

**Borough of Northumberland  
Council Meeting  
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857  
March 21, 2000**

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present and a moment of silent prayer was observed. Roll call was taken. Council members present were Dan Berard, Greg Shaffer, Charles "Bud" Ditton, Judy Groninger, Paul Bowersox, and Bryan Wolfe. Mayor Wendell Wetzel was also present.

The visitors present identified themselves.

The Duke Street Sewer Project and a Department of Transportation representative and a representative of the company doing the sewer work discussed resulting traffic flow. Because of the amount of traffic being detoured, it is recommended that the traffic be detoured onto a similar type road and Orange Street with suspended parking on one side is suggested. The concern being that Eighth Street is too narrow. It is possible to have 800 vehicles being detoured during a one-hour period during the day. There are 18,000 vehicles on Duke Street each day. The biggest problem is the volume of traffic on Route 147. A discussion about tractor-trailer restrictions was held. The detours would be between 8 PM and 6 AM so the least amount of traffic would be detoured through the town. Queen Street traffic will naturally increase as a result of the detour. There were at least two different options discussed as to how to detour the traffic. A question was raised about changing the detour route after the work has started. A motion was passed at a previous meeting to approve a detour route for the sewer work. A "rolling detour" was also discussed.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to amend the detour route from the previous meeting to Orange Street and King Street with no upper side parking on Orange Street during the detour hours of 8 PM to 6 AM and restrict parking on one side of Sixth Street and Seventh Street. Seconded by Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Berard voted aye. Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

Executive Session held regarding the hiring of the Borough Manager.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to hire Lawrence Redington as the Borough Manager with a full compensation package as discussed during the interview. Mr. Berard seconded the motion. Mr. Berard and Mr. Shaffer voted aye. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion failed 2-4.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to vote on all four candidates. Council members would vote for the person of their choice for the position of Borough Manager. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion.

Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Berard, and Mr. Shaffer voted for Mr. Redington. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted for Mr. Graboski. The vote was a tie. Mr. Wetzel voted for Mr. Redington and broke the tie. The motion carried 4-3 with Mr. Wetzel breaking the tie.

The next order of business was the hiring of additional office staff. A discussion followed regarding Borough office job titles, hours and chain of command. Salaries were also discussed. An office manager would report to the Borough Manager. Mr. Redington would not be giving up the police position to be Borough Manager.

Mrs. Groninger made the motion to offer Janice Bowman the position of Borough Office Manager at a salary of \$24,000. Motion seconded by Mr. Bowersox. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Berard, Mr. Shaffer, Mrs. Groninger voted aye. Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to give Jane Sanders-Ressler a \$2.00 raise in salary retroactive to March 20. This would increase her rate to \$9.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Mrs. Groninger. Motion passed with all ayes.

A brief discussion was held regarding Mr. Redington's compensation. He will perform his job as Borough Manager at no cost to the borough except for health benefits and administrative fees on grants. If there are no administrative fees on grants then Mr. Redington will not be compensated for it.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

A check was written to Daily Item for \$1271.25. Did \$760.51 of that amount for the pool bids come out of the Parks and Recreation fund or did the borough pay it from the General Fund? That amount should have come from the Parks and Recreation money.

There were no public comments.

Bell Atlantic Centrex phone service was discussed. Bell Atlantic notified the borough that the Centrex service was terminated because of PUC. Bell was soliciting another option called Custoplex which had several contract options. The length of the contracts could run for a month, 12-months or 37-months. Another option open to the borough was to go with Basic Phone Service. The current telephone system duplicates some of the services offered by Bell. Basic phone service saves \$196.32. If the borough went with a contract, it was recommended to go to a 12-month contract and not a 37-month contract. There is a one-time installation charge of \$525. The choices are to either pay \$525 up front or go into a contract. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to switch back to Basic Phone Service. Motion passed 6-0.

Sewer Authority project will be starting by the middle of April. The resolution needs to be read another time and adopted before the project begins. The resolution will be read at the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Pineknotter Park refuse disposal was discussed. A form has been filled out and submitted to DEP for their approval regarding the permanent disposal of refuse from Pineknottter Park. There

was a problem with the seal on the form and it has been corrected. At this point the borough is still not authorized to dispose of the refuse at Pineknott Park. The authorization is forthcoming.

Several of the next topics relate to issues that had been addressed by Archie Sees, before his death.

Recycling Grant – \$38,000 grant that Archie Sees had secured for the Borough was accepted at the last meeting. The grant was signed and is being sent in.

Street Paving Project – The Water Company was making cuts and replacing connections on Strawbridge Road. Archie Sees was concerned that this would interfere with paving. The question being raised is should Strawbridge be paved this year or allow the sub-base and compaction to settle and pave it next year? What needs to be decided is what should and should not be put out for bids for Strawbridge and the paving project. Archie had a project estimate cost dated March 3. The council could put bids out for the six sections and accept or reject them based on the cost projections Archie had already worked out. It was suggested to pick up where Archie left off and put bids out for Fourth Street, Permastone Drive, and the Sixth Street project as Archie had the specifications drawn up. Archie thought Priestly Avenue should be put off until next year. Mr. Bowersox made the observation that if the work on Strawbridge Road is backfilled properly, then there would be no reason to wait for the road to be paved. If there is not proper backfill, then settling would occur. Mr. Ditton made a motion to put the work for the streets out for individual bids. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion passed 6-0

#### Additional Business

Census Update Returns have to be back by the 24<sup>th</sup> of March or April. A number of addresses have been rejected. An individual needs to be authorized to return the addresses for resubmission. Mr. Larry Redington was authorized on behalf of the Borough to submit the addresses.

Mr. Bowersox raised a question regarding Liquid Fuel street work.

There was a discussion regarding the lights at C. W. Rice, who maintains them, etc.

There are two applicants for the job of crossing guard. Chief Redington discussed the issue of having a crossing guard on Duke Street. One child lives on the lower side of Duke Street and must cross Duke Street in order to go to school. The thought was to hire a guard for Duke Street and Mrs. Groninger wondered since there are no authorized crossing areas for the students and pedestrians on Duke Street if it would be the responsibility of the school district to bus this student to school. The tentative thought would be that a crossing is not necessary for Duke, but a substitute crossing guard would be a good idea. Mr. Bowersox commented on the fact that, if he remembers correctly, PennDot had given the Borough approval to put crosswalks on Duke Street. He thinks that if we have the authority to do it, we should put in crosswalks. Requirements for crossing guards were discussed. Mr. Shaffer made the motion to hire

Stephanie Adams as a substitute crossing guard. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll Call vote, all ayes. Motion passed 6-0.

#### New Business

As a result of the death of Archie Sees, Mr. Shaffer made a motion to advertise the vacant Council seat. The ad should be run by the next Council meeting. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll Call vote, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

Some of the Council members wanted to vote a new Council Vice-President into office. Paul Bowersox and Greg Shaffer were nominated. One of the members suggested that the Council wait until the new Council seat was filled. One of the members did not want to wait because a third name was needed on the signature card. Some discussion was held and the vote was postponed.

The Borough received a letter from Sunbury Hospital in response to the letter Jim Best sent on the Borough's behalf. The letter stated that the Hospital would continue providing VLS service as seamlessly as possible.

A member of the community would like to see docks placed at Hanover Street and at Sewer Authority at the Point. Docks are long overdue. One of the Council members suggested if docks are put in the river that the docks be limited to one section of straight out docks for launching and not for long-term mooring. The cost and pros and cons were discussed.

PA Fish and Boat Commission have approved a tournament on September 9. The paperwork must be signed and returned.

A woman who lived in Danville was coming home through Northumberland on Route 11 after midnight. The lights are blinking red and yellow at that time. As a result, she had to go further into the intersection to see traffic and a truck was coming toward her. She had the right of way. The truck would not "give" for her and as a result she had to back up. Her children were frightened. She asked if the Council would consider making the lights completely red blinking. The Council held discussion on the pros and cons of the request. Traffic patterns and the problems of the truck were discussed. Also discussed was the possibility of having PennDot reprogram the lights to be flashing red in both directions.

Mr. Wolfe has been handling the payroll and tax reporting. It is being suggested that the Council Authorize the Liquid Fuel auditors to help with the quarterly reports. Mrs. Ressler called them and they are willing to help. They offered to do the work at a rate of \$30.00 per hour. They would work in conjunction with the staff to make sure the reports are filed correctly. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to authorize the CPA and Computata to help with the tax reporting and auditing. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0.

As a result of Archie Sees' death, there is no one to head up Recycling. The question was asked if someone on the Council would please consider taking over the position. They were instructed that they did not need to answer this evening, but please consider taking the position.

Mr. Wolfe spoke with Tom Shock, caseworker for the man who owns the house at 333 Duke Street. This is the property in front of the Coastal Market and Amato's. The property owner is now being taken to an assisted care living center. Amato's would like the property. It would be good if the house was sold directly to Amato's, then the Borough would not have the responsibility of making sure the property is taken care of.

Mr. Wolfe spoke with David Bogovich. Mr. Bogovich had been talking to Mr. Sees about truck damage done to his curb. He would like the Borough crew to fix the curb. Mr. Bogovich says it would take more time for the Borough to bring the truck down to his house than it would to fix the curb.

The Council was reminded of the importance of working as a team for the betterment of the Borough. Each person has a term and they have been elected or appointed by the people of the Borough. They were instructed to not let anyone upset you; stick with the job. The speaker acknowledged that the past three months have been "rocky", but the Council needs to work together; not necessarily agreeing on everything, for the benefit of the Borough of Northumberland.

Mr. Larry Redington was officially welcomed as the new Borough Manager.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

These minutes were completed by the office staff by using the tape recording of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough Council Meeting**  
**April 18, 2000**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Berard.

Pledge to the flag

Silent Prayer

Council Members present were Mr. Berard, Mr. Gregory S. Shaffer, Mr. Charles L. "Bud" Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul J. Bowersox, Mr. Bryan M. Wolfe, and Mr. Thomas Slodysko.

Others present included Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Superintendent, Mr. Larry Redington, Borough Manager, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and four visitors.

No one had any public comment.

**Bills to be Paid:**

Mr. Berard asked for a motion that the bills be paid. A motion to pay the bills for the month of April was made by Mr. Shaffer and seconded by Mr. Berard. Roll call vote was taken with all council members voting yes.

**Sewer Authority Report:**

Mr. Dan Yaple gave a report from the Sewer Authority. Pre-construction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. Start date for the Duke Street project is 4/24/00 at 8:00 p.m. The authority is checking the sewer main for hookups and signs for the detour will be in place for the start of construction on Monday. Mr. Ditton asked about the status of the reprogramming of the redlights. Mr. Redington explained that the police department would monitor traffic and take a "wait and see attitude" as to whether reprogramming would be necessary. Mr. Berard asked if the businesses along Duke Street had been notified. Mr Yaple's response was that businesses have been notified. He requested that the newspaper help to get the information out to the public regarding the traffic pattern and the 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. restriction on parking on the affected streets. Construction is scheduled to be complete by June 1, 2000, or the contractor will be fined \$1000.00 for each day work is not completed. Detour signs will be posted before construction begins. Penn DOT has reviewed and approved the detour and rerouting of trucks. These restrictions can be enforced under the vehicle code.

**Old Business**

**Pineknottter Park:**

Mr. Berard gave an update on Pineknottter Park. D.E.P.'s approval is expected by April 27, 2000. Mr. Redington has contacted two area businesses about quotes to remove the refuse at Pineknottter Park. The prices quoted by both North Ridge and Feaster's are still valid.

Mr. Bowersox said that he was informed that Furman's has 10 to 12 loads of topsoil that they are willing to donate to borough. The borough is responsible for hauling it. Mr. Bowersox recommends putting it at the recycling center for future use.

**Ordinance for Detours:**

The ordinance for the detours for Duke Street has been advertised and can be adopted at the next borough council meeting.

**Street Project:**

Additional work is required on the 4<sup>th</sup> & Orange St project due to the size of the pipes uncovered. The approximate cost is \$5,000 to \$7,000. A motion to approve the change order for the additional work for the project was made by Mr. Bowersox. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and all council members voted "yes".

**Docks:**

Mr. Berard said that docks for the Point and Hanover Street may be available to the borough from Bob Long. Questions arose concerning insurance coverage and jurisdiction. Mr. Slodysko will relate the information about the docks to the recreation commission members at their meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2000.

**Pineknottter Parade in Borough:**

At the April 4th council meeting, a request was made for a donation for a parade in the borough on July 8<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Pineknottter Days. Discussion was held about the various activities that are already scheduled for that date; a 5K race, a soapbox derby, a soccer festival on Route 11, a Community Pool Party, and the possibility of fireworks on Blue Hill that evening. It was suggested that the parade committee should consider holding the parade on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Redington will contact a committee member about changing the date of the parade. If the committee wished to discuss the matter, he will invite them to attend another council meeting.

**Borough Clean-up:**

Mrs. Groninger requested that since the borough cannot afford to have a clean-up including trash removal this year, the borough provide a brush removal. Mr. Wolfe said that he would like to obtain an estimate on the cost of the trash removal, and for next year, consider charging residents a fee if they would like the service. Selinsgrove is conducting a clean-up and charging residents a \$20 fee.

**Finance Committee Meeting:**

Mr. Wolfe also announced that the Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. He would like to get back to planning for long-term street repair and maintenance. The meeting will be advertised. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would like to see the borough work on developing a long-range plan.

**Curbing Project at 4<sup>th</sup> & Orange Sts.:**

Mr. Bowersox reported on the replacement of curbing at 4<sup>th</sup> and Orange Sts. A portion of the curbing cannot be paid for with liquid fuels funds because it is not handicapped

curbing. To replace the curbing, the cost should be approximately \$15 to \$20 per foot. The question arose as to whether the homeowner is responsible for any of the costs.

**Liberty Pool:**

The project at the swimming pool is progressing. The company intends to start pouring concrete on Monday. Council agreed to Mr. Bowersox's request that Steve Haas be there. Mr. Slodysko said that he would be present also. Test samples will be poured at that time.

**Brush Removal:**

Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the borough conducts a brush pick-up on May 8, 9, and 10. Only brush and tree limbs will be collected. The schedule will follow the street-cleaning schedule. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The roll call vote was 6-1 with Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Berard, Mr. Slodysko, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voting yes; and Mr. Bowersox voting no.

**Hookies:**

Mr. Redington reported that the street department settled the question at Hookies to their satisfaction.

**Security System Contract and Locks:**

Mr. Redington also reported that the contract with ADT for the security system is to be renewed in May. The annual cost of the security system is \$400.02 for each of the three locations. He suggested discontinuing service for the borough office but continuing service for the police lab and the borough garage. Mr. Redington also recommended changing the locks at the borough office. Danville Glass & Locksmith can re-pin the inner workings of the locks and stamp serial numbers and "Do not duplicate" on the keys. Mrs. Groninger made the motion that the locks on the doors be changed and new keys issued. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote was conducted with the motion passing unanimously. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to discontinue the contract with ADT for the alarm system for the borough office. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Discussion was held to look into a less costly system. Roll call vote was taken. Mr. Slodysko, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Berard voted yes; Mr. Wolfe voted no.

**Garage Doors:**

Mr. Redington reported that the doors at borough garage need replaced. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to replace the doors. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. A roll call vote passed unanimously.

**Community Improvement Committee:**

The Community Improvement Committee had been told by Cole's Hardware that in order to make purchases using the borough's tax number, they would have to obtain purchase orders from the borough. This presents a problem because they sometimes are working and need to make purchases over the weekend when the borough office is closed. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to give the committee a block of 5 purchase order numbers to

use when making purchases at Cole's. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Discarded Items:**

Mr. Slodysko asked what could be done with the old motorcycles that are stored at the borough garage. Other articles have also accumulated and the borough can petition the court for a court order to dispose of old items, according to Mr. Redington.

**Insurance Survey:**

Mr. Berard received a letter from Virginia Fields of Insurance Services Offices, Inc. in regards to scheduling a meeting with the borough code officer concerning their survey. Mr. Redington stated that an April or May meeting would be too soon for the new code officer to be expected to complete the survey. He suggested contacting Ms. Fields to schedule a meeting at a later date.

**New Business**

**Northumberland Borough E.M.A.:**

A letter of resignation as Northumberland Borough E.M.A. Coordinator was received from Jonathan A. Apple. He recommended that Herbert Gottshall, Jr. be considered as his replacement. A motion to accept Mr. Apple's resignation was made by Mr. Shaffer and seconded by Mr. Slodysko. The roll call vote passed unanimously to accept Mr. Apple's resignation with regret. Mr. Redington and Mr. Shaffer both spoke with Mr. Gotshall. He is currently the deputy EMA and is willing to serve as Director. He also said that his son would like to be named the deputy EMA. Mr. Gotshall will be contacted and asked to submit a letter of interest. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Apple.

**Code Enforcement Officer:**

The position of Code Enforcement Officer was discussed. Resumes from two applicants were received.

Mr. Redington had spoken with both candidates and recommended that the borough hire Mr. Greg Shaffer. He also recommends that the borough should have a schedule of costs put in writing. Mr. Ditton made a motion to hire Greg Shaffer as the code enforcement officer; Mr. Shaffer (no relation) seconded the motion. The salary is to be the same as that of the previous code officer, \$10.00 per hour. A roll call vote passed, 5-2. Mr. Berard, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Slodysko voted no.

**Senior Action Center:**

A letter was received from the Senior Action Center concerning the storm drain located in front of the center. Mr. Bowersox suggested that the repair could be funded from the liquid fuels budget. Mr. Berard requested that three quotes be obtained for the repair of the storm drain.

**Sam's Club Membership:**

The borough's membership to Sam's Club was discussed. It had mainly been used to purchase supplies for the concession stand at the Liberty Pool. Since supplies can be obtained elsewhere, the consensus of the council was to let the membership expire.

**Traffic Light Maintenance:**

A letter was received from Penn DOT regarding traffic signal maintenance on the traffic lights at Duke & Water Streets and King & Water Streets. Mr. Redington stated that at one time, the borough had a contract with Beck Electric. Currently, Beck Electric is the only company in this area certified by Penn DOT to provide the service and they respond promptly whenever needed even though they do not have a contract. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to contact Beck Electric for prices on yearly maintenance and a monthly battery check, with a yearly contract and also based on time and materials. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The roll call vote passed unanimously.

**Duke Street Traffic Light:**

A letter was received from the state denying the request for a traffic light at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Duke Streets. The letter stated that not enough traffic was observed, during the hours the corner was inspected, to warrant the necessity of the light. Mr. Redington said that a second criteria, overwhelming public demand for a traffic light, should be taken into consideration. Mr. Shaffer recommended that petitions could be presented to show public support for the light. Mr. Bowersox also suggested the need for a flashing yellow light on Front Street coming into the borough from Danville. The recommendation was that Merle Phillips's office be contacted for advice.

**Request from Friends of SUN Home Auxiliary:**

The Friends of SUN Home Auxiliary wrote a letter requesting permission to use King Street Park for a Chicken Barbeque and Bake Sale. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to permit them to use the park. They will be asked to locate the Barbeque pit at the 2<sup>nd</sup> St. end of the park, to set up properly and to clean the area properly. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The roll call vote was a unanimous yes.

**Equipment:**

Mr. Slodysko's request for permission to use borough equipment at the pool was approved.

Mr. Berard adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary



**Borough Council Meeting**  
**May 2, 2000**  
**7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Paul Bowersox.

**Pledge to the Flag.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Roll Call** – Council members present were Mr. Gregory S. Shaffer, Mr. Charles L. “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul J. Bowersox, Mr. Bryan M. Wolfe, and Mr. Thomas Slodysko. Mr. Dan Berard was absent.

Others present included Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Larry Redington, Borough Manager, Mr. Dan Yapple, Sewer Superintendent, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and ten visitors.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Robert Waltz questioned why Ace Fromm has been running the street sweeper when council had voted that he should not be running it. Mrs. Groninger offered to check her notes of prior meetings regarding the matter.

Mr. Wolfe stated that borough citizens have informed him of kids riding bicycles and skateboards in the street at the Second Street School and not moving when cars come by. Because the YMCA uses the school property for the latchkey kids, others cannot use the playground lot until after 6:00 p.m.

Comment was made about the deplorable condition of the Kreamer property at 644 Duke Street by a neighbor. This concern is on the agenda and will be addressed later in the meeting.

Attorney E. Eugene Brosius read a letter to Borough Council regarding a violation of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the driveway at Mr. Greg Moyer’s residence at 467 King Street. The letter from Attorney Brosius is on file in the borough office. The permit for the driveway was issued May 14, 1999. Atty. Best said that the code enforcement officer should issue a citation if the driveway is not in compliance with the zoning code by May 14, 2000, one (1) year from the date of the permit. Mrs. Groninger provided letters that had been written to other residents stating that no parking is allowed in the front yards of properties. Mrs. Groninger also showed the receipt of the cash for the permit was dated November 18, 1999, while the permit was issued on May 14, 1999. It was the general consensus of council that ordinances should be enforced. When a property owner requests a variance of an ordinance, the zoning board conducts hearings to approve variances. Neighbors cannot agree to allow a variance. Council decided that the solicitor

and code officer should look into this matter. Council also stipulated that permits should be paid for when issued.

### **Sewer Authority**

Mr. Dan Yapple reported that the Duke Street project was started on April 24, 2000. Some problems included construction running late on Tuesday morning, April 25, and truck drivers not seeing the signs prohibiting truck traffic on the detour. A question arose about insurance coverage for anyone at the construction site who is not on the payroll. Attorney Best replied that anyone in an official capacity may be there. Mr. Yapple said that vests and hard hats are necessary and requested that council members are careful when at the project. The company has established a work schedule and Mr. Yapple is optimistic that the project can be completed on time.

### **Recycling**

No officers were present. Mr. Slodysko will contact them.

### **Parks & Recreation**

The names of new commission members were presented for council approval. They are Gretchen Brosius, Dave Conrad, and Tracey Hall. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to approve these members and Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The commission would like to erect a building for a concession stand at the Pineknoller Park baseball field. A two-story building is available from a Winfield company at a total price of \$5,700. The Recreation Commission has received \$2,000 from the Anselmo Trust and is requesting the additional \$3,700 from the borough. Mr. Mike Daddario was present and he has spoken to Lee Shaffer regarding the health codes. The Recreation Commission proposes charging a fee to the groups that use the building. Water and electricity would be paid for from the Parks and Recreation Budget. The borough could also utilize the building for storage during the winter. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to give \$3,700 to Parks and Recreation, contingent upon the findings of the Finance Committee at their May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Bills to be paid:**

A motion to pay the current bills was made by Mr. Ditton and seconded by Mr. Bowersox. Roll call vote was taken with all council members voting yes.

### **Borough Manager Report:**

Mr. Redington stated that he is developing a personnel policy.

Borough residents have approached him concerning the closing of the Second Street School and its future. He asked council's approval to approach the Shikellamy School District with the request that the borough be given the right of first refusal to purchase the property. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that Mr. Redington send a correspondence to school board regarding the matter. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The motion

was passed unanimously. Mrs. Gretchen Brosius questioned if a grant may be available through the Heritage River Project for the Second Street School property. Mr. Slodysko recommended contacting county and state offices to explore that possibility.

The Borough Code Enforcement Officer, Greg Shaffer, is currently working on code compliance issues.

Mr. Redington discussed the Detour Ordinance. He suggested that whenever an ordinance is passed, it be incorporated into the code for the borough for ease of reference. For instance, the detour ordinance could be an amendment to Chapter 58 of the borough code with regard to traffic. New issues could be included in the reserved chapters of the code book. Attorney Best stated that the Borough Manager could be given the responsibility to have the ordinances included in the borough code book.

The locks to the borough building have been changed. New keys are available for all council members. The office will keep a record of who has keys. ADT was contacted and advised we no longer wish to maintain the alarm system for the borough office. The police have keys and can unlock the doors for any groups who wish to use the meeting room.

Mr. Redington requested approval to attend a Borough Downtown Revitalization Project Seminar on May 4, 2000. The seminar is in State College and will cost \$35.00. Mr. Shaffer made the motion that Mr. Redington attends the seminar and Mrs. Groninger seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ditton made the motion to adopt the detour ordinance and Mr. Shaffer seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Update to Pineknott Park: The low bid for the removal of refuse was for \$10,260.00 from North Ridge Site Management Inc. This is for removal of 240 tons and is an all-inclusive bid. Insurance for the project is the company's responsibility. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the bid from North Ridge Site Management, Inc. with the condition that work be finished within 30 days from the date of contract. If the amount of refuse is over 240 tons, the excess is to be removed at rate quoted in the proposal or less. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Once this work is completed, Dave Gutelius Excavating, Inc. will be asked to finish the reseeded.

Council appointed an Emergency Management Association Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator. Letters of intent were received from Mr. Herbert Gottshall, Jr., who was present at the meeting, and Mr. Herbert Gottshall, III. Mr. Shaffer made the motion to appoint Mr. Herbert Gottshall, Jr. the EMA Coordinator, and Mr. Herbert Gottshall, III, the Deputy Coordinator. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The EMA budget provides for radio maintenance and pagers. The phone is to be transferred from Mr. Apple's car to Mr. Gottshall's car.

Quotes for the storm drain on Second Street, in front of the Senior Citizen Center, were received from Keister Construction, Inc., Zartman Construction, Inc., and The Robert Feaster Corp. Mr. Bowersox recommended accepting the quote from Zartman Construction, Inc. for \$746.00. This quote includes a new 25" x 25" x 3" cast highway grate. The other quotes do not. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept the bid for \$746.00 from Zartman Construction, Inc. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence was received from Beck Electric Construction, Inc. regarding the borough's request for maintenance of the traffic signals at King & Water Streets and Duke and Water Streets. Although Beck Electric does not offer a written maintenance agreement, they agree to respond to any requests for service. They will also perform regular maintenance to relamp and clean the traffic signals twice a year at the cost of \$832.00 each time. Mr. Shaffer moved to accept their proposal. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

A letter from Judith Stuck was received requesting a handicapped parking space at her business. She included pictures of several patrons who are handicapped. Attorney Best said that the state must approve this request since Water Street is a state highway. Discussion was held about two handicapped spaces that are already on Water Street. At these properties, the residents are handicapped, while Ms. Stuck's request is for her business. Council recommended that the Borough Office contact Ms. Stuck with this information.

A meeting is scheduled for May 5 at 9:00 a.m. with the engineer regarding the paving projects in the borough. The cost for the paving project at Fourth and Orange Streets did not include the curbing. The borough ordinance is not clearly defined as to whether the property owner can be charged for new curbing or if the borough is responsible. The curbing must be replaced before the streets can be paved. At the meeting Friday, the street project will be reviewed. Replacement cost of curbing can be discussed then.

A schedule for the Fire Police Activities for 2000 was reviewed. Mr. Shaffer moved to authorize the fire police to participate in the activities on the schedule. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Slodysko is checking into fees and the costs to install and maintain the boat docks that have been proposed for Hanover Street and the Point. It was reported that Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Agency has been contacted and they do not anticipate an increase in liability insurance if the borough does obtain the docks. They are contacting the insurance carrier for confirmation.

The Brush Cleanup, scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, has been advertised in The Daily Item. The borough crew would like to be consulted for suggestions in the future.

Mr. Redington reported that the office has the application for the recycling grant, and has been contacted by DEP, suggesting we proceed. The borough will need to provide

matching funds of \$4,255.00 to receive the grant. Mr. Redington will contact Mr. Zartman to get more specific information regarding plans for the project submitted. The office will also check on a previously awarded recycling grant for equipment. Since this new project is to cost more than \$10,000, it will have to be advertised for bids. The Finance Committee will address the matching fund money at its meeting May 10, 2000.

