

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
October 17, 2016

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

J. Blum – Vice President  
B. Terrell – Council member  
L. O'Brien – Council member  
K. Earll – Council member  
G. Andrews – Council member  
S. Hovis – Solicitor  
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2016- \$ 310,724.31

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

MINUTES: (September 2016)

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by Terrell to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phil Robinson questioned the status of an agreement with Shrewsbury Borough concerning his purchase of sewer capacity. President Sarpen advised a report performed by Buchart Horn concerning capacity will be discussed later in the meeting.

D. Folger advised the Freedom fest was a success, and thanked Council for permitting Goodfellow Park to be used for parking.

SR Officer Heffner advised Council of a welfare check and the actions of the officer that handled the call, he noted not all police incidents are arrests, and some are service oriented calls. He also commended the EMS crew for their assistance with the call.

Solicitor – None

REC- M. Halapin advised Dorothy and Brianna Anderson have resigned from the recreation council due to moving to another municipality. Council requested a letter be sent extending Councils appreciation for their service to the community. Jennifer Ickes submitted a letter of interest to Council, and advised she would like to serve on the recreation council. She explained she is a vendor at the farmers market, and would like to be more involved with the program. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by B. Terrell to appoint Jennifer Ickes to the NF Recreation Council. Motion carried.

Police – B. Merrill reported Southern School District reduced their police budget for 2017 by \$ 10,000. The termination of SESD contract and the Southern School District reduction is a substantial reduction in income. He also noted the current contract rate is \$ 91.31 pr. hour, and Stewartstown Borough requests a line item of a \$ 60,000. credit since they believe they have received more hours than needed. B. Merrill also advised if NF withdraws and the department must relocate there will be costs associated with the move.

Police Service Committee – President Sarpen appointed J. Halapin, J. Blum and B. Merrill to a committee to review police options and methods of controlling costs. J. Blum reported the committee will provide a complete report and recommendation to Council by February. Council agreed a firm decision must be made by April 21017, to allow ample time for all parties to prepare for 2018. J. Blum requested Council authorize the office to send a letter to the SRPC advising them of the upcoming steps of asset determination and appraisal of all SRPC owned property and equipment. J. Blum request the office also contact Glen Rock to determine if they are willing to share the costs of the appraiser and accountant or if they will be hiring their own. President Sarpen noted another alternate will be

necessary since some of the current representatives to the SRPC will be traveling in the upcoming year. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by B. Merrill to appoint B. Terrell as an alternate to the SRPC. Motion carried.

#### BUSINESS:

President Sarpen reviewed a capacity report completed by Buehart Horn last month. He explained there will be necessary upgrades to meet the permit limits at the original 2.25 mil gal. He also noted if upgrades are done to increase capacity, the party requesting the capacity would be responsible for the funding of the upgrades. P. Robinson advised Council he is willing to assist in funding any upgrades necessary. P. Robinson noted he is interested in approximately 350 edus to be used in Shrewsbury Twp. S. Hovis briefly discussed the methods used for this type of transfer of sewer capacity. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to authorize S. Hovis to begin working with the Shrewsbury Borough Solicitor on accommodating this request, and bill P. Robinson for the legal fees. Motion carried.

Goodfellow Park Building Bids – President Sarpen advised 4 bids were received and reviewed by LSC. All bids came in higher than anticipated, and as a result LSC will look at the feasibility of breaking the bids into separate contracts, and if rebidding will be necessary. The time frame for award of the bids is 60 days from opening, so there is ample time to act in November.

Remote Council Policy – President Sarpen and S. Hovis reviewed the policy that would permit a Council member to participate in a meeting from a remote location. Council briefly discussed the policy. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by B. Merrill to adopt the policy as presented. Motion carried, with L. O'Brien voting opposed.

#### CONTINUANCE:

President Sarpen continued the meeting at 2036 hours to October 24, 2016 at 0730 hours.

