

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Sewer, Highway and Water Committee Workshop Meeting were held on June 21, 2010 in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA.

Presiding: Galen Freed, President of Council.

Recording Secretary: Stephen R. Salvesen

The meeting was called to order by President Freed at 6:38 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Galen Freed	None	Ted Stevenson	Lou Yurasits
Bryon Reed			Lorraine Schneck
Eldon Roberts			Louise Bringham
Kris Burek			Ed Ziegler
			Chad Trego
			Carol Gildner
			Mel Gildner
			Melissa Jordan

WATER

Eldon Roberts-Chairman; Members: Bryon Reed, Kristina Burek

VISITORS - Two visitors were signed in to address concerns to the Water Committee. Mr. Lou Yurasits, 207 Union Street questioned water and sewer rates and why we are paying so much. He knows one lady that uses 3,000 gallons per quarter. In addition, why does LCA pay a lower rate? Vice President Reed explained that we sell water to LCA in bulk and that they maintain lose lines, not the Borough. Mr. Yurasits also believes that each apartment should have its own meter. Councilman Burek asked President Freed if the Solicitor had gotten back to him on whether or not the Borough could hold a referendum on this issue and put the question to a popular vote. President Freed said that he had not heard from Attorney Healy. Councilman Burek asked if Manager Salvesen could check on this and forward the response to Council. President Freed so directed. Councilman Burek told Mr. Yurasits that the reason for the increase in all the rates was the fact that we ended calendar year 2009 with a large deficit. Mr. Yurasits recognizes that items need to be replaced but the increases are especially hard on the retirees and those on fixed incomes. "How am I going to sell my house?" Vice President Reed stated that the high school taxes do not help the situation. Mr. Yurasits expressed surprise that the Borough under took such an extensive sewer restoration project at this time. Vice President Reed told Mr. Yurasits that it was an opportunity that the Borough could not pass up. We are getting approximately \$2.3 million dollars at 1.4% interest, and \$4.7 million dollars at 0% interest. The repayment for the loans will start in 2011 and we will need a cash reserve to make these payments. The next person to address the committee was Ms. Louise Bringham, 506 Center Street also expressed concern over the high water bills and in addition, the smell from the Sewer Plant is overwhelming at times. She lost her job and now has a "Crappy" job and it is increasingly difficult to make all her payments.

Although he did not sign the sheet to talk to the committee, Mr. Mel Gildner, 528 Pine Street wanted to address the committee about the water rates. He asked if anyone had looked into the numbers and the effect that it might have if each apartment were to be assessed a minimum rate. Mr. Gildner stated that single family home owners are being discriminated against by not charging each apartment with a minimum base rate. There was additional discussion between the committee members without a recommendation. Councilman Burek made a motion that we assess every apartment a base rate of \$93.00. President Freed suggested that this motion would be more appropriately made at a Council Meeting where all the members are present. Councilman Burek withdrew the motion and said that she would make it at the next Council Meeting.

#### WATER PLANT UTV

As a follow up to the Manager's April 8, 2010 memo on the utility vehicle for the Water Department he sent Council an update; this is the unit that has a hydraulically operated dump body and a hydraulic wench on the front end. He checked on sources of grants for this unit and from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant/Loan Program which was the only grant available and, we can get a 15% grant towards this purchase. Today's price, (June 4, 2010), is \$6,478.95 including shipping. If Council wishes to move forward with the grant towards a purchase, the grant would cover \$971.84 of the purchase price with the balance to be paid by the Borough of \$5,507.11. Councilman Roberts noted that the Borough owns over 300 acres of water shed property and water plant employees are using their pick-up truck to do work within the water shed. The UTV is well suited to this terrain and its purchase will save wear and tear on the Borough's pick-up truck. It was recommended that this item be sent to full Council for consideration by the Committee.

#### 3065 WELSHTOWN ROAD

On June 2, 2010 Steve Martinez and Manager Salvesen walked through the house at 3065 Welshtown Road on an inspection tour. A copy of the e-mail was distributed to all for reference. One of the items on the list was a very large Horse Chestnut tree next to the house. The roots from the tree had heaved the concrete platform that forms the top step of the stairs that lead to the closed in porch area. As stated in the e-mail, this tree should be removed before it causes further damage. Manager Salvesen asked Mr. Martinez to obtain a quote on removing the tree. Attached is a copy of a quote from Tree of Life, Tree Management Service to remove the tree and the stump for your consideration. Mr. Martinez offered to assist in the wood removal, so the final number should be less than the quoted \$855.00. Unless Council decides to tear down the house, this tree should be removed ASAP. Manager Salvesen has scheduled an inspection of the house with Duane Dellecker for Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11:00 AM. The purpose of the inspection is to ascertain any deficiencies in the building. At one time, two Borough employees expressed an interest in renting the house; Mr. Martinez, and a part-time police officer. The part-time police officer has since resigned, and Mr. Martinez is no longer interested. No further action was recommended by the committee pending the inspection by Mr. Dellecker and the receiving of his report.

