

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY June 8, 2015***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday June 8, 2015 at 7:45 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 Mayor Biltcliff, Mr. Gehman, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Arndt, and Mr. Stauffer. Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny. Solicitor Joan London, Engineer Bob Korp and visitors were also in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Jost, seconded by Mr. Arndt the minutes of May 11, 2015 were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Topton Fire Company informed the Borough of their annual block party scheduled for July 11, 2015. They also asked for a donation again of Day passes to be used at the pool. Mr. Jost made the motion to donate 4 Family Day Passes to the raffle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously.

A letter from Girl Scout Troop 178 asking for permission to hold a car wash in the Weis Street lot at a date to be determined was presented to council. Mr. Arndt made a motion to allow with a disclaimer that the Borough can cancel them if there is a draught concern. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.

The Scott's asked about the procedure to hold a block party on their street. A formal plan accompanied by a request letter would be the first step.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Brandywine Height's Presented Plans for a Parking lot addition to District Elementary School.

The school district previously met with the Planning Commission which yielded the follow recommendation to Borough Council as stated in the Planning Commission Minutes of June 8, 2015; *Approval contingent on meeting the seven conditions set forth in Barry Isett's plan review letter to the Planning Commission (Included on Record) and an additional stipulation that core sampling be done to determine the quality of the existing base of the proposed parking areas.*

Representatives from the school district, along with Mike Preston from Liberty Engineering presented to council the reasons for the proposed Improvements, and submitted a request in

writing from SALDO section 608.61.d. The letter also outlined that section 608.61.e was non-applicable to the submitted design.

It was noted that separate efforts currently are trying to avoid creating space that is hidden from sight.

Mr. Jost made motion to grant the waiver request as presented, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing 4 to 1 with Mr. Gehman voting in the negative. The school district stated that they have removed trees used for the same purpose in the past due to neighbors' concerns and felt the expected times of use would not yield issue. However, should problems or neighbor concerns come in the future the school district will gladly comply if needed.

Further discussion focused on the need for core sampling as recommended by the Planning Commission. After discussion, including the Borough Engineer, council felt core sampling was an expensive unneeded step. That proper basing would be identified during the scope of work outlined in the permits.

Ms. Lorah made a motion to approve the plan contingent that five of the seven items (1, 2, 3, 6, and 7) be addressed, noting that the 6<sup>th</sup> item could be an explanation of BMP in place or justified reasoning against the suggestion, and that it was non mandatory. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

In connection to the plan approval request, separately a motion was made by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Arndt that some form of lighting be installed for the parking lot projected in place of the current tennis courts at the discretion on Borough Engineers. The motion passed unanimously.

In other matter brought forth by present visitors, Ms. Kunkel questioned why the fire hydrant on Caloric Circle has been covered with a bag. Mr. Dolny stated the reason was to mark the hydrant for replacement but assured her it is still is functional.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Dolny asked the council to hire two additional seasonal lifeguards to help with the loss of two staff members, Brooke Vanim at \$8.25 and Nick Strunk at \$7.25. Ms. Lorah made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Arndt and passing unanimously.

Nate Liebensperger is currently in his sixth month of employment and action will need to be taken regarding his probationary period. Mr. Arndt made a motion to take him off of

probation and award benefits as outlined in his hire letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously

**Finance Committee** – (Mr. Wagaman)

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

**Property Committee** – (Mr. Jost)

Discussion was presented for the new utility building at the water treatment plant. Three quotes have been obtained but building standards and specifications varied significantly causing lack of clarity for best direction moving forward. Regardless, it seems to get the quality we want cost would exceed \$19,000.00 triggering a need for sealed bids. Mr. Gehman made a motion to advertise for sealed bids, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing 4 to 1 with Mr. Jost voting in the negative.

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

Mr. Dolny in Mr. Beck's absence just noted that the pool was up and running.

**Streets Committee** – (Mr. Arndt) –

Mr. Arndt addressed a growing issue with street lights. Mr. Dolny said he will try and arrange a meeting with MetEd to address.

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

All Matters to be discussed in engineer's report.

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

Street Fair was a success, currently waiting on the results from the Centennial Committee.

Noted that Trooper Beohm met with residents regarding community safety

## **Mayor's Report –**

NO REPORT

## **Secretary's Report**

- Mr. Dolny brought to council's attention that the Borough's server and the sewer treatment plant computer are no longer being supported by software and need to be replaced. He had quotes prepared from two companies, Stratix and our current IT solution specialist Omega. Mr. Dolny recommended switching from a server to a device called a Datto NAS through Omega. Mr. Gehman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing unanimously. Mr. Dolny felt it would be in the best interest to replace the sewer plant computer through Omega, both estimated quotes were close in price. Mr. Gehman made a motion to expend up to \$1,750.00 to replace the equipment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.
- Mr. Dolny asked council for direction, a resident asked if council would accept payments for a season pool pass. There was no action to change current policy.

## **Solicitor's Report**

- Regarding Berks Lehigh Regional case estimated damages being sought are between 500K -600K, this would create potential liability for the Borough between 32.5K and 39K.

## Engineer's Report

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

During the end of May the copper level had increased; however, the monthly average came in just under the permitted requirement and there was no violation. Russ immediately increased the Mastercat dose rate and contacted Process Management to do some additional testing in order to achieve best results. Russ also reported that the copper level entering the treatment plant has recently increased; this may be due to the fact that copper is more soluble at warmer temperatures. Russ continues to closely monitor the copper levels. We will also be checking into testing equipment so that he can check copper levels and get the results immediately so that he doesn't have to wait a week to get results back from the lab.

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

To the best of our knowledge, Diakon remains interested in connecting to the Topton Water System; however, we have learned that there may be some pressure issues if connected to the Borough system. We placed a call to Steve Daniels at Diakon; but, have not yet spoken with him.

### **3. DeLong and Trexler Water and Sewer Connections**

Both new water and sanitary services have been installed to this property.

The sanitary sewer lateral was installed on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. During excavation the Contractor hit the outside drop connection to the manhole at the intersection of Birch and Adler and ending up breaking the VCP sanitary sewer line. As a result of this, a section of the VCP was replaced with PVC pipe and the connection was made in the sanitary line in Birch Street and not directly into the manhole as planned. As a Result of this, construction activities went well into the evening hours.

### **4. Wasteload Management Report**

A response to the letter dated May 4, 2015 from Aaron Baar of DEP, was sent on may 28<sup>th</sup>. To date we have not received any further comments from Mr. Baar; however, it seems like he keeps raising concerns about the fact that the sewage pump stations do not have flow meters with totalizers. The letter did say that the Borough will consider installation of flow meters when the 2016 budget is prepared.

### **5. Swimming Pool Backwash**

The backwash discharge line has been connected to the sanitary sewer line as requested by DEP.

### **6. Toad Creek Improvements**

Preliminary plans have been submitted to the Borough for review.

**7. Topton Alleys**

BIA completed the Core Borings and field work on 5/1/15. The report was submitted to the Borough on 5/6/15. BIA is preparing a recommended schedule and improvements for the alleys.

**Old Business**

65 E. Washington St., Solicitor has filed papers and is waiting to serve.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 9:35 PM on a motion by Mr. Arndt, seconded by Ms. Lorah

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on June 22, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
Marcus V. Dolny  
Borough Secretary