

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Public Safety, Finance/Planning/Zoning, and Human/Community Services Committee Workshop Meeting were held on September 27, 2010 in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stevens at 6:35 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>	
Russell Hallman	Paul Hoffman	Kris Burek	Denise Smith	Chad Trego
Daniel Stevens	Galen Freed	David Rachman	Melvin Gildner	Kathi Buss
		Walter Niedermeyer	Carol Gildner	George Moyer
		Eldon Roberts	Peter McMorris	Robert Stettner
			Robert Herzog	Ed Ziegler

**FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING**

Russell Hallman – Chairman; Members: Daniel Stevens, Paul Hoffman

**VISITORS**

Peter McMorris – Hartford Insurance – Mr. McMorris gave a short presentation on the life insurance and short-term disability being offered to the Borough employees at a 22% savings from the current insurer who is Fort Dearborn. He noted the enhancements to the contract and stated that the Borough has a right to change administrators as long as the employees’ coverage doesn’t change as per their contract. Kathi Buss asked how many other proposals has the Borough received and Mr. McMorris answered the board went out to 8 different companies to bid on the business and they recommended The Hartford. George Moyer asked if the current insurance company could penalize the Borough for getting out of a contract 3 months early and Mr. McMorris replied no. Councilor Burek asked if it covered Short-Term and Long Term Disability and was told only Short-Term and that there are no differences (especially because of the Union members). It was decided to put this on the October Council Meeting Agenda for consideration and action.

**RESOLUTION R-04-10**

Councilor Stevens noted that his understanding was that the former Borough Manager and the solicitor talked about this resolution and his understanding was the reason for it was to protect borough employees, but the interpretation by members of the audience is that it was for Council to protect itself. Mr. Trego noted that it references Council members, Chief of Police, and Mayor. Councilor Burek informed those present that she was in contact with 2 legal sources and one of them stated that in their 24 years they had never seen anything like this. She also noted that the ACLU was very interested if we do pass the resolution. Mr. Gildner inquired when this resolution was brought about and it was noted that the first time was at the August Council Meeting. Mr. Trego asked if this resolution is going to be brought up formally to be voted on. Councilor Stevens stated that they are recommending not to put it on the agenda, but if someone wants to bring it up for a vote, that is up to them. It was also noted that the resolution was only in draft form, and Mr. Trego in turn stated that it lacks merit and should be addressed formally and should be dissolved and so documented. Councilor Burek stated that Mr. Trego is requesting that a formal vote should be taken to kill the resolution.

## DISCUSSION ON TAX COLLECTION AND APPOINTING A NEW TAX COLLECTION COMMITTEE MEMBER

It was decided to put this issue on the October 11 Council Meeting Agenda and have Mr. Stein attend the meeting and request action from Council.

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Councilor Burek – Sewer Chair – informed those present that at the Water/Sewer/Solid Waste/Highway Committee Meeting it was noted that the \$310,000.00 county grant was being used to pave the streets and that 2 more streets have been added to the list and possibly a third street. They also are looking at the Liquid Fuels Fund for additional funds. She stated that the Borough Authority has agreed to give \$3,000.00 from their Construction Fund to help with this additional paving.

Councilor Stevens – Human/Community Services Chair – noted the spread sheets that Joan prepared for the 2011 Budget.

Robert Stettner – 44 South Walnut Street – Vigilant Fire Company – informed the committees that one of the central air units is shot and needs to be replaced. He had a quote of \$3800.00 for the unit/installation, but the committee suggested they get more quotes. Councilor Burek questioned the expenses versus the revenue and an in-depth discussion was held and she asked if there was any plan to sell the building. Mr. Gildner stated that nothing was ever taken public about the loan issue for the building and was told that it was discussed in detail at committee meetings and at a Council Meeting. Councilor Burek also inquired about the 2011 Budget and what kind of action Council will be taking and was told that nothing had been decided yet.

Mr. Gildner questioned the listing about the Zoning Hearing on October 13<sup>th</sup> and was told that it was an error, but it should be considered informational.