## WATER SERVICE

Manager Salvesen reported that in the normal course of business when a resident is delinquent on their water bill notices are sent out and if payment is not received, the property is posted and if payment is still not received, the service is terminated and a lien placed on the property.

Termination of service is usually the ultimate “hammer” that the Borough has to collect past due water bills. We have a problem in certain homes that share a common water line, but have separate water meters. The water cannot be turned off since it would affect a user that has paid the bill as well as the delinquent user. Our normal recourse is to place a lien on the property but if the delinquent user continues to use the water service, multiple liens must be placed. This is a burdensome administrative function that takes time and does not increase our cash flow. The Borough Code, Article IV, Water, section 180-43; Water service connections may offer a solution to the problem by requiring separate water service connections. The section that might be applicable reads in part, “A water service connection may provide service to more than one consumer unit within the same structure only with the specific consent of the Officer or the Engineer.” I assume from the way the sentence is structured, that if consent is given, it can be withdrawn! I have attached a full copy of the article for your review. If Council wishes to require separate water lines to solve this problem, we will need formal action by Council to authorize the Engineer and the Solicitor to design a procedure or advise the manager on how to proceed. This topic will require additional study before it is ready to be sent to Council.

There were no additional comments from other committee members or the public, and this portion of the Workshop was adjourned.

## SEWER

Kristina Burek – Chairman; Members: Bryon Reed, Eldon Roberts

VISITORS – There was one visitor that signed in to speak to the Sewer Committee; Ms. Melissa Jordan of 321 Main Street, wanted to know if the minimum charge of sewer would be changed. Chairman Burek said that this would not be changed.

Chairman Burek asked Ted Stevenson to explain to the committee the events that occurred at the Sewer plant over the weekend and on Monday morning. Mr. Stevenson explained to the committee that over the weekend, it was discovered that both valves that control the inlet to the Chlorine Contact tanks had broken and that the operators had no method available to them to evacuate the chambers. The plant has two small pumps, but they could not pump the volume of treated water necessary. Mr. Stevenson called Ronca and asked if the Borough could borrow their large 6” trash pump, which was promptly delivered to the plant. The 6” pump was put into service and both tanks were emptied within two (2) hours allowing the staff to get into the tanks to inspect the valves. It was found that the “Ears on both gates had failed. The valves were removed and photos taken of the damaged valves. These need to be replaced ASAP. We have three (3) choices; 1. repair the existing parts with the same type of aluminum as originally supplied, 2. order a replacement out of composite material, or 3. upgrade to 304 stainless steel. Stefan Myers is in the process of obtaining quotes on these options including electrically operated valves. Manager Salvesen supplied the committee with photos of the damaged valves and a quotation from Continental Pumps on a Gorman Rupp 6”X57 HP trash pump with a Deutz Diesel. The sale price on the pump is \$21,272.22. Mr. Stevenson told the committee that he would get with the manager to see if the pump could be supplied with the existing grant.

Councilman Burek noted that in the current Pennsylvania Borough News that the PSAB voting delegates passed a total of 13 new resolutions and re-authorized 15 resolutions from 2007. Councilman Burek read excerpts from several and asked the committee to support sending a letter to Representative Harhart urging her to support these resolutions. The committee agreed.

There were no further comments from other committee members or from the public and this portion of the Workshop was adjourned.

### HIGHWAY

Bryon Reed-Chairman; Members: Eldon Roberts, Kristina Burek

There were no visitors signed in who wished to talk to the Highway Committee.

### ICE CONTROL SPRAYER

Some months ago, when we were battling ice and snow, the Borough Manager brought to the attention of Council the concept of an ice control sprayer system that the Borough could use to control ice and snow. Council directed the Manager to obtain quotes on these systems for possible use in the Borough. Attached is a copy of such a system that we could use. It is the ICS-300 with a hose reel option that will allow us to spray sidewalks, steps and between parked cars which is all but impossible with other systems. The unit is from Turbo Technologies, Inc. out of Beaver Falls, PA. Each unit, fully equipped is \$4,617.31 each. Funding for the purchase would be from the Liquid Fuels Account which ended the year with a surplus. With the narrow width of a majority of the streets in the Borough, units like these mounted on pickup trucks, could easily navigate all the Borough's streets and alleys. The tanks are fiberglass and the tank is designed to drain completely after use. Pre-treating the Borough's road with a brine solution prior to a snow/ice event, will save the Borough much needed funds in labor and salt. The Brine solutions are effective up to three days prior to a storm and certainly very effective in removing ice patches from our road surfaces.

We have four (4) pick-ups that could easily be used and can easily be fitted into all our pick-ups. I have attached appropriate literature on the proposed unit for your consideration. The Committee liked the concept but wanted to know how large the storage tank would have to be to service the Borough streets and directed the Borough Manager to obtain quotes on the storage system and the cost for the pre-mixed brine solution. It will be placed on the agenda for committee discussion when the quotes are received. There were no further questions on this item from other committee members or from the public.

