

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 9, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Terrell at 1900 hrs. Present were:

D. Sarpen – Councilman
E. Paules – Councilman
G. Andrews – Councilman
E. Molinsky – Councilman
W. Cerkan – Vice President
E. Myers - Councilman
J. Joy – Mayor
T.L. Crawford -Borough Administrator

Also Present: (see attached list).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Terrell reminded Council Presidents Day is a holiday for Borough employees, facilities are closed.

DISBURSEMENTS:

General \$ 206,727.18 – Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried. E. Molinsky questioned cell phone expenses, noting they seem high. T.L. Crawford advised they have had the same government plan since the 911 attacks. She noted they do have some rooming charges due to location. E. Paules recommended they look at other plans, and government plans may not be the most cost effective.

Water \$ 21,403.67 – Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Molinsky to approve. Motion carried.

Sewer \$ 83,125.17 – Motion by E. Myers, seconded by E. Molinsky to approve. Motion carried

Rec. \$ 132.06 – Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by G. Andrews to approve. Motion carried.

Comm. Ctr. \$ 3,216.47 – Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Motion by E. Paules, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the meeting minutes of 1/12/08. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Joy read the emergency services reports for Jan. He also advised the request from last months meeting for an explanation of "other" time on the police report was denied. The Chief recommended with the support of the Commission this not be done, noting it is too cumbersome since there are numerous things in the category such as vacation etc. He advised the funding for the DARE program has been cut, and they are contacting the school to fund the program, and may later ask if the Boroughs are interested in funding it. He advised Council the Chief reported a youth group is in the area about "youth rights", they are opposing the curfews in the Boroughs. He also advised some changes will be made to the door and window at the police receptionist, since the females may be there without an officer on station. He also advised contract negotiations will begin soon and the negotiating committee has been selected. President Terrell inquired if they were using the labor attorney ask was previously requested by NF. He advised the committee will meet with the attorney prior to starting the negotiations. He also reminded Council the awards ceremony is March 4, and the regular meeting will be the third Wednesday in March.

Water – D. Sarpen advised the results of Enviroscan for the well should be ready in March. He also advised his office has finished the H2O grant application for the water tank. He reported all the necessary documentation and necessary fees are ready to go and will be delivered to Harrisburg on Wednesday if authorized. The only item not being submitted is a bank funding letter, which may or may not be necessary. The total cost of the project is 1.7 million, and the decision on the grant applications is early May 2009. Motion by W. Cerkan, seconded by E. Molinsky to authorize the application be submitted, and a Borough funding commitment be letter be drafted to accompany the application. Motion carried.

Rec. – E. Paules noted the recent bus trip had a profit of \$ 1100. The group is moving forward with their plans for programs and the parks. He also noted they extended their gratitude for the \$ 2000. donation from the Borough general fund. The Board members are upset that they began the year in the "red", and do not believe they should have to pay back the general fund the several thousand that was used to pay their 2008 invoices. T. L. Crawford advised she had made that clear, including a print out to their Treasurer, noting the office had repeatedly advised them of not taking in enough revenue to pay their bills. She also noted the insurance was paid at the end of 2008, but was for 2009 coverage. E. Paules they will be trying new programs to generate revenue. He advised they expressed interest in a Community Calendar for various local groups to use, such as Lions Club, Churches, and Scouts etc. E. Paules advised them to do some research and preliminary ground and come back for review of the project. He advised they will be holding a pet day this summer in one of the parks. T.L. Crawford advised she will check with the insurance carrier, this may require additional insurance. Mike Royer explained the upcoming tennis program, and an upcoming babysitting class.

Parade – W. Cerkan advised the parade is July 4, 2009 at 4:00 pm.

Sewer – G. Andrews the report from John Smith on the wwtp was very helpful, and showed the progress the staff has made at the plant. President Terrell provided a brief recap of the meeting at Shrewsbury Borough concerning excess capacity. He noted several of NF Council members did attend, and also gained some historic knowledge of the wwtp. He noted a Shrewsbury Twp. resident, that is develops in the area may seek a legal remedy against Shrewsbury Twp. & Shrewsbury Borough.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NF Heritage – B. Kopp extended an invitation to Council for the upcoming 5th year anniversary event being held at Summit Grove Conference Center. He also explained some of tentative plans for the museum and events. He also extended the groups appreciation to Council for purchase of the property.

BUSINESS:

Summit Grove Campground – T.L. Crawford advised a request was received from the Camp Director requesting abatement of the last quarters sewer bill. He advised they had a water leak, and they estimated the gallons they believe did not go in the sewer. T. Crawford explained there is no way to verify how much water may have leaked, or when. The campground has had a similar problem each year for the last 3 years, and the same request. She also explained the camp was advised previously it is their responsibility to check their meter on a regular basis, and admitted they had not. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by G. Andrews to deny the request. Motion carried.

Intermunicipal Codes Enforcement – T.L. Crawford explained North Cordorus Township would like to continue to contract code enforcement from the Borough in the same manner Stewartstown does. The original agreement was for a temporary period only, from 12/20/08 thru 1/31/09. The agreement would be identical as the Stewartstown agreement at \$ 47. pr. hr and on an as needed basis, approximately 4-10 hours per week. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by G. Andrews to approve the agreement for code services. Motion carried.

Ashlee Court – Mayor Joy advised Council he had received a winter maintenance complaint on the street from a resident. He noted he forwarded the complaint to the office, and was advised the development is not complete and the road is still private. The home owner was concerned about the possibility of the builder going out of business. T.L. Crawford advised a LOC is still intact and the builder has not defaulted on anything with the Borough. The street can not be adopted until the development is finished and all improvements are completed, this is a common problem with new developments

OTHER:

E. Molinsky noted he would like a trial balance, and monthly ytd of actual vs. budget, he stated he is uncertain where the budget stands by only approving disbursements and not seeing income. He is a steward of the Borough and needs to be cognizant of revenues being up or down, if residents are paying taxes, utilities etc. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with a Borough employee, noting he was not able to gain entrance to the Borough secretary's office on a particular day. He was told he did not have an appointment and would not be able to back to the office. He stated all Council members should have full access to the offices at any time. T.L. Crawford explained the reasons for the problem that day were the following;

There were only 2 staff members in the office, and T.L. Crawford instructed the receptionist "no admittance unless an appointment", this was due to her handling all receipts, all utilities and all taxes and being done in 3 different offices on 3 different computer systems and all funds were in cash, checks, M.O.'s and were laying on the desks until the separate deposits were done which totaled over \$ 59,000. T.L. Crawford explained the office staff is very strict about financial responsibility, and security since over 5 million dollars is processed in the office. President Terrell advised E. Molinsky, Council has had a policy since the mid 1990's that only the Council President has a key to the inter offices, and this is for security. All other Council members have keys and cards to the lobby and meeting room. E. Molinsky questioned the Borough employee benefits and salaries, noting he does not know any of this information, and based on the economy reductions may have to be made. W. Cerkan inquired if he has ever asked for the info. in the past year since he has been on Council, which E. Molinsky replied he has not. D. Sarpen and E. Paules stated they have never problems with the office, but only go in the back offices when they have a specific reason or appointment. Council continued the discussion, and T.L. Crawford will supply all information requested to all Council members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by E. Myers, seconded by G. Andrews to adjourn at 2108 hrs. Motion carried