

**NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 14, 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:** (December 17, 2012)

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

**DISBURSEMENTS**

General - \$ 192,044.97 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.

Water - \$ 155,294.04 Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried.

Sewer - \$ 769,054.99 Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.

Rec. - \$ 1,478.12 Motion by E. Paules, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.

Comm. Ctr. - \$ 11,129.56 Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by J. Blum to approve. Motion carried.

President Terrell advised Council as of last week the sewer bonds were paid off. D. Sarpen noted now the Borough can begin all the repairs that have been tabled over the years due to the bond payments. Council briefly discussed some of the repairs to sewer lines, the stream bank etc.

**REPORTS:**

Mayor - Mayor Halapin distributed the emergency services report, and also provided copies for the public. He advised Kurt Hollaway has submitted his resignation as fire Chief for Rose Fire. Co. The new Chief is Tony McGillin. He also noted the final SRPC budget ended at 102.9% of the approved budget. He explained 2012 had increased legal fees for personnel and increased workers compensation insurance. President Terrell discussed the wc insurance and noted the reason for the increase was an incident while the officer was with the Drug Task Force. President Terrell advised he attended another meeting concerning Stewartstown obtaining police service. He reported the meeting went well, and put numerous rumors to rest. He noted another meeting will be held on the Jan. 25. Council discussed the possibility of Stewartstown becoming a member of SRPC and the changes that would need to happen, such agreements, Commission members etc.

SOLICITOR - S. Hovis reported he recently attended a meeting concerning the EPA and storm water. He advised storm water must be regulated, no exceptions. He noted there is a possibility that regional groups may be established to handle storm water regulations and enforcement in the near future.

**REPORTS**

Rec. Council – Marie Halapin distributed flyers for the upcoming Pizza Hut fund raiser. M. Halapin requested Council approval for a recreation event in April that is BYOB. She explained it is a “red Carpet” event that will have entertainment and celebrity impersonators. Motion by K. Earll, seconded by J. Blum to approve the event. Motion carried.

Water – D. Sarpen distributed a spreadsheet noting the difference in water use in the past 2 years. He also advised there is currently a memorandum from EPA concerning the delivery of the annual CCR. It appears the report may be delivered electronically or made available electronically, which would save on postage costs. The office will research the regulations and check with DEP concerning the report.

Sewer – D. Sarpen reported the lawsuit with Synagrow and Sue Fox and several Shrewsbury Township residents is over, the result was in favor of Synagrow. He noted according to the information he read the residents case lacked merit.

Personnel – E. Paules advised the committee met with employees and reviewed evaluations. He noted pay increases were given within the approved budget.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Merrill reported the NF Heritage web site permits the viewing of the 4 videos of the history of New Freedom. He noted the last video completed is the history of the Rose Fire Co.

#### BUSINESS:

Ordinance 2013-1 (Park Rules Amendment) – Solicitor Hovis explained the amendment was necessary to be in compliance with all State and Federal Statutes concerning firearms. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by G. Andrews to approve the ordinance as presented. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Appointments – President Terrell noted T. Ruby and M. Hopkins terms expired on 12/31/2012, and need reappointment. Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by J. Blum to appoint T. Ruby and M. Hopkins to the Planning Commission for a 4 year term. Motion carried.

ZHB Appointment – President Terrell noted J. Glovers term expired on 12/31/2012 and needs to be reappointed. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by D. Sarpen to appoint J. Glover to the ZHB for a 4 year term. Motion carried.

#### OTHER:

Delinquent Utility Bills – Council discussed the various methods being utilized for collection, noting the most recent posting was 74 accounts totaling over \$ 20,000. T.L. Crawford explained this was 1 sector in the Borough, which is broken into 4 total sectors. Council expressed concerns over the problems with the mail service, and the habitual offenders. Solicitor Hovis advised NF collection rate is good compared to other municipalities, he credited the office for staying diligent in the efforts to collect past due accounts.

Proposed Pawn/Second Hand Store Ordinance – T.L. Crawford advised Council the police would like to require photo ID for any purchase or sale over \$ 50. and request Council approve this requirement to be added to the Ordinance. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by G. Andrews to approve the draft Ordinance and the changes recommended by the police dept. Motion carried.

Road Materials Bids – D. Sarpen requested Council consider bidding the raw road materials this year due to the volume for the various infrastructure projects. He explained this is a common practice in townships. He advised there is a savings in sale tax and buying in volume prices. J. Blum requested the area behind the Community Center be included in the repair list since the pot holes are getting larger. D. Sarpen will look at the area.

T.L. Crawford advised she was contacted by an individual concerning removing the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. water tank for the scrap metal. Council discussed the previous bids of over \$ 30,000. noting the need for the tank to be removed. Solicitor Hovis explained the regulations if the item has a net value exceeding \$ 1500., but since it appears it has only a cost it may not need to be bid. He also advised insurance and the possibility a bond would be required. T.L. Crawford will schedule a meeting with the individual and Solicitor Hovis to review the criteria. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to authorize the Solicitor to draft an agreement for the removal if all the necessary criteria can be met. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by E. Paules, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn the meeting at 2027 hours. Motion carried.