

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 8, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Sarpen at 1900 hours. Present were:

L. O'Brien – Council member
B. Terrell – Council member
K. Earll – Council member
G. Andrews – Council member
B. Merrill – Council member
J. Halapin – Mayor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

Other present: see attached

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Sarpen noted Blackford Ventures; LLC is hosting a seminar in Hershey concerning underfunded pensions on Feb. 29, 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2016- \$ 283,594.30

Motion by K. Earll, seconded by B. Terrell to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (January, 2016)

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by K. Earll to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Halapin noted former Mayor LeRoy Smith passed away this past week, and reminded Council the bi-annual Civil Service Commission will be held tomorrow. He also advised Council Hartenstein Funeral Home donated \$ 500. to the police department. He brought a proposal from Shrewsbury Borough up for consideration. Shrewsbury Borough purchased a device to calculate the speed of vehicles, as opposed to utilizing just the SRPC “speed trailer”. If NF is willing to share in the expense, NF would be able to use the device on Borough roads. Council noted they are happy when the speed trailer is utilized, and are not interested in another device or sharing in equipment use or costs.

Rec Council – M. Halapin noted tennis has 67 participants, and vendors have begun to sign up for the Farmers Market. She also noted the grant from DCNR was awarded for \$ 250,000.

Police – B. Merrill updated Council on the SRPC actions. He noted a letter will be sent to contract entities advising of an upcoming rate increase, which will be handled by B. Buchanan. He explained the numbers being used by B. Buchanan are not accurate numbers that reflect the true cost to operate the department. He advised the SRPC Solicitor reminded members of open meeting regulations, which include committees if a quorum is present. He also advised the SRPC hired 2 additional police officers, noting this action probably should have been delayed until other issues are settled. He provided an update on the funding formula discussions. Council discussed the funding formula in length, noting PPU's are a fair method to pay what you use, and have some control of costs and budgetary planning. They also noted it

is a proven method and has worked across the state and in York County since the 1970's, and there is not a need to "reinvent the wheel".

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Business Attraction – L. O'Brien advised PC will be reviewing possible parking solutions for the CB district. They will look at the ZO and the SLDO, and bring suggestions to Council.

BUSINESS:

Steam into History Request – T.L. Crawford advised a letter was received requesting Council waive the amusement tax Ordinance remittance date of the 10th of the month, and change the remittance date until the 15th. The request is due to them having difficulty in remitting the tax by the due date, and being charged a penalty as set forth in the Ordinance. Council discussed their payment history, and noted the cost to amend the Ordinance. Council took no action on the request however directed the office to send a letter noting the penalty will be applied on and after the 16th of month.

Sewer E-Mail Request – President Sarpen read the e-mail request from Shrewsbury Council member R. Buchanan forwarded to the WWTP for a meeting/review of the plant operations. Council expressed their dissatisfaction with a request for a meeting to help them prepare for their sewer 101 classes after the event has been scheduled. Council expressed concerns about an employee being contacted in this manner, noting requests for a meeting with any Borough employee should come to Council, not the employee. Council expressed concerns after reading the request, and noting the inaccuracies such as the S.R.B.C. and other references, that the plant Superintendent may have a difficult time with a lay person understanding the technical aspects of the wwtp. This lack of understanding leads to misconceptions about the workings of the wwtp. President Sarpen explained some of these questions on the e-mail are actually answered in the Chapter 94 Report that is provided to them each year. He also noted some answers are in the NPDES Permit. Council noted if Shrewsbury Borough would like an informational meeting to discuss the future of sewer in this area, similar to the meeting with Shrewsbury Township. A request must come to Council. Council directed the office to make copies of the NPDES permit and draft a letter noting the Chapter 94 can answer some questions, and advise them any meetings with NF Borough personnel must be a written request to Council.

T. L. Crawford explained the PEMA/FEMA Blizzard costs and reimbursement method. She advised the amount submitted was \$ 36,828.43. She also explained that was not all "cash" cost, but included equipment rates, benefit rates. etc. It may be several months till a determination is made on Pennsylvania reimbursements.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by B. Terrell, seconded by G. Andrews to adjourn the meeting at 2027 hours. Motion carried.