

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Sewer, Highway and Water Committee Workshop Meeting were held on July 19, 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 6:35 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>	
Galen Freed (6:40)	None	None	Carol Gildner	Ed Ziegler
Bryon Reed			Lorraine Schneck	Mel Gildner
Eldon Roberts			Denise Smith	Chad Trego
Kris Burek			Melissa Jordan	Joseph Dalapy
			Louise Bringhurst	Mary Dalapy

WATER

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

VISITORS - Two visitors were signed in to address concerns to the Water Committee. Mel Gildner – 528 Pine Street asked the Water Committee if they were working on any solutions to the unfair water billing question. Mr. Gildner contends that the current billing matrix unfairly penalizes single family homeowners while giving a break to apartment renters.

Councilman Burek asked Vice-President Reed if he was working on any new ideas. Vice-President Reed said that he was not and asked Councilman Burek if she was. Councilman Burek said that she was and that leveling the base fee on all apartment dwellers could raise a substantial sum of money. The two high rise apartments were excluded on the following basis: one they are federally subsidized, two they are Tax Exempt, and three they are non-profit. Councilman Burek asked that this be placed on the next Council Agenda for consideration.

3065 WELSHTOWN ROAD

Manager Salvesen supplied the committee with a copy of the inspection report by the Building Code Inspector and asked for guidance on what should be done with the building. After some discussion, the committee recommended that quotes be obtained for fixing the slate roof which has a hole in it, and a quotation on correcting the electrical deficiencies. There were no further comments from other Council members or the public.

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." Manager Salvesen supplied a list of homes that share a common water line that branches internally in the structure. He reported that curb stops have been installed to accommodate separate water lines. There are at least thirty-one (31) homes that have a common water line that splits internally. There were several suggestions made by Manager Salvesen. These were as follows: (1) Require that the owners have individual water and sewer lines, or (2) Amend the Ordinance that would require that the lines be split when the house is sold, or (3) Continue with the present policy of applying liens to the property for unpaid sewer and water bills.

Councilman Burek asked if the Manager had an estimate as to what the value of outstanding liens was. Manager Salvesen said that the value was approaching \$50,000.00. Councilman Burek requested an itemized list for the committee.

In addition, the Manager presented a list of houses that had lead water lines leading to the house. There were one hundred thirty-nine (139) houses listed. They appeared to be in the older part of the Borough. Manager Salvesen asked the committee if they wished to take any action on this matter, and the consensus was that the cost would in all probability be higher than most home owners could afford and that Federal, State and County grant monies were drying up due to the economic malaise. No action was requested on this item. There were no further questions from the committee members or from the public and no items were recommended to be sent to Council for consideration.

There were no further items to be brought before the committee and the Water Committee Workshop Meeting was adjourned.

### **SEWER**

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

There were no visitors signed in to talk with the Sewer Committee.

There were no items listed on the agenda and there were no comments from other committee members or from the public. Since there were no other items to be brought before the Sewer Committee the Sewer Committee Workshop Meeting was adjourned.

### **HIGHWAY**

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

VISITORS – There were two visitors signed in who wished to talk to the Highway Committee.

Denise Smith – 105 S. Walnut Street addressed the committee on the parking lot across from Borough Hall. Ms. Smith had copies of minutes of a prior Council Meeting where

she asked if the parking regulations could be suspended until the topic could be fully discussed. Council thought that this would be a good idea. Attorney Healy suggested that if this was Council's desire that they do this action by a formal motion. This never occurred. The next opportunity for Council to consider Ms. Smith's request will be at the August 9, 2010 Council Meeting.

Louise Bringham – 506 Center Street wanted to know when the streets would be repaired, specifically Center Street. The contractor Ronca said that the streets would be resurfaced prior to the opening of school and that the resurfacing might start as early as the first week in August.

### 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.

Manager Salvesen had quotations for the committee as requested on storage modules. They were one vertical 1550 gallon storage tank at a cost of \$1,495.00, two 1550 vertical storage tanks at a cost of \$3,485.00 and one 2500 gallon vertical storage tank at a cost of \$2,720.00. Manager Salvesen had discussed the Ice Control Spraying System with John Bolton and recommended the purchase of one system. The brine solution from most suppliers is shipped in bulk quantities of 4500 or 5000 gallons. This is much more than we could anticipate using in a season. We would not change the method of de-icing, but would supplement the brine solution with salt and cinders. The most reasonable method is to order the solution in 275 gallon totes which are easy to store and when empty collapse for return. We estimate that eight (8) totes would be sufficient for the average winter season. The committee recommended that this item be sent to full Council for consideration. There were no further questions from other committee members or from the public on this topic.

### SPRINGSIDE FACILITY

At the May 17, 2010 Highway Committee Meeting a request was made to get quotes on repair of the roof on 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, \$3,400.00 for the rear storage area and \$1,200.00 for the rear coal bin.

Per the committee's request, additional quotations were requested on the roof systems and an additional quotation was received from Holencik Roofing, LLC. Holencik has quoted \$5,990.00 to repair the main building, \$3,010.00 for the rear storage area, and \$1,500.00 for the rear coal bin. A third contractor, Ziggy's Roofing was asked to bid and visited the site but we have not received their quotation as of this meeting date. Chairman Reed asked if there were any bids from local Slatington contractors, and would like to see quotes from them. This matter was tabled pending the receipt of these quotes. Councilman Burek asked what the building is used for. Manager Salvesen said that at the present time an ambulance and an antique hand fire-pumper were stored in the building and from time to time the Borough has used the facility to store Borough owned items. There were no further questions from other committee members or from the public.

#### COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

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

Chad Trego – 403 East Church Street commended that the Web Site needed more work.

Since there were no other items to be brought before the Highway Committee, Councilman Roberts made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 P.M.

Stephen R. Salvesen  
Borough Secretary