There were no further questions from the committee members, other Council members or the public and so the Finance/Planning/Zoning Committee Meeting was adjourned.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Paul Hoffman – Chairman; Members: Russell Hallman, Daniel Stevens

Chief Rachman explained the reasons for purchasing 3 tasers now and not wait until 2011. He noted that the training and the cartridges will be acquired free to very minimal charges. Councilor Burek asked Chief Rachman to contact Paul Hoffman to check with our insurance company concerning the costs of adding this equipment to our arsenal and if there will be additional costs to our insurance. The committee requested that this item be placed on the October 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda for action by Council.

The arbitration for the Police Pension contributions is done and they are waiting for the arbitrator to make a ruling.

VISITORS - There were no visitors signed in to talk with the Public Safety Committee.

There were no further questions from the committee members, other Council members or the public and so the Public Safety Meeting was adjourned.

## **HUMAN/COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Daniel Stevens – Chairman; Members: Russell Hallman, Paul Hoffman

VISITORS - There were no visitors signed in to talk with the Public Safety Committee.

### **MEMORIAL PARK**

Councilor Stevens informed those present that the gazebo is to be delivered possibly on September 28, 2010. He also explained about the fuel tank that was found underground at the old school site and that Ronca at no charge extracted the tank and moved it out of the way. The tank was emptied out and Sneregy Environmental took several samples and was informed that everything was clean and the tank is in excellent condition. We backfilled the hole partially, and Councilor Stevens noted that if we are going to sell the tank for recycling it must be cleaned before it can be removed. He stated that the cost would be about \$3000.00 for cleaning, disposal of the contents and hauling away. Livengood Excavating had to stop the work on the park until this matter is resolved. Councilor Burek questioned why the Borough should have to pay for these new costs, and that Councilor Stevens should approach Future Focus about helping to pay for these costs, since they were also involved with this project. Councilor Stevens noted that most of the money used for this park project is being paid for with grant money and that the tank was an unforeseen, but immediate expense and had to be dealt with. This item will be put on the October 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda for action. Mr. Ed Ziegler agreed to take the tank.

### **DCNR GRANT**

Councilor Stevens noted that he submitted additional paperwork to the state for the reimbursement monies for the Trail.

### **PPL PROPERTY**

Robert Stettner – Parks & Recreation Committee had sent a letter to PPL regarding their property at the corner of Main & Grove Streets, just outside the borough of Slatington next to Victory Park and inquired as to what PPL intends to do with it. PPL responded that they would donate the parcel to the Slatington Borough. It was noted that a Phase I Environmental Study at a cost of approximately \$1650.00 would need to be done and that PPL would not incur this expense. Mr. Stettner also stated that a commissioner walked around the property and took measurements and it was determined that the property would not be useful for any type of recreational activities. Both councilors suggested that this issue should be addressed at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Chad Trego asked what the environmental study consists of and was told that it depended on what the site had formerly been used for. He also inquired if one of these studies had been done on the Memorial Park Site and was told no, that it was not needed. Mr. Gildner asked if the property is in the borough and there was some discussion as to where it actually is. It was suggested that the Borough find out exactly where this property is located before making any final decision to accept the property. Councilor Burek questioned why the Parks and Recreation Committee is going after a property in another municipality and asking us to assume the burden and why the letter Mr. Stettner sent to Mr. Farley dated June 4, 2010 did not appear on any of their monthly reports, didn't show up on our agendas and in fact it didn't show up on the workshop agenda until August 23, 2010 as a

done deal and why is that? Councilor Stevens stated that he did not have an answer for that since he had not seen the letter. It was decided that this issue be put before Council for further discussion and possible action.

There were no further questions from the committee members, other Council members or the public and so the Human/Community Services Meeting was adjourned.

Chad Trego – East Church Street – presented the slide presentation which he had also shown at the September 20<sup>th</sup> Workshop Meeting, explaining his spreadsheets for a new water rate structure.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Northern Lehigh School District filed a request to borrow our bucket truck for a day to paint their flag pole. Ed Ziegler volunteered to take care of this request.

Councilor Stevens and Councilor Hallman adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

Joan Cheesbrough  
Assistant Borough Secretary