

Borough of Northumberland
175 Orange Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
Northumberland Borough Council Meeting
August 7, 2012

President James Troup called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

Roll call

Council members present were Stephen Reed, Jonathan Rees, and James Troup. Council member Adam Klock was present by telephone. Others present were Mayor Len Zboray; Ryan Tira, Borough Solicitor; Clifford Kriner, Police Sergeant; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Gregory Carl, Frank Wetzel, and Ty Sees were absent.

Committee Reports

Community Development – no report

Finance

Mr. Rees announced that letters will be distributed to the departments about the upcoming 2013 budget meetings. The committee will meet to start the 2013 budget process on September 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Rees noted that the departmental budgets are due by Friday, September 14th. Mr. Rees stated that he has reviewed the budget numbers as of July 31st and everything looks good.

Personnel

Mr. Troup stated that personnel issues would be discussed in the Executive Session.

Public Safety – no report

Rules – no report

Sewer

Mr. Klock informed the council that he has contacted an engineering service to obtain a quote to provide a cost estimates for treating the sewage at the Sunbury Treatment Plant as opposed to constructing a new sewage plant in Northumberland. The proposal at a cost of \$3,800 was provided by Hazen & Sawyer, P.C. The evaluation would be performed in three to four weeks. Mr. Troup read the scope of services:

“This proposal is therefore to provide a letter report which will identify the major components of a local solution to the Northumberland Borough sewage needs over a 20 year life cycle and compare the costs associated with a local project that provides wastewater

treatment at the existing WWTP to the costs associated with a regional project that conveys flows to the Sunbury WWTP. Specific efforts will include:

- Development of a preliminary cost estimate associated with the conveyance improvements necessary to address sanitary sewer overflows at the existing NSA WWTP.
- Evaluation of flow equalization for either the NSA WWTP or SMA Conveyance alternative.
- Evaluation of existing capital cost estimates for a new NSA WWTP compliant with the CBTS and adequate to handle the projected 20 year flows. Depending upon the existing capital cost estimates, Hazen and Sawyer may develop an independent cost estimate.
- Evaluation of existing capital cost estimates for an interconnection with the SMA system adequate to handle the projected 20 year flows. Depending upon the existing capital cost estimates, Hazen and Sawyer may develop an independent cost estimate.
- Development of operating costs for the two alternatives.
- Development of an annualized present worth over the 20 year life cycle for both alternatives.
- Preparation of a letter report summarizing the life cycle for the two alternatives, discussing the comparative cost differences as well as any risks associated, and finally evaluating associated impacts to the community where the projects differ but which are not related to cost (i.e. The impact to the Northumberland community associated with the loss of the WWTP operator jobs.)
- Attendance at up to two public meetings to review the letter report and answer questions.”

When asked, Mr. Tira Stated that council’s decision to approve this study is completely independent of the litigation.

Mr. Klock moved and Mr. Rees seconded a motion to retain the services of Hazen & Sawyer, P.C. to conduct a study comparing the options for the sewer facility. Mr. Troup added that if the court rules in the Borough’s favor, the council must be prepared to make the right decisions. Mr. Klock said that the Borough would be held to the schedule with DEP. Mr. Klock said that the study would be available within eighteen business days. Mr. Rees stated that he feels that the council has to have this study completed. Mr. Klock noted that there was a discrepancy in the cost estimates that were provided to the sewer authority. He explained that additional costs of building a new treatment facility were not factored into the original estimates, such as the tanks.

Council voted unanimously to retain the engineering firm of Hazen & Sawyer, P.C. at the quote of \$3,800. The company is from State College.

Streets

Mr. Reed noted that the Shade Tree Commission is providing \$1,500 toward the purchase of trees to replace those that are being removed as part of the Second Street

paving project. He asked if the Shade Tree Commission would consider replacing the trees in the downtown area that have come down recently. Mr. Slodysko stated that nine trees have been removed. The Borough Secretary stated that the Shade Tree Commission planned to meet to discuss the types of trees that should be planted in the curb space. She added that they were also planning to discuss the downtown tree situation and possibly replace trees there.

