfactorily; however, he indicated that it is somewhat more labor intensive than expected from his conversation with the operator at the Shartlesville plant. Apparently, they must manually pull off certain items from the screen a few times during the day.

During start up, the manufacturer's representative pointed out that there may be a problem with the heat trace inside the pit as a result of the sewage backing up from the flow equalization tanks which would result in the heat trace being submerged. Depending on the frequency and duration of such submergence, the heat trace could short out and need replacing. Possible resolutions would be to leave the heat trace and piping as is, redirect the water supply line so that it is outside the pit or to replace the heat trace with a type that is suitable for occasional submergence.

It is also recommended that a backflow preventer be installed on the water supply regardless if the water line is relocated so that it is not in the pit or not. It is connected to the spray wash system which would be considered a cross connection with a non-potable source.

Recently, we provided DEP with some additional information that they requested during their review of the Water Quality Management Permit Application. We checked DEP's website this morning and the application is listed as pending.

**4. Toad Creek Improvements**

Topographic survey is approximately 75% complete. Ryan Kern has contacted Michael Wetzel of the school district to notify them about gaining access to the middle school site. Environmental survey will occur over the next month.

**5. Zoning Ordinance Update**

Bob Korp of BIA attended the May Planning Commission meeting and will be attending subsequent monthly meetings. The update continues and is on schedule.

**6. Topton Family Practice**

Ryan Kern met with Marcus Dolny at the Topton Family Practice site (72 E. Washington Street) to discuss their drainage issue. We looked at three options and recommended that they outlet their roof drains and trench drains to Washington Street.

**7. Borough Hall sign**

BIA has prepared a preliminary plan for the Borough to review. The plan will be submitted to Marcus Dolny tomorrow (6/10/14). Upon review/mark-ups by the Borough, BIA will prepare the Zoning Variance submission.

**Old Business**

Siebert Property - Pending.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 8:38 PM on a motion by Mr. Jost, seconded by Ms. Lorah

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on July 14, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Marcus V. Dolny  
Borough Secretary

