

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 11, 2013

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

J. Blum – Council member
D. Sarpen – Council Member
E. Paules – Council Member
L. O'Brien – Council Member
K. Earll – Council Member
G. Andrews – Council Member
J. Halapin – Mayor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator
S. Hovis – Solicitor

Other present: see attached

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES: (January 14, 2013)

Motion by E. Paules, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENTS

General - \$ 219,480.03 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve. Motion carried.
Water - \$ 33,400.63 Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried.
Sewer - \$ 76,410.43 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.
Rec. - \$ 1,625.00 Motion by E. Paules, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.
Comm. Ctr. - \$ 2,403.01 Motion by E. Paules, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Halapin distributed the emergency services report, and the peer-to-peer study. He also reported a correspondence was received from Glen Rock noting their budget problem, and advising they would only fund \$ 240,000. in 2013 for police services. President Terrell advised the funding issue was based on insurance costs received late in the year; subsequently a small increase was needed in the 2013 budget. He explained the problem was remedied by a transfer of funds from the reserve account into the operating account and crediting each municipality with their respective share. President Terrell reported the meetings are continuing with Stewartstown concerning becoming a member of SRPC. Officer Miller advised Council of several recent crimes in the area.

REPORTS

Rec. Council – J. Davis reported the date for the 2013 egg hunt is March 22, and they are working on various projects. She also reported the junior member of the group will be featured in a newspaper article in the future.

Water – D. Sarpen noted the monthly water use has declined. He requested Council consider bidding the road materials, and a separate bidding for labor. He explained purchasing the materials in a large quantity for the infrastructure projects will be a savings in sales tax, and typically a lower volume price. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to authorize the Borough to bid the “road materials”. Motion carried. D. Sarpen also noted the permit process for the creek stabilization should begin in the near future due to the DEP’s time frame.

Sewer – D. Sarpen questioned reservations for sewer capacity. S. Hovis explained how the reservation agreements are typically handled. Council discussed the original Buchart Horn letter concerning capacity, as well as other studies completed over the years. Council expressed concerns over selling EDU's out of the Borough and what agreements and policies would need to be in place. S. Hovis advised agreements need to be drafted, but this may be premature since Buchart Horn's letter indicated capacity could be obtained after the all repairs are completed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Barone of Country Manor Drive requested Council credit their utility account for the posting fee. He explained they have never been delinquent and did not receive the bill. He advised he submitted a claim with the postal service, but has not received a response as of this date. He also noted in the past month he has received mail twice that was addressed to other locations in the Borough, so he is aware of problems with mail delivery. Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by G. Andrews to credit the posting fee to his account. Motion carried.

Library Request – Council reviewed the request for a reduction of the rental rate for the auditorium. Motion by J. Blum, second by L. O'Brien to reduce the rental rate to \$ 150. for the auditorium date requested. Council discussed the motion. J. Blum withdrew the motion on the floor. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to waive the entire rental fee for the auditorium date requested due to it being a local non-profit. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Authority Status – Council discussed the sewer Authority, noting the lack of neither debt, nor business to conduct in the past several years. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to authorize the Solicitor to begin the process to terminate the Authority. Motion carried.

Amusement Tax – T. L. Crawford requested if Council members had any comments from the draft Ordinance provided last month since none have been submitted to the office. Council briefly discussed the tax, and tabled the issue until a later meeting.

OTHER:

Zoning Map Update – T.L. Crawford advised Council the maps requires numerous updates to be consistent with the current Zoning. A quote was obtained from Buchart Horn to update the map and parcels with 3 wall maps printed and 20 11x17 for a NTE \$ 4000. Council requested other prices be obtained, noting NTE \$ 4000. seems too high.

Sewer Truck Repairs – E. Paules reviewed the status of the 2005 Ford, noting a used transmission was installed in 2012, and the quote for an engine exceeds the value of the truck. Motion by L. O'Brien to trade the current truck in on basic (no frills) truck via the co-stars program at a total NTE \$ 28,000. Motion carried.

Robert Werner 134 Highland Ave. – T.L. Crawford advised a request was submitted for financial consideration with a storm water problem on private property. T.L. Crawford noted this problem has been addressed previously at the property owner's request, by installing drains, curbing, and underground pipes in the streets and alleys at a cost of over \$ 27,000. Council discussed the lay of the land in the area and the lot coverage of the property. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by G. Andrews to deny the request. Motion carried.

Old Scout Building/Playground improvements – President Terrell advised a quote was received to remove the building, sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits and install a parking lot. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by G. Andrews to obtain a total of 3 quotes and award to the lowest. Motion carried. President Terrell also noted the roof on the “cook shack” is leaking badly and the wood is rotting. He advised if not replaced in the near future the damage will become more extensive. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O’Brien to obtain 3 quotes for the roof of the “cook shack”. Motion

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened to executive session for a personnel matter at 2110 hrs. Council reconvened to the regular meeting at 2121 hrs.

Motion by E. Paules, seconded by K. Earll to follow the recommendation of the Borough Administrator and Water Superintendent not extend full time employment to the new laborer in the public works dept. upon completion of his probation, and to interview the next candidate for the position. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn the meeting at 2128 hours. Motion carried.