#### *MEETING CONTINUED OCTOBER 24, 2016 0730 hours*

Present were:

- D. Sarpen - President
- J. Blum – Vice President
- B. Terrell – Council member
- L. O'Brien – Council member
- K. Earll – Council member
- G. Andrews – Council member
- T.L. Crawford – Administrator

#### GENERAL FUND

Council continued discussing the general fund, and the concern of rising police costs. President Sarpen noted the previous number was a 14.45% increase; the latest version is a 22% increase. Mayor Halapin advised his recommendation is to reject the 2017 budget, as Glen Rock did, and have the SRPC function under the 2016 budget and reserve account of approximately \$ 192,000. J. Blum noted a portion of the increase would be moving and renovation expenses being dealt with while the dept. continues to operate. J. Blum also noted the study group will have a recommendation and full report in February 2017. This would allow for a decision by April, and if needed the facility would need to be vacated by Oct. 1. B. Merrill reviewed numerous cost factors, explaining the increase for Shrewsbury is \$ .10 per month per capita, approximately \$ 4000., yet a saving to NF of approximately \$ 30,000. or more. J. Blum suggested a letter be sent to all Shrewsbury Council members noting the increase of approximately \$ 4,000., so they understand the amount of money involved. Mayor Halapin noted the President of Shrewsbury Council has a different philosophical view of how the funding and the department should operate, so Shrewsbury Council typically hears a different version. Mayor Halapin reminded Council that Stewartstown Borough has stated they want less hours, SESD has not renewed the contract and Southern School District has reduced their hours, all of these issues indicate a loss of revenue that should result in fewer costs, not more. B. Merrill elaborated on the numerous problems and contradictions in the IGA, and the need for it to be rewritten and allow issues to be addressed by a majority vote, which is not possible under the current agreement. President Sarpen questioned why if there is a reduction in services provided, why no correlating reduction in staffing or overtime. Mayor Halapin reminded Council the IGA outlines procedures for withdraw, and notes capital assets are distributed, but not cash

reserves, so Council should not contemplate any refund of reserve funds. Council continued a lengthy discussion on the numerous issues with the proposed budget. Motion by B. Merrill, seconded by J. Blum to approve the proposed budget with a 22% increase. President Sarpen noted his dissatisfaction with the proposed budget and the subsequent tax increase to be able to pay this amount, noting the mailed survey responses were overwhelming opposed to this type of action. Mayor Halapin advised Council that you would be funding a move in the amount of \$ 150,000. and allowing them to retain a reserve of approximately \$ 200,000. at the cost to NF residents. SR Officer Hansen expressed his dissatisfaction with the survey that was mailed to residents, and that the ongoing controversy is detrimental to the department and the residents of the Borough. B. Terrell advised it is difficult to work out problems with an individual that lacks credibility, and does not recognize or care about being fair to all parties involved. T.L. Crawford advised Council if they adopt the proposed budget, even with a tax increase the general fund will no longer be able to fund certain items. The changed budget deletes the annual appreciation banquet, donations, public works uniforms and the possibility of reducing the public works dept. staffing. B. Merrill withdrew his previous motion. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to adopt the previously prepared budget with a 14.45% increase for police services, and revisions to the IGA is considered. Motion carried, with B. Terrell voting opposed. SR Officer Miller noted he recognizes a lot of the problem centers around 1 individual's beliefs and actions, and he hopes this can be worked out. He also questioned what options NF is investigating for police services. B. Merrill advised the committee is looking into numerous options, and SRPD is 2 of the options however, the committee is not prepared to bring a report to Council or the public at this time. Mayor Halapin advised he was invited to a meeting with the Mayors of the municipalities involved with the SRPC and he will be attending.

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to advertise the proposed 2017 budget for inspection and adoption. Motion carried.

Freedom Crossings – T.L. Crawford advised Council the developer inquired if the Borough would consider including the .50 mile Bee Tree Circle with the Borough adopted roads for winter maintenance at a fee. T.L. Crawford noted a meeting would be held with the developer and some repairs would need to be made to the satisfaction of the public works dept. prior to an agreement since the road does not have a top coat. The concern is that all roads in the area would be done by NF except .50 in the middle of the development. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by K. Earll to authorize the Solicitor to draft an agreement if the repairs and fees are acceptable. Motion carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn the meeting at 0847 hours. Motion carried.