

***MINUTES OF THE
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONDAY May 9, 2016***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday May 9, 2016 at 7:00 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. Biltcliff, Mr. Gehman, 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 April 11, 2016 were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Residents were assured that the Borough is aware of the current vandalism going on in Topton and that they are diligently working with state police on this matter.

Mayor's Report –

Mayor Biltcliff reported that he has had many positive comments regarding park revitalization project.

Mayor Biltcliff also reported that the public is excited for the return of the Street Fair on Saturday May 21, 2016.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

None

Solicitor's Report

Ms. London requested an executive session for legal matters.

Ms. London reported that the Huck litigation is settled and the pool litigation is also settled.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Dolny presented two bids received for the Boroughs GMC 2500. Mr. Jost made a motion to accept the bid for \$610.00 from Jesse Kemp and was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.

Mr. Dolny updated council on the possible of placement of an intern. Recommends if suitable candidate is not identified to advertise and hire for a position. Mr. Jost made a motion to advertise for employment if needed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Affairs Committee – (Mr. Stauffer) –

Just offered a reminder Street Fair will be held on May 21, 2016 from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.

Volunteer help is still needed. If interested please contact Ms. Lorah.

Personnel Committee – (Ms. Lorah)

Ms. Lorah also made a motion, pending interview, to hire Maggie Nygard and Hannah Palinkas for the Pool Side Cafe position at \$7.25 per hour. 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 Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)

Mr. Jost announced new structure at sewer plant is up and functioning well. They will be looking into adding electric to the building in the near future.

Parks & Recreation Committee – (Mr. Beck)

Project “Pro” committee continues to move forward. Public Meeting will be held in future.

Mr. Wagaman made a motion to advertise for public meeting June 20, 2016 at Brandywine Heights Middle School in the Auditorium at 7:00 PM regarding Project “Pro”. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

Mr. Beck asked about progress of 3 poles at the main field. He was informed that the matter has been addressed.

Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –

Mr. Gehman requested information regarding crossing guard training. Mr. Dolny will look into and report at future meeting.

Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –

A motion by Mr. Gehman seconded by Mr. Beck the Borough has authorized Solicitor London to issue a letter requesting a \$10,000 escrow to be put in place before any further action is taken on Longswamp Township request for information regarding possible acquisition of 30 EDU's of waste water capacity. Upon receipt of escrow the Borough of Topton will respond to the request within 30 days. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed Swoyer from Greater Berks spoke on behalf of a separate project in Longswamp Township that will require water and sewer from the Borough of Topton, that matter will be handled at a future time.

Engineer's Report

1. Sewage Treatment Plant – Copper Limit

During April, the Copper level was 0.010 mg/l which was well below the permitted level of 0.025 mg/l. The copper levels remain within the permitted limits and Russ continues to closely monitor the levels and chemical feed rates as we change from season to season.

2. Sewage Treatment Plant – Annual Reporting

To date, DEP has not provided any comments or feedback regarding the Annual Wasteload Management Report which was submitted March 25, 2016.

3. Weather Protection for Influent Screen

The carport was installed on Tuesday April 18th. Subsequent to the installation, Russ contacted Barry J. Hoffman, Co. about installing lighting fixtures inside the carport and on April 28th, they submitted a proposal to furnish and install two 8' T5 enclosed fixtures, one weatherproof switch and all necessary wiring and conduits for a price of \$1,195.00. We checked with one of our electrical engineers and we were told that this is a very reasonable price. Inasmuch as the carport shields the lighting from a nearby light pole, it is recommended that the proposed lighting fixtures be installed and Barry J. Hoffman, Co. in accordance with their proposal.

4. Sanitary Sewer System I & I

Russ now has the video reports of the sanitary sewer inspections which were done by Utility Services Corporation (USG) in early March and he just received the report and video and report from Klines Services this morning for the sanitary sewer line they inspected about a month ago.

On April 26th, Russ noted that there seems to be lot of stone and grit finding its way to the treatment plant and it seems to be getting worse. The stones collect on the upstream side of the influent screen; however, the grit passes through the screen and accumulates at the bottom of the wet well. The stones appear to be mostly ¾" to 1" in size and most likely from a #2 or #2B crushed aggregate mix which is often used as a pipe envelope during sanitary sewer installation. This is an indication that there may be some broken pipes in the sewer system and the pipe envelope stone is being washed into the sewer pipe. The broken pipes may be located in the sanitary sewer laterals or the building sewers.

Russ suggested purchasing equipment so that he could perform smoke testing throughout the sewer system in an effort to locate where there may be broken pipes, as well as identifying any cross connections to storm sewers or roof drains. We told Russ that we had a smoke blower in our shed and that he could borrow it; however, it hasn't been used in over ten years. Russ has borrowed the smoke blower and was able to start it up with little effort and it appears to be working fine. As his schedule permits, he will be conducting smoke testing of the sewer system. We understand that smoke testing of the sewer system was done back in the 1980s.

Tentatively, Harry Garman will be meeting with Russ this Thursday in order to put together a list of recommended repairs of the sanitary sewer mains throughout the Borough and include a priority rating as well as cost estimates so that the Borough can plan for repairing the sanitary sewers in the future.

6. NPDES Permit Renewal

We have not yet received any feedback from DEP regarding the NPDES Permit Application which was submitted in late February. The current permit expires on August 31, 2016 and normally, DEP will provide a draft copy of the new permit several months before the effective date and allow time for the permittee to comment. We had been advised that DEP is understaffed and that review of NPDES Permit Renewals will take longer than normal.

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.

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. A committee meeting was held on April 25th and the Borough will be scheduling a Community meeting for late May/ early June.

9. Borough Town Square Improvements

The field survey is substantially complete. We are awaiting feedback from Norfolk Southern for their approval process. BIA will proceed with the other, non-Railroad design items for the Borough streets. We recommend meeting with the Streets committee to discuss the project and Phasing.

10. Zoning Permit Submitted

A zoning permit has been submitted for 220 Main Street.

Old Business

Possible land swap related to park project is project 70 land and will require petition to the state.

Updated council on the properties at 30 Klein and 209 Haas.

Executive Session – Legal/Personnel

Entered: 8:03 PM on motion by Ms. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Jost passing unanimously.
Exit: 8:35 PM on motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Ms. Lorah passing unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Lorah to file suit against Robert Bennecoff for reimbursement of educational cost seconded by Mr. Beck and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourned at 8:37 PM on a motion by Mr. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Beck.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on June 13, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

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