

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY, March 10, 2014***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday March 10, 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, Mr. Jost, Mr. Wagaman, Mr. Gehman, and Mayor Biltcliff. Mr. Ardnt was absent. Also in attendance were Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny, Solicitor Joan London, and visitors.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Michelle Lorah was officially sworn into office by Mayor Biltcliff and will now serve the remaining term of the vacated council seat.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Beck the minutes of February 10, 2014 were approved unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Resident Loretta Weiser asked for a waiver of fees for her water and sewer bill due to a leak. The matter was tabled pending more information.

Autism Society of Berks County asked for a donation for Chinese Auction to be held at one of its events. On motion by Mr. Wagaman and seconded by Mr. Jost a donation of a season family pass for the Topton Memorial Pool will be donated.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Bill Brensinger asked whose responsibility the fire hydrants were during snow events and asked if we could clarify in a future publication.

Leon Moyer says there is an "adopt a fire hydrant program".

Alane Falcone: Asked for clarification on who is handling day to day operations of the Borough, where we stand with the Toad creek project, who proposed the quality of life ordinance, and would the settlement with former manager Mr. Branco be public record.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mentioned the Pioneer Grange Banquet and RAWA meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> should anyone want to attend.

It was discussed to use Barry Issett moving forward as zoning and codes enforcement officer. Motion was made by Mr. Gehman to accept the proposal seconded by Mr. Wagaman and passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Wagaman made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Gehman seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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

Mr. Jost stated the addition is now complete at 44 W. Keller.

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

Advertisements for 2014 Seasonal Positions are to be posted and will soon meet to discuss Summer Activities.

On motion by Mr. Wagaman effectively starting in 2014 all seasonal employees will be subject to drug and alcohol screenings and background checks. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

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

In regards to vehicles parking in front of an access ramp located in front of Jak's Downtown Diner on 9 Centre Ave. additional signage would not resolve the issue and create clutter and a possible hazard. The lines will be repainted in order to enhance visibility.

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

No Report

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

Topton Street Fair is in jeopardy of not happening and only having the car cruise.

## **Mayor's Report** –

Mr. Biltcliff made proclamation 1 – 2014 honoring Tyler “TC” Carter, official proclamation included inclosed.

## **Secretary's Report**

Reported about a sewage back up at 44 W. Keller St. and that insurance would cover the cost.

## **Solicitor's Report**

Ms. London reported on the following:

- Longswamp Township- Eastern Berks Regional Joint Comprehensive Plan.
  - Letter included in Minutes
- BLRPC Disillusion Agreement, concerns regarding proposed adjustments to our percent of obligation
- Police Impact Arbitration should be expecting a decision on the hearing.
- Conditional Use Application given to council for review will be discussed at a later date.
- Discussion on Quality of Life Ordinance, additional revisions made and will be further discussed next month
- Planning Commission had its first meeting and the next will be March, 20 2014 at 7 PM

## **Engineer's Report**

### **1. Broad Alley Culvert**

Chapter 105, General Permit Registration was submitted to the DEP Central Office on June 20, 2013. This registration was for a GP-8 (Temporary Road Crossings) and a GP-11 (Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation, or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments). Spoke to Bob Graves of DEP on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Finalized coordination with DEP and received approval via e-mail. Regarding the sidewalk repair, M+T is proposing to perform the work this Spring.

### **2. Reed Beds**

The reed beds will remain off line; cleaning the beds is being delayed due to the amount of snow on and around the beds. Hopefully, the cleaning of the beds can begin within the next few weeks. In the meantime, Miller's Sanitary Service will continue to haul wasted sludge to Lehigh County.

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

BIA will prepare a study plan for the Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) as authorized by Borough Council; the study plan must be approved in advance by DEP.

**4. Sewage Treatment Plant influent Screen**

A Water Quality Management Permit application was submitted to DEP on February 14, 2014. Last week, we received a telephone call from DEP saying that there are several items they need in order to make the application administratively complete so that they can conduct a technical review. Items that they are looking for include a site plan showing the flood plain, hydraulic calculations and an engineer's seal on the drawings and specifications among a few other items. These items will be provided to DEP as requested.

**5. Annual Wasteload Management Report**

The annual Wasteload Management Report for 2013 is nearly complete and a draft copy will be provided to Russ Pilgert for his review. The report must be submitted to DEP by March 31, 2014.

**6. Zoning Ordinance Update**

Bob Korp of BIA attended the February Planning Commission meeting and will be attending subsequent monthly meetings.

**Old Business**

- Trash & recycling program – no action was taken at this time and the Borough Office will focus its time and effort into possible options for recycling programs only, moving away for the time being from a mandated garbage program.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 8:59 PM on a motion by Ms. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Wagaman

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

Respectfully Submitted

Marcus V. Dolny  
Borough Secretary