

***MINUTES OF THE  
TOPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MONDAY, September 8, 2014***

Members of the Topton Borough Council met on Monday September 8, 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. Wagaman (late), Mr. Beck, Ms. Lorah, Mr. Jost, Mr. Gehman, Mr. Arndt, and Mr. Stauffer. 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. Arndt the minutes of August 11, 2014 were approved unanimously (6/0).

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Topton Ambulance asked for permission to use the Weis St. parking lot to hold a BBQ chicken fundraiser on October 23, 2014. On motion by Mr. Jost, seconded by Mr. Gehman the motion passed unanimously (6/0).

The Topton Fire Company presented the second yearly installment for the new fire truck to council for payment from the Fire Tax Fund, in the amount \$11,316.52. On motion by Mr. Gehman and seconded by Mr. Beck the motion passed unanimously (6/0)

Topton Community Outreach Club sent the letter asking for permission to host the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Topton Halloween Parade on October 11, 2014 at 7:00 PM, with a rain date of Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM. They once again asked for the Borough's assistance in various areas. Mr. Beck made the motion to grant assistance and give permission; the motion was seconded by Mr. Jost and passed unanimously.

**HEARING OF VISITORS:**

Citizens (Moyer, Rauenzuhn, Kunkel) expressed concerns for snow removal for the upcoming winter. A plan is being formulated and will be made available to the community in an upcoming newsletter.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

NO REPORT

### **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)**

Waiting for the trailer to be picked up, and gave an update on the desired sign location.

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

Pool has closed for the season with a budget update to come.

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

Mr. Arndt along with Mr. Jost looked at the handicap parking application for Berryman at 116 Barkley St. At this time due to what is deemed adequate rear parking they did not feel one should be granted.

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

Home Copper Limit is way up. Meeting is scheduled to follow.

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

NO REPORT

## **Mayor's Report –**

Berks Lehigh Regional Police Commission will be holding a joint meeting on September 22, 2014 to discuss the handling of the pension plan.

## **Secretary's Report**

- Mr. Dolny presented the invoices regarding Dennis Seibert's property. At the August meeting it was decided a reimbursement would take place for previous work done with an amount to be determined at a future time. After debating

what of the work feel on Mr. Seibert's property and what was that of the Borough's responsibility Mr. Gehman made the motion to reimburse 60% of the cost. An amount totaling \$2,427.70. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagaman and passed 5 to 2 with Mr. Arndt and Ms. Lorah voting in the negative.

- Mr. Dolny has received a proposal from Triscari to revamp the Borough website and improve the functionality of it. A motion was made by Mr. Wagaman to allow the expense not to exceed \$6,200.00. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lorah and passed unanimously.
- Brought to council's attention the zoning hearing board will convene on Monday September 15, 2014 to entertain a variance in regards to the proposed new Borough Sign.
- East Penn Manufacturing will no longer be looking to do tree maintenance to make the signage more visible as voting on in August. They have agreed to purchase the property and are looking into expanding the roadway.
- Mr. Dolny presented one way of looking at Alley repairs, a matter that will need to be addressed for the upcoming budget
- By request of Mr. Dolny and on motion by Mr. Wagaman the Borough will place an RFP for auditing services starting in 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gehman and passed unanimously.
- Mr. Dolny also asked for council to allow him to modernize the way the budget would be prepared and how it would be presented for review. There was no opposition.

### **President's Report**

President Stauffer brought to council attention upcoming meeting and invited them to attend if they so choose.

### **Solicitor's Report**

A draft version of the Recycling Ordinance was presented for council members to review for discussion at the October meeting.