### **New Business:**

The Borough Manager and office employees met with the Jean Smith of Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Agency to have bonds drawn up. She asked that the Borough Council appoint a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer who would be covered under separate bonds. Other borough officials are insured under a blanket coverage. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to appoint Janice R. Bowman Treasurer and Jane G. Sanders-Ressler Assistant-Treasurer. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A letter was received from Christ United Methodist Church requesting permission to use King Street Park for a community picnic on July 29, 2000. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to grant the request, and Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Council was asked to accept Joseph West's resignation from the Planning Commission. Mr. Slodysko moved and Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion to accept his resignation. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. West will be sent a letter of appreciation. The Planning Commission has three positions to fill. A motion to advertise the openings was made by Mr. Slodysko and seconded by Mr. Ditton. The vote was unanimous to advertise the positions.

Mr. Bowersox requested permission for Steve Haas to work as technician on paving projects. Mr. Slodysko stated this would be an asset to have a borough worker trained for construction projects. Council discussed that the lead crewmember should be aware of the time in advance and Mrs. Groninger suggested meeting with the street crew to get their input. Mr. Bowersox asked to have someone at the street project on Priestley Avenue when that street is paved and was given approval. He also plans to be there.

A report on the concrete test for the Liberty Pool was discussed. According to the specifications, the concrete is to withstand 4,000 pounds per square inch after 28 days. If it does not meet this standard, the contractor may be required to readjust the bid. Concrete was broken after 7 days and did not pass the requirements for that time frame. The engineer has requested a copy of the report.

Council discussed options regarding the Kreamer property on Duke Street. Attorney Best advised that if the borough condemns the building, the property owner is entitled to be paid the appraised value of the building. The borough would also be required to pay the demolition costs. The property owner lives in another state. Council members requested that the neighbor contact the borough if he notices the owner at the property. Mayor

Wetzel recommended that Attorney Best inquire about the status of the real estate taxes due on the property.

Approval for Red Cross Swimming Program at the Liberty Pool was requested. The program had been approved in a prior council meeting.

Mr. Shaffer said he did not post the minutes from the April 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting on the borough web page since they had not been approved in a council meeting. It was decided that Mr. Shaffer could post the minutes before they are approved with a disclaimer.

Mr. Bowersox asked for approval for Steve Haas to observe the concrete pouring at the Liberty Pool on May 9, 2000. Don Keeley is to be notified. Since this date conflicts with the brush removal dates, council will extend dates for the brush removal if necessary.

A letter was received from the committee that was planning a parade on July 8, 2000. The committee has decided to postpone the parade. Mrs. Gretchen Brosius informed the council that she had attended the Pineknott Days Committee meeting and plans are to hold the parade in September of 2001.

A question arose concerning fences around swimming pools. It was believed that state law requires a 4-foot fence. An above ground pool does not require an additional fence if the steps leading into the pool are removed so the pool cannot be accessed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Shaffer and seconded by Mr. Slodysko.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
May 16, 2000  
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Berard.

**Pledge to the Flag.**

**Silent Prayer**

**Roll Call** – Council members present were Mr. Charles L. “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul J. Bowersox, Mr. Bryan M. Wolfe, and Mr. Dan Berard. Mr. Greg Shaffer and Mr. Tom Slodysko were absent.

Others present included Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Larry Redington, Borough Manager, Mr. Dan Yapple, Sewer Superintendent, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and five visitors.

**Public Comment**

- ❖ One borough resident voiced a complaint about the condition of the sidewalks in the borough. The Code Enforcement Officer will be asked to look into the matter.
- ❖ A borough resident contacted Mr. Berard regarding the underpass on Route 11 coming into Northumberland. The underpass needs to be painted and the concrete repaired. Since this is property owned by the railroad, a letter will be sent asking for their input. A suggestion was that volunteer groups might agree to undertake this project. Penn DOT will also be made aware of the council’s concern.

**Sewer Authority**

Mr. Dan Yapple noted that the Duke Street project is progressing. The mainline crew is on schedule while the lateral crew is somewhat behind. Penn DOT has decided that the work will be suspended over the Memorial Day Weekend and the deadline for completion will be extended four days. Mr. Yapple questioned if the borough maintains a map of the storm sewer because two manhole accesses into the storm drain were discovered during the project. They have been exposed and put back into place. If a map does exist, these accesses should be added to it.

**Recycling**

Mr. Redington obtained specifications for the proposed structure at the recycling center from Mr. Zartman. These were given to Dave Walters of Larson Design. Mr. Walters will develop a set of plans to be let out for bid so the project can proceed.

**Parks & Recreation Report**

The swimming pool project is proceeding. The request from Keister Construction for the initial payment will be forwarded through Larson Design to the county Planning Department since this project is funded with grant money obtained through the county.

### **Finance Committee Report**

The Finance Committee met on May 10, 2000. Chairman Bryan Wolfe reported plans to contact Penn DOT to discuss street repairs throughout the borough so funding options can be explored. The purchase of the Second Street School was discussed. The next Finance Meeting is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The committee will consider the development of a long-range plan.

### **Bills to Be Paid**

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Bryan Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Paul Bowersox. The council discussed the transfer of money from the Shade Tree account to the Parks and Recreation account to pay for the concession stand for Pineknottter Park. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Borough Manager Report**

Mr. Redington suggested that the Code Enforcement Officer, other borough employees, and council members should have photo identification. A motion to obtain photo ids was made by Paul Bowersox and seconded by Bryan Wolfe. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Mr. Redington informed the council that the state has passed new laws regarding building (BOCA) codes. A seminar on this topic is being offered on May 25, 2000. Mr. Redington requested permission for the code enforcement officer to attend, with the fees charged to the code enforcement budget. Other seminars are scheduled for later in the year and code enforcement officers can obtain credentials. Eventually, the code enforcement officers may need to be certified. The consensus of council was that a motion was not required.

Mr. Redington also requested approval to send interested street department workers to training seminars. On June 14, 2000, a storm water management seminar is being offered in Harrisburg. Approval was given to send interested workers to the seminars.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned for Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.

The topics discussed were a storm run-off problem in the borough, a possible litigation, and the streets. The meeting was called to order following the Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. As result of the executive session, Mr. Berard appointed Mr. Bowersox chairman of the street committee, and Mrs. Groninger was named to the committee.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to have the president of council removed from office. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Ditton voted in favor of the motion, Mr. Berard voted against the motion, and Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wolfe abstained. The solicitor and council were uncertain of the interpretation of the vote. A five-minute recess was declared at 8:34 p.m. to obtain a copy of Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedures for reference. Council Vice-President Paul Bowersox reconvened the meeting at 8:42 p.m. During the recess, Mr. Berard tendered his resignation in writing. Mr. Bowersox asked for a motion to accept Mr. Berard's resignation from council. Mr. Ditton moved to accept Mr. Berard's resignation and Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. All ayes.

### **Old Business**

1. Council received a letter from Dave Gutelius Excavating, Inc. requesting final payment for work at Pineknott Park. Information will be requested from Dave Walters. Action was tabled until this information is received.
2. The contract was signed with Zartman's Construction to repair the storm drain in front of the Senior Action Center on Second Street and work will begin shortly. The Senior Action Center has been informed that this work is being done.
3. Mr. Bowersox reported on the May 5th meeting with Don Free, from Penn DOT, and the engineers with Larson Design regarding paving projects. Mr. Free will oversee small contracts and the engineers from Larson Design will handle any major projects. Following the meeting, Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Free examined streets in the borough. As a result of the inspection, Mr. Bowersox said that the inlets should be moved to the outer edge of the street on Permastone Drive. Inlets throughout the borough should be replaced. The recommendation from Mr. Free is that the borough replaces 10 to 12 inlets a year. Fourth Street is to be paved this summer. The Pennsylvania American Water Company has sent a letter to the borough stating that they are planning to replace the water line on Fourth Street in June. The borough will contact the Water Company since the contract for the repaving cannot be advertised until the water line is replaced.
4. The Kreamer Property at 646 Duke Street was discussed. The solicitor has not yet checked on back taxes.
5. The Second Street School property was discussed. The area is zoned R-2. Mr. Redington is actively seeking financing and has been contacted by residents willing to serve on a committee to explore uses for the property. The condition of the building was discussed. Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the borough's engineer inspects the school building. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The vote was all ayes. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to obtain an appraisal on the property. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. The Finance Committee approved that the borough provides the matching funds in order to obtain the money for the Recycling Grant. The engineer will speak to the individual from Zartman's for more information regarding the plans and then draw up specifications for the bid.
7. No additional information was available about the docks.
8. The Herlinger property on Duke Street was discussed. Mr. Herlinger is not living in the dwelling. His son has been contacted for assistance in resolving the situation.

### **New Business**

1. The Hayter property was discussed in the executive session.
2. The letter regarding the accident at Front and Hanover Streets was discussed in the executive session.
3. Mr. Bowersox said that the borough owns property adjacent to Priestley Avenue. Since that property has been surveyed, he recommends that Allen Zeigler be contacted to mark the borough property line with permanent property markers.
4. Northumberland County Fun Mobile requested the use of the Liberty Hollow Pavilion for Wednesday, June 21, 2000, from 9:00 to 2:30 p.m. Mr. Ditton moved and Mrs.

Groninger seconded the motion to allow use of the pavilion at no charge. Mr. Bowersox asked that Trinity Church be given permission to use the pavilion free of charge also. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Pineknott Park Pavilion rents for \$50.00 and Liberty Hollow Pavilion rents for \$25.00. Restrooms are available at Pineknott Park. Currently, the borough has no policy regarding free use of the pavilions for community service and non-profit organizations. The Parks and Recreation Commission was asked to discuss the issue at their meeting Thursday evening.

5. Currently, the borough's official web site is accessed through the site of the borough's computer consultant and has been maintained by Mr. Shaffer. The internet address is [www.mcsvs.com/norryboro](http://www.mcsvs.com/norryboro). The borough can obtain its own site that would be easier to access for approximately \$300 per year. Information such as the schedule of events throughout the borough could be posted as well as actions taken by the council. A question arose as to whether the council meeting minutes should be included on the site. Mr. Redington stated that a goal would be to eventually provide an interactive site. Mr. Wolfe offered to obtain more information for the council.
6. The Chamber of Commerce is meeting May 25, 2000. Mr. Redington is planning to attend. Information regarding the bypass will be presented.
7. Mr. Redington has spoken to Representative Phillips about Penn DOT denying the borough's request for a red light at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Duke Streets. Mr. Phillips is in agreement with the borough's position that a red light is needed on Duke Street. Mr. Bowersox would like a flashing yellow light placed at the end of Front Street, coming into the borough from Danville.
8. The council discussed money that had been available to the borough through grants last year, and was never obtained, as well as grant money that was returned because the funds were not spent.
9. Mr. Ditton made a motion to accept the minutes from the last council meeting. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. All ayes, the motion passed.
10. Questions were asked about the traffic violations resulting from the Duke Street project. Mr. Redington replied that the violations were issued under the vehicle code and the borough receives 25% of the fine. The magistrate sets the amount of the fine, from \$100.00 to the maximum amount. Council members asked why violations weren't being issued under the newly adopted detour ordinance. The number of tickets being issued has decreased since the first week of the detour.
11. Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the borough advertises for a new council member. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. All ayes.
12. Mr. Bowersox suggested council schedule a personnel meeting to discuss a new council president. Mr. Ditton recommended that council meet with the street personnel at this time. The meeting will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., and will be advertised as a closed executive meeting to deal with personnel issues. The council cannot appoint a president until the next regular council meeting, June 6, 2000.
13. Mrs. Gretchen Brosius, a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, approached the council with a suggestion. The Northumberland Alumni Banquet is being held on May 28, 2000. She plans to propose that alumni members donate benches to the borough in someone's honor or memory. The benches would be made

of concrete and wood like the one in the park. She will ask the Recreation Commission for approval at its meeting on Thursday, May 18, but realized that council would not meet again until after the alumni banquet. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the proposal made by Mrs. Brosius to ask the Recreation Commission about the benches. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. All ayes.

14. Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**June 6, 2000**  
**7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Paul Bowersox at 7:00 P.M.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Silent Prayer**

**Roll Call** – Council members present were Mr. Charles L. “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul J. Bowersox, Mr. Bryan M. Wolfe, Mr. Tom Slodysko, and Mr. Greg Shaffer. Other present included Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Superintendent, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mr. Dave Walters, Larson Design Group, Mr. Tom Wandishin and Mr. Dave Smith from the Liberty Glass Recycling Committee, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and 15 visitors. The visitors introduced themselves.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Attorney Best stated that his report concerns the litigation regarding storm water and it could be combined with the Executive Session.

**Election of Council President**

Mr. Shaffer suggested postponing the election until after a new member is appointed. Mr. Ditton expressed the opinion that the new council member may not be familiar with the members of council and he felt that the vote should be taken first. Mr. Bowersox nominated Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe accepted the nomination. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The roll call vote was ayes from Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Slodysko. Mr. Wolfe voted “present.” The motion passed; Mr. Wolfe is the new Council President.

**New Council Member Appointed**

Three people applied for the vacant seat on council. Mr. Shaffer asked that the candidates be interviewed. The first candidate interviewed was Susan Kelley. Ms. Kelley is a life-long resident of the borough, a graduate of N.H.S., and a registered nurse. She stated that she would like to see Norry regain the status it once had and would like to work toward making Norry a better town. She feels that this can be accomplished with the council cooperating and working together. Ms. Kelley has not ever served on borough council, but she has been involved in community activities, the Sunbury City Band, and church activities. The second candidate was Mr. Jim Troup. Mr. Troup was raised in Northumberland. He has lived in metropolitan areas and returned to the borough 1½ years ago. He stated that he would like to see Norry prosper. Mr. Troup has never served on council, but he is involved with the fire department. Due to a flexible schedule, Mr. Troup could be available during the day. Mr. Moyer was not present to be interviewed.

Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to nominate the three candidates, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Troup, and Mr. Moyer to council. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in appointing Ms. Kelley to the borough council. Ms. Kelley was invited to sit at the table. Mayor Wetzel will swear her in at the next council meeting on June 20, 2000.

### **Sewer Report**

Mr. Yaple reported that the work on Duke Street has been completed. Work on Water Street continues with finishing manholes and replacing pipe. Approximately 4-5 more nights of work is expected. Also discussed was the paving project on Fourth Street. Mr. Bowersox reported that the grade adjustment would be 1½ inches. The area milled will be 6 foot wide, extended from previous plans. Mr. Waltz asked when the detour would end. Mr. Yaple said that the signs are being picked up and the detour is off.

### **Engineer's Report - Mr. Dave Walters of Larson Design Group**

#### **Pineknottter Park**

Mr. Walters presented a written progress report that is on file in the borough office. The first item was closing out the contract with Gutelius Excavating. Mr. Walters referenced a letter from Gutelius Excavating requesting payment. Larson Design Group reviewed the change order request and believes they are entitled to compensation. The net result is an increase in the amount of \$1,577.15. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to accept change order #1; Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The roll call vote was aye from Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, and Mr. Shaffer. Mr. Ditton voted no. The motion carried 5-1.

The contractor also submitted a final pay request for the project. Mr. Walters explained that one partial payment had been made for the interceptor trench. The final pay request, including change order #1, totals \$7,522.15. Since the contractor has not restored and reseeded the interceptor trench, Mr. Walters recommends paying \$6,522.15 with \$1,000 being retained pending completion of the restoration by the borough crew. The borough should determine the total costs for completing the work, and deduct that amount from the balance of the contract. Mr. Bowersox made the motion to pay Gutelius Construction \$6,522.15, as recommended by Mr. Walters; Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The roll call vote passed 5-1, with the dissenting vote cast by Mr. Wolfe.

Mr. Walters anticipates receiving the bids for the grading and seeding project at Pineknottter Park by July 18, with the notice to proceed being issued to the contractor the first or second week of August. Mr. Walters noted that the contractor could save the red clay that was used in the base paths for the Little League to reuse, but that the sod would not be saved for reuse. Mr. Walters said that the parking lot would be reconstructed. He asked if the reconstruction of the ball field should be included in the contract or if Little League volunteers would do the work. A motion to include the reconstruction as a separate line item in the bid was made by Mr. Bowersox and seconded by Mr. Slodysko. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Liberty Pool**

The work is almost completed. A leak is suspected in one of the underground pipes. This issue needs to be resolved with the contractor. The final pay request should be

submitted soon. An inspection will be scheduled and conducted prior to approval of final payment.

### **Recycling Center**

A meeting is scheduled with Zartman Construction and an architectural technician from Larson Design Group on June 15. Due to the size of the project, the borough will need to get public bids. Zartman's estimate for the total cost of approximately \$40,000 also means that the project is subject to public wage rates.

### **Second Street School**

Staff from Larson's is available to conduct a walk through of the Second Street School to assess the condition of the building. A cost proposal will be provided before proceeding with a written report and evaluation of the project.

### **Recycling Officers Report** -Tom Wandishin, Secretary, and Dave Smith, Treasurer, of the Recycling Committee

Mr. Wandishin reported that seven local organizations man the Recycling Center on Saturday mornings from 8:00 to 12:00, and Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00. The committee is finding more markets for the recyclables. The amount of cardboard that is recycled has increased this year. The grant request is to provide cover for new containers, and to keep articles dry. Mr. Wolfe asked if the Recycling Committee had any funding requests for the Finance Committee, before the borough budget is completed for next year. Mr. Wandishin stated that the center could use a forklift, and a horizontal baler. Mr. Shaffer asked that the Recycling Committee communicate with the council about any grants before starting the application process so the borough can plan to provide for the matching funds.

### **Parks and Recreation Report** - Tom Slodysko

1. Liberty Pool - The pool is officially opened, but had to close due to inclement weather.
2. Soap Box Derby will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Businesses and organizations are donating funds for the cars. Registrations are being accepted from participants.
3. The Concession Stand is completed at Pineknott Park and the contractor will relinquish the key to building when he receives payment in full. The building will be inspected before final payment is issued.
4. Volunteer committees are coming in August to restore the exercise and playground equipment and the pavilion.
5. Mr. Slodysko requested two of the new garbage cans from Snyder County Trust for the pool. It was also suggested that the borough crew install several in the park. The Parks and Recreation Committee will allocate where the others should be placed.

### **Finance Committee**

Bryan Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 6 p.m. in the council chambers. Issues to be discussed are the Second Street School and the streets. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe met with an official from Penn DOT. The result of that meeting is that the Street Committee must prioritize the streets based on various factors before scheduling another meeting with Penn DOT.

Mr. Wolfe would like to hold financial meetings every month and invites community groups who have funding requests to attend the finance meetings so the committee can try to budget for these items. He would also like public comments concerning the Second Street School property. Mr. Shaffer said that the Second Street property is a big issue in that it is the last large piece of public property in the borough. The school district has been informed that the borough is interested in purchasing the property. Letters have been exchanged between the Borough Manager and the School Solicitor. Mr. Redington's report is on file in the borough office.

Mr. Wolfe feels the council should decide how it would utilize the property before acquiring it. Atty. Best noted that the property is currently zoned R-2, permitting one or two family dwellings. Larson's Design Group has arranged for three possible dates for an inspection of the building. The council will decide on one of the dates, and the school will be contacted to arrange a time for the inspection.

Mrs. Groninger stated that she does not feel the borough should share for the cost of an appraisal with the school district. She also noted that the newspapers state that the borough had been given the Steele School property for \$1.00. The borough has paid \$12,000 to clear the title to the property.

### **Public Comment**

- Mr. Yapple commented that the borough should not buy the property because of the condition of the building and amount of money needed for restoration.
- Mr. Waltz asked if the borough has the money to buy the building. Mr. Wolfe's answer was that the borough would need to obtain a loan to buy the property.
- Mrs. Brosius asked if county was approached about the American Heritage money that the borough had applied for. Mr. Redington's report stated that he is exploring grant monies through the county.
- Mr. Snyder asked how the borough would afford to maintain the property if it is acquired. Mr. Best said the building could be used for borough office space and part of the building could be lease for office space. Mrs. Groninger does not feel that borough office space should be a priority.
- Mrs. Waltz asked if any one else is interested in purchasing the property? School officials have indicated that other buyers are interested. Mrs. Waltz asked who else was interested and for what use. Atty. Best said that there are a lot of possibilities with a special permit in R-2 zoning.

Mr. Wolfe said that there would be further discussion at the finance committee meeting tomorrow, the borough's engineers will inspect the building, and the borough could have a public meeting to get the input from the people in the borough. Discussion was held about holding a separate public meeting. Mr. Slodysko made a motion that the council proceeds with pursuing the purchase of the Second Street property for all purposes, including a recreational facility. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger said that she did not wish to vote until hearing from Mr. Redington about financing. Mr. Bowersox felt that before voting, the council should have more input from the public. Mr. Shaffer withdrew his second to the motion. Mr. Slodysko withdrew his motion. Mr. Wolfe announced that the public meeting about the school will take place in two weeks during the regularly scheduled council meeting.

### **Bills to be Paid**

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay bills, including the bill from Randall Barns and Garages, contingent on a walk-through of the concession stand at Pineknottter Park. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The roll call vote was 6-0 to pay the bills.

### **Executive Session**

The Executive Session began at 8:19 p.m. The council meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m. Litigation regarding the storm water drainage was discussed.

### **Old Business**

1. The ADT Contract is a 5-year contract according to a fax received from the company. The office will check on the date of that contract for the next meeting.
2. A letter was received from the tax collector, James Snyder Jr., stating that the dwelling on the property owned by Kenneth and Susan Young had been demolished in 1998. The property was not reassessed until after the 1999 County and Borough tax bill was paid and Mr. Snyder requested that the borough reimburse Mr. and Mrs. Young the \$60.51 overpayment. Mr. Ditton made a motion to refund the overpayment to the Youngs; Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. All ayes; motion passed.
3. A letter was received from Penn DOT concerning the request from Ms. Judith Stuck for a handicapped parking space for her business on Water Street. The letter states that the municipalities determine decisions regarding handicapped parking. Mrs. Groninger spoke with Ms. Stuck and learned that at least 1/3 of her customers are elderly and she has a portable ramp that is used by handicapped customers. Mrs. Groninger made the motion that the borough council approves a 60-day temporary, moveable handicapped parking sign for the Judith Stuck Beauty Parlor to be used during her business hours. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The roll call vote was Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, and Mr. Shaffer voted no. The vote failed, 1-5. Mr. Bowersox moved to erect a permanent sign for handicapped parking, 6 a.m. to noon, stipulating that the street cleaning times be observed. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mr. Shaffer voted no. The motion passed 5-1.
4. Proposals for garage doors for the borough garage were received from Buffalo Valley and Glick Associates, Inc. Mr. Ditton made a motion to accept the Buffalo Valley quote. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Shaffer noted that Buffalo Valley has a door that meets the exact specifications while the proposed door from Glick Associates would require additional framing. The roll call vote was unanimous to purchase the garage doors from Buffalo Valley.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Borough Secretary presented the minutes of the May 16, 2,000 council meeting with one correction. Item 1 under new business should read, "The Hayter property was discussed..." A second issue for discussion was the vote to remove the Council President from office. Mr. Shaffer had contacted the State Association of Boroughs

and learned that the motion did not pass because a majority of three votes was needed. According to the office of the State Association of Boroughs, since the borough has not adopted rules for parliamentary procedure, the vote would be based on past precedents. The precedent that had been set in the borough is that abstentions are a separate category. For future reference, council members should vote yes or no except for personal or business conflicts. Mr. Shaffer also recommended that the council consider adopting Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. Mrs. Groninger agreed that the only reason to abstain from a vote is if there is a personal conflict and believes that this is stated in the Borough Code. Mr. Wolfe read that the minutes stated that council was uncertain of the interpretation of the vote and therefore no determination of the vote was made. Mrs. Groninger asked if Mr. Shaffer could get a written determination from the State Association of Boroughs. Mr. Shaffer agreed to do so. Mr. Ditton made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2000 council meeting. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. A request to purchase Quick Books Pro 2000 was made by the office staff. Mr. Bill Lenig can provide the software at a cost estimate of \$220 to \$230. The borough auditor, Mr. Steve Slayton, had been approached and is available to help set up the accounts. A motion was made by Mr. Slodysko and seconded by Mrs. Groninger that the borough purchase Quick Books Pro 2000 and begin using this system in July. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. A letter of resignation was received from Mr. Greg Shaffer, the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Slodysko moved, and Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion to accept his resignation. The roll call vote was unanimous. A motion was made by Mr. Wolfe to advertise for a part time code officer to work on a per diem basis at the rate of \$10.00 per hour. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The roll call vote passed unanimously.
4. Mrs. Lisa Shosh requested a handicapped parking space for her residence at 229 Priestley Avenue. She provided a copy of her state handicapped parking permit and a letter from Geisinger Health Care providers. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to provide the handicapped parking space as requested. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. All ayes.
5. Mr. Robert Pinter of WKOK invited the borough council members, the mayor, and the borough manager to be on the radio's "Roundtable" program. He suggested holding a town meeting and inviting the borough residents to ask questions and discuss issues concerning the borough. Or, instead of having a separate meeting, a portion of the next council meeting dealing with the Second Street School could be recorded. "Roundtable" is an hour long meeting that is recorded and broadcast later on the three radio stations of Sunbury Broadcasting Company. Atty. Best said that a public meeting would not need to be advertised since no action would be taken. The council agreed to have a town meeting, with the date and time to be determined.
6. A web site for the borough was discussed. Mr. Shaffer feels that the borough should have its own web site. Mrs. Groninger would like to get an official name for the borough web site that is recognizable. Mr. Wolfe has obtained a list of web site names that could be obtained.
7. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve the renewal of Bud Dodge's license for insecticide and herbicide. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.

8. Mrs. Groninger asked for the solicitor to check on the properties owned by Herlinger and Kreamer. Mr. Best stated that in the absence of a redevelopment authority, the borough does not have the power to condemn properties.
9. Mr. Don Troxell, a local contractor, will be working on a sewer project on Seventh Street and Sheetz Avenue. He would like to purchase a maintenance bond for the cutting of the streets instead paying approximately \$4,000 for a permit fee cut. Mr. Brosius asked if the gas and water companies are presently permitted to get bonds. A performance bond would guarantee the work for a period of several years. Mr. Fasold stated that the sewer authority had obtained performance bonds when work was done several years ago. Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger to review the borough code and report to the council at the next meeting.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
June 20, 2000  
7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Silent Prayer**

**Oath of Office**

Mayor Wendell Wetzel swore in Sue Kelley, the newly appointed member of council.

**Roll Call**

Those present were Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Gregory S. Shaffer, Mr. Charles L. "Bud" Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul J. Bowersox, and Mr. Bryan M. Wolfe. Mr. Thomas Slodysko was absent. Others present were Mayor Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Borough Solicitor, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and 10 visitors who introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Gary Scholvin stated that he was at the meeting to learn about the status of the Second Street School. Mr. Wolfe said that he understands the school is to be put up for bids. The council will need to decide a limit for the amount it wishes to bid at the auction. That issue will be discussed in the executive session. Mr. Scholvin lives across from the Second Street School and he commented that the grass at the school is high. Others commented that the grass at the C.W. Rice Middle School is also high. Mr. Wolfe asked that the borough office call Dan Saxton and ask when the district plans to cut the grass at both schools.
- Mr. George Gavason stated that at the time of the Shikellamy merger, the buildings were all taken over by the school district. The taxpayers of Northumberland had already paid for the buildings and Mr. Gavason does not feel that the taxpayers should have to pay for the school again. Mayor Wetzel told Mr. Gavason that school board wants a fair price for the building and the borough will have to bid for the property.

**Health Code Officer Report**

Mr. Lee Shaffer updated the council in regard to what is occurring in the borough and new state regulations and mandates.

