

***MINUTES OF THE
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
MONDAY September 14, 2015***

Members of the Tipton Borough Council met on Monday September 14, 2015 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. Gehman, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Beck, and Mr. Stauffer. Borough Secretary Marcus Dolny. Solicitor Joan London, Engineer Ryan Kern and visitors were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Mr. Beck the minutes of Aug 10, 2015 were approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Brandywine Youth Baseball Association identified the infield of Main Field in need of restoration. They are requesting the borough pay for the materials in order to help offset the cost of the project. Mr. Beck made a motion to purchase up to three loads of infield mix not to exceed \$1,575.00. Mr. Jost seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

It has been brought to our attention that St. Peter's Church will now serve as the community food bank. They are asking for signs to be posted restricting parking on the East side of Spruce Street between Broad Alley and Franklin St. on Tuesdays between 9am and 2pm. Mr. Gehman made a motion to post signs restricting parking for pick up only. Mr. Jost seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Longswamp Township has approved BHHS Telecom request to coordinating a 5K run. The run apparently takes place entirely outside of the borough limits.

The Tipton Community Outreach Club Submitted their request for permission and assistance (letter on record) for the 60th annual Tipton Halloween Parade. Mr. Beck made a motion to grant the request and the matter was seconded by Ms. Lorah passing unanimously.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Joby Hawksworth presented to council his Eagle Scout Project and asked for permission to construct and place 5 bat boxes and 5 owl boxes in the watershed. Mr. Jost made the motion to allow pending work be done only on Sunday during hunting season, all participants in the project sign a hold harmless waiver, and coordination between project lead and borough officials take place regarding placement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and passed unanimously.

Phillip Rollman of 133 E. High Street questioned if another crossing guard could be placed to help with the safety of students. Mr. Rollman was informed that the Borough does not handle the staffing of crossing guards and directed him to the school.

Mr. Rollman also addressed the water usage at his neighbor's, June Ehrie, property. He claims he installed a check valve and corrected the problem. Mr. Rollman believes that the meters in the Borough are faulty. Council advised him that any resident has the right to request meter's be tested by a third party agency per borough policy. Additional comments were made by both sides regarding the validity of the meters and reason for belief of where the issues arose. No action was taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee – (Mr. Stauffer)

No Report

Finance Committee – (Mr. Wagaman)

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

Property Committee – (Mr. Jost)

Still working on the new building up at the water shed.

Parks & Recreation Committee – (Mr. Beck)

After looking into the cost of removing Bullet Boardwalk Mr. Dolny advised it would be most cost effective to have Burkholder remove and excavate the area at a price of \$5,000.00. Mr. Beck made the motion to allow Burkholder to remove the structure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously.

Streets Committee – (Mr. Arndt) –

Mr. Dolny reviewed the intersection at Weis and Haas St. and discovered a sight obstruction on the North East corner. The small tree is out of the Borough's right away. Solicitor London recommended sending a letter to inform the property owner that they could be held liable due to the impaired sight line.

Mr. Beck also questioned the painting of yellow street corners and asked if the public works department could take care of this.

Utility Committee – (Mr. Gehman) –

No Report

Public Affairs Committee – (Ms. Lorah) –

Ms. Lorah reminded everyone of the Trinity Lutheran Church's Fall Festival.

Mayor's Report –

N/R

Secretary's Report

- Ms. Stauffer has brought to our attention the deteriorating condition of our original minute books. It was recommended that the State Historical & Museum Commission be contacted in order to look at our options for preserving them.
- A meeting will be arranged between Topton, Longswamp, and the Hilbert's regarding water and sewage service.
- Mr. Dolny presented the 2016 MMO to Council. Mr. Jost made a motion to accept as presented, seconded by Ms. Lorah and passing unanimously.
- Longswamp Township has sent a copy of their Comprehensive plan and Mr. Dolny feels it's in the best interest for Solicitor London to review. Mr. Gehman made the motion to allow. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beck and passed unanimously.

Engineer's Report

1. Sewage Treatment Plant Copper Limit

Last month, the copper level was reported at 0.020 ppm which was down from July. Inasmuch as the concentration was 20% below the permit level, Russ did not dial up the feed rate of the caustic soda in order to keep the chemical costs as a minimum. Now that we should be pass the hot weather, we should see the copper levels drop off and hopefully, there will not be any copper violations for 2015. The plan is to continue using caustic soda as the means for increasing the pH in the plant which helps with the copper removal.

2. Topton Home Water Connection

After last month's meeting, we notified Steve Daniels of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries that the Borough wants to see a letter from Longswamp Township indicating their support for the Topton Home becoming a permanent water customer of the Borough's Water System before any meeting is held with Diakon for the purpose of working out details for such an arrangement. To date, we have not heard back from Mr. Daniels regarding the status of the Township letter.

3. Home Inspections

Inasmuch as there are a number of homes where inspections were performed and illegal connections were found; but, no corrective action has been taken, we reached out to DEP in order to see if they had any suggestions on how to enforce the home owners to take corrective actions. DEP has not commented on this. It may be advisable for the solicitor to look into this matter in order to advise the Borough on how to get the homeowners to disconnect the illegal connections.

4. Birch Alley Sanitary Sewer

We have notified the Utility Service Group, Inc. of Camp Hill, PA and informed them that their proposal for sanitary sewer repairs between MH 100 and MH 98 and MH 98 and MH 96 in Birch Alley, from Weiss Street south towards the Borough boundary, in the amount of \$10,240 is acceptable. As it looks right now, this work probably won't be done until late October or early November. They will give us notice when we get closer to the date and if schedule changes it could be done sooner.

5. 2016 Budget Preparation for Sanitary Sewer System

We have tentatively schedule a meeting with Russ, Marcus and Frank at 9:00 AM on Tuesday September 22nd to discuss various items relative to the sanitary sewer system that should be considered when preparing the 2016 budget. Items to be discussed include weather protection at the influent screen, video inspection, cleaning and repairs in the sewer collection system, meter installation at the pump stations, sludge hauling from the treatment plant, equipment upgrades at the treatment plant and other miscellaneous items.

6. 566 State Street (Longswamp Township)

We have investigated the possibility of a water and sanitary sewer connection for the property at 566 State Street in Longswamp Township. While the existing water lines are in front of the property, the water line is within the travel lane of State Street; therefore, all work must be approved by PennDOT and a Highway Occupancy Permit will be required. We estimate that the cost to connect to the water system could be nearly \$8,000. There are several options for connecting to the sanitary sewer system; however, the closest sewer is

about 350 feet away and the least expensive option may cost about \$45,000. These cost estimates should be reviewed with the property owner before any further consideration is given to connecting this property to the water and/or sanitary sewer systems.

7. Toad Creek Improvements

Preliminary plans have been submitted to the Borough for review. **The Borough and BIA will be pursuing additional Grant funding. BIA has been in communication with the Conservation District and will be supplying them with additional information.**

8. Topton Alleys

A report has been submitted to the Borough on 9/14/15. The Borough would like to see The Lemon Alley Project pursued.

Solicitor's Report

- Huck Curbing matter is not resolved and currently has a hearing pending Sept. 23, 2015
- In regards to pending litigation regarding officers of the former police force, a request for summary judgement was asked for. Arguments will be held on September 21, 2015
- Ordinance and resolution agreements were prepared in regards to the sale and position of supplier of road salt to the Brandywine Heights School District. Mr. Beck made a motion to advertise the ordinance for the October meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourned at 9:05 PM on a motion by Mr. Gehman, seconded by Ms. Lorah.

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on October 12, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Marcus V. Dolny
Borough Secretary