## Engineer's Report

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

Pursuant to last month's Council meeting, we have continued to consult with Russ on the copper issue. Last month, we reported that we were considering six (6) possible solutions to the copper limit and the following is an update on each:

1. Performing a BLM study has not been officially ruled out since DEP has not taken any action on the proposed study plan which was submitted in May.
2. A second series of jar tests was performed by the vendor for TR-50 on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Again these jar tests did not prove that the TR-50 is effective for the removal of copper in the Tipton Sewage Treatment Plant. We are recommending that a full treatment plant trial test be performed in order to determine if the TR-50 is a viable option or not. We are recommending that two 5 gallon pails of the TR-50 be obtained and fed into the treatment plants influent for a 5 day period. The cost per 5 gallon pail is about \$73 each.
3. The chemical addition of a chelating agent does not appear as a viable option.
4. We continue to look at alternatives for the Delpac 2000 for phosphorus removal. During a trial period of using sodium aluminate, the treatment plant experienced a bacteriologic kill and this experiment was suspended. Inasmuch as the plant has not yet returned to normal operational conditions, Russ's efforts are aimed at getting the plant back to normal.
5. Tertiary treatment is an expensive alternative and will cost about \$250,000. If this option is to get serious consideration, a pilot study should be conducted before proceeding.
6. Corrosion Control by the addition of a blended phosphate in the drinking water remains as a last resort. This is the option that DEP seems to like.
7. Last Friday, we sent a status report to DEP outlining what has been done since our meeting with them in July. We have not yet received any response to the status report.

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

Pursuant to last month's meeting, Russ placed a pressure gauge on the yard hydrant which is connected to the water service line for the screen's spray wash. The static pressure was within a 110 – 120 psi range; the pressure dropped to around 40 psi when the spray wash was activated and it spiked for a couple of seconds to 140 – 150 psi when the spray wash shut off and then the pressure returned to the original static pressure of 110 – 120 psi.

On August 13, this information was provided to the vendor and the question was asked if 40 psi is adequate pressure during operation. To date we have not received an answer. If 40 psi is insufficient, it is recommended that a new service line be installed from the 6 inch line where it enters the treatment plant area. This will minimize the pressure reduction. If 40 psi is ok, the items on the punch list plus installation of a pressure reducing valve should be completed at the earliest convenient opportunity.

The Water quality Permit was issued on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Once the miscellaneous punch list items are completed, a certificate of completion must be submitted to DEP

**3. Bacteria Kill at Sewage Treatment Plant**

Back in July, something killed off much of the bacteria in the sewage treatment plant and it has not been operating at optimum performance ever since. Fortunately, the poor performance of the plant has not resulted in any additional violations in the plant's discharge. One possibility for the poor performance is that the Topton Home may be discharging toxic waste into the sewer system which is killing the bacteria in the plant. Arrangements are in the works to meet with Topton Home officials in order to determine if the Home is the source of the problem. If it is found not to be the cause of the problem, we will continue to assist Russ in locating the source of the problem.

**4. DRBC Docket**

We received a DRBC Docket NO. D-2001-041 CP-2 which will be on the agenda for tomorrow's DRBC's public hearing in Trenton, NJ. The purpose of the docket is to renew approval of the 0.3 MGD discharge at the sewage treatment plant. Upon approval of the docket, there will be new reporting requirements to the DRBC and also a requirement to prepare an Emergency Management Plan by March 10, 2015.

**5. Toad Creek Improvements**

BIA's environmental scientist and design engineer conducted a field walk of Toad Creek last Thursday, 9/4. BIA is preparing the Project Report which will include our findings and recommendations. Once the report is complete, BIA will finalize the preliminary engineering design plans.

**6. Zoning Ordinance Update**

The research is complete and ordinance revisions are being drafted. The next PC meeting is to held on 9/24.

**7. Borough Hall Sign**

Awaiting further instruction from the Borough.

**Old Business**

Mr. Gehman asked if we were progressing with the Heffner & Washington property curbing

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council adjourned at 8:53 PM on a motion by Ms. Lorah, seconded by Mr. Wagaman

The next Borough Council meeting will be held on October 13, 2014 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Marcus V. Dolny  
Borough Secretary