1. By July 2001, every eating and drinking establishment will be required to have a certified food handler on staff, including volunteer organizations such as Pineknotters, churches, and schools. The certified food handler will be obligated to see that all food handlers follow regulations. A 16-hour course in food handling and sanitation is required to become a certified food handler. The Penn State Extension is teaching the course at a cost of \$135. The cost of the certification is \$20 and it is valid for 5 years. Mr. Shaffer can qualify as a certified food handler for the borough volunteer organizations and oversee occasional activities such as Pineknotted Days.
2. Mr. Shaffer reported on the situation with the rats on Water Street. The residents living in the identified areas have received letters about the problem. Mr. Shaffer recommends keeping garbage in tight cans, disposing of grass clippings and nesting materials, and keeping pet foods inside. He feels that rabbit hutches are prime food sources for rats. He noted that rats burrow underneath hutches that are sitting on the ground. Mr. Shaffer asked if the borough has an ordinance pertaining to rabbit hutches and recommends that the council consider establishing one.

Mr. Wolfe asked that the Public Safety Committee explore the matter and make a recommendation to the council at its September meeting.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

No report was presented at this meeting.

### **Parks & Recreation Report**

- The fire engine, a climbing apparatus, is ready to be moved to the Pineknottter Park playground.
- It was reported that the keys for the Concession Stand at Pineknottter Park have been received.

### **Bills to Be Paid**

Mr. Shaffer made the motion to pay the current bills and to approve paying other bills that will be due before the July 18 meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion was called for. Mr. Bowersox asked that Mr. Stassel be sent a letter that the borough approved payment for Priestley Avenue. The approval for the change orders will be voted on separately. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Shaffer made the motion to approve the change orders, numbers four and six, for Priestley Avenue. This is contingent upon receipt of a letter from Center State Amesite stating that they will either honor the permanent seeding requirements for the project or will reimburse the borough the cost to achieve the grass cover as is described in the letter from the engineers Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Borough Manager Report**

- A meeting with the an engineer from Larson Design Group, Inc. and Recycling Committee members was held at the Recycling Center in regard to the recycling grant. The engineers are developing a plan in order to put the project out for bid. The plan will be designated as two projects so work can be added and deleted according to availability of funds. Design costs were not originally included in the proposal and will need to be included. A tentative date to let out the bids is in August.
- The borough received a grant application for funds for the Pineknottter Park project. A meeting will be held in Harrisburg next week.
- It was noted that the borough does not have certificates of occupancy for its buildings. An engineer with Larson Design Group, Inc. can inspect the buildings to determine if any work needs to be done so that the buildings are in compliance, and state certificates of occupancy obtained. The buildings must be ADA compliant and meet safety and health requirements. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to have the engineer with Larson Design Group, Inc. conduct the inspection of the borough buildings to obtain certificates of occupancy. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Redington met with officials from the Shikellamy School District to discuss an offer the borough made for the Second Street School. At this time, Mr. Redington has not received a response from the district. The media has reported that the school is to be auctioned. This issue will be discussed in Executive Session.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Ditton and seconded by Mr. Bowersox to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2000 and June 6, 2000 council meetings. Roll Call vote. All - ayes.

### **Executive Session**

Council members entered into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. The borough council meeting was reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

### **Additional Public Comment**

When the meeting reconvened, Mr. Wolfe recognized Mr. Steve Kline who has a concern about cats running loose throughout the borough. He has observed stray cats entering vacant buildings downtown. Mrs. Groninger had received a suggestion from a borough resident that cats should be licensed. Mr. Wolfe asked that the Public Safety Committee make recommendations to the council in September about animals in the borough.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Wolfe announced that the reasons for the Executive Session were storm drain litigation, a personnel issue, and the Second Street School. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that Mr. Redington continues to negotiate the acquisition of the Second Street School property with the Shikellamy School District. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote was ayes from Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Ditton. Mrs. Groninger voted no. The motion passed 5-1.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Bowersox explained that the Street Committee would like the Priestley Avenue Extension surveyed and permanent markers placed along the borough property line. Mr. Randy Hummer of Keefer Associates, Inc. estimated a cost of \$1,000 to do the work. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that Mr. Hummer survey the area and establish permanent markers for the estimated \$1,000. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye. Ms. Kelley voted no. The motion passed 5-1.
2. Council discussed the repaving of the borough streets. The borough received a letter from the Pennsylvania Water Company stating that the company is considering replacing pipe on Fourth Street by August 31<sup>st</sup>. The council would like to have this completed since the borough has obtained estimates for the paving of Fourth Street and would like the paving to be done in September. Mr. Bowersox stated that bids should be put out for Strawbridge Road base repairs this year, with repaving scheduled for the spring. The Street Committee has met with Don Free, of Penn DOT, and learned that inlets at various intersections should be replaced. Mr. Bowersox moved to contact Mr. Free to write up bids for base repairs to Strawbridge Road, and replacing the inlets at Fifth and Hanover Streets, Fifth and Prince Streets, and Strawbridge Road and Prince Street. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Free will be asked to have the bid information available for the July 18, 2000 council meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
3. At the June 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting, Mr. Don Troxell requested approval of a bond for a street cut at Seventh Street and Sheetz Avenue because of the expense of a street cut permit. Atty. Best explained that the council plans to review the current ordinance and will most likely pass a revised ordinance, but that will take a couple months. Complying with the current ordinance, Mr. Troxell's permit would cost over \$10,000. Until the ordinance is revised, anyone requesting a permit will be charged according to the current ordinance fee schedule. Atty. Eugene Brosius remembered a council agreeing to accept a performance bond from one of the utilities, in lieu of the permit fee. He believed that the ordinance was amended. According to council meeting minutes, the most recent ordinance to have been adopted was dated May 5, 1998. A revised ordinance had been

advertised, but no record of it being passed can be found. Mr. Wolfe stated that the minutes of council meetings would be checked again for any ordinance revisions. Mr. Shaffer suggested that Mr. Troxell contact the Sewer Authority and request that the authority run the line, since other possible building lots exist on Sheetz Avenue.

4. Mr. Wolfe announced a street workshop for next Tuesday, June 27, at 6:00 p.m. to plan a long-term street project. At that time, the committee will prioritize the streets according to the most traveled.
5. The borough office contacted the railroads. Norfolk Railroad owns the two tracks on the southern side of the underpass; the North Shore Railroad owns the two tracks on the northern side of the underpass. Norfolk Railroad will not allow the underpass to be painted. They had recently inspected the underpass and claim that it is structurally safe. A separate office in Atlanta is in charge of the sidewalks and railing. Penn DOT informed the borough that they are not responsible for any area other than the street. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the borough solicitor contacts the Public Utility Commission with a complaint about the condition of the underpass. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. The ADT contract was dated April 22, 1998, and is a five-year contract. When contacted, a representative said that the borough could receive other services, such as smoke alarms, instead of the security system. The office was given the names of two salespeople who were to be informed of tonight's council meeting, but no one was in attendance. In the minutes of the April 7, 1998 council meeting, a motion was passed to "take action at the April 21, 1998, Property/Street Committee meeting to award the contract for a alarm system at the Police Evidence Room." The motion that was passed at the Streets/ Property Committee meeting on April 21, 1998 was to "install a security system, from ADT, at the Police Evidence Lab, Borough Garage, and Borough Hall." The Council President, Al Trego, signed the contract. Currently, the cost of the contract is \$402 per year for each building. Mrs. Groninger stated that on January 31, 2000, she had asked the cost of the ADT system and on the record it said that the cost of system was \$158 a year per bill. She questioned if this was a legal contract since the borough council did not approve the system for the Borough Garage and the Borough Hall. Atty. Best recommended that we contact ADT, tell them council is not happy with the contract, and ask for alternatives.
7. Mr. Wolfe announced plans to publish four newsletters a year. The first newsletter this year will be sent out in the beginning of August. Suggestions of articles to be included are Health Code news, recycling issues, information regarding ordinances such as burning, and dates for borough meetings. Ms. Kelley received an article from Penn DOT that describes the work being done on borough streets as well as construction on I-80. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to call the newsletter "The Pineknott News." Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Ms. Kelley voted aye. Mr. Shaffer voted no. The motion passed 5-1. Mr. Wolfe said that council would discuss and assign topics for articles at a work session soon.
8. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to purchase a borough web site with the address [www.Northumberlandborough.com](http://www.Northumberlandborough.com) at a cost of \$35 a year for two years. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The address for the current borough web site is [www.mcsvs.com/norryboro](http://www.mcsvs.com/norryboro).
9. Mr. George Gavason revealed that the Improvement Committee plans to repair the gazebo in King Street Park. According to Mr. Gavason, the committee has talked with Mr. Sam Wolfe, a teacher at the Vo-Tech school, and students from the school will

provide the labor for the repairs. The committee will provide the materials and transport the students to the park. A motion was made by Mr. Shaffer and seconded by Mr. Bowersox for the committee to proceed with the plans to repair the gazebo and provide the transportation for the students. The roll call vote passed unanimously. The committee will also explore refurbishing the borough signs seen when coming into the borough. Council members expressed appreciation for the work being done by the Improvement Committee.

10. The Liberty Pool inspection is scheduled for June 22, 2000. Dave Walters, of Larson Design Group, Inc., sent a letter requesting that the council submit payment of the final invoice from Keister Construction, Inc. pending the approval of the final inspection on June 22, 2000. Mr. Shaffer made the motion to pay Keister Construction, Inc. \$101,814.70 pending the approval on June 22, 2000. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Seventy per cent of the bill will be paid by the grant obtained through Northumberland County Planning Department and thirty per cent will be paid with UDAG funds that are in the Parks and Recreation account. Roll call vote passed unanimously.
11. Mr. Ditton questioned the status of the repairs to the roof at the Girl Scout Little House. Money has been received from the Anselmo Trust Fund for the repairs. The Parks and Recreation Committee will be asked for an update.
12. The new garbage receptacles donated by the Snyder County Trust Company have been distributed throughout the borough. Some are at the Liberty Pool, the King Street Park, and Pineknott Park.
13. A handicapped parking space with time restrictions had been approved for Judy Stuck's business at the last council meeting. The council understands that this is not satisfactory. The borough office will contact Miss Stuck.
14. Mr. Ditton asked about the status of Steele School property. Dale Heim, chairman of the Housing Authority, will be contacted and invited to come to the July council meeting.

### **New Business**

1. The borough has received seven applications for the Code Officer position. Mr. Redington requested that the council give the Personnel Committee pre-approval to hire a code officer. The committee will review the applications and interview the most qualified candidates. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to give pre-approval to the Personnel Committee to hire a code officer. Mr. Wolfe seconded motion. Roll call – all ayes. Mr. Ditton announced that the Personnel Committee would meet tomorrow night (June 21, 2000) to select the candidates to be interviewed. At a meeting Monday, June 26, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., the committee will select the code officer. The Personnel Committee meeting for Monday, June 26, 2000 will be advertised in The Daily Item. Mr. Wolfe asked that the Street Committee meeting scheduled for June 27, 2000, at 6:00 p.m. also be advertised. Both meetings will be in the Borough Hall.
2. Mr. Wolfe distributed a list of the revised committee assignments. The assignments are:  
Paul Bowersox – Parks and Recreation, Property, Streets (Chairman)  
Charles “Bud” Ditton – Finance, Personnel (Chairman)  
Judith H. Groninger – Property (Chairman), Personnel, Streets  
Susan Kelley – Parks and Recreation, Personnel, Streets  
Gregory S. Shaffer – Finance, Property, Public Safety (Chairman)  
Tom Slodysko – Parks and Recreation (Chairman), Public Safety  
Bryan Wolfe – Finance (Chairman), Public Safety  
Mr. Wolfe appointed a Teamster Negotiating Committee 2000 to negotiate a new

contract with borough personnel. The current contract expires on December 31, 2000. Mr. Ditton was appointed Chairman; Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger were named to the committee.

3. Complaints have been received in the borough office and the police station about speeding on Jefferson Street. A speed limit exists, but no signs are posted. Mr. Redington stated that an ordinance is required to erect stop signs, but speed limit signs can be posted without an ordinance. Mr. Shaffer suggested discussing the stop signs at the Street Committee Meeting. Council decided that speed limit signs are to be erected in the middle of the half blocks on Jefferson and Susquehanna Streets.
4. The water line at the Kiwanis Building needs repaired because there is a leak in the line that runs from the main to the building. The Kiwanis Club would like the borough crew to dig up the trench with the backhoe to replace the line. The Kiwanis will pay for the repairs to the water line. Council asked Mr. Redington to contact the Kiwanis for more information.
5. A meeting with Tom Grbenick of SEDA-COG has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. in the Borough Hall.
6. Mr. Shaffer has received complaints on burning from residents on Queen and Third Streets who would like to ban burning. The consensus of the council was that anyone burning improperly should be cited. The Burning Ordinance should be included in the newsletter to remind residents of its provisions.
7. Mr. Ditton suggested that the borough request a copy of the long-range plan adopted by Lewisburg. Mr. Redington said that Northumberland has a comprehensive plan that was drawn up in the 1980's. The Lewisburg office will be contacted for a copy of its plan.
8. Mr. Wolfe questioned if the council should form an ordinance committee and an insurance committee. Mr. Shaffer has received a request from an insurance broker to review the borough's insurance package. He suggested compiling an insurance packet and to notify insurance brokers that it is available for review. Details will be finalized in July. At this point, it was felt that an insurance committee is not needed. The borough ordinances should be reviewed. Atty. Best recommended that ordinances should be codified once passed. Copies of the ordinances should be sent to the county and district magistrate, and the county law library.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting

July 18, 2000

7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag

Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Thomas Slodysko. Others present were Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Supervisor, Mr. Larry Redington, Borough Manager, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and thirteen visitors who introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Jack Mertz, a resident of Point Township, brought a concern to the council about Viking Energy, a company in Point Township that is requesting permission to burn rubber, railroad ties, plastics, and toxic materials. The company currently has a permit to burn virgin wood chips. Mr. Mertz informed the council of a special meeting scheduled for August 2, 2000, at the Point Township Municipal Building. The Point Township Supervisors have denied Viking Energy’s request, but the company has contacted DEP to obtain approval. A representative from DEP and Rep. Merle Phillips are expected to be in attendance at this meeting. Point Township would like residents of the borough as well as Point Township residents to attend the meeting.

Mr. Jim O’Malley, of Main Pool & Chemical Supply, introduced himself and his son. This family run company supplies chlorine for swimming pools and had been supplying chlorine for the Liberty Pool. Due to some concerns about sedimentation, the pool is currently purchasing chlorine from a different supplier. Mr. Slodysko offered to meet with the O’Malley’s.

**Approval of the minutes of the June 20, 2000 Council Meeting**

Mr. Ditton had questions regarding the status of several items in the minutes:

1. Meeting in Harrisburg regarding grants– Mr. Redington attended.
2. Certificates of Occupancy for borough buildings – The engineer from Larson Design Group is working on obtaining the Certificates of Occupancy.
3. Status of Priestley Ave Surveying Project – Mr. Randy Hummer was contacted and reported the work to be 30% complete.
4. Girl Scout Little House roof – Mr. Slodysko has received two quotes for the project. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to accept the bid of \$2,495.00 from Carnahan’s Roofing and Siding of Selinsgrove, replace the roof on the Girl Scout Little House, with a completion date of October 1, 2000. The Anselmo Trust Fund has given the Parks & Recreation Commission a grant of \$2,700 to be used toward replacing the roof. Carnahan’s also quoted a price of \$945 to replace the spouting. Mr. Slodysko amended his motion to include the spouting. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote – all ayes.
5. Speed Limit signs on Jefferson Street - The street crew has been informed that signs are to be posted on Jefferson Street and Susquehanna Road. Mr. Bowersox will check with the crew.

Mr. Shaffer made motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2000 meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.

### **Health Officer's Report**

Mr. Lee Shaffer, the borough health officer, provided a written report of inspections conducted and licenses issued. At the last council meeting, health issues concerning rabbits and rats were addressed. The Public Safety committee was asked to make recommendations to the council regarding animals in the borough. The Public Safety committee will meet on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the borough hall. Topics to be discussed are the proposed fire commission and the issue of animals in the borough that are causing concerns among citizens.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

- ❖ Mr. Dan Yaple reported that Sewer Authority has about twenty-five 4 x 6's remaining from the Duke Street project and offered them to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Slodysko accepted.
- ❖ The Sewer Authority is extending the sewer main on Sheetz Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Don Troxell had requested that the main be extended and he is doing the work for the Sewer Authority. When reviewing Mr. Troxell's request, the Sewer Authority Board passed a resolution that whenever someone is going to dig in the street and replace a sewer line, the sewer authority will oversee the project to insure that the work is done properly. The work being done by Mr. Troxell should be completed soon and the gas company will be installing a gas line. The street will be closed after the gas line is installed.
- ❖ Mr. Yaple read a letter from Penn DOT to the sewer authority expressing gratitude for the cooperation received during the Duke Street project.
- ❖ Mr. Bowersox questioned the resolution that the Sewer Authority adopted. He explained that the borough ordinance reads that "the property owner is responsible for the sewer line to the main". Mr. Yaple said that the property owner is still responsible, and bears the costs, but the Sewer Authority will oversee the work. Mr. Bowersox requested that the borough be given a copy of the resolution so the borough's ordinance and the resolution are consistent. Mr. Wolfe explained that a prior borough council had amended the street cut ordinance but had not done it legally. Therefore, it was not in effect and the cost for Mr. Troxell to obtain a permit through the borough was prohibitive. The council feels that it is not fair that an individual who comes to the borough must pay a permit fee, and an individual who goes to the Sewer Authority to obtain a permit, does not pay a permit fee. Mr. Bowersox stated that the borough plans to inspect the street cut closing and charge an inspection fee when the street cut is being closed. Mr. Yaple explained that the resolution that was adopted is that the Authority will not issue a repair permit to do the sewer work without the Authority being responsible for the street cut. He also said that if the borough council elects to assess the Sewer Authority a permit fee, the Authority will pass that fee on the property owner. Mr. Wolfe requested a copy of the resolution.
- ❖ Packer Island is planning to install public sewer and has approached the Sewer Authority about using the borough's facility for treatment of sewage. Their engineer has prepared a resolution for the official plan revision. The township plans to send up to 46,800 gallons of sewage per day to the facility. Currently, the facility treats 350,000 to 400,000 gallons of sewage per day. Mr. Ray Kern, an Upper Augusta Township Supervisor, stated that Sunbury has accepted the sewage from Shikellamy

Ave. and the township needs a letter from Northumberland, accepting the sewage from the island, to satisfy DEP. The details of the charges for the treatment have not been determined. The 4-inch main, crossing in the river, and the sewage pumping station on the island are the responsibility of Upper Augusta Township. Mrs. Groninger moved to accept the resolution presented by the Northumberland Sewer Authority. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe called for discussion. Mr. Bowersox stated that he would like to see the specifications for what the four-inch line can handle. Mr. Yaple stated that this is a revision to the plan and that by adopting the resolution, the borough is in agreement to treat the sewage from Packer Island and the Sewer Authority will work out the details. Mr. Shaffer stated that it is important for the island to install the sewer line. Mr. Yaple said that the residents of Packer Island will be charged a tap-on fee and the user fee will be assessed higher than the fee in the borough. Mr. Bowersox asked what had been resolved concerning money that was owed to the borough for sewage treated from the marina. No one could answer that question. A member of the Sewer Authority, Mr. Jack Snyder, stated that the main line from Northumberland over to the island is connected to the marina. Upper Augusta plans to service the rest of the island by pumping sewage into the station at the marina. The line that runs in the river is Upper Augusta's responsibility. Ms. Kelley questioned the safety of the main in the river. She was told that the main is encased in concrete and that it has been approved by DEP. It was also noted that the valves can be turned off. Mr. Wolfe called for a roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Slodysko, and Mr. Shaffer voted yes; Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Ditton voted no. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Wolfe stated that they are not against the resolution, but need more information.

### **Parks & Recreation Report**

Mr. Slodysko requested that the report be postponed until the next meeting because the commission would be meeting on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> and he would have more information available for the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### **Bills to Be Paid**

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the bills. Mrs. Kelley seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton questioned the bill from the Sunbury Broadcasting Company. Mr. Slodysko said that the bill should be forwarded to Pepsi for payment. Mr. Shaffer amended his motion to exclude the bill from the Sunbury Broadcasting Company. Roll Call vote. All-eyes.

### **Housing Authority Report**

Mr. Dale Heim, President of the Northumberland Borough Housing Corporation provided an update regarding the status of the proposed mid-rise. Mr. Heim's report is included in the record. The plans for the midrise are being designed by Gary Wolfe of Gary Wolfe and Associates, and are to be completed by mid to late August. The Housing Corporation meets on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. (Third Thursday of each month)

### **Borough Manager's Report**

❖ Coast Guard Auxiliary, volunteers for Boating Safety and Education, requested permission to place a temporary dock by the boat launch at the point for their use and public use. They would also like to use the area at the Point for their Boating Safety endeavors. They would also like to erect a tent to conduct their meetings. Their next meeting is next Wednesday, July 26, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to

approve the Coast Guard Auxiliary's request to place a temporary dock at the Point. The question of liability insurance was raised. Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Company will be contacted for information. Mr. Wolfe tabled the motion until the August 1, 2000 meeting.

- ❖ Mr. Redington provided information concerning the seminar in Harrisburg that he attended. Information was obtained about the Growing Greener Grant through DEP. It is unlikely that the borough can be reimbursed for money already expended through this grant. However, other funding opportunities are available. Mr. Redington will explore funding with a focus toward storm water issues.
- ❖ Mr. Redington has met with the solicitor, and members of school board regarding the Second Street School. He has not received a response to the borough's proposal. After seeing the signs at the school advertising the auction, scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Wolfe stated that the council has authorized Mr. Redington to bid up to a certain amount. Mr. Bowersox would like to have a Public Meeting before the auction. Mr. Shaffer asked if the meeting could be incorporated into the August 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Mr. Wolfe suggested the borough council meeting be conducted at the Kiwanis Building, if that building is available. The August 15, 2000 meeting of the Borough Council is tentatively scheduled for 7:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Building.

### **Executive Session**

The Executive Session was not held because the solicitor was absent due to a family emergency.

### **Old Business**

1. The Streets Committee met yesterday. At its last meeting, council approved replacing the inlets at 5<sup>th</sup> and Prince Streets, 5<sup>th</sup> and Hanover Streets, and Strawbridge Road and Prince Street. In addition to those inlets, Mr. Bowersox made a motion to correct the wash-out shoulder on Buchanan Avenue. The area is approximately 8 foot wide and 270 feet long. The area is to be fixed with bituminous binder and finished with top layers. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The roll call vote passed unanimously.
2. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Street Committee also discussed a project for 2001 that will include 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Hanover Street, King Street, Strawbridge Road, Prince Street, Queen Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Orange Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Priestley Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. With the assistance of Don Free, and Penn DOT, the Street Committee plans to look at these streets, replace the inlets, look at the curbing and proceed with a street plan. Strawbridge Road is scheduled to have the base coat replaced this year and will be completed in 2001. Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion to proceed with this plan. In addition to those streets, Mr. Wolfe added the inlets on 5<sup>th</sup> and Strawbridge, plus the curbing, 5<sup>th</sup> and Prince, the inlets and the curbing, the inlets at C.W. Rice, installing handicapped access at 2<sup>nd</sup> and King, raising one inlet and replacing 2 inlets and fixing the curbing in front of Epler's Funeral Home. Mr. Bowersox also asked council to approve 150 feet of pipe. The project will be funded by Liquid Fuel funds, except for vertical curbing. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the 2000-2001 street project as discussed and approved by the Street Committee at the meeting on July 17, 2000; Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The roll call motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Ditton moved and Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion to accept the Priestley Avenue Extension. The roll call vote passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to Don Free informing him of the adoption of the Priestley Avenue Extension.

4. Ordinance for Street Cut Permits was tabled by Mr. Wolfe until the next meeting.
5. Ordinance Committee Assignments - Mr. Wolfe would like to create a committee that involves members of the public and requests volunteers to serve on the committee. Mrs. Bogovich was present and volunteered. The solicitor will be asked if a member of the Zoning Board may also be on the Ordinance Committee.
6. Atty. Best informed the office that a letter was sent to the Public Utility Commission regarding the railroad underpass.
7. ADT contract – Representatives from ADT have been informed of the council’s wish to discontinue service at the Borough Office. Fire Protection for the police lab and borough garage was also discussed. The ADT representative is to discuss the situation with his supervisor and contact the office with more information.
8. Mr. Wolfe asked for articles for the Borough Newsletter. Ms. Kelley and Mrs. Groninger have articles. He asked that any additional articles be given to him by the end of the week.
9. Borough Web Site is under construction at [www.Northumberlandborough.com](http://www.Northumberlandborough.com).
10. Mr. Slodysko stated that the Liberty Pool has been inspected. Mr. Slodysko will be testing skimmer lines next Monday night at pool. Mr. Bowersox announced that the concrete has passed all of the compression tests.
11. Mr. Ditton introduced Mr. Paul Ruane, the Code Officer who was hired by the Personnel Committee. Mr. Ruane told the council that he is available as needed. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to hire Mr. Ruane as the Street Inspection Supervisor on a per diem basis. This is considered a management position at a rate of \$10.00 per hour, increasing to \$12.00 per hour as he learns the job. Mr. Bowersox will be instructing him. Mr. Ruane’s time spent as Street Inspection Supervisor are to be tracked and recorded separately from the code enforcement hours. The pay for the street inspection will come from the inspection fees that are included in the new street cut ordinance. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All - ayes.
12. The water line at the Kiwanis Building will be addressed after the pool closes because it will require opening an area of the parking lot to fix the pipe.
13. The Insurance Packet has been delivered by Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance. The borough insurance policy is effective from June 15, 2000 to June 15, 2001. The council discussed reviewing the policy with insurance brokers before renewal next year.
14. Mr. Wolfe will review the long range plan recently adopted by Lewisburg and the Northumberland/ Point Township long range plan that was adopted in 1985. Mr. Wolfe would like to develop a current long range plan for Northumberland.
15. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for August 23 at 6:00 p.m.
16. Ms. Kelley spoke with Tedd Deptula, the Penn DOT manager for Northumberland County concerning several issues:
  - Crosswalks will be added at Duke & Water Streets. They will have pedestrian buttons on the SUNCOM and SUN Home sides of the streets. Pedestrian buttons will not be placed on the midrise side because the signal is long enough for crossing.
  - At the King Street light, crosswalks will be on all but the one-way traffic side. Pedestrian buttons will be at all four corners. Penn DOT will paint the crosswalks when the new lights are installed; the borough is responsible for maintaining the crosswalks. The crosswalk lines are to be painted back far enough for turning truck traffic, with the middle lane lines 75 to 100 feet behind the lines in the far right lanes.

- The borough is to contact Penn DOT to make them aware of potholes that need repaired.
  - The gutters/ inlets should be cleaned after the traffic light contract is completed.
  - The loose manhole on Duke Street, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets should be fixed when Duke Street is paved. The borough is to supply Penn DOT with adjustment rings.
  - Mr. Deptula told Ms. Kelley that the traffic light requested for the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> & Duke Streets is a dead issue. Mr. Redington said that he received a call from Penn DOT for a meeting the end of July regarding the light for 4<sup>th</sup> & Duke Streets. Since the traffic lights at King & Water Streets are borough owned, they should be dismantled so they can be reused. Mr. Bowersox requested a meeting with Representative Phillips concerning the traffic light.
  - A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow in Montoursville with the construction department of Penn DOT regarding the street project.
17. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to request assistance from Representative Phillips to obtain a traffic count at the corner of Front & Prince Streets. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
18. Mr. Ditton asked if the school crossing signs on Front Street is to be removed since the Second Street School is closing. Mr. Redington said that the students will still be crossing there to get to the designated school bus stops. Mrs. Groninger asked if the borough received the reimbursement from the Shikellamy School District for the district’s share of the school crossing guard salaries. The invoice has been sent, but payment has not been received. The office will contact the school district and check on the status of the payment.
19. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to appoint Jim Troup, Carol Spigelmeyer and Charles “Bud” Ditton to the Planning Commission. The other members are Tom Slodysko and Mike Mertz. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

1. It was noted during Pineknoller Days that handicapped curbing is needed at the Second Street end of the King Street Park. The handicapped curbing is included in the approved 2001 street project.
2. An amendment to the current ordinance to establish new stop signs in the borough was discussed. Mr. Wolfe asked for motions to add stop signs to be made individually by street corner. Mrs. Groninger moved that stop signs be placed on Hanover Street at the lower and upper sides of the intersection at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Hanover Streets. This intersection would then be a 4-way stop. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye. Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
3. Mr. Bowersox moved and Mrs. Groninger seconded placing a stop sign at the 3<sup>rd</sup> & Prince Street intersection, going up the hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted yes; Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
4. Council request that letters to be sent to owners of large trucks parked on borough streets. Copies of the borough ordinance will be attached. Mr. Redington is compiling a list of truck owners who will be sent the letters. A comment was made that letters should also be sent to owners of boats that are parked on the borough streets. Mr. Redington said that boats are not included in the ordinance.