Mr. Reed said that Robin Kieffer had asked council about installing “no parking” signs on Park Avenue by her property. He asked about the process to post the signs. Mr. Tira advised that an ordinance would be required. Mr. Reed requested that the Rules Committee follow up on the ordinance.

Old Business

1. SU Give student volunteers are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on August 25th. The council discussed how to use the volunteers and decided upon using the volunteers to spread mulch at the 2nd Street Community Center. Ten students are expected. Mr. Troup stated that he would be available to meet with the group.
2. Susquehanna Greenway Mini-Grant application is due on August 20, 2012. The Borough Office checked to see what projects would be eligible and learned that since the Borough does not own the land at the Point, funding would not be available for improvements to that property. One eligible project would be to apply for funding for signage along Route 11 and near the pavilion. The Eagle Scout candidate who is planning to build a new Pineknott Park sign has been contacted about using the funding that he is raising for that sign as a match for the grant. With those funds and his in-kind services, more signage could be installed. The signage would be the Susquehanna Greenway signage so the original design that was proposed for the Pineknott Park sign could not be used. However, other signs that show maps of the Borough and trails could be installed. The Susquehanna Greenway representative suggested that a sign could be installed facing Blue Hill about an endangered falcon that inhabits the area. The Borough Secretary requested that the council approve applying for a mini-grant of up to \$10,000 for the signage and to designate Ann August as the contact person for the grant. The amount of the application would be determined by the amount of match that is raised by the Eagle Scout. Mr. Reed so moved. Mr. Rees seconded the motion and council approved unanimously. Council discussed the possibility of clearing out the bank along the West Branch of the Susquehanna River where kayaks and canoes could be launched.
3. Mr. Reed questioned if there is any more information on the old borough building. He was informed that someone has contacted the Borough Secretary with questions about the building. Discussion ensued. Council discussed options of contracting with a realtor or conducting an auction.

New Business

1. Upon motion by Mr. Rees, seconded by Mr. Reed, council voted unanimously to approve payment of bills. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$35,700.52; Liberty Splashland bills total \$25,005.66; bills to be paid from the General

Contingency account total \$62.64; and bills to be paid from the Park and Recreation account total \$49.96.

2. The Northumberland County 2012 Hazard Mitigation Plan has been received. The Borough Secretary explained that the Borough had adopted its own Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2002. FEMA has recommended that any plan older than five years be updated. The Borough may approve the county plan or could adopt a new plan developed by the Borough. The Council tabled action on adopting the resolution until the August 8, 2012 meeting.
3. A list of properties included in the 2012 Tax Sale of Property for Delinquent Taxes has been received from the Northumberland County Tax Claims office. The Borough is to submit any bills that are due on the properties. The Borough Secretary noted that the Borough is owed money for work that was done on Neil Neidig's property on Duke Street. Copies of the bills will be submitted to the Tax Claims office. Discussion ensued.
4. Upon motion by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Rees, council voted 3-0-1 to approve the council meeting minutes for July 17, 2012. Mr. Rees abstained.
5. Mr. Reed had a question about the police report and the number of assists to other agencies. Sgt. Kriner stated that the majority of the calls listed in this category are ambulance, public assistance, and fire calls.
6. Mr. Slodysko stated that the trash issue at Pineknott Park has not been dealt with effectively. On Monday, trash was strewn all over after the weekend games. Another issue is that there are cars that drive around the field to get to the Sea Scout dock. Mr. Slodysko stated that he would like permission to lock the park up during the day and provide key people with the combination to the lock for the games in the evening. Mr. Troup stated that the utilities must be provided with a means to get back to their utilities. Discussion ensued. The condition of the field will be discussed at the Community Development meeting.
7. Mr. Troup stated that the gentleman who was going to have the Duck tours is now going to offer Trolley Tours instead. Flyers were provided.

Mr. Troup announced that the meeting would be adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation issues and would not be reconvened.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary