

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Sewer, Highway and Water Committee Workshop Meeting was held on May 17, 2010 in the 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 P.M. with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>	
Galen Freed	NONE	Ted Stevenson	Gary Phillips	Nathan Shook
Bryon Reed		Russell Hallman	Melissa Jordan	Susan Shook
Eldon Roberts			Robert Stettner	Ed Ziegler
Kris Burek			Denise Smith	Chad Trego
			Lorraine Schneck	Mel Gildner
			Carol Gildner	Bonnie Lindsey
			Colin MacCrimdle	

SEWER

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

Chairman Burek recognized Mr. Gary Phillips, Chairman of the Slatington Borough Sewer Authority. Mr. Phillips had requested a meeting with the Sewer Committee to discuss the Authority’s desire to update the agreement between the Borough of Walnutport and the Borough of Slatington. The agreement between the Borough of Walnutport and the Borough of Slatington was signed and dated July 1, 1976. The Borough of Slatington also has an agreement with Washington Township which was signed and dated in June of 1995. Walnutport has recently requested 10,000 gallons of additional sewer capacity and the Authority thought that this would be the best time to update the Walnutport agreement to bring it in line with the Washington Township Agreement. There are a number of differences in the two agreements and the concern is that if Slatington becomes involved in litigation with either party, the lack of consistency in the language of the two agreements would not help the Borough. There are other differences in the relationship of the parties; Washington Township and the Borough of Slatington share certain facilities where Walnutport does not.

The cost to rewrite the agreement is estimated to be \$3,500.00 basically legal fees, and this cost, and any other costs would come out of the bulk sale money.

Chairman Burek asked if the Authority had talked with Walnutport about the change. Chairman Phillips has been in contact with his counterpart, Mr. Ron Kuhns and he is in agreement with the need to have a more current agreement in place.

Some years back, Walnutport had requested an increase in their Sewer allocation in anticipation of a proposed development in Walnutport by Wal-Mart. The request at that time was for 50,000 gallons of sewer capacity. The request was granted and Walnutport has received 20,000 gallons of the requested 50,000 gallons. The new request will bring the total to 30,000 gallons.

Ted Stevenson, who also represents Walnutport, has estimated that the increased capacity request will cost Walnutport approximately \$91,800 subject to a final audit of any improvements to the digester. The cost numbers are calculated using the published Construction Cost Index plus any improvements that have been made to the plant since

the last purchase. Mr. Stevenson also added that the State is presently looking at reduced phosphates and nitrates levels in the release effluent. If these standards are adopted, the increased costs would be paid on a shared basis. Mr. Stevenson stated that the Slatington Borough Sewer flow is about 75% based on population and should be approximately 50%. The current sewer main and lateral work is in part, an effort to get our flow in line with the population.

In order to start the redrafting of the agreement, authorization will be needed from the Borough Council, the Slatington Borough Authority and the Walnutport Authority. President Freed asked how long ago was it that we started the process of trying to rewrite the agreement. Chairman Phillips thought that it was at least five years.

Chairman Burek asked the committee members if anyone had a problem or concerns about moving this forward for Council action. None did and it was so ordered.

There were no other comments from other Council members or from the public.

Two motions will be brought before Council. The first will be to authorize the rewriting of the Walnut port agreement, and the second, to proceed with the sale of 10,000 gallons of additional sewer capacity to the Borough of Walnutport.

There being no further business to bring before the Sewer Committee, the Sewer Committee Workshop Meeting was adjourned.

HIGHWAY

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

There were three visitors signed in to address the Highway Committee, Mr. Robert Stettner, Mr. Mel Gildner and Ms. Denise Smith.

Mel Gildner - 528 Pine Street, complained about construction trucks dragging mud onto the roadways. Mr. Ted Stevenson said that he was aware of the problem, and that the contractor had been directed to put down more stone to scrub mud from the truck tires. Denise Smith - 105 S. Walnut Street, had a concern about the three (3) hour parking at the main parking lot across from Borough Hall. Her mother cannot move her car every three hours due to her age. She does have a handicapped parking sticker and uses one of the designated handicapped parking spaces. She will get a sticker that allows overnight parking.

Borough Manager Salvesen suggested that Ms. Smith's mother be given a Borough Hall parking tag to display in her front window. This would solve the problem of having to move the car every three hours.

Robert Stettner of the Vigilant Fire Company also had concerns over the parking in the municipal lot when the Vigilant Fire Company has events. It was noted by various Council members that the Vigilant knows well in advance what functions will be occurring at the Fire Company Social Hall and when. If they have a concern, they should contact Borough Hall to obtain parking permits, or if the affair is on the weekend, request abeyance of the requirement for that day.

Chairman Reed requested that the Manager review the zoning ordinance and determine the number of handicapped parking spots that are required.

Manager Salvesen suggested that he develop a policy and procedure for Council to review that would cover the parking at the Main lot and other parking lot facilities. Bonnie Lindsey interrupted the Highway Committee Meeting to state that there were a number of people present that wished to talk about water. Chairman Reed stated that water was the next committee meeting that would meet as soon as Highway finished their agenda, but asked her, what specifically she wanted to say. Ms. Lindsey wanted to know if the water rate issue was going to be on the November ballot. President Freed stated that he had asked Council's solicitor to research the issue and determine if such a question could be placed on the ballot. If the Solicitor determines that it can be a referendum issue, it would be on the November Ballot. Ms. Lindsey wanted to know how the public would be notified. Councilman Burek noted that the minutes are on the Borough web site and if a resident did not own a computer, they could get them using a computer at the library. President Freed noted that all meetings are public meetings and that they could call Borough Hall to see if a certain topic was on the agenda and that issues like this are normally in the Newsletter but since the Newsletter is not published weekly or monthly, it might not be a source of current information.

Mr. Ted Stevenson asked if he could give his update to the committee and leave a little early and was granted permission to do so. Mr. Stevenson reported that all the necessary papers were signed and that the Borough is now a member of SWPTAP and that DEP will be getting Mr. Ed. Christman involved, owner of a small water company that services parts of Washington Township and the Borough.

SALT SHED

Chairman Reed reported that the salt shed is in need of repair as the back end of the bin is damaged. Manager Salvesen was asked to look into it and report back to Council.

WORKERS INSURANCE

This topic refers to the employee Health Insurance plan. Manager Salvesen reported that the plan could not be changed at this time and that the Police Union and the non-uniformed employees have vastly different wording in the contracts in regards to health care. In addition, the contracts run for different lengths. If Council would like a plan that involves employee contributions, we might wind up with two plans.

PARKING LOTS

Church Street parking lot; there was no survey attached to the deed when the Borough purchased the lot. We need a metal detector to locate the pins at the Church Street lot. The Main Street & Center Street parking lot will be striped within the next few weeks now that the weather is warming. There should be twelve (12) spots available when striped. Permits will be required at the lot once striping has been completed.

GAS PUMP USAGE

Manager Salvesen is still looking into metering at the Borough owned fuel tanks.

MAINTENANCE GARAGE ELECTRICITY

Quotes are still coming in on moving from PPL to another entity for the purchase of electrical power.

ROOF ON SPRINGSIDE BUILDING

Shingles are off a section of the Springside building. Temporary repairs need to be made and quotes obtained for a permanent repair.

PPL LIGHTS

Twelve (12) lights are out in the Borough. PPL needs to be called.

There were no further questions from other Council members present or from the public. The Highway Committee Meeting was adjourned.

WATER

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

Chairman Roberts noted that the outstanding bond issue was one of the contributing factors in raising rates. We have a bond issue due on June 13, 2010.

There were two people that had signed up to speak on water issues. The first was Mr. Mel Gildner, 528 Pine Street who handed out an informational sheet containing data received from Borough Hall under the Right-to-Know Law, which outlined the number of apartment units presently in the Borough. His contention is that if every apartment unit in the Borough were to be assessed a minimum or base rate, the overall water bills would come down. In the second quarter, 1416 water bills were sent out. Out of the 1416 bills, there were 552 apartments that did not receive separate water bills. If each apartment were charged a minimum fee, or base bill, the overall bills for the remaining users would be lowered. When questioned by Vice-President Reed, Mr. Gildner admitted that the 25/10 plan was not the best way to go but was convinced that a base charge to every user would lower every user's bill and spread the cost equably. Mr. Nathan Shook, 44 Main Street was next to speak and he had contacted various municipalities to determine what they charge. Councilman Burek asked if Mr. Shook would share the information that he gathered with Council members and he said that he would. Mr. Trego was asked if the Housing Authority (HUD) would pay for individual users. Mr. Trego did not know, but he was willing to check and advise Council of his findings.

SWPTAP was covered under Ted Stevenson's report earlier in the meeting.

There were no further comments from other Council members or committee members or from the public.

There being nothing further to bring before the Water Committee, the Water Committee Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Stephen R. Salvesen
Borough Secretary