Mrs. Groninger requested that Mr. Wolfe appoint Mr. Redington be on the ordinance committee so that the ordinances are enforceable and that the committee be appointed as soon as possible. Mr. Wolfe said that he will announce the committee members in two weeks.

5. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to send letter to Geisinger Health Plan and local, state, and federal officials regarding Geisinger Health Plan's cancellation of the Geisinger Gold Plan for the senior citizens in Northumberland County. The letter is to inform Geisinger that the borough does not support the decision and hopes that Geisinger will reconsider. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.
  6. Mr. Redington and several council members met with Mr. Thomas Grbenick of SEDA-Cog regarding the Resolution for Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan for Northumberland Borough in conjunction with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority. By participating and appointing a local committee, the borough is able to receive funding from federal sources. The borough would also be able to obtain the services of a consultant. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to adopt the resolution, as per the sample, with a minimum of six residents to be named to the committee. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe will appoint the members at the next council meeting. Roll call – all ayes.
  7. It was noted that the ordinances establishing the minimum age requirement for per capita taxes and the penalty percentage assessment need to be updated. The ordinance sets 21 as the minimum age requirement for per capita taxes and a 5 per cent penalty assessment on taxes. Currently, the per capita taxes are sent to everyone over 18 years of age and the penalty percentage assessment is 10 per cent. The issue will be given to the Ordinance Committee.
  8. Upper Augusta Township requested information about a possible Street Cleaning Agreement for the approximately 2.5 miles of streets on the island. The Upper Augusta Township supervisors would like to know what the charges would be for the borough crew to clean the streets. Mr. Shaffer questioned if it would be effective to clean the island streets since the streets do not have curbing. The topic was tabled.
  9. A property owner contacted the borough office regarding the purchase of the unpaved portion of 5<sup>th</sup> Street behind his property. Mr. Shaffer said that previously, council had decided not to transfer any more property or right-of-ways.
  10. The library requested the use of the King Street Park for its annual Chicken & Chili Festival on October 21, 2000. They will use the gazebo, and the Front Street end of the park. They would also like the borough to close King Street between the park and the library. Mr. Shaffer made the motion to approve the library's request. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  11. Mr. Slodysko said that the borough crew would like to have the snow blower sold. Mr. Bowersox said that it has never been used, and it is paid for. Mr. Slodysko made motion to sell the snow blower. Mr. Wolfe asked for a second. The motion died for a lack of a second.
  12. Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Shaffer discussed having the fire alarm reprogrammed because it rings on Saturdays for two minutes. Mr. Wolfe asked to have the costs for the reprogramming provided for the next meeting.
- Council would like to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to extend meeting to 10:15 Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Executive Session began at 9:52.

Council meeting reconvened at 10:07 p.m.

Mr. Ditton made motion to adjourn meeting. Adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
August 1, 2000 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bryan Wolfe.  
Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Ms. Susan Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Thomas Slodysko. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Mr. Dan Yaple, Superintendent of the Sewer Authority, Mr. Larry Redington, Borough Manager, Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and 16 visitors who introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Richard Dobeck FC 15-05, a representative of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary proposed that the Northumberland-based volunteer organization provide, install, and maintain a 5 by 16 foot dock adjacent to the launch ramp at the Point. At this site, the Coast Guard Auxiliary will establish a land-mobile radio facility to monitor marine distress channels. A banner would be displayed during their activities. And they will provide free safety inspections of boats. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will remove the unsightly brush in the area. The United States Government insures the personnel, boats and equipment. Docks are not considered equipment, and the dock would not be covered by the Coast Guard insurance. The council was asked to lease the dock for \$1.00, so the dock could be covered under the borough’s insurance policy. The project is being planned for next year. The dock would be in service from mid-May to mid-September. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to allow the Coast Guard Auxiliary to put the dock at the point for the 2001 season. The year-to-year lease agreement will be for \$1.00. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Mr. Mike Daddario commented about the help received from Mr. Ray Kern of Upper Augusta Township in obtaining fill for the project at Pineknottter Park. Council thanked Mr. Kern for his help.
- Mrs. Patty Young questioned what had been done regarding the Railroad Underpass. Atty. Best had written a letter to the P.U.C., but has not received a response. Council asked Atty. Best to check with SEDA–Cog. Mrs. Young asked if the weeds and brush could be cleaned up. Mrs. Groninger suggested getting a committee to clean up the weeds on the railroad property. Someone asked whether the railroad could be fined for not keeping the property maintained. Atty. Best will pursue the issue. In a related issue, Mr. Wolfe said that the Improvement Committee was asked to replace or repair the entrance signs to the borough.
- Mrs. Marilyn Attinger questioned the status of the Kreamer property on Duke Street. The property was not “condemned”. Notices have been posted that the property is unfit for human habitation. The owner has been out of town and cannot be served. The borough had paid for an appraisal on the property. If the borough condemns the property, the property owner must be paid the amount of the fair market value. Back taxes are owed on the property.

- The property at 333 Duke Street had been posted with a notice in January. The property owner is in a nursing home.

Council requested that Atty. Best explore any possible options regarding these two properties.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the topics discussed at the Executive Meeting on July 27, 2000, were personnel issues, drainage issues, and the Second Street School.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Wolfe tabled the approval of the July 18, 2000 minutes until the August 15, 2000 meeting.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

- Mr. Dan Yapple, Superintendent, said that the Sewer Authority had an emergency dig on Seventh Street due to a blocked sewer line.
- The Sewer Authority has been working with the Street Committee to check the storm sewers throughout the borough.
- Representatives from Upper Augusta Township were present to request that the council adopt a resolution regarding accepting the sewage from Upper Augusta Township. Mr. Yapple told council that Act 537 was adopted several years ago. Mr. Bakowicz, the engineer for Upper Augusta Township, was present to answer questions. The recommended changes in the plan have all been completed at the pump station. Mr. Wolfe asked about the rates to be established. Mr. Jack Fasold, Chairman of the Sewer Authority, said that the rates to be charged are already in the Authority's structure. The Marina Restaurant and Park Service are charged based on the water usage. Mrs. Groninger moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Ms. Kelley asked when the pipe was put in the river. Mr. Bakowicz explained that a feasibility study was done by the state prior to 1972. At that time, the plan called for the Marina and Packer Island sewage to go to Northumberland. The 4-inch pipe that is in the river is made of cast iron. Mr. Bakowicz provided a calculation sheet to prove that the pipe would be sufficient for the amount of sewage that would flow through it. A new pumping station will be established on Packer Island. At this time, Upper Augusta needs to get funding for the project. In order to get the funding, the resolution to Act 537 must be approved. A provision in the agreement states that if a joint agreement cannot be executed later on, the borough does not have to provide the service. A roll vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution was labeled Resolution A.

### **Parks & Recreation Report**

1. Mr. Tom Slodysko, Chairman, announced that the Soap Box Derby was a success.
2. The Pineknott Day Stand cleared \$680.00 with its raffle.
3. The Concession Stand at Pineknott Park has been painted.
4. The committee is working on obtaining park benches for King Street Park.
5. In August, student volunteers from Susquehanna University will provide maintenance to the playground and exercise equipment at Pineknott Park.
6. The plumbing at the pool was tested last Monday under the supervision of Dave Walters. No leaks were discovered. The county is to be contacted for final reimbursement of the grant money.

7. Mr. Slodysko announced the Financial Report for the Liberty Pool. He estimated a profit of about \$2,000 to date and said that the pool should break even if income and expenses continue as the current ones. A pump was rewired and is back on line.
8. The Recreation Commission supports the council in obtaining the Second Street School Property. The Commission would like to have use of the playground.
9. The Recreation Commission expects to have approximately \$23,000 left over in the budgets from 1999 and 2000. A quote of \$118,000 for lights for at Pineknotted Park has been received. They are waiting to hear from two other companies. Mr. Slodysko made a motion that the borough council allow the Parks and Recreation Commission to designate \$10,000 from the Parks and Recreation budget toward the lights at Pineknotted Park, providing the Keystone Grant is approved. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission reimburse the Shade Tree Fund for the loan for the concession stand. Mr. Slodysko amended the motion to include reimbursing the Shade Tree Fund for the money borrowed for the concession stand. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.
10. The Recreation Commission is sending thank-you letters to VCI for donating spouting and soffit for the concession stand, and Cole's Hardware for donating paint.
11. The Recreation Commission is looking for ways to utilize the area at Pineknotted Park. Suggestions included providing seasonal, overnight camp sites for tents and pop-up campers, and to build an amphitheater.

### **Bills to Be Paid**

In addition to the bills on the printout, \$500 is requested for the Red Cross "Learn to Swim" Program. The Anselmo Trust Fund has donated the \$500 for the program. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All - ayes.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

- Mr. Larry Redington requested council's permission to obtain an intern who will work in the borough office from September through November. The intern, Deniel Robenolt, attends the Newport Business Institute in Williamsport. She will work 32 hours a week and is insured through the school. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept the intern. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Redington recommended that Kelly Spigelmeyer be granted permanent status with the police department. She was hired a year ago under the "Cops Grant". Mr. Ditton made the motion that Kelly Spigelmeyer be granted permanent status. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All - ayes.

### **Executive Session**

The Executive Session began at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the Second Street School, personnel, and litigation issues. The council meeting resumed at 8:40 p.m. As a result of discussion in the Executive Session, several motions were made:

1. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to resolve the Joseph Hayter eminent domain litigation claim. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to revise the amount that the Borough Manager be authorized to bid on the Second Street School per the amount discussed in Executive Session. The amount remains confidential at this time. Mr. Slodysko seconded the

motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Slodysko, and Ms. Kelley voted yes; Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion carried 6-1.

3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to fill the position of police officer that has been vacated by Mr. Cope. The salary is to be at the entry level of \$28,895. The difference between this new salary and Mr. Cope's former salary is to be applied to the capital reserve account in the amount of approximately \$159.70 per week. The hiring would be contingent on the Mr. Cope's not returning to active duty. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe called for discussion. Mrs. Groninger stated that she is not in favor of hiring another officer until the Cope litigation is definitely resolved. Mr. Bowersox agreed. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Ms. Kelley voted no; Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Shaffer voted aye. The motion was defeated 5-2.
4. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that council re-institutes the weekly placement of Mr. Cope's salary into the capital reserve account, pending the final litigation settlement. The money would not be used for any other reasons, until the borough is completely free and clear of any financial obligation to Mr. Cope. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe said that the amount in the fund is approximately \$50,000. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted no. Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted yes. The motion was defeated 4-3.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Bowersox, chairman of the Streets Committee, announced that Strawbridge Road and the Buchanan Avenue shoulder are to be put out for bid. Mr. Jack Fasold said that the Sewer Authority is looking to repair the sewer line between Susquehanna Street and Jefferson Street. Mr. Bowersox stated that the work to be done by the Sewer Authority should not interfere with letting the project out for the base repairs. The final paving will be completed in 2001. Mr. Wolfe made the motion to advertise for the bids, as per the letter from Don Free of Penn DOT. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All - ayes.
2. Mr. Bowersox said that the inlets throughout the borough are being checked. The street crew has placed cones at unsafe inlets. They have had to replace cones several times because someone keeps taking the cones. Mr. Shaffer suggested the crew lay metal plates over the inlets. Mr. Fasold recommended putting stakes and construction fence around the inlets until they are repaired. Mr. Yapple suggested putting the new oversized tops and grates over the existing catch basins. The tops could be reused when the new catch basins are installed.
3. Mr. Wolfe announced the first reading for the revised Ordinance for Street Cut Permits. The ordinance amends Chapter 50, Section 2. The maximum fee assessed for street openings shall be \$500. The borough shall hold the bond for five years, instead of one year, following a street cut. All inspection services rendered and the application fee shall be set by resolution of the borough council. Chapter 50, Section 7 of this ordinance, states that all excavation and other work in the borough which disturbs the surface of the streets shall conform to standards set by Penn DOT. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt the ordinance as read. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The ordinance is to be called Ordinance 2000-1. It will become effective following the second reading at the next council meeting. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Bowersox voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. The motion passed 6-1.

4. The resolution sets the application fee for street openings at \$250 and the inspection fee at \$25.00 per hour billed in increments of one hour. The motion to adopt this resolution was made by Mr. Bowersox and seconded by Mr. Shaffer. The roll call vote was taken. Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. The motion passed 6-1. This resolution was labeled Resolution B.
5. Mr. Wolfe appointed Ms. Sue Kelley chairman of the Ordinance Committee. The other committee members are Mr. Ditton and Mr. Wolfe.
6. Mr. Redington reported that the borough has received a correspondence from the superintendent of the Shikellamy School District stating that the school board does not wish to negotiate further and plans to auction the school on August 17. The borough council is sending letters inviting government officials to attend the public meeting scheduled for August 15, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. The public meeting will be at the Kiwanis Building, with the regularly scheduled council meeting to follow. Mr. Redington asked for council to approve obtaining a professional appraisal of the property. Mr. Shaffer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bowersox, to obtain a professional appraisal of the school property. Roll call vote. Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Slodysko voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no.
7. Shikellamy School District reimbursed the borough \$3358.52 toward the crossing guard salaries. Council stated that reimbursement should be received for the salaries of the street crew and the police department when it was necessary for these departments to fill in for the crossing guard. The office will check the records.
8. Larson Design Group, Inc. submitted a proposal to draw up the plans for the Recycling Building. The engineering costs are \$4,800. The borough needs a project start date to satisfy the grant. Mr. Bowersox questioned what the costs would be for the "work not included" section of the proposal. Mr. Wolfe asked that more information be obtained concerning these costs.
9. Mr. Andy Frantz from Larson Design Group, Inc. will review the borough buildings on August 8 at 2:00 p.m. to determine the requirements needed to obtain Certificates of Occupancy.
10. Representatives from ADT met with council members and the office staff to review the contract. The security at each building costs \$400 per year. The buy-out of the contract for the borough building is \$720. However, the equipment would not be removed from the building and the smoke alarms would still become activated in the event of a fire. The borough garage and the police lab do not have smoke detectors. A fee of \$100 for each building would be charged to add the smoke alarms. Council decided not to take any action about adding smoke alarms until satisfied with the amount of the contract buy-out for the borough building.
11. Mr. Wolfe is reviewing the borough's long-range plan from 1985 and Lewisburg Borough's long-range plan. He will report to council in October.
12. A meeting is scheduled for August 2, at 1:00 p.m. with Penn DOT officials regarding the project on Duke & Water Streets. Emergency personnel, the police, the borough crew and council representatives will be present. The project is scheduled to start on August 7, 2000. Ms. Kelley said that a project to repair and overlay the concrete section from W & L Subaru to a bridge past the Fellon residence, is scheduled to begin on August 21, 2000. Penn DOT was contacted about a sinking section of road on Water Street. The Bell Telephone Company is responsible for repairing that section of road. The repair work was unsatisfactory. Ms. Kelley will contact Penn DOT again. Mr. Bowersox has also contacted Penn DOT.

13. Mr. Wolfe named committee members to the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan for Northumberland Borough in conjunction with the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority. EMA assistant coordinator Joe Reed, Assistant Fire Chief Josh Newbury, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Slodysko, Mayor Wetzel, and Mrs. Gretchen Brosius were appointed at this time. The committee is to be comprised of six to twelve members. Mr. Wolfe will contact others to be on the committee.
14. At the last meeting, council approved an ordinance adding stop signs at Second and Hanover Streets, and at Third and Prince Streets. The ordinance is numbered Ordinance 2000-2. Discussion. Several council members have received telephone calls about the addition of the stop sign at the top of Third Street. Residents are concerned about stopping at the top of Third Street when the road is snow-covered. The intersections are to be plowed and adequately salted during snowstorms. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, and Mrs. Kelley voted yes; Mr. Shaffer voted no. The motion passed 6-1. The final reading will be at the August 15<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
15. Mr. Shaffer is getting a price to have the fire alarm reprogrammed. To change the style of siren, the cost would be approximately \$8,000.
16. Mrs. Brosius mentioned that several intersections in alleys should be 4-way stops because of buildings that obstruct the view. Two intersections are the one behind Second Street School and the intersection behind the borough office.
17. Attorney Best is revising the lease agreement with Northumberland County for the VFW building on Lower Water Street.
18. Council was reminded of the meeting scheduled by the Point Township Supervisors for tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. regarding Viking Energy.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Ken Lewis sent a letter requesting the use of Pineknott Park from Aug. 5, 2001 to Thanksgiving of 2001 for Fall Baseball. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that council gives the Parks and Recreation Commission the authority to determine the use of Pineknott Park for Fall Baseball. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Mr. Mike Daddario requested that the center field fence at the Pineknott Park ball field be extended twenty feet when the reconstruction work is done. Mr. Bowersox made the motion that the fence be relocated; Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All – ayes.
3. Mrs. Krieger contacted the office to request the use of the Steele School property for football practices. The group has insurance. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to permit the football practices at the property, providing that the Housing Authority also approves the request. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All – ayes.
4. A request for a handicapped parking sign for Mrs. Burrell, at 341 Queen Street, was received. Mr. Ditton made the motion to grant the request. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. A handicapped parking space is located two doors down. This residence has parking space for several cars and also off-street parking in back. Atty. Best's legal council was that the borough does not have to provide a handicapped parking space. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Bowersox voted no. The motion failed 4-3.
5. Penn DOT Municipal Services Agreement for Snow Removal, a 5 year agreement, was received today. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to renew the agreement; Mr.

Slodysko seconded the motion. Discussion. The borough would be responsible to remove the snow every time there is a significant snowfall. The state plows the center of Front and Water Streets, but does not plow the parking areas along the streets. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the council members review the agreement before the next council meeting. Mr. Shaffer withdrew his motion.

6. According to Representative Phillips's office, the Keystone Grant Application for funding for Pineknottter Park will be available the end of August. The borough is asked to provide documentation of the work that has been completed, as well as the costs, and the borough's proposed plans for Pineknottter Park.

Mr. Wolfe reminded the council members and public of the meeting in Point Township regarding Viking Energy tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

The Public Safety Meeting Committee will meet August 9th at 6:30. Topics to be discussed are the animals in the borough and the proposed Fire Department Authority.

The next Council Meeting will be held at the Kiwanis Building on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Slodysko made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ditton, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
August 15, 2000 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.  
Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Thomas Slodysko. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Borough Manager, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary, and 27 guests.

**Northumberland National Bank**

Mr. James E. Gerdun, Vice President of PWCampbell, a design build firm from Pittsburgh, addressed the council regarding the proposed addition to the Northumberland National Bank. He wished to address concerns that the fire department has with the addition and to learn what the borough will require with respect to storm water management in the area behind the bank where the parking lot will be expanded. The area is zoned commercial with no setback requirements. The bank would like to have the steel framed building completed before winter. In the area of storm water management, Mr. Gerdun said that he does not see neighboring properties addressing storm water management. He asked if there is an ordinance to comply with or what criteria must be met. Mr. Bowersox questioned if a hydraulic study was completed to address the water run-off so determination can be made if catch basins need to be installed or the pipe run to Front Street. Mr. Gerdun asked if he could address the concerns with the borough's consulting engineer in order to satisfy the council. Approval was given for Mr. Gerdun to contact the borough's engineer. No setbacks are required in the zoning. The BOCA code specification is that within 10 feet of another structure you must have ¾ R fire retarding glass. Mr. Gerdun stated that the building plans have Labor and Industry approval and that the design firm will satisfy the codes of the borough. Mrs. Groninger asked about the access to the building and the parking area. The parking area is accessed from Wheatley Avenue with a proposed access from Queen Street. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the fire department be informed that according to the zoning in the Borough Code, there is not a problem with the bank's proposed plans. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call – all ayes.

Mr. Gerdun explained that the style of the existing building is being replicated in the addition. The addition will go over the existing building and extend into the drive-in lane and to the back at the private alley to Fasold Brothers. Mr. Redington asked that additional parking meter space be reinstalled in front of the present driveway. Mr. Bowersox asked that vertical curb would be reinstalled and the sidewalk would be replaced to reflect no ramping. The bank will have handicapped access at the rear of the new construction and a ramp to access the bank. A set of prints was furnished for the borough engineer.

## **Public Meeting – Second Street School**

Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough council is looking for input from the public. The school district will be auctioning the building and contents on August 17 at 4:00 p.m. He stated that the seven council members are united in wanting to acquire the property.

Mr. Robert E. Moyer asked how much Sunbury paid Northumberland for the building. He suggested that is the amount the borough should pay to get it back. According to the deed, Shikellamy paid the borough \$1.00 for the Second Street building and C.W. Rice. Ms. Margaret Weirick supports the council's position in acquiring the building because the borough has very little land to develop. She also agrees that after the borough paid to build the school, and residents paid tax dollars throughout the years for the school to be maintained, and since the district has not maintained the building, the borough should be able to get the property for nothing.

Mr. Moyer also said that the Senior Action Center would like to rent a building with some parking space and suggested that the part of the building could be used for a Senior Action Center.

Mrs. Ruth Ford asked if the building could be obtained for \$1.00. She was told that the borough has offered a five-figure amount for the property, but the district wants to proceed with the auction. Mrs. Ford said that a contractor could bid an unlimited amount and asked if the property has restrictions on it. The area is zoned R-2 and as such does have restrictions as to the usage. Mrs. Ford asked if council had decided how much the borough would bid for the property. Mr. Wolfe said that in Executive Session council has set a limit for its bid. This amount would not be disclosed.

Mrs. Mary Poff asked about funding. Various avenues are being explored. Mr. Redington said that the borough's engineer estimated that \$150,000 would be required to replace the heating system and roof. Grants are available, however most are structured for facilities that are already owned. Once the borough owns the building, other funding should be available. The census was that it is important to the town to get its fair share of the grants.

Mr. Wolfe asked if anyone wished the borough would not pursue the property. Mr. Dan Yaple stated that he feels that the \$150,000 mentioned by Mr. Redington is just the beginning. He is concerned that the borough would have more commitments than revenues.

Mr. Wolfe said that although the council is being aggressive in obtaining the property, a specific use has not been decided. If the borough gets the property, council will decide quickly what its use should be. If council decides the borough does not have a use for the property, the borough can then sell it to someone else.

Mrs. Poff suggested that the public be informed of the restrictions on the property. Mr. Shaffer stated that the property is zoned R-2, residential. This would mean that a maximum of two residential properties would be permitted on the lot. If someone would want to build an apartment building, they would need to go through the zoning board.

Mr. Paul Ruane asked if the building contains asbestos. Mr. Bowersox said that there is a small amount of asbestos that is coated to meet labor and industry requirements.

Mrs. Groninger said that this property is one of the last pieces of land in the borough that is available for recreation or open space and is readily accessible to everyone. Mrs. Groninger also said that while the Steele School property was purchased for \$1.00, there were restrictions on that deed. In order for the Housing Authority to be able to build on that property, the borough had to pay the school district \$12,000 for a clear title to the property. The cost for the clear title and the removal of the building was approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Sam Wolfe said that all school districts were required by law to have an engineering report on file of the asbestos in school buildings. He feels it is important for the borough to obtain a copy of this report if the borough buys the property. The report includes where the asbestos was located, what was encapsulated, and what was removed.

Mr. Dave Conrad asked what was planned for the building. Mr. Wolfe said that suggestions have included a museum, a gymnasium, a movie theatre, a senior center, and an extension of the fire department. The building is structurally sound, but needs a new roof and heating system.

Mr. Wolfe assured the public that if the borough acquires the building, another public meeting would be conducted to discuss what to do with it.

Mr. Jack Snyder, tax collector, stated that he is wholeheartedly in favor of trying to acquire the property. He is concerned with what the borough can do with the building. The cost of \$150,000 to get the building to a point where the borough can use it does not include additional costs for renovating. He feels that the borough has little chance of increasing the tax base in the borough because the town has been built up as much as possible. With the assessment ratios changing next year, the tax millage rate will be one half of the current millage rate. This does not indicate an increase in taxes. If the borough assumes the additional financial burden of this building, he is concerned that the taxes may need to be raised. He reminded the council that if it had not been for a grant to repair the swimming pool, the borough would not have been able to fund the repairs. He does not want to see this happen with the Second Street School building.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the public sale is at 4:00 p.m. Thursday.

### **Public Comment**

- Mrs. Poff is not in favor of a stop sign on Third Street at Prince Street. Mr. Shaffer said that he opposes the stop sign at the top of Third Street also. Mr. Bowersox said that he would have the road plowed and cindered. Mrs. Poff suggested that the yellow line from the corner be extended. Mr. Redington said that the council could extend the yellow “no parking” area longer than the state requirements.
- Mrs. Marilyn Attinger stated that a stop sign had been erected at the top of Third Street before. It was put up in the summer and taken down in the winter. The practice was discontinued.
- Someone commented that the people coming down the hill drift through the stop sign on Prince Street. Mr. Slodysko has seen people drive through the stop sign and thinks that a stop sign on Third Street may prevent an accident.
- Mrs. Gretchen Brosius asked if the borough council supports the Point Township Supervisors in their opposition to Viking Energy’s burning any materials other than virgin wood. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to express the borough’s support to the Point Township Supervisors in their crusade against the burning of anything other than virgin wood at Viking Energy. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2000. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Bills to Be Paid**

The amounts of the bills to be paid are \$12,814.66 from the general fund, \$267.21 from the Liquid Fuels Account, \$1,600 from the Parks and Recreation Account, and \$3,810.32

from the Liberty Pool Account. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

1. Mr. Redington approved that the Borough Code Officer attends a conference regarding Statewide Building Codes. The fee is \$35.00.
2. Larson Design Group, Inc. has inspected the borough buildings for compliance with Labor and Industry standards. Council members have received copies of the report. The Property Committee will review the report, and make a recommendation to the council. Mrs. Groninger stated that a meeting would be scheduled in September.
3. Mr. Redington is working on obtaining a grant for the lights at Pineknott Park and is seeking approval from DEP to drill holes in the landfill at the park for the concrete posts to support the lights.
4. A request for stop signs at the intersection of Susquehanna Road and Honeylocust Road has been received. The street committee will take the suggestion under advisement.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe announced that the opening of the bids for the Strawbridge Road and Buchanan Street projects is scheduled for August 22, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Office.
2. Mrs. Groninger asked if the borough has obtained enough dirt to complete the project at Pineknott Park. Mr. Redington said that the engineering firm is looking into several possibilities. The firm is planning to test the ground that is being stockpiled at Pineknott Park and ground that they have located at a project close to Mt. Carmel.
3. Mr. Wolfe read Ordinance 2000-1. The ordinance amends Chapter 50, Section 2 and sets the maximum fee for a street cut opening at \$500. The bond shall be held by the borough for five years (sixty months) instead of one year (twelve months). All inspections rendered shall be under a rate set by resolution of the Borough Council. The application fee shall also be set by a resolution of Borough Council. The ordinance has now been read twice in public. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve Ordinance 2000-1. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Slodysko referenced a letter from Dan Yaple, Superintendent of the Sewer Authority, that it is difficult to obtain bonding for more than one or two years. Mr. Bowersox said that if bonding cannot be obtained, money would have to be put up front. He feels that it is important for the borough streets to be properly maintained and that the five-year agreement is important. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mrs. Groninger voted no. Ordinance 2000-1 was adopted with a vote of 6-1.
4. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to revise Resolution B. The corrected resolution reads that "the application fee shall be \$250.00 for a street cut opening up to fifteen square feet, plus an additional \$15.00 for each additional square foot, up to a maximum of \$500.00. The inspection fee under Chapter 50 shall be \$25.00 per hour, billed in increments of one hour. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. A motion was made by Mr. Bowersox and seconded by Mrs. Groninger to adopt Resolution C, the filling requirements for street cuts. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Wolfe conducted the final reading of the Ordinance 2000-2. This ordinance provides for stop signs on Hanover Street at Second Street and a stop sign on Third Street at Prince Street. Mr. Bowersox moved to adopt Ordinance 2000-2. Mr.

Slodysko seconded the motion. Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Shaffer voted no because he does not support the stop sign at Third and Prince Streets. The motion passed 6-1.

7. Letters have been sent to borough residents pertaining to the ordinance that addresses truck parking in the borough. Mr. Redington stated that the ordinance cannot be enforced until the borough erects “No Truck Parking” signs throughout the borough. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to erect the signs, according to the law, in each block of the Borough of Northumberland stating “No tractor trailer parking allowed.” Exceptions would be made for local deliveries and moving vans. The estimated cost to install the signs is \$10,000. Instead of posting signs on all streets, signs can be posted in a high truck zone. The fine is currently \$5.00 if paid within 24 hours. The council is concerned that the town streets cannot handle the truck traffic. The ordinance now prohibits trucks that are in weight class 4 or higher from parking on borough streets. A truck of 11,000 pounds or more may not park on the borough streets. Atty. Eugene Brosius stated that he is not in favor of the borough spending \$10,000 to put up signs. He asked how many tractor-trailers are creating the problem. Mr. Bowersox said that inlets are being damaged by tractor-trailers driving over them. The motion died for lack of a second.
8. Mr. Wolfe asked what could be done about the trucks that are being driven through town. Signs can be posted stating “Local Truck Traffic Only”. Mr. Bowersox said that Liquid Fuel would pay for the signs. Council members discussed how to address this issue. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the Public Safety and Street Committees meet to discuss the situation and bring recommendations to council. Mr. Redington said that the police department is enforcing the ordinance that prohibits trucks from traveling through the business district on Front Street from King to Duke Street. Mr. Bowersox noted that the heavy weight of the trucks is causing the borough streets to deteriorate.
9. Mr. Wolfe asked when the speed limit signs approved for Jefferson and Susquehanna Streets would be posted. Mr. Bowersox will check with the street crew.
10. Council will discuss the revision of the Borough Manager Ordinance in Executive Session on August 23, 2000, following the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Redington’s six-month probationary period as Borough Manager ends in September.
11. The Finance Committee will meet at 6 p.m. on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 2001 budget, taxes, and millage rates will be discussed. Council will be exploring ways to raise capital for the street project and is hoping for public input. A bond issue has been discussed.
12. Council reviewed Larson Design Group’s proposal for the addition at the Recycling Building. Council was provided with a list of the costs for the “additional items” that had not been included in the engineering firm’s design costs of \$4,800. The engineer had felt that these items would not be needed, but wanted the borough to understand what was not included in the proposal. In order to comply with grant guidelines, it is necessary to have a professional proposal prepared. Mr. Shaffer moved to accept Larson Design Group’s proposal for the Liberty Glass Center. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Slodysko voted yes; Ms. Kelley voted no. The motion passed 6-1.
13. The bids for the Pineknott Park Project will be opened at the September 19<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
14. Atty. Best is revising the lease agreement with Northumberland County for the VFW building. It will be available for the September 5, 2000 meeting.
15. Penn DOT has requested that borough council approve the Penn DOT Municipal Services Agreement for Snow Removal. This five-year agreement provides that the

borough will assume the responsibility of plowing the snow on Eighth Street from SR 147 to King Street at the rate of \$218.12 and Eighth Street from King Street to Tuckahoe at a rate of \$91.84 per year. Mr. Bowersox voiced concern that if there were heavy snowstorms, the state reimbursement would not cover the costs of snow removal. Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion to approve the 5-year agreement. No motion was offered.

16. Mr. Shaffer announced that the price to reprogram the fire alarm is just under \$500, including shipping, to send the box out to be reprogrammed to ring for one minute on the cycle. The cost to obtain the software and reprogram the alarm in house is \$700 for a one-time use. The alarm had been reprogrammed, with approval from a prior borough council, to ring for three minutes at 12:30 p.m. The cost would be \$8000.00 to replace the siren with a different type of siren. A motion was made by Mrs. Groninger and seconded by Mr. Shaffer that the alarm be reprogrammed. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Slodysko, and Mr. Shaffer voted in favor of the motion; Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Ditton voted not to reprogram the alarm. The motion failed 3-4.
17. Mr. Ditton made a motion that the fire alarm be removed completely. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted yea; Mr. Shaffer, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Slodysko voted no. Motion failed 2-5.
18. Mr. Ditton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bowersox, to investigate whether the fire alarm can be removed. Roll call vote - All ayes. Mr. Shaffer will look into the matter.
19. Mr. Shaffer reported the Public Safety Committee met August 9, 2000. The committee:
  - Recommended that the existing Health Code that was adopted in 1949 be upheld with the exception that the ordinance pertaining to the fines of the health code be increased from the current level of \$5.00 to a maximum of \$25.00 be raised to new rates of \$50.00 minimum to a maximum of \$300.00.
  - Adopted a motion to allow the Fire Department to explore the formation of a Fire Authority as a mechanism of funding the department in place of a line item in the borough budget. The authority would assume responsibility for payment of all fees, including hydrants and insurance. This motion was adopted to allow the Fire Department to explore this avenue and report its findings to the Public Safety Committee for further review before it is brought before the borough council. Because some confusion had existed in the media, Mr. Wolfe clarified that the committee did not approve the formation of a Fire Authority, the committee is allowing the Fire Department to continue to look into the subject.
  - Tabled what to do about stray cats in the borough because the borough cannot afford to maintain its own animal shelter for stray cats as well as who would be responsible for capturing the animals and managing the shelter.
  - The topic of burning in the borough was reviewed. Currently, paper only, may be burned on Wednesdays and Saturday mornings. The Public Safety Committee is considering changing the ordinance to only permit burning on Saturday morning from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The ordinance states that a fine of not less than \$50.00 or no more than a maximum of \$300.00 be assessed for each offense.
20. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to draft an ordinance to increase the fines set in the Health Code from the current range of \$5.00 to \$25.00 to new amounts of \$50.00 to \$300.00. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The ordinance will be published in the Daily Item and the borough newsletter. Mr. Wolfe stated that once drafted, the ordinance would need to be approved two more times. Mr. Ditton stated that a discrepancy

existed between the Borough Code Book, setting fines at \$25.00 to \$200.00, and the fines set under the Health Code. The motion was revised to update both and keep the fines consistent. Roll call vote – All ayes.

21. The borough received a letter from Robin and William Jay regarding Pineknoller Days. Mr. Wolfe suggested talking to the fire police to learn more about the incident. Mr. Shaffer will look into the matter.
22. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Mike Daddario to the committee for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan for Northumberland Borough.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Bowersox requested that property owners be required to install or replace curbs for driveways with new depressed curb, eliminating the current practice of curb cuts. Atty. Best advised that an ordinance should be drafted. The permit fee would be \$25.00. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to that effect. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton suggested that the Ordinance Committee reviews the current ordinance and supply council with all the revision recommendations at one time. Mr. Bowersox then suggested that curb permits not be issued until the ordinance is revised. Atty. Best advised that a resolution be enacted. Mr. Wolfe withdrew his second and Mr. Bowersox withdrew the motion. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt a resolution, effective immediately, that no curb cutting would be permitted through December of 2000, pending the revision of the curb-cutting ordinance. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The question was asked if the moratorium would be applied to the Northumberland National Bank. This resolution applies only to curb cuts and would not affect curb replacements. The bank representatives will address the issue with the borough's consulting engineer. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Slodysko, and Ms. Kelley voted no. The motion passed 4-3.
2. Mr. Peter John requested a handicapped parking space for 273 Queen Street. A handicapped parking space is designated at 223 Queen Street, across from the No 1 Fire Company. Mr. Wolfe would like to obtain a count of the number of handicapped spaces that are located within the borough. Atty. Best suggested that the applicants should provide more information to the borough. Atty. Brosius suggested that the borough have an application. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to provide Mr. John with a handicapped parking space; Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger voted yes; Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion failed 1-6.
3. A request was also received from Mary Rine for a handicapped parking space at 746 Front Street. Ms. Rine does not drive, but people providing her transportation have difficulty parking in front of her residence. The Public Safety Committee will examine the issue of handicapped parking spaces. No motion was made.
4. Mr. Slodysko moved to appoint Mr. Doug Palkendo to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
5. Mr. Franklin Hoffman requested that council consider erecting stop signs on Sixth Street at the corner of Sixth and Hanover Streets. He is concerned that an accident will occur at this corner because cars travel too fast on Sixth Street and hit the bump at the intersection. The Street Committee will consider the request.
6. Mr. Slodysko asked that the street crew have the street sweeper checked because he has noticed that something is dragging on the street sweeper.

7. Mr. Ruane, borough code enforcement officer, announced that the Danville SPCA has traps to catch stray cats. A \$50 deposit is required for the trap. Mr. Ruane stated that for the month of July, he issued nine permits and received nine complaints.

### **Executive Session**

The council went into Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. to discuss a drainage issue and a personnel issue. The council meeting was reconvened at 9:28 p.m.

- A motion was made by Mr. Shaffer and seconded by Mr. Ditton to offer a settlement to Mr. Cope regarding pending police litigation, as discussed in the Executive Session. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox – no. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger – aye. Motion carried 6-1.
- Mr. Ditton made a motion to appeal an unemployment matter regarding Brenda Scheller. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
September 5, 2000, 7:00 PM

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bryan Wolfe, President, at 7:04 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag**

**Moment of Silent Meditation**

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Mr. Thomas Slodysko, Ms. Sue Kelley, and Mr. Greg Shaffer. Also present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Borough Manager, Atty. James Best, Borough Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dan Yapple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Waltz asked if the street sweeper was broken because he noticed that it hadn’t been run recently. It had been broken, but is now repaired.
- Mrs. Brosius announced that the winner of the raffle conducted by the Improvement Committee was Mrs. Atherton. The prize was “Twilight Memories”, a print by local artist Jeffrey Lynch.
- Mrs. Patty Young stated that she has received permission to paint and clean up the area around the railroad underpass. She has contacted Central Builders and a representative from the Garden Club for assistance. Penn DOT will supply bags, gloves, and tools. Council decided to hold a work party on Saturday, September 16, 2000, at 8:00 a.m. and request help from interested volunteers. Mr. Wolfe made a motion that on September 16, 2000, any borough crew member who works will be paid overtime. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted yes; Mr. Slodysko voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
- Mr. Rick Moyer asked if he would be permitted to have the curb cut so he can access an unopened street to park his truck at the rear of his property. Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Ruane, Code Officer, for an official recommendation at the September 19, 2000 council meeting.

**Executive Session**

The council meeting was recessed at 7:29 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The regular council meeting resumed at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to dissolve the Zoning Board because the council does not know when the terms of the membership expired. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The Zoning Board members are Mr. Bill Herrold, Mrs. Laura Eichner, Mr. George Gavason, Mrs. Fran Bogovich, and Mr. Larry Geist. Roll call vote – All ayes. A letter will be sent to each former member, explaining the action and inviting him or her to reapply. An advertisement will be placed in the newspaper.

**Sewer Authority Report**

Mr. Dan Yapple, Superintendent of the Sewer Authority, announced that plans are being made to replace sewer lines on Strawbridge Road between Susquehanna Street and Jefferson Street. The

work will consist of four hundred and ten (410) feet of pipe and seven (7) connections. The Authority is considering doing this work now because the borough is planning to have Strawbridge Road paved. Mr. Yaple asked how the Authority would be assessed for the permit and backfill inspection fee. Atty. Best advised that the council could exonerate the Sewer Authority on a case by case basis. Mr. Yaple stated that he would follow the backfill requirements adopted at a prior council meeting.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion that the borough council exonerates the Sewer Authority from the fees for this project. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Bowersox voted yea; Mrs. Groninger abstained from the vote. Motion carried 6-0-1.

### **Approve Minutes of August 1, 2000**

Mr. Slodysko made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Groninger, to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2000 borough council meeting. Roll call vote. All ayes.

### **Bills to Be Paid**

Mr. Shaffer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ditton, to approve payment of the bills. The total amount due from the general fund is \$16,316.19; the Liberty Pool Association bills total \$55.97. Roll call vote. All ayes.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

- Mr. Redington announced that Deniel Rovenolt, a student at the Newport Business Institute, Williamsport, would be starting as an intern in the borough office on September 11, 2000.
- The report from Larson Design Group regarding the borough buildings compliance with state guidelines needs to be reviewed. The Property Committee will review the report at its meeting on September 20, 2000, at 7:00 p.m.
- An eight-hour course, Winter Maintenance for Streets, will be conducted on October 12, 2000. Mr. Redington would like interested borough crew employees to attend. Registration must be completed within one week of the school date.
- BOCA fire code contains a provision that if there is a catastrophic fire in the borough, the property owner is required to pay \$2000.00 to the borough for every \$15,000.00 of damage. This ensures that the property will be rebuilt after an insurance claim is paid.

### **Old Business**

1. Resolution C – 2000, the policy pertaining to standards of construction for street cuts, was read by Mr. Bowersox and was adopted at the August 15, 2000 meeting.
2. A resolution for a curb cut moratorium until December 31, 2000, was read by Mr. Bowersox. The borough council is in the process of reviewing and revising the curb cut ordinance. The council will consider requests for exemptions on this moratorium on a case by case basis. Mr. Bowersox made the motion to adopt Resolution D, the moratorium for curb cuts. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. The result of the bids for the Strawbridge Road and Buchanan Street projects, opened on August 22, 2000, was announced. The bid was awarded to HRI, Inc. for \$26,600.
4. Mr. Redington stated that compliance to the Truck Parking Ordinance is running fairly well. A few more tractor-trailer owners are being contacted.
5. Mr. Wolfe read Ordinance 2000-3, a revision of the Borough Manager Ordinance, as was discussed in the Executive Session on August 23, 2000. The word “may” replaces “shall” in Section 2-6: “Subject to recall by ordinance of Council, the powers and duties of the Borough Manager may include the following:” Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the first

reading of the Borough Manager Ordinance. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted yes; Mrs. Groninger and Ms. Kelley voted no. The motion passed 5-2. The second reading of Ordinance 2000-3 will be at the September 19, 2000 council meeting.

6. Mr. Shaffer made the motion to extend the borough manager employment contract with Mr. Redington, as stated, for one year. The current contract expires on September 22, 2000. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger stated that she supported Mr. Redington in this position and is aware and grateful for all of the work he has done and for keeping the borough "afloat". She does have a few concerns regarding the contract that she would like to have noted for the record. Paragraph 4, Compensation 2 refers to deferred compensation in the form of medical insurance for himself, his wife, and any minor children at the time of his retirement as the Chief of Police of the Borough and thereafter for the remainder of his life and the life of his wife. Mrs. Groninger would like to see his wife's name and "their" minor children added to the contract. She also would like clarification regarding the medical insurance benefit after his retirement. The contract reads that "the employee shall receive medical insurance in the same form and amount as provided to "non-uniformed employees of the borough". She asked if the amount is to be that provided to "non-uniformed employees of the borough" during 2000, or the increased amount at the time of retirement. Paragraph 6 b. (Term and probationary period) states that the Employee may be terminated at any time for any reason or no reason by the Governing Body within one hundred eighty (180) days of the execution of this Agreement. Thereafter, the Borough Manager may be terminated only for good cause related to the performance of his job duties. Mrs. Groninger would have liked to add the following sentence to this paragraph: "This does not affect the council's right to not renew this contract at the end of each year." Atty. Eugene Brosius questioned the prudence of compensating the Borough Manager with insurance for life after retiring from the Police Department, in exchange for working a term of 180 days. He commented that Mr. Redington could conceivably resign after the 180 days and still receive the insurance compensation. Mr. Shaffer stated that he feels this is a question of integrity and that during the time he has known Mr. Redington, he believes that Mr. Redington has shown integrity. Mr. Wolfe added that if the borough were to hire a full-time Borough Manager, his compensation would be about \$40,000 per year; costing the borough more than the costs of providing medical insurance to Mr. Redington and his family after his retirement. Mr. Shaffer stated that he felt council should either vote the contract up or down, as it stands. Mr. Slodysko asked if the borough could take out a life insurance policy on Mr. Redington with the borough as beneficiary. Mr. Redington agreed that the borough could insure him. Mr. Wolfe suggested that if the contract is extended that council pursue obtaining the insurance policy. A question was asked about the amount of the administrative or finders fees for grants. The response was that the administrative or finders fee for grants are awarded to grant writers and the amounts vary from grant to grant. These terms are acceptable to Mr. Redington. Typically, there is an administrative fee for doing the paperwork. If the contract is voted down tonight, the council would have until September 22, 2000 to renegotiate another contract with Mr. Redington, if he so chooses. Mr. Wolfe called for a roll call vote on the motion to extend the Borough Manager Contract for one year, as stated. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted yes. Mr. Bowersox and Ms. Kelley voted no. Mrs. Groninger stated for the record that her intent was always to get this contract cleared; her intention had never been to vote against Larry. Therefore, she voted to accept the contract. The motion passed 5-2.
7. The Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. At the last meeting, Atty. Best was asked to explore possible methods of raising capital for street

projects. He explained the Local Tax Enabling Act. A “User Fee” is not a tax; it is a charge for the benefit of a municipal service. Mr. Wolfe stated that he did not wish to put the burden on the property owners. Mr. Ditton said that by taxing property, renters are not typically taxed. Atty. Best suggested that council might want to consider a privilege to park tax. There are avenues available other than raising property taxes. Mr. Wolfe explained that the Finance Committee is considering adopting a 2.5 million-dollar street project and is trying to find ways to generate revenue to fund the project.

8. This is the first meeting since the borough has acquired the Second Street School at the auction. The borough has forty-five (45) days to finalize the purchase. Today is the 20<sup>th</sup> day. Mr. Redington stated that a new roof should be installed soon because a rubber roof is needed for part of the building. The borough should be able to obtain some grant money, but probably not before the final payment is due the school district. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to transfer the balance of what is due from the general contingency fund to the general fund, with the stipulation that the money be replaced into the general contingency account pending the receipt of grant money. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed. Mr. Slodysko asked what was to be done with the heating system this winter. Mr. Wolfe would like to discuss suggestions from the public of what to do with the building at the regular council meeting in two weeks. Atty. Best suggested asking architects for preliminary ideas. The media was asked to let the borough residents know that the council welcomes suggestions for use of the property. Residents should call or email the borough office at norrycom@ptd.net. The school will be used as a polling place during the November election.
9. The council will be opening bids for the Pineknott Park Project at the September 19, 2000 meeting. Mr. Slodysko stated that he is trying to get a water service for the park and questioned the service to the VFW building because it is not adequate. Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Bowersox are looking into the plumbing at the building.
10. Atty. Best has revised the description addendum to the lease agreement with Northumberland County for the VFW building.
11. Ms. Kelley, Mr. Bowersox and borough crew members met with Mr. Ted Deptula from PennDOT. As a result of that meeting, an agility agreement under the old contract has been reached. Two of the lights on the white bridge are to be replaced by PennDOT in exchange for the borough providing the snow removal service on Eighth Street. The Agility Contracts are an exchange of services instead of money and must be agreed upon by the borough, PennDOT, and the union. Penn DOT has developed a new list of exchangeable services. Ms. Kelley asked council to approve a resolution for a new Agility Agreement between the borough and PennDOT. Once approved, an exchange of services can be decided upon. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept the new Agility Agreement with PennDOT. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
12. Mr. Shaffer announced that the fire alarm may not be removed because it is a public safety issue, according to the official EMA plan that is currently on file with the county and state.
13. An ADT representative contacted the borough office. The cost to the borough to buy out the contract for the services at the borough building is \$720.00. In addition, ADT will install a heat detector at the borough garage and a smoke detector at the crime lab at no additional cost. These items were to have cost \$100.00 each. Mrs. Groninger moved that the borough buys out the contract for \$720.00, and have the heat and smoke detectors installed at no charge. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
14. Mr. Wolfe has instructed the borough office staff to update the records of all borough committee members and their terms.

15. Mrs. Groninger stated that Mr. Redington determined that the Fire Police were justified in the way an issue in the park was handled during Pineknottter Days. The Fire Police had been acting on a complaint received from a member of the Pineknottter Committee.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Redington had been approached by a citizen about the intersection at King Street and Depot Avenue, the alley beside the Moose Club. This intersection can be dangerous for someone exiting the alley onto King Street. This person suggested making the alley a one way street going away from King Street. Mr. Shaffer said that the delivery trucks for Frye's Department Store would have difficulty exiting on to any other street. The issue was tabled until the Street Committee could make a recommendation.
2. Statewide Tax Recovery has sent documentation that several delinquent per capita tax bills are not collectable because the taxpayers were non-residents during that tax year.
3. The first regular Council Meeting in November will be on Monday, November 6, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. instead of Tuesday, November 7, 2000 due to Election Day.
4. The borough newsletter is due from the printer tomorrow and will be mailed to residents.
5. The stop signs have been erected on Hanover Street, at Second Street, and at the top of Third Street. The speed limit signs for Jefferson and Susquehanna Streets are still on order.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe reconvened the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Mr. Bowersox requested permission to purchase fifteen (15) inlets. Mr. Shaffer made the motion to purchase the inlets. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.

Mr. Slodysko made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
September 19, 2000 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.  
Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Slodysko. Others present were Mayor Wetzel, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Borough Manager, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dan Yapple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. There were also 9 visitors who introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Bill Herrold addressed the council concerning the action taken at the September 5, 2000 meeting to dissolve the Zoning Board. Mr. Herrold was the secretary of the Zoning Board for the past twelve or thirteen years. In the September 6, 2000 newspaper, Mr. Herrold read where the Zoning Board was dissolved. He immediately wrote a response to the council stating that for any reason to be removed from the Zoning Board, the member must be given a public hearing and fifteen days advanced notice. The only response that he received from the council was a verbal response that the members have not done anything wrong and therefore council does not have to give a reason. He has contacted each member of the Zoning Board and represents the group as a whole, with their permission. Mr. Herrold questioned why Mr. Mertz was asked in July for the list of the appointments for members of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board was not asked for a list until September 5th. Mr. Herrold contacted the Zoning Board's attorney and discovered that he had never received confirmation of his appointment so Mr. Herrold continued to investigate the issue. Mr. Herrold read the letter that he wrote to the council dated September 18, 2000. This letter states that the action of council two years ago to appoint Atty. Martin as the Zoning Board's solicitor is a legal point, whether confirmed with a letter or not. Mr. Herrold asked Mr. Redington that a letter be sent to Atty. Martin confirming his appointment. He was told that Mr. Wolfe made the decision not to send a letter at this time. Mr. Herrold's advisor is now Agent Phillip Robbins, from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. According to Agent Robbins, the Zoning Board was correct in restricting the Northumberland National Bank's building permit. Due to an unsigned easement and Fasold's having a right-of-way, the permit cannot be issued until the parties reach an agreement. The bank and Fasold's did reach an agreement at the August Zoning Board Meeting. The Zoning Board was not correct in a Fire Safety restriction. The board had proposed a restriction until the fire department settled any issues with the residents. He also stated that the Borough Council cannot issue or cause any permits to be issued. The Zoning Board cannot be dissolved according to state law. Council can appoint the members each year. When there were originally three members, the terms were for three years. When the fourth member, Ms. Eichner, was added, the terms became four years. When the fifth member, Ms. Bogovich, was added, the terms went to five years. If a sixth member were added, the terms would be six years. Borough Council can appoint a new member to the Zoning Board, but only one member per year. Mr. Herrold stated that

he had filed correctly for a Public Hearing under the Borough Ordinances, but has had no response legally. He is now filing for a Public Hearing under Local Agency Law. Agent Robbins from the Department of Community and Economic Development hopes the borough will contact him. Mr. Wolfe had some points of clarification. He explained that the Northumberland Bank permit had nothing to do with the dissolving of the Zoning Board. A citizen approached Mr. Wolfe and asked what they could do to get involved in town. He was asked how someone could become involved in Planning or Zoning and when the next term was up. After looking up the codes, it was discovered that there are three members for three-year terms and three alternates. The code states that the terms shall be three years and shall so be fixed that the term of office for one member shall expire each year. The board shall promptly notify the Borough Council of any vacancies which occur. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term. Members of the Board shall hold no other office in the Borough. Five members were on the board. The minutes were researched in order to learn when the members were appointed to the board. According to the borough code book, the members are appointed to serve a three year term from August to August. The minutes of 3/1/94 state that Ms. Eichner was recommended to fill the unfilled office on the board. According to the minutes of 4/5/94, she was appointed as an alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board. An alternate member has the same powers and in the absence of any member, becomes a voting member. Therefore, Mr. Herrold stated that each time a member is added to the Zoning Board, the length of terms are extended for an additional year for each member. Mr. Wolfe stated that is not in the codes followed by the borough. Mr. Herrold said that those codes are incorrect. Mr. Wolfe said that according to the borough records, Mr. Herrold was appointed in 1991. He asked when Mr. Herrold was reappointed. Mr. Herrold's reply was that to his knowledge, never. Mr. Wolfe said that if he was not reappointed, he is off the Board because the term has expired. Mr. Herrold said that according to the state, it is the administration's responsibility to reappoint members to the board and if the administration overlooks reappointing a member and someone continues to serve, he is still there legally. Mr. Ditton stated that the board is supposed to notify council when a term expires. Mr. Herrold said that is not what the state says. Mr. Ditton said that it is according to the borough codes. Mr. Wolfe stated that this was not a personal issue. Based on the code, the solicitor had informed the council that if the Zoning Board makes a ruling that an applicant does not like, the applicant can technically say that the Zoning Board was not legal. Ultimately, it comes back to the council. Mr. Herrold questioned again why Mr. Mertz was asked in July about the Planning Commission when he was not asked about Zoning until in September. The reason Mr. Mertz had been questioned was because a member of the Planning Commission, Mr. Joseph West, resigned and new members needed to be appointed. According to the minutes of 4/7/98, Mr. Apfelbaum had been asked to contact the Zoning Board for the expiration dates of the members' terms. Mr. Herrold replied that the Zoning Board never received a letter from Mr. Apfelbaum. Mr. Wolfe said that other than Mrs. Bogovich, who has told the Borough Council that she does not wish to serve on the Zoning Board, council has received seven applicants. Mr. Herrold stated that he would have liked to have been contacted to attend a meeting, instead of reading about it in the newspaper. And he felt that the Atty. Martin should have been notified that he was appointed solicitor of the Zoning Board. Mr. Wolfe explained that when contacted by Mr. Redington, he was not aware of the minutes stating that Atty. Martin had been appointed. He also stated that he understands that Atty. Martin is not interested in the position. Mr. Shaffer spoke with Atty. Martin who said that he was never contacted by the former council, never attended any Zoning Board meetings, and never received

compensation. Mr. Herrold explained that the Zoning Solicitor should be present at all variance hearings and the borough has very few variance hearings. Mr. Wolfe informed Mr. Herrold that this is the public meeting that he had requested. The council must point three members to the Zoning Board and at least one alternate. Mr. Herrold stated that they have worked to get interested members to serve on the Zoning Board. Other people have attended meetings, but were not interested in being on the board and Mr. Herrold said that he is proud to be associated with the other four members of the board. He also told the council that he has kept minutes of every meeting since 1991. Mr. Wolfe said that he is not questioning the members' commitment. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Housing Authority needed a zoning variance for the Steele School property. Mr. Herrold's reply was that a variance was not needed. They needed a special exception. He also stated that the Zoning Board picks its own lawyer, council does not. He does not know how a former solicitor, Atty. Saylor, was replaced by a borough council with Atty. Martin. Mr. Wolfe requested that the other applicants introduce themselves and explain why they wish to serve. Mr. Dick Hort stated that since he is retired, he now has the time and interest to serve the community. Mr. Bob Sabol, a recently retired school teacher and athletic director, stated that he too is willing to serve the borough in any capacity. Mrs. Bogovich was present and asked if she was interested in serving. She stated that she was not. The other applicants for the vacant seats were Mr. George Gavason, Ms. Laura Eichner, Mr. Larry Geist and Mr. Russell Meachum. Mr. Wolfe asked who the existing chairman of the Zoning Board had been. Mr. Herrold replied that it was Laura Eichner. She is also his daughter. Mr. Wolfe said that the three-year terms would expire in August of 2001, 2002, and 2003. He asked for nominations for the three year term.

Mr. Slodysko nominated Mr. Herrold to the three year term that expires in 2003. Mrs. Groninger nominated Mr. George Gavason, and Mr. Ditton nominated Mr. Robert Sabol. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted for Mr. Sabol; Mr. Slodysko voted for Mr. Herrold, and Ms. Kelley voted for Mr. Gavason. Mr. Robert Sabol was appointed to the term ending in August of 2003.

Mr. Bowersox nominated Mr. George Gavason, Mr. Shaffer nominated Mr. Bill Herrold, and Mr. Wolfe nominated Mr. Dick Hort for the term that expires in August of 2002. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Wolfe, and Ms. Kelley voted for Mr. Hort. Mr. Bowersox voted for Mr. Gavason, and Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Shaffer voted for Mr. Herrold. Mr. Hort was appointed to the term that expires in August of 2002.

Mr. Bowersox nominated Mr. Gavason to the term that expires in 2001, Mr. Slodysko nominated Mr. Herrold, and Mr. Ditton nominated Mr. Geist. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Ms. Kelley voted for Mr. Gavason; Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Shaffer voted for Mr. Herrold; Mr. Ditton voted for Mr. Geist. Mr. George Gavason was appointed to the term expiring in August 2001.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the alternate seats on the board are also three year terms. Discussion was held as to how many alternates to name. Mr. Wolfe requested nominations for the alternate seat that would expire in August 2003. Mrs. Groninger nominated Mr. Geist. No other nominations were made. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of Mr. Geist. Mr. Wolfe named Mr. Geist as the alternate.

Mr. Wolfe nominated Mr. Herrold to the alternate position that would expire in August 2002. Mrs. Groninger nominated Mr. Meachum. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr.

Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted for Mr. Herrold. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted for Mr. Meachum. Mr. Herrold was named to the alternate seat that expires in August 2002.

Mr. Wolfe nominated Mr. Meachum to the alternate seat that expires in August 2001. Mr. Slodysko nominated Ms. Eichner. Roll call vote. Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted for Ms. Eichner; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted for Mr. Meachum. Mr. Meachum was appointed to the alternate seat that expires in August 2001.

Mr. Wolfe told the members of the Zoning Board that they may meet when they want to meet, but that the meetings must be advertised. He also asked them not to meet on the same day as the Planning Commission. Mr. Herrold stated that they can meet on the same day, just not in the same room. Mr. Ditton stated that the council is asking them not to meet on the same day.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the Planning and Zoning Committees do not meet on the same day. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Slodysko requested that the Planning Commission meet first so that they can transfer requests and information to the Zoning Board without a time delay. Mr. Wolfe included that stipulation in his motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Zoning Board should name their own legal counsel, that the council is not here to question their rulings, and that the minutes of the Zoning Board Meetings be kept in the borough office.

Ms. Bogovich asked what work is planned for the Buchanan Street project. Mr. Bowersox answered that the borough is replacing the shoulder on the right side of Buchanan Street when traveling from Susquehanna Street to Jefferson Street. This year the borough is putting binder in and next year a top coat will be applied. Ms. Bogovich informed council that the left side of Buchanan Street also has drainage problems. Mr. Bowersox said that there are a lot of drainage problems in the development. Mr. Bowersox will look at the street and further discussion will take place at the Property Committee meeting tomorrow night. The street committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the borough hall. Mrs. Bogovich also requested that council consider placing a stop sign on Susquehanna Road at Buchanan Street.

Mrs. Brosius commented about the help received at the underpass this past Saturday and stated that she especially appreciates the help received from Mr. Bob Pinter of WKOK who does not live in Northumberland, and Mr. Jim Dodge, a borough crew member who volunteered his time to help on Saturday. Work done by the borough crew during the week was also appreciated.

Mr. Wolfe announced that he received a letter last week from Mr. Larry Redington, resigning the position of Borough Manager. The letter states that he is unable "to adequately divide his time, effort, and concerns between full time service to the borough as Chief of Police, full time responsibilities as husband and parent, and part time duties of the Borough Manager". At the last meeting, the council had extended his contract. Since that is not binding until September 22, Mr. Redington further acknowledged that the deferred compensation offered is not binding and he makes no claim to this

compensation. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the resignation. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, and Mrs. Kelley voted yes; Mr. Shaffer and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Mr. Wolfe asked the Personnel Committee to make a recommendation to the borough council concerning the Borough Manager position. He also stated that Mr. Redington is going to continue to assist with the Second Street School acquisition. Mr. Bowersox stated that he felt the council should compensate Mr. Redington for the time he has devoted to the Borough Manager position.

The Personnel Committee was asked to discuss this also.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

- ◆ Mr. Redington stated that the Code Enforcement Officer has taken the first appropriate action on the property in the 300 block of Duke Street. Mr. Redington asked if the council would agree to send the Borough Crew to the property to remove a safety hazard, cut the brush, and clean up the property. The building has been declared unfit for human habitation. Mr. Ditton said that one of the borough ordinances states that a structure can be declared a dangerous building and asked if this building could pose a danger. The response was that the building itself is not dangerous, but the porches are. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to authorize the borough crew to remove the brush, the dangerous portions of the structure, and charge the property owner for the borough crew's time, materials and removal and disposal costs of the material involved. The engineer should be consulted if needed to determine structural integrity and his time included in the bill. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All - ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Shaffer made a motion to authorize the borough crew to remove the brush and high weeds around the structure at the Kreamer property on Duke Street. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Bowersox asked how the borough would be reimbursed for this work. The response was that the borough may be able to recover the money at a tax sale if a lien is placed on the property. Roll call vote. All ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Redington said that the crossing guards are working an additional half hour each day because of the bus times for the elementary school. He wanted the council to be aware of this additional cost when preparing the budget. An application has been received for a substitute crossing guard. Mr. Shaffer recommended that the substitute crossing guard be hired upon clearance from the background check. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.

### **Code Officer's Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane submitted reports as a Code Enforcement Officer and as the Street Inspector.

### **Sewer Authority**

Mr. Dan Yapple stated that a problem exists at Fourth and King and Fourth and Orange Streets and that the Sewer Authority will perform the repairs when paving on Seventh Street. He also informed the council that approximately 110 feet of pipe may need to be replaced on 6<sup>th</sup> and North Streets. He asked if the Sewer Authority would be assessed a fee for the street cut permit. Mr. Bowersox made a motion not to charge the Sewer Authority for the street cut permit. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Mr. Ruane will supervise the backfill.

## **Executive Session**

The council went into Executive Session at 8:09 p.m. The council meeting reconvened at 8:25 p.m. During the Executive Session, council discussed litigation and leasing issues.

## **Old Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe read the Borough Manager Ordinance. The word “shall” is now changed to “may”. This is the second and final reading of Ordinance 2000-3. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2000-3. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
2. Mr. Ray Dorley, representing Mrs. Mary Rine, told the council that he is having a problem parking near her home at 746 Front Street to get her in and out of the car. He is requesting that a handicapped parking space be designated in front of her home. The council explained that a handicapped parking space is not issued just because an individual has a placard. Anyone with a placard can park in a handicapped parking space, it is not designated for just one individual. Mr. Dorley asked if a no parking sign could be placed in the alley. People are now parking in the alley overnight and it is impossible to drive through the alley, or to park just for the time required to load and unload passengers. Mr. Shaffer suggested asking the street crew to check the visibility at that corner. Mr. Bowersox suggested that the borough could establish 50-foot setbacks on Front Street, per PennDOT regulations. Mr. Shaffer stated that the Public Safety Committee would review the parking limitations that can be posed with the Police Department.
3. Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough has been receiving suggestions regarding the Second Street School. He made a motion to appoint Mr. Larry Redington, Mrs. Gretchen Brosius, and Mr. Mike Daddario as Co-chairmen of the Second Street School Committee. They are to solicit opinions from borough residents and make a recommendation to the council at the December 19, 2000 meeting. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
4. The bids for the Pineknoller Park Project will be opened on September 27, at 5:45 p.m. before the Finance Committee Meeting. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to award the bid at the September 27 meeting, contingent upon the approval of the solicitor and the engineer. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. Letters will be sent to Atty. Best and Mr. Dave Walters requesting that they be present at that meeting.
5. A curb cut request was received from Mr. Rick Moyer at the last meeting. The Code Enforcement Officer has reviewed the request and presented his recommendation to council that Mr. Moyer be granted permission to take the curbing out and install new curbing approximately four feet north of the current curbing. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the Code Enforcement Officer’s recommendation. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll Call vote. All ayes.
6. The borough has received a correspondence from PennDOT regarding the traffic signal at Fourth and Duke Streets and the flashing warning lights on Front Street as discussed at meeting on Aug. 31, 2000 with Representative Merle Phillips and PennDOT officials. Mr. Redington stated that the borough office received the applications for the traffic light and warnings lights. The correspondence from PennDOT stated that the borough would be obligated to pay for the lights if the studies warrant them. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to forward the completed

documentation to Representative Phillips as instructed by the PennDOT officials at the meeting. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2000, borough council meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The bills to be paid from the general fund total \$7,660.86, from the Liberty Pool account \$797.06, from the Parks and Recreation account \$8,551.26 and from the Liquid Fuels account \$2018.74. Roll call vote. All ayes.
3. A request was received from Ms. Brenda Snook of 661 Duke Street for a handicapped parking space in the alley between Sixth and Seventh Streets on the lower side of Duke Street. Ms. Kelley questioned if a handicapped parking space could be designated in that area since the alley does not have curbing. Mrs. Groninger stated that another municipality has a policy in place not to spot or place handicapped parking. In cases of emergency, they give approval for a handicapped space. The borough would need a resolution to adopt that policy. Mr. Shaffer recommended that the Code Enforcement officer make a record of the handicapped parking spaces throughout the borough. Mrs. Groninger volunteered to try to produce a list of the current spaces for the next council meeting since the Code Enforcement Officer has been so busy. Mr. Redington suggested that the student intern could search the minutes for the requests. Mr. Brosius suggested limiting the handicapped signs for a year. The current request is being tabled until the alley can be checked.
4. The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs requested that the borough council adopt a resolution regarding the PennDOT Maintenance Policy. This would be Resolution E. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt the Resolution E, a resolution declaring the discrepancies in maintenance practices between townships and boroughs by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger asked if this resolution could be taken under advisement until a later date since PennDOT has been working with the borough on various projects and we have an agility agreement. The motion was withdrawn until the next meeting.
5. A request was received from Tricia Stambach for permission to hold a wedding in the gazebo on June 16, 2001 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Slodysko made a motion to allow the use of the gazebo for the wedding, with the stipulation that they clean up the area afterward. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
6. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to allow the Halloween Parade Committee to use the gazebo and park on October 25, 2000 to organize the parade. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
7. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to set the night of October 31, 2000, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for Halloween Trick or Treat. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no.
8. The Northumberland Bank would like to meet to discuss the borough accounts. Mr. Wolfe suggested inviting Mr. Steele or a representative from the bank to a Finance Committee meeting in October. A representative from Snyder County Trust will also be invited to this meeting.
9. Mr. Slodysko requested a letter be sent to Larson Design Group about the cracks in the pool. Mr. Bowersox stated that he believes that they are shrinkage cracks but Larson's should be informed.

10. Mrs. Groninger said that PennDOT is having a meeting at the Point restaurant for the Community Awareness. She also asked if anyone was planning to attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting. Mr. Redington will try to attend the Chamber of Commerce meeting.
11. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to draft a letter requesting reimbursement of thirty-six (36) hours of work for the time spent by the borough crew and the police department as crossing guard, in addition to the taxes and an administrative fee. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
12. Ms. Kelley read a news article about a cat ordinance that was adopted in New Bethlehem.
13. The council does not plan to have a fall cleanup of any type this year. Ms. Kelley said that other communities issue \$20.00 permits to fill a four-foot square.
14. Mr. Daddario congratulated the council on the recent issue of the Pineknottter News.

Mr. Slodysko made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
October 3, 2000 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.  
Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council Members present were Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles Ditton, Mrs. Judy Groninger, Mr. Paul Boxersox, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Ms. Jan Bowman, and 12 visitors who introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Sewer Authority Report**

Mr. Dan Yaple reported at the last meeting that they were planning a project on North Avenue. This project is continuing. The Sewer Authority is advertising for bids for the sewer project on Strawbridge Road from Susquehanna Street to Jefferson Street. The bids will be opened on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Yaple asked how high the manholes should be set. Mr. Bowersox responded that they should be raised an inch and a half above grade, as close as possible. Mr. Bowersox stated that sewer gas is coming out of the storm water inlets on Priestley Avenue. Mr. Yaple investigated one complaint in the 400 block and could not find any problem. Mr. Yaple should be contacted if any future problem arise.

**Code Officer's Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity for the month of September. On September 26, the borough crew cleaned up the property on Duke Street. On September 28, the Health Officer and the Code Officer completed an external inspection of the property and found evidence of rodents. They would like to have permission to have an exterminator come to the property. Atty. Best stated that the owner of the property must be notified. The borough should be able to recover the costs. Mr. Ruane gave the council information concerning a Zoning Hearing Board. He explained that the council should set a fee. Sunbury charges \$135, Milton charges \$300, and Selinsgrove charges \$150 with a stenographer and \$100 without a stenographer. Atty. Brosius gave Mr. Ruane sample applications. Advertisements must be published in the paper twice. When the code officer denies a permit, the party can appeal to the Zoning Board. The fees cover the costs of the advertising, mailing notices to neighbors, and the stenographer. Atty. Best will have a resolution for the October 17 Council Meeting with a fee to be determined at that meeting. Mr. Ruane is going to meet with the code officer in Milton. Council should also appoint an Appeals Board. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to advertise for members of the Appeals Board. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The Appeals Board is a separate board adopted through the BOCA Codes to

appeal a property maintenance ruling by the Borough Code Enforcement Officer. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Public Safety**

Ms. Amanda Boyer of the Northumberland Rescue Squad addressed the council. She will be leaving the area and must resign from the Rescue Squad. She feels that in the best interest of the community, the Rescue Squad should be merged with the Fire Department. The Rescue Squad does not have enough volunteers to make the decision; therefore she is asking the council to decide. Mr. Shaffer said that the Fire Department has expressed an interest in having the Rescue Squad merge with the Fire Department. Currently, Enhanced Management Services is a sub-contractor for the Rescue Squad. They do the hiring, screening, payroll, and taxes. The company is willing to help the borough with the transition. Of the eight members on the squad, one is from Northumberland. There are fourteen employees with the Rescue Squad. Amanda advises staying with the non-profit organization, instead of a for-profit company if possible. Mr. Shaffer said that the Public Safety Committee would work with the Rescue Squad to develop a plan.

### **Old Business**

1. Recycling Building – Mr. Jeff Brooks with Larson Design Group, Inc. presented the drawings for the additions to the Recycle Building. Mr. Redington said that members of the Recycling Center had met with representatives from Larson's in April. Mr. Sees had been instrumental in obtaining a grant for the projects, but plans had not been completed. The Recycling Committee has looked at the drawings and is in agreement with the proposal. DEP is waiting for a contract bid date as a start date of the project. The borough will be advertising for bids. Mr. Brooks stated that the borough might need to advertise for prevailing wage rates for the project. The solicitor will need to advise us if the prevailing wage rates will apply. The two projects are not tied together, so they can be bid separately. The borough does have a time frame to work under in respect to the grant. Mr. Brooks did not do a cost estimate on the buildings. A contractor had estimated approximately \$11,000 for one of the projects and \$25,000 for the other. The one building will not need to be bid out under prevailing wage rates. Mr. Brooks suggested that the contractors provide a separate bid with non-prevailing wages for the second building because if that bid comes in under \$25,000, the project will not need to be awarded at the prevailing wage rate. The final design plans will be completed by next week. Ten sets will be sent to the borough. Mr. Brooks will forward the prevailing wage rate information with the designs. The borough could consider excluding the paving from the bid process to reduce the amount. The information will be available for the October 17, 2000 council meeting.
2. Second Street School
  - ◆ Mr. Redington announced that last Thursday, the borough closed with the School District on the Second Street School.
  - ◆ The Parks and Recreation Commission approached the Property Committee about using the vacant building as a fund-raiser. Permission was requested to use the building as a Haunted House. The Property Committee gave tentative approval so the project could begin. Funds have been applied for from the Anselmo Trust Fund.

Some money is needed for incidental expenses. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to allow the Haunted House. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.

- ◆ Mr. Shaffer made a motion to provide \$500 to the Parks and Recreation Commission from the Parks and Recreation fund for seed money. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Redington was approached by the Senior Action Center with a request to locate the center in the Second Street School Building. Mr. Bowersox had a list of signatures from the members of the Senior Action Center. Mr. Redington told the members of the Senior Action Center that the building would need renovations before it can be utilized.
- ◆ The funding from the state should be received later this year. The school district is willing to provide technical support to instruct the borough employees on how to run the boiler system. A roof is needed, but the borough does not have the money at the present time. Mr. Redington had contacted two contractors. Both have said that the roof needs replaced. The roof would be replaced with the same type of roofing that is presently on the building, rubber. Mr. Bowersox cautioned that if the roof is not replaced soon, there could be structural damage. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to put the roof out for bid. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mr. Shaffer cautioned about spending money that the borough does not have. Mr. Ditton said that putting the roof out for bids would tell us what the project would cost, and if the grant money becomes available, the bid can be awarded. Atty. Best said that the council does not need to accept any bid that is received. Roll call vote. All ayes.

3. Pineknottter Park Project

- ◆ Mr. Wolfe read a letter from Mr. Dave Walters of Larson Design Group, Inc., recommending that the council reject the bid that was received for the Pineknottter Park Project. He felt that the bid was too high because the fill was to be transported from the Mt. Carmel area. Mr. Walters suggested that the borough notify local contractors of the need for fill and the quantity and type of material required. DEP will allow the borough to stockpile material at the site. Once sufficient material is at the site, the borough could let a contract to complete the project. The work would be scheduled for completion in the spring of 2001. Council did not wish to mention the contractor or the bid amount at this time. Mr. Bowersox suggested that the price could be reduced by deleting a portion of the work included in the bid, such as the fence. Mr. Daddario felt that it is important to have the ground and seeding completed this fall. Mr. Wolfe asked if it would be necessary to rebid the project if the borough were to change the project to include just the dirt and reseeding. Atty. Best felt that it would be best to rebid the project. Mayor Wetzel felt that the council should proceed with the project. Mrs. Groninger stated that the borough would either need to borrow the money now or in the spring. Mr. Shaffer asked where the borough could produce the revenue source to repay the debt. Mr. Ditton stated that a debt service could be created. Mr. Shaffer reminded the council that a debt service is also being considered for the street project. Mr. Daddario stated that this has been going on for three years. He feels that the borough should borrow the money to complete the project. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the bid. Mrs. Groninger

- seconded the motion. Mrs. Brosius asked if grant money is available from the state. Mr. Shaffer stated that the majority of that money could not be used for the ground. Grant money can be used for the fence and parking area. The extension is being granted if the borough rejects the bid. Mr. Shaffer felt that the landfill was not closed properly at the time it was closed. Mr. Daddario stated that it was closed properly at the time. Mr. Bowersox felt that the work needed to be completed as soon as possible. Mr. Wolfe called for a Roll Call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted yes; Mr. Shaffer and Ms. Kelley voted no. The motion passed 4-2. Dave Gutelius Excavating Inc. is the contractor at a bid price of \$182,650. However, because the specs had an error stating “per square foot” instead of “per square yard”, the amount for the finish grading, seeding soil supplements and mulching should be estimated at \$40,500 instead of \$4,500. So the actual bid is higher. The work is to be completed in 42 calendar days. Mr. Wolfe suggests contacting the banks to obtain financing. Mr. Gutelius is to be contacted and a meeting scheduled.
4. Mr. Wolfe said that at a meeting last week the Finance Committee approved a five mill increase that is designated as a street improvement fund, in addition to the one mill increase for the general fund for a total of a six mill tax increase. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  5. The Street Committee met with a representative of HRI. The start date for the base repairs on Strawbridge Road is approximately October 16<sup>th</sup>. Specifications were agreed upon at the preconstruction meeting according to Mr. Bowersox, Street Committee Chairman. The waterline at the Kiwanis Building was discussed with HRI. A separate price will be supplied for that paving and it will not be paid for from the Liquid Fuel Funds since this project is on private property. The street crew was asked to have the waterline completed by October 16<sup>th</sup>. HRI will measure the inlets free of charge. They would like the opportunity to bid on replacing the inlets.

Repairs to the manholes on Duke Street have begun. Eastern Industries has requested permission to use a jackhammer with a muffler. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to allow Eastern Industries to use a Bobcat Loader with a hydraulic breaker at night, as little as possible. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

Mr. Bowersox announced that he would be meeting with Mr. King of PennDOT on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. He invited others to attend. He also stated that someone is dumping waste material from paving at Lower Water Street. Contractors are being contacted to determine who was doing the dumping and will be asked to clean up the area.

Mr. Bowersox requested that the borough consider purchasing a saw that can saw concrete and steel because the borough crew is renting a saw to do the work at the Kiwanis Building. He estimates that the cost of a saw should be approximately \$500.00. Mr. Wolfe asked him to get prices.

6. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve Resolution E. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. This resolution declares the discrepancies in the maintenance practices between townships and boroughs by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Discussion. Ms. Kelley asked if the borough has problems with PennDOT. She also questioned if signing the resolution would change the amount the borough receives for Liquid Fuel funds. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Bowersox voted no. The vote was tied 3-3. Mayor Wetzel voted yes. Resolution E was approved.
7. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt Resolution H – restoration of base replacement over a pipe trench, following PennDOT specs that are included in their contracts. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Atty. Best will add an explanatory note to the illustration. Roll call vote. All ayes.
8. Mr. Bowersox asked if the Curb Replacement Ordinance was completed. Atty. Best will have that ordinance ready for review at the next council meeting.
9. Mrs. Groninger reported that the Property Committee met on September 20, 2000 in the borough hall and reviewed the recommendations from Larson Design Group for the certificates of occupancy for the borough buildings. The committee suggests that the recommendations for the Kiwanis building be completed. Once completed, the borough can apply to the state for certificates of occupancy.
10. The borough has received a request from representatives of Mary Kay Cosmetics to rent the Girl Scout Little House every Tuesday night for two hours. The scouts meet Monday nights and the Hemlock Troup leaders meet on Thursday nights. It was reported that the plumbing in the bathroom is need of repair. The borough crew will be asked to check on the plumbing. Mrs. Groninger said that the rent received could be used to pay for heating the building. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to charge the representatives of Mary Kay Cosmetics \$20.00 per night to use the building on Tuesday nights. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted yes. Mr. Ditton abstained because he has a personal interest. Motion passed 5-0. Mrs. Gretchen Brosius suggested that the borough apply to the Anselmo Trust Fund for a grant to repair the Girl Scout Little House. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to apply for the grant; Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The borough has already received money from the Anselmo Trust Fund. Mr. Jack Snyder said that there is a \$7,500 limit that can be granted to any one organization. The Girl Scouts could apply for a grant since they are a separate organization. The motion was withdrawn.
11. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to appoint Tim and Michelle Fink to the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
12. Mr. Shaffer announced that Public Safety Committee would meet on Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m.
13. Resignations were received from Mr. George Gavason, member, and Mr. William Herrold, alternate, of the Zoning Board. Mrs. Groninger moved to appoint Larry Geist to the one-year term, replacing Mr. Gavason. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Geist was appointed to Zoning Board for the term ending August 31, 2001. There is currently one alternate to the Zoning Board, which is the minimum required.

14. Mr. Shaffer made a resolution to apply for the flashing yellow lights on Route 11 traveling south into the borough. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The light will be a dual flashing yellow lights that will be attached to the Congested Area sign. The borough will be responsible for paying for the flashing lights. Roll call vote. Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-1. The resolution was labeled Resolution F. The borough will have the expense of installing the flashing yellow lights. Representative Phillips has instructed the borough to send the requests to his office and he will present them to the state when funds are available for the traffic light at Fourth and Duke Streets.
15. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to apply for a traffic light at the corner of Fourth and Duke Streets. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Carl Spigelmeyer suggested that due to the traffic flow, the borough council should consider placing the light at Fifth and Duke Streets or Third and Duke Streets. By having the traffic light at Fourth and Duke Streets, anyone traveling north on Fourth Street will need to drive around the school to get to the hill section of the borough. Mr. Shaffer stated that traffic from CVS and the railroad yards would benefit from the red light at the Fourth and Duke Streets intersection. Mr. Bowersox stated that the borough has worked for a year and a half to get the issue this far and does not feel it would be wise to change it. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously and was labeled Resolution G.
16. Mrs. Groninger stated that the borough has a total of 20 handicapped parking spaces, five of which are located at churches, in addition to the spaces downtown. A request has been received from Mr. Peter John for a handicapped parking space at 273 Queen Street. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll Call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Ms. Kelley voted yes; Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Mayor Wetzel, who voted yes, broke the tie vote. Motion passed.
17. At the last council meeting, the street committee was asked to make a recommendation for a no parking area along Lackawanna Avenue. Ms. Kelley looked up the codes regarding parking. The codes state that parking shall be prohibited on Front Street from the eastern curblines of all intersecting side streets to a point of a hundred feet east of said curbline. Ms. Kelley stated that this already should be a no parking area. Lackawanna Avenue is on the map of the borough. Ms. Kelley made a motion to paint the setback at Lackawanna Avenue. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Snyder said that if the council votes to establish a no parking area along one alley intersecting with Front Street, they should also adopt the no parking area along all the alleys intersecting with Front Street. Mr. Bowersox stated that the state asked for 50-foot setbacks at all alleys or avenues and 100-foot setbacks at all streets. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the borough crew should be asked to paint yellow lines along all the alleys intersecting with Front Street, according to PennDOT specifications. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

## **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve minutes of the September 5, 2000 meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted yes. Mr. Bowersox abstained because he was not present for that meeting. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The general fund total is \$5,354.15. A bill of \$266.67 for Atty. Best for September's retainer was added, bringing the general fund total to \$5,620.82. The bills from the Liberty Pool Account total \$900.02 and the bills from the Parks and Recreation Account total \$14.51. A check for the Fire Relief Association for \$15,099.90 was sent to the borough from the state. The borough is sending a check to the Fire Relief Association for that amount.
3. A request to use the King Street Park on any Saturday in October was received from Brian Beitz of the United Pentecostal Church, Lewisburg, to conduct an outreach program, Puppets in the Park. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to approve the use of the park for Puppets in the Park for Saturday, October 14, 2000 or Saturday, October 28, 2000. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. The Shikellamy School District has issued an invitation to borough officials to attend the Dedication Ceremony and Open House at the Priestley Elementary School on October 15, 2000. Mr. Wolfe stated that he would attend.
5. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the resignation from Michelle L. Hartford, a part-time patrol officer, effective October 23, 2000. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Ms. Hartford's resignation was accepted with regret. Mr. Wolfe asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to her. Mr. Redington offered to write the letter.
6. The Public Safety Committee will complete the Survey for the Pennsylvania-American Water Company.
7. A letter was received from PG Energy regarding Housels Run Pipeline. Mr. Wolfe signed the letter, acknowledging its receipt.
8. A request was received from Nancy Sassaman for permission to post signs in the park for the Trinity United Church's bazaar on November 3 & 4. The signs will be placed two weeks in advance. A motion was made by Mr. Shaffer, and seconded by Mr. Wolfe to permit the signs in the park. Roll call vote – All ayes.
9. Mr. Wolfe announced that SEDA-Cog would like to schedule a meeting of the Flood Mitigation Committee. Several possible dates were discussed. The meeting was set for Tuesday, October 24, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. The borough office will contact the members of the committee who were not at the council meeting.
10. Deniel Rovenolt, the intern with the borough office, contacted the Center for Local Government Services and spoke with Mr. Ken Johnson to ask if the tapes that are used for recording the borough council meetings are public records. Mr. Johnson stated that if the tapes are purchased with borough funds, they are public property, but the tape is not part of the public record. A record does not become a public record until the council approves it. The Open Records Law talks about approved minutes being public record, but not tapes. He advised that the borough deny access to the minutes until they are approved, and not to give out tapes or allow copies to be made of the tapes. Mr. Johnson also recommended that the tapes be destroyed or reused

once the minutes have been approved. Mr. Wolfe made a motion that, effective immediately, the tapes be destroyed after the minutes are approved. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger stated that the borough has passed a motion to keep the tapes for one year. Mrs. Brosius objects to destroying the tapes because minutes from former council meetings had obtained errors concerning statements she had made. It was necessary to review the tapes to have the record set straight. Anyone may tape the council meeting. Mrs. Brosius recalled that it was necessary to review a tape concerning a question on a storm water issue. Mr. Wolfe stated that the tapes should not be destroyed or reused until after the official record is approved. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Ms. Kelley voted yes; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

11. Mr. Ditton asked about the lease for ground at the car dealer on Water Street. No permanent structures are on the property. Atty. Best's advise that the borough consult DEP was taken under advisement.
12. Ms. Kelley asked about the contract with Cargill Salt. Mr. Bowersox stated that the contract was signed.
13. The Ordinance Committee meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.
14. A Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. The meetings will be advertised in The Daily Item.
15. Ms. Kelley announced that three seminars are available for anyone to attend. They include Planning Commissioner, Zoning Officials, and SubDivision Review. A Penn DOT seminar is available on November 8<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested in attending. The borough crew will be asked if anyone is interested in attending a seminar on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Redington spoke to a representative about the PennDOT partnering program, highway specific training for the street crew. The representative will get back to Mr. Redington.
16. The Property Committee discussed the snow blower. It was suggested that the company in Allenwood come down and train the crew to operate the blower.
17. Mrs. Groninger stated that eight garbage haulers have paid the borough \$25 for garbage permits. Waste Management has refused to pay a permit fee. Mrs. Groninger suggested contacting the other garbage haulers to obtain prices on having the borough garbage hauled away.
18. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the borough crew be instructed to use the snowblower to remove the snow from the curb out to the traffic lane if there is an excessive snowfall of six inches or more. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
19. Mr. Wolfe asked if leaf pickup was scheduled. Mr. Bowersox stated that it could be started anytime.

Council went into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss personnel issues and litigation. The meeting was reconvened at 9:56 p.m. The issues discussed were the Teamsters Contract and a litigation settlement.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay for one half of the additional cost for the pipe for the Joseph Hayter property. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted yes; Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**October 17, 2000 7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag

Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Tom Slodysko. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. George Coxe, the former borough tax collector, spoke about the tax increase of six mills that the council is considering. He feels that the increase is too high for the elderly. According to Mr. Coxe, the millage rate in Point Township is 18 mills. Mr. Coxe feels that the borough should enact an occupation tax or add a flat tax per citizen. Mr. Coxe questioned the number of homeowners in the borough. He feels that it will cost the average homeowner \$300.00 or more. Mr. Coxe provided a list of occupation assessments to the council. The senior citizens would all be in the unemployed category. Mr. Wolfe stated that council is considering charging fees for inspecting rental properties.

Mr. Jack Snyder, the current tax collector, stated that council was approached years ago about requiring that the owner of a rental property inform the borough when a new tenant moves into the rental property. These people would then be added to the tax roles for per capita taxes. He stated that more and more properties are being purchased for rental purposes. Other communities are enforcing stricter codes and Mr. Snyder feels that properties in Northumberland are being purchased for rentals because the borough does not have these strict ordinances.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

- Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, explained to the council that anyone who purchases a property for rental purposes, is to provide off-street parking for the tenants according to the ordinances. If the code officer knows that a property is being rented, he can contact the owner and see that the codes are enforced. Currently, Mr. Ruane has no way of knowing if a property is being purchased as a rental property.
- At the October 3, 2000 council meeting, council requested that Mr. Ruane make recommendations regarding Zoning Hearings. He has met with code officers from Milton and Sunbury. Mr. Ruane recommended a fee of \$300 per hearing to cover the costs for a Zoning Hearing. The Zoning Board’s solicitor, Atty. Brosius, would assume the responsibility of advertising for the hearing, and obtaining and paying for a stenographer. Currently the borough does not charge a fee for a Zoning Hearing.
- Mr. Ruane met with Mr. Jim Gerdun, the architect from PWCampbell who is overseeing the construction for the Northumberland National Bank addition. Local contractors are being hired for the bank project, which could begin next week. Mr. Redington stated that the bank, through the contractor, is seeking permission to close a portion of Wheatley Avenue for one to two months. The addition to the bank is being constructed adjacent to Wheatley Avenue, and they feel that they will need to dig across approximately one half of Wheatley Avenue to

excavate safely. Fasold Brothers will still have access to the rear of their building. One lane of traffic can be open in case of an emergency. Pedestrian traffic will be permitted. Emergency services will need to be made aware of the construction and take alternate routes during this time. Mr. Ruane said that the bank plans to pave the street.

- Mr. Shaffer made a motion to permit the alley to be closed, and stipulated that the bank is to be responsible for full restoration to the alley in a method that is OCEA approved. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Council also decided that if the storm water drain is affected, it should be corrected. Roll call vote. All - Ayes.
- Mr. Bowersox made a motion to charge \$300.00 for each Zoning Board Appeal Hearing. An Appeal Hearing is necessary for a variance or exception. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Atty. Best advised that a resolution be adopted. Mr. Wolfe tabled the motion until the November 6, 2000 council meeting, at which time Atty. Best will have a resolution prepared.

### **Old Business**

1. The final drawings for the additions to the Recycling Building have been received from Larson Design Group, Inc. The borough can proceed with advertising for the bids. The bid deadline was set for 4:30 p.m. November 20, 2000. The opening of the bids will be November 21, 2000 during the regularly scheduled council meeting.
2. Council gave permission for Mr. Redington to advertise a public hearing regarding the Second Street School for grant purposes. Mr. Wolfe announced that the borough will receive \$175,000 from the state, thanks in part to Representative Phillips and Mr. Redington. The money should be received by the end of the year. The council plans that this money will be used for the purchase of the school, a new roof and heating system. Council had approved advertising for bids for the roofing at a prior meeting. Borough crew workers have patched areas on the roof that have been leaking. An employee of the Shikellamy School District will meet with the borough crew concerning heating the building. The school district did not clean the building, but with the construction of the Haunted House, volunteers have done some cleaning in the building. The dumpster has been emptied once at a charge of \$90.00.
3. Pineknott Park Project Update
  - Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt a Resolution J. This resolution is needed to apply for a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Borough of Northumberland Pineknott Park Recreation Area Rehabilitation and Recreation Planning Project. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  - Mr. Wolfe announced that at the last meeting, the council voted to accept a bid for the Pineknott Park Project, even though the borough does not have money to complete the project. The contractor will not be able to complete the project until the spring because it is too late in the year to seed the property. The council discussed its options in resolving this issue. Mr. Ditton questioned why the council had been informed that the ground at Furman's was no longer available. This was the information Larson's had received from Furman's and the reason they had looked for ground elsewhere. The bid had included the costs of hauling the material from the Mt. Carmel area. The contractor reduced the bid by \$21,600.00 because the material would be hauled from Furman's instead of Mt. Carmel.
  - Mr. Ditton asked if the borough had to award the contract if the contractor states that he cannot fulfill the contract and complete the seeding this year. Mr. Bowersox stated that all contracts are let under weather conditions, therefore the contractor is not refusing to honor the contract by seeding in the spring. Atty. Best concurred.
  - Mrs. Klopp asked why the borough would approve a bid if they have no money. Mr. Bowersox stated that no money had been budgeted for Pineknott Park in last year's budget by that borough council and the state is requiring that this work be done. Mr.

Bowersox stated that a bond could have been floated. Mr. Shaffer said that everyone had voted to adopt the 2000 budget.

- Mrs. Brosius stated that DEP approved Pineknott Park fifteen years ago, but are now requiring that the borough provide additional ground cover to the dump area.
  - Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough could obtain a loan for \$100,000 this year and budget for the remainder of the cost in the 2001 budget. Payments will be required in thirty days and sixty days. The \$40,000.00 for the seeding will be needed in the spring.
  - Mr. Daddario said that this project should have been included in the budget several years ago when the problem arose and never was. Mr. Bowersox suggested that the borough obtain a price for sod for the area. Mr. Redington is applying for a grant for the playground area. This money cannot be used for the current project.
  - Mr. Wolfe stated that a Northumberland National Bank representative would be at the Finance Committee meeting tomorrow evening. Mr. Shaffer asked if any existing line items were being cut in the 2001 budget to pay for this project. Mr. Shaffer said that the borough could obtain alternate funding if it is necessary to borrow more than the \$100,000.00. The process would take two to three months, and would not jeopardize the 2001 budget. Mr. Wolfe stated that he had hoped to budget money for a contingency account. Instead, that money that will be designated for Pineknott Park. None of the existing line items in the 2001 budget would be cut.
  - Mr. Dave Walters, of Larson Design Group, Inc., is preparing the contract with the reduced costs for the hauling of the material. The office will contact Mr. Walters to obtain the contract before the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Wolfe tabled the issue until the November 6, 2000 meeting. Discussion was held to have a special meeting before November 6<sup>th</sup> to resolve this issue.
  - A special meeting to discuss the Pineknott Park project was set for October 23, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Walters will be contacted and asked to be present for this meeting. The meeting, which is open to the public, will be advertised.
4. Mr. Ditton asked that an advertisement be placed in the Daily Item announcing a Personnel Committee meeting. The committee will meet with the representatives of the Teamsters Union on October 23, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. This meeting is closed to the public.
  5. Mr. Wolfe announced that a Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the 2001 budget.
  6. Street Committee Report
    - Atty. Best completed the legal terminology for Resolution H, Detail of Base Replacement over Pipe Trench, which had been adopted at the October 6, 2000 meeting. Mr. Wolfe read and signed the resolution.
    - A resolution and deed of dedication for the Priestley Avenue extension are needed to apply for Liquid Fuel Funds. Atty. Best will have the documents prepared for the November 6, 2000 council meeting.
    - Mr. Wolfe asked when the Strawbridge Road project would begin. Mr. Bowersox stated that HRI is completing a job on Route 11 and will begin on Strawbridge this week or next.
  7. Mr. Shaffer reported that the Public Safety Committee met last week. Several issues were discussed.
    - The Fire Authority proposal has been tabled pending further action on the part of the Fire Board obtaining unanimous support from the fire companies.
    - The Fire Police received a \$20,000 state grant to purchase a new vehicle. They are looking at a Suburban and would like permission to store the vehicle at the Rescue Building. The Suburban will replace the Fire Police van that is currently in use.

- Mr. Ditton asked why council had been informed that both fire companies were in favor of the Fire Authority. Mr. Shaffer stated that the fire companies had approved the authority and had sent their representatives to the Fire Board. The Fire Board voted to form the Fire Authority. The No. 1 Fire Department met the night before the Public Safety Committee meeting and voted not to form a Fire Authority at this time. A letter was sent to the borough council explaining this decision.
- Mr. Bowersox told the rest of the council that a newsman from Channel 16 was in the borough office today for information regarding a newscast about the No. 1's.
- Mr. Wolfe stated that he feels that the concept of a Fire Authority is a good one if every fire company and every council member were in favor of the Fire Authority. However, at the current time, five council members would be needed to support the authority. This is due to the fact that Mayor Wetzel has publicly announced that he would veto the formation of a Fire Authority, and five votes are required to override a veto. Mr. Bowersox stated that he had asked for audited financial statements from both companies and that neither company supplied audited financial statements.
- The Public Safety Committee also discussed the hiring of a sixth police officer. The unfilled, full-time position is currently in the budget. After consulting with the solicitor, the previous case of a possible lawsuit is no longer a factor. The borough has accepted a federal grant with the justice department to finance the position. In addition, a part-time officer has recently resigned, and that position was also funded by a federal grant and should be replaced. Mr. Wolfe stated that the proposed 2001 police budget includes the amount of \$31,000 for a sixth police officer. He explained that if the council does not vote to hire a sixth police officer, the borough would be required to pay Ms. Spigelmeyer, the officer hired under the COPS grant, an additional dollar an hour. The borough would also need to repay the grant money that has been received toward her salary, between \$14,000 and \$17,000. Mr. Shaffer cautioned that by returning the grant money, the borough would be jeopardizing future grants for personnel, equipment, and special services with the justice department. The borough does not qualify as a distressed community. Atty. Best clarified the situation; the Cope case is not closed completely. However, Mr. Cope failed to avail himself of the right to sue the borough for handicapped discrimination. His Worker's Compensation case is closed. He could still raise a Heart and Lung Claim with the borough, but has not done so to this date. Atty. Best feels that the concern of future liability with Mr. Cope is very slight at this time. Mr. Ditton stated that the personnel committee is recommending that the part-time police officer be replaced. He also recommended that the Finance Committee discuss whether to budget for the sixth police officer in the 2001 budget at the meeting on October 18. Mr. Shaffer stated that the sixth officer is included in the 2000 budget.
- Mr. Shaffer made a motion to fulfill the sixth full-time officer in the 2000 budget as it is currently funded. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton does not feel that another officer should be included in the budget until the Cope case is completely resolved. Mrs. Groninger voiced concern that the borough would not be prepared if Mr. Cope should file another suit. Mr. Shaffer stated that if Mr. Cope files a Heart and Lung case and wins, he would be required to reimburse the borough for the twenty-six weeks of pay that he received. Atty. Best agreed. Roll call vote. Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Shaffer voted yes; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion failed 2-5.
- Mr. Bowersox made a motion that since the council voted not to hire the sixth police officer, the borough should return the grant money and pay Officer Kelly Spigelmeyer the additional dollar an hour. The motion died for a lack of a second.

- Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the borough council hires a replacement, part-time police officer who would be paid with the part-time grant. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  - Mr. Ditton made a motion to obtain a new list from the Civil Service Commission for a part-time police officer. Mr. Redington stated that the current eligibility list includes two names. Once this list is exhausted, the council may request a new list from the Civil Service Commission. The motion was withdrawn.
  - Mrs. Klopp asked if there was a reason not to hire a sixth full-time officer other than finances. She was told no.
8. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to adopt Resolution I for changing the description in the agreement with Northumberland County regarding the VFW building. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Mr. Bowersox stated that under the original lease agreement, the county agreed to pay the utility bills. The original lease agreement was read, as well as the addendum of September 15, 1998. The county has not paid the borough for the utility bills. Mr. Wolfe asked for a roll call vote on the resolution. Roll call vote. Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Wolfe voted yes; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
  9. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that an invoice is to be sent to the county for the utilities as agreed upon in the original lease agreement. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  10. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to appoint Mr. Russell Meachum, currently an alternate to the Zoning Board, to the vacated term that expires on August 31, 2001. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes. The borough will advertise for residents interested in serving as alternates on the Zoning Board. Atty. Eugene Brosius is the solicitor for the Zoning Board. The next meeting of the Zoning Board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that there have been inaccurate statements about the Zoning Board in the newspaper; but the Daily Item will not publish letters from public officials to clarify the situation or state their opinions. Mr. Wolfe would like the public to know that the council was acting on the advice of its legal council. The borough had a board comprised of members who had not been appointed for a number of years. The Zoning Board is not appointed for life like the Supreme Court. Any member of the community should be allowed to actively seek a seat on the Zoning Board, the Borough Council, the Planning Commission, etc. When the terms end, the members of the Zoning board need to be re-appointed, or new members appointed. Atty. Best read a letter that he wrote to President Bryan Wolfe, clarifying the position of the council's process in appointing a new Zoning Board. This letter is included in the records. Atty. Best also read a letter, dated October 17, 2000, that he wrote to Mr. Herrold directing him to return the Zoning Board minute books to the Borough Office within ten days. Mr. Herrold has refused to return the minute books to the borough office until he receives a copy of the tape of the September 19, 2000 council meeting. The borough does not have minutes of Zoning Board meetings for the past ten years, except for one meeting. Mr. Herrold told Atty. Best that he does not have any other items in his possession, except for the minute books. Mr. Wolfe stated that a number of people have asked him why Mr. Herrold's daughter was not re-appointed to the Zoning Board. Mr. Wolfe does not think that there was an effort not to reappoint her. The solicitor was asked if it was legal for a father and daughter who live in the same house to serve on the Zoning Board. He responded that it was legal; but whether or not it was ethical was another question. Mrs. Groninger recommended that a locked filing cabinet be provided for the Zoning Board to store their minutes and materials since none of the Zoning Board members have keys to the office. The cabinet could be placed in the hallway. Several council members serve on the Planning Commission so they do have access to the office.

## **New Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2000 Council Meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay the bills and to transfer money from the General Contingency Account to the UDAG Account to pay for the street sweeper payment. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The total of bills from the General Fund is \$13,285.85. The bills to be paid with Liquid Fuel Account total \$2,282.99, the Liberty Pool bills total \$119.52, and the bills from the Parks and Recreation Account total \$7,491.72. Other bills to be paid total \$167.01. Roll call vote – all ayes.
3. A bill was received from L/B Water Service for \$2,484.00 for pipe that was installed at the Hayter property. The council had voted at a prior meeting to pay \$602.82 toward this expense, which is one half of the additional cost of the pipe. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that the borough pay one half of the additional amount, \$602.82, to L/B Water Service and a letter be included instructing them to bill Mr. Hayter for the remaining amount. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
4. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to reappoint Mr. William Roll to the Civil Service Commission for six-year term ending October 31, 2006. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The other members of the Civil Service Commission are Mrs. Hope Kopf and Mr. Roger Johnson.
5. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the exonerations received from the Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. for Teri Boyle (duplicate bill) and Francis Baker (paid in Ralpho Township). Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
6. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve traffic control on Duke Street for the Tree of Love dedication service at SUN Home Health Services on December 12, 2000. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. SUN Home had request that traffic be re-routed. Council did not feel this would be necessary and felt that traffic control for the fifteen-minute duration of the ceremony would suffice. Roll call vote – all ayes. A letter will be sent to SUN Home informing them of the decision.
7. PennDOT Meetings regarding the Route 15 bypass are scheduled for December 6 at Tedd's on the Hill, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m., and at the Selinsgrove Middle School from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
8. Mrs. Groninger moved to purchase floor mats for the borough building, and discontinue obtaining the mats through the Tri-State Laundry Service. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
9. Mrs. Groninger has obtained a list of the street cuts that are in need of repair. Mr. Bowersox questioned what the stipulations were in the former ordinances pertaining to street cuts. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the borough request that the utilities repair the street cuts. She told the council that the leaf picker is out and running. Because the street crew is extremely busy, Mrs. Groninger asked that the crew be given written requests, in advance whenever possible, so the crew can plan their work.
10. Mr. Bowersox informed the council members Light and Heigle Associates has billed the borough \$271.00 for as-built drawings for the Priestley Avenue Extension. Mr. Bowersox spoke with Mr. Alan Ziegler regarding the bill because he had understood that the drawings were to be included as part of the contract. This had been discussed at a meeting held at Emmanuel Homes with the engineer and Emmanuel Homes. Mr. Bowersox told Mr. Ziegler that the bill would be turned over to the solicitor.
11. Mr. Shaffer told the council that the library has a problem with water coming down Front Street and crossing the sidewalk to the double doors of the library because the curbing is not high enough on the Front Street. Mr. Bowersox thought that at one time a driveway was at

the back of the library and there may be a depressed curb. Mr. Bowersox also stated that PennDOT owns up to the curb. Mr. Shaffer requested that the Street Committee speak with the librarian.

12. Mrs. Groninger stated that the council owes Mr. Bowersox gratitude for having Eastern Industries come back to raise the manholes and inlets on Duke Street. Mr. Bowersox said that the intersection adjustments along Duke Street are not level and collect water. He has requested that the borough walk the final inspection with Penn DOT. Mr. Shaffer questioned if the curbs were to be cut back at the corner of King and Water Streets when the new traffic lights are installed. Ms. Kelly said that she did not think PennDOT was planning to widen the street.
13. Mr. Ditton suggested that the borough thank Gretchen Brosius for obtaining the new benches in the park. A letter will be sent. Mr. Wolfe said that the Improvement Committee is working on obtaining new signs for entrances to the borough.
14. A letter has been received from Larson Design Group regarding the cracks in the Liberty Pool. They are common shrinkage cracks and no repairs are needed or recommended.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**November 6, 2000 7:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe.

Pledge to the Flag

Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton, and Mrs. Judith Groninger. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Borough Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The guests present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mrs. Patty Young commented about the work that was completed at the railroad underpass. The concrete walls were checked by a specialist and pronounced hazardous and in need of major repair. The railroad has stated that the underpass is PennDOT's responsibility. PennDOT claims that it is the railroad's responsibility. Mrs. Young recommends that the borough write to the PUC about the situation. Plans are to paint the railing and cement in the spring, according to Mrs. Young. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that Norfolk and Southern Railroad be notified to correct the situation of the decaying abutments, requesting the concrete be cored, and have the compression test taken on the core to prove that the underpass is structurally sound. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- ButterKrust Baking Company  
Atty. Roger Wiest, introduced Mr. James Apple and Mr. John Apple, principals with the ButterKrust Baking Company. Atty. Wiest informed the council members about an expansion project that is being planned by ButterKrust. The company is proposing to use the property at 5<sup>th</sup> and Hanover Streets to bake bread and rolls. ButterKrust purchased the building from CVS in 1991. Atty. Wiest explained that normally a manufacturing use is not allowed in an R-2 area. Because the warehouse existed prior to the adoption of the zoning ordinance, it represents a nonconforming use, exempting it from normal zoning regulations. Article 15 in the Borough Ordinance does not either authorize or prohibit a change of a nonconforming use. Therefore, there is no change under the ordinances, in their opinion, if ButterKrust uses the building for warehousing, frozen storage, or baking. They have used the warehouse since 1991 for warehousing and frozen storage. Part of the current expansion could include a baking process. Atty. Wiest invited the council members to ask questions or offer comments regarding the expansion. Mr. Shaffer asked if potential employment growth existed with this expansion. Initially, approximately 15 to 20 jobs will be created, according to Atty. Wiest. The potential exists for additional employees in the future. Atty. Best's legal opinion was that the council does not need to act upon this proposal at this time. Atty. Wiest assured the council that the proposed expansion will comply with all aspects of the zoning ordinances. Mr. Wolfe stated that he welcomes the additional jobs in the town. Atty. Wiest explained that their visit was a courtesy to inform the council in advance of the company's plans. He added that if the council voiced opposition to the company's expansion, the company would not proceed. But they are hoping for approval. Mrs. Groninger

commended the company, describing them as good neighbors, and thanked their drivers for being considerate while operating Holsum trucks on Fifth Street. Mrs. Groninger's opinion was that Northumberland welcomes companies like Holsum to our town. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to support ButterKrust in their endeavor. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. Ruane reported on the activity for the month of October. He exhibited a form, developed by Deniel Rovenolt, the borough intern, that will be posted on properties whose owners request a zoning variance. Mr. Ruane was given permission to obtain zoning and code books needed for upcoming classes and tests. He has also attended the Zoning Board Meetings, which are held on the last Tuesday of each month.

Mr. Ruane reported on the activity for the month as street inspector. The work has been completed on Strawbridge Road, Buchanan Street, and the trench at the Kiwanis Building. The work on Fourth Street should be completed in two more weeks.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion that Mr. Ruane's pay be increased to \$10.50 per hour beginning October 23<sup>rd</sup> for his work as street inspection supervisor. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

Mr. Dan Yapple announced that the Sewer Authority has completed its work on North Avenue and will be starting on Strawbridge Road soon. They have patched the intersections at Fourth and Orange Streets and Fourth and Hanover Streets. The contractor for the Strawbridge Road project is Glen O. Hawbaker.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Bryan Wolfe made a motion to adopt Resolution L, approving the Point Township Act 537 Plan Update. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. According to Mr. Yapple, the sewer plant is able to accept the additional sewage. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe announced that the first ward residents will be voting at the Second Street School. There had been some confusion as to the name of the building listed in the newspaper. The Northumberland Community Center and the Second Street School are the same building. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to change the name of the Second Street School to the Northumberland Community Center. Others felt that council should wait until the committee completes its work and brings its recommendations to council. Mr. Wolfe tabled the motion.
3. Mr. Redington announced that profits from the Haunted House total about \$4800.00 for the Parks and Recreation Committee. He said that the high school student volunteers were instrumental in helping the committee. Mr. Shaffer estimated that 2,200 to 2,300 people attended. A special thank you was given Mr. Greg Carl for his assistance in creating the Haunted House.
4. The Second Street School Committee recommended that a public meeting regarding the Second Street School be held on December 19, 2000. Mr. Redington informed the council that there is no heat at the school. A boiler specialist will look at the boiler on Wednesday at 5:30 and if possible, the heat will be started. The bids have not yet been advertised for the roof. The patching has held up thus far. Mr. Redington said that the report provided to the council members from the Shikellamy School District reveals the location of asbestos that is in the school.

5. **Pineknotted Park Project** - Mr. Dave Walters, of Larson Design Group, Inc. told council that he spoke with Brian Hurst of Gutelius Excavating, Inc. They are in the process of obtaining the performance bonds and insurance certificates and will return the contracts to Larson's. Mr. Hurst requested written notification that "top soil" is not required at Pineknotted Park. He did not give a start date. Mr. Bowersox recommended that the proctor be mixed and tested before the work is started. Mr. Walters said that the contractor would mix the proctor. Mr. Ditton asked why it has taken so long to begin this project. Mr. Walters said that Furman Foods had informed Larson's that the ground was no longer available so it was necessary to search for other ground. He offered to research the information for the council. Mr. Shaffer asked when the work would begin. The notice to proceed will be issued as soon as Gutelius has signed the contract, the performance and payment bonds are appropriately signed, and the insurance bonds are accurate. The time frame to review these items should take one day, providing no problems arise. Mrs. Groninger asked what would happen if the ground becomes frozen. Mr. Bowersox said that there should be no reason to delay the project due to cold weather providing the first course is spread before the ground is frozen. Mr. Walters believes Gutelius wants to start the work as soon as possible and that the borough does have recourse. The contractor has fifteen days to return the contract and bond documents. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council had voted at a special meeting to accept a \$100,000 loan from Snyder County Trust. This is a fixed loan at 5.85% for ten years, an approximate \$1,100 per month payment. Since there may have been a conflict of interest when the vote was taken, Mr. Wolfe asked that council vote again. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to obtain the \$100,000 loan from Snyder County Trust. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mrs. Groninger abstained. Motion passed 5-0, with one abstention.