### FUEL MONITORING SYSTEM

The Manager attached a quote from Boyko's Petroleum Service, Inc. for a manual fuel management system. There were two options with this quote; the first is a new system which will cost \$11,020.00 or second to purchase a used system for \$9,917.50. Boyko recently disassembled a system from a station that went out of business and the unit is approximately two years old.

Since the system is manual in nature, the meters must be read and recorded monthly. It is the Manager's understanding of the system; each user will have access to fuel using a special key, either assigned to the vehicle or to the individual which will trigger the meter for that key.

The system would qualify to be purchased with Liquid fuel funds and if the Council wanted to purchase a used system, it would not require an advertised bid.

The committee recommended that this item be brought before Council for consideration.

There were no further questions on this item from other committee members or from the public.

#### SPRINGSIDE FACILITY

At the May 17, 2010 Highway Committee Meeting, a request was made to get quotes to repair the roof of the Springside facility.

The Springside facility consists of a main building that has two areas that were added to the basic structure which consists of a rear storage area and a smaller structure that was used to receive and store coal.

Attached is a quote from Joel R. Alpha Home Improvements, the firm that repaired the slate roof on the Borough building that covers the three parts of the building.

He has quoted \$7,125.00 to repair the main building, \$3400.00 for the rear storage area, and \$1200.00 for the rear coal bin.

The quote is attached along with a letter to the Council for your consideration.

The committee reviewed the quotation and agreed that the work needs to be done and since the entire proposal sums to more than \$10,000 dollars, the committee requested two (2) additional quotes. This item will be discussed when the additional quotes are received.

There were no further questions from other committee members or the public on this topic.

#### HOSE COMPANY #1 REQUEST

Hose Company #1 has requested Council's permission to close the 500 block of Main Street for a ceremony on Saturday September 11, 2011 from 1:30 PM until 2:45 PM for the rededication of the Firemen Statue and drinking fountain. In addition they are also asking for the Slatington Fire Police to man the detour if necessary at Main and Church Streets and Main & Second Streets during the Ceremony. The committee discussed the request and recommended that the request be brought before Council for consideration. There were no further questions from other committee members or from the public and this portion of the Workshop was adjourned.

President Freed opened the Workshop Meeting to courtesy of the floor for those individuals that wished to speak.

Melissa Jordan, 321 Main Street, addressed the committee. She was disturbed that her opinions and input were not being valued by the Council. She recognizes that she is not a long time resident of the community, being here only six months, moving from another area, but she just wants to improve the town. She felt that sometimes she and others were being completely disrespected. President Freed and Councilman Burek thanked her for her frankness.

Ed Ziegler, 102 Chestnut Street, again discussed the lights that are out in the Borough. In addition, Mr. Ziegler said “that the sewer line that goes from the Sewer Plant to the river is building an island out there, there are already trees growing on it. Before they had the swimming pool there in 1958 we use to swim in the Lehigh, that’s how I know where the baby elephant is and it’s still there, that big rock. You look there and you see an island being built there in the middle all created by the Sewer Plant, the pipe goes straight out and created turbulence. Instead of angling the pipe a little bit, so I own a little bit of that property there and the Sewer Authority had an agreement with Harry Orkin who I bought the land from a twenty foot easement and in that agreement they put in for outfall only and when Walnutport wanted to put their sewerage in they were going to run the pipe across the river there and into the Sewer Plant; they checked into it and found out that it was only, in fact Charlie Rettew notified them, because I gave Charlie Rettew the original contract that was signed by Harry Orkin and I can build over that sewer line but it has to be concrete so that it can’t crush the sewer line. So I would like to go to that meeting (Authority) and explain that to them. The other thing is that the sewer line that runs from your Pumping Station to the Sewer Plant, both the Borough of Slatington and the Borough of Walnutport is on my property. Now the tax maps don’t show that, but I had it surveyed; and we have to get that straightened out too. The sewer lines run up Railroad Street and that happens to be my property. The Walnutport sewer line hangs from the bridge and when it gets to Main Street, right where I put the iron gate in, which years ago, I got permission, and I can’t find it in writing, to block that road off because the people didn’t have garbage collection in Walnutport and they were bringing the garbage over and throwing it in the quarry and so I got permission and Bertha Griffin sent me the letter allowing me to block it off where you see those orange pipes. If you look at your tax map, it shows my property between Railroad Street and the railroad. See what happened years ago, the Railroad bought what they could buy and they leased what they could lease and if they could get up to 75% that they could buy and lease they condemned the rest and put in a railroad through; however when they took the railroad tracks out it goes back to the original owner that they did not buy from”. President Freed stated that “your time is up. I know its up and they just bought some from Eddie Burger, \$18,000.00 because he owns everything there and the Rails to Trails just bought that.

Councilman Roberts made the motion to adjourn at 9:15 PM

Stephen R. Salvesen  
Borough Secretary

