

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 12, 2016

Regular Meeting called to order by President Sarpen at 1911 hours. Present were:

J. Blum – Vice President
B. Terrell – Council member
L. O'Brien – Council member
B. Merrill – Council member
G. Andrews – Council member
J. Halapin – Mayor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2016- \$ 574,146.33

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by O'Brien to approve the reports as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (August 2016)

Motion by J. Blum, seconded by O'Brien to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Woods, 33 Hunt Run Dr. present to discuss the police funding issue. J. Blum explained the current formula that results in NF paying the highest amount, yet receives less service than Shrewsbury Borough. He also noted that NF, GR and Stewartstown support per hour or "pay what you use" type funding, which is fair to all municipalities, and does not favor only 1 as the current formula does. B. Merrill explained as NF population increases, NF costs will continue to escalate by the current method, yet as Shrewsbury adds more businesses they do not have an increase. He noted the contracted entities also under pay and additional costs are picked up by the member municipalities. J. Woods advised he is happy with the service from Southern and does not want to lose the "local" police service end up being serviced by PSP. Council explained they are looking at several options, but would not consider PSP as a viable option.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Halapin noted the police officers do a fine job, but the opinions and actions of some SRPC members is not going to change. B. Merrill advised Council that a proposed change by the SRPC to modify the hourly data used in computing the member communities share of the SRPC budget is not in accord with the intergovernmental agreement. The intergovernmental agreement is very specific about the timeframe used to develop the hourly data. He also reported he is doing an analysis of 911 call trends, and other police data, to get a good snapshot of the community's needs. He also advised Council he would like to put a copy of his response to the Shrewsbury Borough newsletter on the Borough web page for residents. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to send a copy of the B. Merrill's response to all council members of the other SRPC member boroughs. Motion carried. B. Merrill also noted since New Freedom residents may not have seen the Shrewsbury Borough newsletter, he agreed to create another letter for the NF residents which would address the police funding issue and provide the historical context for the current decisions. Motion by J. Blum, seconded by L. O'Brien to place B. Merrill's letter for residents on the NF web page. Motion carried.

Motion carried. Sewer – D. Sarpen advised a meeting was held with Buchart Horn concerning what upgrades/capital improvements will be necessary with the new limits for the wwtp to get back to the permitted 2.23 mil. gal. He noted this is due to the Chesapeake Bay strategy. Buchart Horn will also be looking at the feasibility of increasing capacity in the future, and the lifespan of equipment.

BUSINESS:

PD Survey – B. Terrell requested the results of the survey. T. L. Crawford noted as of today 755 received, 739 do not want to subsidy any other municipality, 16 agree to subsidy Shrewsbury. Motion by B. Merrill, seconded by J. Blum to send a letter to the SRPC and member municipalities the official notification of the intent to withdraw from the Southern Regional Police at the end of 2017, as required in the agreement. Motion carried. B. Merrill supplied Council with a spreadsheet noting some of the financial issues with the SRPC and the member's costs. Council discussed the ongoing issues with the funding formula. Council briefly discussed the changes that will occur in 2017 due to member withdraw.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by G. Andrews, seconded by J. Blum to adjourn the meeting at 2049 hrs. Motion carried.