

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
March 14, 2016

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

J. Blum – Vice President  
L. O'Brien – Council member  
K. Earll – Council member  
G. Andrews – Council member  
B. Merrill – Council member  
J. Halapin – Mayor (arrived 1925 hrs.)  
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Sarpen noted a "thank you" note was received from the South Central Senior Center. He also reminded Council to read the recent newspaper article on delinquent sewer bills in a York County Borough.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 2016- \$ 168,009.13

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (February, 2016)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Girl Scout Amber Brose present to request Council's permission to place a "birdhouse library" in the Freedom Green Park. The concept is a small "birdhouse" type box that shelters books for borrowing to residents that use the park. Council supported the idea, but expressed concerns about maintenance of the box and the location. B. Merrill suggested the location be changed to Smith woods beside the Community Center. He noted the use of the center by the senior citizens, HOPE, cub scouts and farmers market patrons would create higher visibility. Council requested she return at a later date with more information on the project.

Phil Robinson questioned the status of the sewer capacity issue in the area. President Sarpen advised meetings were held with Shrewsbury and Hopewell Township in an effort to dispel rumors and discuss future goals. He also advised a meeting will be scheduled with Shrewsbury Borough after the Chapter 94 report and other data is complete. P. Robinson noted he is willing to work with any municipality necessary to obtain sewer capacity.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Halapin discussed the regional EMC correspondence. He advised the current EMC is a career fireman and exceeds the average certifications and training. He recommends the Borough remain with its own EMC. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to send a letter stating the Borough will retain its own EMC at this time. Motion carried.

Rec Council – M. Halapin noted the tennis clinics and Farmers Market is going well. She also extended her gratitude to Rose Fire Dept. for the use of their facility.

Planning Commission – L. O'Brien advised the PC cancelled the last meeting due to weather. He also supplied information on an organization that refurbishes and uses old playground equipment.

Police – B. Merrill updated Council on the SRPC formula committee meetings. He explained in depth the various data being utilized. Council discussed various concerns on the accuracy and age of the data, and proposed formulas. B. Merrill also noted the contracted entities were notified of a cost increase, and the possibility of the contracts being written for a longer term.

Blizzard – B. Merrill advised he did a ride along with the public works dept. He commended the crew on the excellent job they did in difficult conditions. He also commended their families, reminding Council these employees were away from their homes for days, and after they finished digging out the Borough, they still had to go dig their own families out. He noted the plows had to assist the ambulance on several occasions due to road conditions, yet had no direct communication via radio with the unit, or the police. He inquired if the Borough should consider changing radios to digital to enable monitoring of the police and ambulance. K. Dickmeyer explained the problems with the "talk around" channel, noting numerous stations and companies are on the frequency and it is difficult to monitor with constant chatter. K. Dickmeyer also explained all public works have cell phones, and he does monitor the fire/ambulance frequency due to his involvement with the fire dept. Mayor Halapin reminded Council the EMC does have a few portable radios that may be able to be used.

#### BUSINESS:

Roads – J. Blum noted the poor condition of Railroad Ave. He reminded Council of the previous plan to abandoned the alley and utilize the strip of land as a parking area for the park. He requested Council reconsider the concept, and directed the office to provide information from the previous discussion on this road.

Sidewalk – L. O' Brien requested a contact be made to Penn Dot, County of York and Steam into History to consider installing a sidewalk along Main St. in the area of the Rail Trail.

Park Building (cook shack) – President Sarpen advised a meeting was held with LSC to review the final plan. He explained the roof and electrical service issues, and the possibility of 2 contracts. Council discussed the status of the building, noting it cannot be used until the repairs are made, based on the Borough engineers evaluation. Council expressed concerns over the cost of the project, and L. O'Brien stated it appears the main user is the Lions Club.. J. Blum advised the Lions Club is not in a financial position to fund the repairs, yet the facility is used to generate their main source of income. He noted the funds generated at the park allow them to donate money to local entities and programs. Council determined the project should move forward, but wait until August when there are no major activities at the park. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to authorize LSC to prepare the specs and bid documents for the project. Motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council convened to an executive session at 2032 hrs. for a personnel issue, and reconvened to the regular meeting at 2046 hrs.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by K. Earll to adjourn the meeting at 2049 hrs. Motion carried.