#### 6. **Street Committee Report**

- ◆ The borough is on Eastern Industry's list to obtain anti-skid at a cost of \$8.50 per ton, if needed.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox obtained a price for 2-A material to do the pipe work. The cost is \$4.80 per ton, or \$6.80 per ton, delivered. The amount needed is 50 to 100 tons.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox has prices to be approved for the inlets and pipes. The price for 1,000 feet of 24-inch, PennDOT approved, smooth core plastic pipe, at \$8.65 per linear foot, would total \$9,082.50. The price for 500 feet of 18-inch PVC pipe, at \$5.75 per linear foot, would total \$3018.75. The price for 500 feet of 15-inch plastic pipe at \$3.85 per linear foot would total \$1995.00. The total cost for the pipe would be approximately \$14,100. The total cost for the seventeen inlets is estimated at \$8,940. The lowest prices for the pipe were obtained from Fry's Plastics. Mr. Bowersox spoke with a PennDOT representative regarding renting labor and equipment. He stated that Force Accounts are for projects where a price cannot be obtained in advance because the depth of the pipes cannot be determined until the work is begun. Mr. Bowersox said that if the borough pays fifty-one percent of the bill, the work may be put out on a Force Account. Atty. Best's opinion is that the borough cannot rent labor and equipment. Atty. Best was requested to contact Mr. Don Free of PennDOT. Mr. Bowersox stated that the Blue Book provides costs of equipment and drivers for Force Account work. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve putting the pipe and inlets out for bid. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Wolfe read Ordinance No. 2000-4, Curb Cut Ordinance. Mr. Bowersox stated that instead of a curb cut, the term should be removal and replacement of depressed curb. Mr. Bowersox recommended that the width of the driveway should be fifteen

feet, considering the radius of entering and exiting the driveway. Council discussed what the minimum width of driveways should be. Mr. Wolfe asked that the Street Committee make recommendations regarding driveway widths at the next meeting.

- ◆ Mr. Wolfe tabled the reading of Resolution K, Fees for Curb Cuts, until the Street Committee recommends the driveway widths for Ordinance 2000-4.

## **7. Finance Committee Report**

- Mr. Wolfe announced that the committee met today and is close to approving the 2001 budget. At the last meeting, the committee approved hiring a sixth police officer under the COPS grant at a salary of \$31,091. If the sixth police officer is not hired, the cost to the borough would be more next year because the grant would have to be repaid. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to hire the sixth police officer for the fiscal year 2001. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger questioned the additional costs for benefits. The uniform allowance is \$400; the reimbursement for eye/ dental care is \$400; hospitalization would be \$2,319 for a single person or \$6,034 for someone with a family. The total cost would be between approximately \$34,000 to \$37,000 per year. Mr. Redington stated that an additional officer would reduce the overtime required to cover the shifts. Overtime to cover court hearings would still be necessary. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted yes; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.
- Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough has a major expense at Pineknott Park for which past councils have failed to budget. Next year, approximately \$100,000 will be needed for this expense. Mr. Wolfe explained that the Finance Committee has met many times to work on the budget and the borough is limited in how it can raise revenue to pay for the expenses, including the money necessary to pay for the Pineknott Park project. The millage rate for general purpose use has been approved by the Finance Committee and includes a one mill increase. One mill is equal to approximately \$13,000. The cost for GHP for the borough employees is increasing for 2001. The committee has also approved a five mill tax increase, called the Street Improvement Fee. This increase must be approved by one of the Northumberland County judges. Atty. Best is writing the petition for the millage increase to be presented to the Northumberland County Judge.
- Since the borough is limited in how it can incur additional revenues to pay for the Pineknott Park, a project that is required to be completed by DEP, the Finance Committee has preliminarily approved the inclusion of three different types of fees. The first is a "Moving In and Inspection Fee". When an apartment is vacated, and prior to a new renter moving in, the code enforcement officer will inspect the apartment unit at a fee of \$125.00. Each year, the landlord will be charged a \$25.00 "Rental Fee" for each unit. If the unit was inspected as part of the Moving In fee, the Rental Fee will not apply. Also instituted was a "Violation Fee" of \$250.00 per violation, if the landlord does not comply. The Violation Fee doubles for each violation. Atty. Best is drafting an ordinance pertaining to these fees. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Daily Item failed to report that many of the apartment buildings in the borough had been family homes. There is a concern that some apartment buildings in the borough are not safe and need to be inspected. Mr. Wolfe does not think that Northumberland is unique in that other communities have instituted or have considered instituting similar inspections. Mr. Shaffer added that Sunbury has an inspection program for their rental properties; Lewisburg is implementing a policy. Mr. Wolfe stated that currently 418 rental units are in the borough, 36 of these are in the mid-rise. These units do not include double houses, where the landlord lives on one side and rents out the other. Other issues to be decided are boarding houses and

renting to relatives. Atty. Best advised that the borough could exempt non-profit landlords. Mr. Charles Snyder asked if any council member owns a rental. Mr. Shaffer has owned rental properties. He feels that rentals should be inspected because some are not safe. He has been in rental units where extension cords were plugged into a single receptacle in the ceiling to power units in the room. Mr. Snyder asked why the borough must charge a fixed fee if the property is up to code. He was told that the borough does not know if the property is approved until it has been inspected. Mr. Shaffer feels that the absentee landlords create the problem. The borough has a code officer to enforce the ordinances and is now implementing a fee. Mr. Snyder suggested that the landlord should be penalized if he does not maintain the property. Landlords who maintain their properties should not have to pay \$125 for an inspection if no violations are found. Mrs. Groninger noted that landlords are self-employed business people because they rent for a profit. Atty. Best stated that landlords do not pay occupation tax since rental income is a passive income. These fees could be passed on to the tenant. Mr. Don Frye stated that new tenants must now pay two months rent and a security deposit in advance and pay the utilities. Mr. Ditton stated that the landlords determine the amount of the security deposits. This is the landlords' requirements of the tenant. Mrs. Groninger asked if the property owners would prefer to have property taxes raised. At a previous meeting, people with fixed incomes attended the meeting to oppose a raise in the property taxes. The council feels that the people who use the streets should contribute to their upkeep. This would include the renters. The council is trying to find a fair way to fund the additional revenue necessary to pay the bills, including Pineknott Park. Other areas in the borough need to be addressed, such as the streets, the storm sewers, and curbing. Ms. Kelley stated that the council is looking to revamp the borough ordinances because the fees are archaic. Atty. Best stated that currently, the Code Enforcement Officer does not have the authority to inspect a property unless he receives a complaint. The council wants to provide for inspections so problems can be identified. Atty. Best will have an ordinance ready in two weeks. Mr. Snyder requested that the council look into the inspection fees further before making a final decision.

8. The borough is waiting for Northumberland County to approve the resolution changing the boundaries stipulated in the lease agreement regarding the VFW building on Water Street. The chief clerk for Northumberland County has requested that the borough agree to end the lease agreement now rather than in 2002. Since one stipulation agreed upon in the lease is that the county will pay the utility bills for the VFW, borough council is not in favor of an early end to the lease agreement. Atty. Best was asked to send a letter to the County Commissioners requesting that a resolution approving an addendum to the lease agreement be adopted. It was also requested that a copy of this letter be sent to DCNR.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2000. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe asked if the alternate position to the Zoning Board was advertised. It was. Mr. Wolfe would like the Parks and Recreation Board to provide a copy of its 2001 budget to the Finance Committee. Mrs. Groninger suggested that an outside committee should audit the accounts for the Parks and Recreation Board as standard good business practice. Others agreed. Roll call vote on the motion to approve the minutes – All ayes.

2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The motion included additional bills that were not on the itemized sheets. The total amount due from the General Fund is \$20,074.34; the Liquid Fuel account - \$367.42; Liberty Pool account - \$83.73; and the Parks and Recreation account - \$117.85. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaffer, to accept Judy Holdren’s resignation. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Bowersox moved to hire Silvia Bucher to clean the Borough Hall. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. The Tuckahoe Fire Company requested permission to use the Second Street School for training. Mr. Redington will contact Mr. Crebs for more information.
5. Ms. Kelley explained that PG Energy is extending a larger gas line through the borough. They would like to install the line along the railroad, turn up Front Street to Wheatley Avenue, and turn down Wheatley Avenue to Priestley Avenue. The alternate routes traverse Third or Fourth Streets and Wheatley Avenue to Priestley Avenue. The Street Committee met with PG Energy representatives and requested that the route continues along the railroad right-of-way, under Route 11, and turn up Priestley Avenue. PG Energy has requested that the borough wave the street cut fee in exchange for their paying to pave the streets that are excavated. The Sewer Authority has informed the PG Energy that large sewer lines extend down Wheatley Avenue and the Sewer Authority would not like to see this street be dug up. Mrs. Groninger and Ms. Kelley prefer that the line be extended along the railroad instead of running it through the town. No lateral work is planned along this new line. The twelve-inch main will reduce the pressure in the present lines. The plans do not indicate the depth of the excavation. Ms. Kelley stated that a representative from PG Energy was expected to attend the council meeting. Mr. Walters has looked at the plans, but there were no restoration details. He will contact Mr. Kevin Marion, the representative from PG Energy, to obtain more information and report his findings to Mr. Bowersox. The business owners in town were present to voice their disapproval of the gas line being run through the business district. Mr. Charles Snyder, Mr. Don Frye, Mr. Jeff Fasold and Mrs. Laurie Berard are all opposed to this plan, especially during the Christmas season. The council assured them that they are not interested in shutting the street down, especially at this time of year.
6. Mr. Charles Snyder asked if the meters would be covered for the month of December. He is not in favor of covering the meters. The bank employees have been provided with a lot, but several of them are parking on King and Front Streets. Tenants living in the area park on the streets when the meters are covered. The business owners present stated that it is difficult for their customers to find parking spaces. Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion to cover the parking meters. No motion was offered.
7. Mr. Dave Walters stated that the painting of the pool is to be completed by Keister’s to finish the contract. They cannot paint it any more this year, because of the weather. The cost to paint the floor and the walls was approximately \$3,400. Mr. Walters will speak with Mr. Slodysko.
8. Mr. Redington is working on a grant application for lights at Pineknott Park. DEP would like a plan sheet showing where the poles would be located and a PPC (pollution prevention control) plan, which addresses odor and leachate. The cost for Larson Designs to draw up the PPC plan is \$2,000 to \$3,000. Mr. Redington stated that the chances of obtaining the grant look good and money has been budgeted in the grant to pay for the PPC plan. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the expense for the PPC plan. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger,

Mr. Bowersox, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted yes; Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

9. The Flood Mitigation Committee met with SEDA-COG. Letters and questionnaires are being sent to owners of properties that lie in the flood plain. A surveying team will be visiting these properties. An article will be in the newspaper regarding this project. A public meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2001.
10. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Priestley Avenue Extension work has been prepared so the borough can obtain Liquid Fuels funds for the street. A deed of dedication must be recorded as well as an ordinance to accept the street. Atty. Best is working on this ordinance and obtaining a deed.
11. The cost for the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Fund for the police for 2000 is \$21,144. A check for \$14,801.36 has been received from the state towards this cost. The plan includes the active and retired police officers. A representative of the PMRS is to meet with council members to explain the pension plan. The council had been told that the borough would be reimbursed by the state for the funds, however, the reimbursement for 2000 does not cover the entire amount.
12. Penn DOT has conducted a vehicle count on Front Street between Hanover and Wallace Avenue. The daily traffic volume was 11,227 vehicles. Mr. Shaffer asked why the count was not taken between Orange and King Streets, which would have reflected the cars that turn onto Front Street from Prince, Hanover, and Orange Streets. PennDOT had been asked to count the cars at that area as well as further north on Front Street to obtain the increase in the amount of traffic from the borough streets. The traffic count was conducted at one location on Front Street and one location on Water Street.

The council meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. and reconvened at 9:57 p.m. Litigation and personnel issues were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
November 21, 2000**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Mr. Tom Slodysko, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, and Mrs. Judith Groninger. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzell, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dale Heim, representative from the Northumberland Housing Authority, Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The five visitors in attendance introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Michael Daddario asked about covering the parking meters for the Christmas season. He commented that he would like to see the covers on the meters. At the last meeting, several other business owners had requested that the council not cover the meters because residents and employees park on the street and the customers cannot find spaces to park. Mrs. Brosius asked if the council had heard from the Improvement Committee. She felt that the covers that had been made for the meters could be used in another way since they decorated the downtown area. Mr. Wolfe stated that council had not heard from the Improvement Committee regarding the parking meter covers.

Mr. Wolfe thanked the council and mayor for the flowers, fish, and get well wishes he received while recuperating from surgery.

**Northumberland Housing Authority**

Mr. Dale Heim informed the council that the Housing Authority has met with the County Commissioners, the County Planning Office, Representative Merle Phillips, and the Housing Corporation. The local officials have endorsed the project. The Housing Authority has submitted a proposal for financing through DCED and is waiting for the results of that proposal. If a grant is obtained, the prevailing wage rate will be required, which will increase the cost of construction by approximately thirty percent (30%) over the cost if private financing is obtained. Mr. Heim explained the preliminary plans for the building, which include thirty apartments. The building will also have a community room, a kitchen and a library. The exterior of the building will be a mix of vinyl siding and brick. The design of the building and the layout of the apartments are basically the same as the Lewis Building. Mr. Heim said the authority’s architect, Mr. Gary Wolfe, estimated a building construction figure of 1.75 million dollars. This figure does not include the additional site work. Mr. Heim agreed to attend the Zoning Board Meeting on November 28 to discuss the plans. He estimated the completion date to be in 2002.

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

- ◆ Mr. Ruane reported that the borough has received complaints from a resident about sidewalks throughout the town. He has reviewed the ordinances and does not believe they are enforceable because the codes do not define a “hazardous condition”. Mr. Ruane suggested that the council adopt standards to be followed.
- ◆ The City of Sunbury requires that individuals go to the city office and sign written complaints instead of calling with complaints. Mr. Ruane feels that this requirement may eliminate some of the calls that are made to the office.
- ◆ Mr. Ruane said that he has been inspecting the construction on Fourth Street.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe opened the bids for the additions to the Recycling Building. Bids were received from M & E Construction, Zartman Construction, A & K Pole Buildings, G & R Charles Excavating LTD, and Brickhill Construction, Inc. The apparent low bidders were G & R Charles Excavating LTD with a bid of \$13,390.00 for the Bin Storage Shed, and Brickhill Construction, Inc. with a bid of \$21,810.00 for the Dumpster Shed. Mr. Wolfe tabled the issue until the specific bid requirements and funding are reviewed, and to discuss which project the Recycling Committee would prefer to have completed first, if the funding would cover only one project.
2. Mr. Mark Nogle requested permission for several local baseball groups and individuals to use the Second Street School gym for indoor practices. Mr. Wolfe asked whether another group had been told that the school could not be used until the committee made a recommendation to council. Mrs. Brosius had spoken with a representative of another group and informed him that the building would not have heat. She suggested that the other groups could be notified that the building may be used, with the understanding that it does not have heat or water. Mr. Redington stated that a boiler specialist looked at the heating system and recommended that the borough winterizes the building and installs a heating system when the money is available. The building will be winterized on November 29. Mr. Nogle said that three adults would be working with the youth. They would like use of the building beginning in January. Mr. Wolfe felt that any interested group should be permitted to use the building, but that a schedule should be established. Mrs. Brosius recommended that the Second Street School Committee contact the other interested parties and determine guidelines for the building's use on an interim basis. Mr. Shaffer stated that the groups should be asked to provide a certificate of insurance since these activities are not “borough sanctioned”. Mr. Nogle explained that the group he is representing is not just Little League, but Legion ballplayers and Shikellamy baseball players. They would not have insurance through one sanctioned group. He asked if the borough could provide him with the criteria needed by the group. The borough's insurance carrier will be contacted for information. The committee will have suggestions to the council on December 19. The council hopes to have heat installed in the building as soon as possible.
3. Second Street School Committee reported that on November 29, the pipes in the building would be drained and the building winterized. Mrs. Brosius said that the Parks and Recreation Committee voted to ask the council to have the light stands that are on the playground removed. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to sell the steel frames for scrap metal. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Ditton asked if the borough is planning to rezone the area at the Second Street School, since the building is no a longer school. Mr. Redington said tickets are not

being issued for parking there. Mr. Bowersox stated that the curbing would be painted white in the spring.

4. Pineknotter Park Project Update - The project is to be started on Wednesday, December 13, 2000. Mr. Walters had been contacted and asked if the contractor would be able to blade off the top few inches of the ground, if the ground is frozen. Some of the cover is only a few inches deep and that may not be possible. Council discussed the possibility of delaying the project until Spring but decided to proceed as planned. Several council members also voiced dissatisfaction with the engineering firm and the slow progress on the project.
5. Mr. Wolfe announced that the November 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Committee meeting is rescheduled for December 1, 2000 at 10:00 a.m.
  - Mr. Bowersox summarized Ordinance No. 2000-4, the Curb Removal and Replacement Ordinance. The driveway opening is stipulated at a minimum of ten (10) feet and maximum of fifteen (15) feet for a single driveway opening; and a minimum of fifteen and one hundredths (15.01) feet for a double driveway. The maximum opening for a double driveway will be left to the discretion of the street inspector supervisor. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 2000-4. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The second reading of this ordinance will be at the December 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.
  - Mr. Wolfe read Resolution K, Fees for Curb Removal and Replacements. He made a motion to accept Resolution K. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  - Mr. Bowersox stated that Resolution C had been revised. This resolution pertains to requirements for backfilling street cuts. Atty. Best recommended that the amended resolution be labeled Resolution C-1. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt Resolution C-1; Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Resolution C-1 replaces by Resolution C as of November 21, 2000.
  - Atty. Best explained that in order to complete the Priestley Avenue Deed of Dedication, he must obtain a survey of the property to be conveyed. Emmanuel Homes will be asked to provide the description of the property to be deeded to the borough.
6. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee meeting was cancelled last evening and is rescheduled for Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wolfe has supplied each council member with a copy of the proposed budget for 2001. With the change of the assessment ratio, the borough may only raise the revenue for 2001 by five percent (5%) over the revenue of 2000 without obtaining court approval. The five percent increase is equal to approximately one mill of tax. The council is requesting a five mill street improvement tax as part of the 2001 budget. Since this exceeds the five percent increase, Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Resolution to file a Petition for Millage Increase. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The resolution, labeled Resolution M, was passed unanimously.
7. The Parks and Recreation Committee reported that the Haunted House was a successful project. Mr. Greg Carl was appointed to head the Haunted House Committee for next year.
8. The Borough is waiting for the County Commissioners to approve the addendum to the lease agreement pertaining to the VFW building. The Commissioners have expressed an interest in dissolving the contract now, but have been informed that the Borough will not agree to an early end to the contract. One reason is because the County had agreed to reimburse the Borough for the utility bills incurred by the VFW. A check from the County for the electric and water bills from December 1999

through October 2000 in the amount of \$3,478.57 has been received. The Borough needs to provide the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with a copy of the modified lease agreement and a letter from DEP stating that the landfill issues have been resolved in order to obtain a \$7,500 grant from the National Park Service. Mr. Dick Biddle, of DEP, has agreed to provide a letter documenting the work that has been done at Pineknott Park and referencing the contract the Borough has with Gutelius for completion of the work. DCNR will be provided with this information once it is received. We will also provide a map with the new measurements of the leased area noted.

9. North Branch Auto Sales would like to extend the current lease agreement with the Borough for the land at the Point. Mr. Slodysko recommends that the lease be extended with a stipulation of an "at will" clause that the council reserves the right at any time, and for any reason, to request that the lessee vacate the premises. The lessee would have a one hundred and eighty (180) day notice to vacate. Atty. Best added that the lease could include a clause that the Borough does not make any guarantees that the land can be used for any purposes and the use may be in violation of state, federal, or local laws. If anyone objects to the use of the property, the lease would terminate at the last day of the month. In addition, the lessor may not be held liable for the lessee's attorney fees or court costs. Mr. Slodysko requested that the lessee have one hundred and eighty days to obtain a new location. Mr. Lee Shaffer, the Borough Health Officer, requested that the Borough Secretary relay his recommendation to extend the lease agreement to the council. Mr. Greg Shaffer made a motion to amend the lease agreement with the language added tonight, including the one hundred and eighty day clause. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Atty. Best asked if the council wished to change the term of the lease to one year instead of three. Mr. Shaffer stated that he preferred to keep the three year agreement and did not amend the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Slodysko, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted yes. Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wolfe voted no. The motion passed 4-2.
10. Mr. Shaffer requested that the Ambulance Squad be discussed in executive session due to legal action regarding the organization and the property involved.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2000. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The expenses from the General Fund total \$17,838.91; the Liquid Fuel Fund expenses total \$31,718.96; the Liberty Pool expenses total \$51.12; and the Parks and Recreation Account expenses total \$235.24. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Ditton informed council that one of the borough crew put the hole in a wall at the recycling center with the bobcat. The Recycling Committee or Property Committee will investigate.
4. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to sign a contract with K & T Excavating for additional help with snow removal on an emergency basis. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Feasters and Central Builders will also be contacted for price estimates. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the truck drivers work a maximum of twelve (12) hours and then be off duty for at least eight (8) hours. Due to a forecast of heavy snow, the crew will stagger their shifts. A man will stay home during the day and work from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to perform normal

duties as weather permits. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. Legal issues concerning the Ambulance Association were discussed.

The council meeting was reconvened at 9:24 p.m.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to authorize the rental of the former Rescue Squad building to an appropriately contracted ambulance service for the amount of \$300.00. The building is to be rented as-is, to be brought up to code per the requirements of the Borough Code Enforcement Officer, by the tenant. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Mr. Shaffer explained that the Northumberland Fire Department would listen to proposals from interested ambulance services and make a recommendation to the Borough Council. Mr. Brian Bailey, a member of the Rescue Squad, told council that the Rescue Squad had looked into other companies to service the Borough. He said that the Fire Department was asked to get involved because they would be working with the new ambulance service. Council members decided that they wished to hear the proposals from all the ambulance services instead of asking the Fire Department to make a recommendation. Mr. Shaffer asked if the council is interested in using the building for something other than a “borough service.” Lacking a designated provider, ambulance services would be able to rent garage space anywhere in town, whether authorized by the council or not. Mr. Shaffer amended the motion to state that all prospective ambulance companies will be asked to submit proposals for the service and for the amount they are willing to pay to rent the building, with the understanding that the building must be brought up to code. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
December 5, 2000**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Wolfe at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation**

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, and Mrs. Judith Groninger. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzell, Atty. James Best, Borough Solicitor; Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Superintendent; and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The guests present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Brian Bailey informed council that the Northumberland Rescue Squad held its final meeting December 4, 2000. The Rescue Squad is no longer able to provide service to the borough. The county is currently providing the borough with 24-hour ambulance service by dispatch of the next closest available service out of Sunbury. Mr. Shaffer announced that the borough has received one written proposal for emergency service to the borough from an ambulance service. Other ambulance services were asked to submit proposals to provide coverage to the borough, with the option of renting the building. The Public Safety Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 12, to review all proposals. The borough does not have a written agreement with the Rescue Squad, a non-profit organization. The question was asked if the ambulance service has any assets to sell and if the borough could recoup the UDAG funds that were given to the Rescue Squad if there are any assets. The ambulance service has debts to settle.  
Mr. Paul Ruane inspected the building and will provide council with a list of recommendations for improvements needed.  
Mrs. Groninger thanked the squad for the many years of service. Mr. Shaffer said that the Rescue Squad provided twenty-eight years of service to the borough and township.
- Mr. Mike Daddario asked for council’s permission to put Christmas lights on the tree in front of his barbershop and to plug into the borough’s streetlights this year. In future years, he plans to extend electricity from his business. Mrs. Groninger moved that any business that would like to use the borough’s electricity to add Christmas lights be allowed to do so. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

**Sewer Authority Report**

Mr. Dan Yaple announced that the work is continuing on Strawbridge Road and should be completed on Friday, December 8, 2000. The street will have blacktop. Mr. Wolfe asked why work was being done on the streets in December. Mr. Yaple said that Hawbaker’s operates a plant for blacktop. The temperature must be a minimum of 35 degrees for blacktop to be used instead of cold patch. The Borough and Sewer Authority plan to core the paving in the spring. If it does not pass the test, the contractor will be

expected to replace the paving. The Sewer Authority felt it was necessary to put the new line in at this time of year.

Mr. Ruane said that the work on Fourth Street is almost finished. Mrs. Groninger recommended that a letter be sent to the water company stating that the council is not satisfied with the Fourth Street project and requesting that the contractor complete the work according to the Borough Ordinance. Mr. Wayne Murray of PA American Water Company will be contacted to meet with the street committee. Mrs. Groninger also asked that the storm sewers on Fourth Street be checked and cleaned, if needed.

### **Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. Ruane reported that 6 permits were issued. The fees totaled \$1476.00. He responded to seven complaints, attended two council meeting, and one zoning meeting. The Zoning Board meeting for December is canceled.

Mr. Ruane also reported on his activity as the Street Inspector Supervisor. There was one street cut, with a \$250.00 fee, and the backfilling inspection fees for the month were \$1475.00.

Mr. Tom Slodysko arrived at 7:21 p.m.

### **Old Business**

1. Recycling Building Bids - Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the bid of \$13,390.00 for the bin shed addition from G & R Charles Excavating, Inc. and the dumpster shed addition bid of \$21,810.00 from Brickhill Construction. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Second Street School Update – Since several groups have requested permission to use the Second Street School, Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Company has been contacted for advice concerning liability. If the Second Street School is used for activities that are not “Borough sanctioned”, the groups should provide the Borough with a Certificate of Liability, no less than one million dollars. The Borough should be named as additional insured. The groups should also provide a written statement acknowledging that the Borough is not responsible for any injuries. Each person should have their own health insurance or the group should have a group accident policy. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Second Street School Committee would be making a recommendation to the Council at the December 19, 2000 meeting.
3. Pineknott Park Project Update – Gutelius Excavating, Inc. plans to start work on December 13, 2000. They have been to Furman’s and know what soil is to be moved to Pineknott Park. Surveying at the park has begun. A sample of the soils will be mixed and tested before all the soil is mixed. If the ground is frozen, the contractor feels it would be best to wait until it thaws to proceed with the work.
4. Street Committee Report
  - ◆ Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Keeley, and Mr. Bowersox met with the Sewer Authority. Mr. Bowersox informed the council that the Borough does not charge the Sewer Authority for permits to open the streets. Mr. Bowersox asked if the inspection fees should be charged to the Sewer Authority. Mrs. Groninger explained that the Sewer Authority does not charge the Borough for work on the storm sewers. Mr. Shaffer stated that the Sewer Authority is an entity of the Borough. He made a motion that the Borough waives the inspection fees for the Sewer Authority. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All ayes.
  - ◆ Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the Borough crew be scheduled for shift work if the weather is bad. Two men would be on day shift, one man on 2<sup>nd</sup> shift, and one on

3<sup>rd</sup> shift. He feels that this would reduce overtime. The shift work schedule would be utilized on an as-need basis with a twenty-four hour advance notice prior to a predicted snowstorm. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

- ◆ Mr. Bowersox would like a representative from Allenwood Equipment to demonstrate the snow blower to the crew. He would like the council to be present, if possible. Mr. Bowersox will contact Allenwood to schedule the demonstration. Council members will try to be present.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox asked if the Borough is required to provide curbside pickup every month. In order to save manpower, the pickup could be every other month or once a quarter. Mr. Wolfe suggested keeping to the current schedule. Others agreed.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox would like Mr. Dodge to be licensed for pesticides. Council agreed. Travis Fisher has applied for a license because of his work at the pool.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox questioned if inspection fee money should be placed into a fund for streets. Mr. Wolfe stated that the budget is completed and the inspection fees are included as part of the general fund under a separate line item.
- Ordinance No. 2000-4, Curb Removal and Replacement Ordinance, was read by Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Bowersox. This was the second reading. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2000-4. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The Ordinance is on file in the Borough Office.
- Mrs. Groninger asked if the deed of dedication for Priestley Avenue and an Ordinance to accept the street could be available next week in order to obtain Liquid Fuels money for the street. Atty. Best said that a description is needed for the deed. The Borough has received as-built drawings from Light-Heigle and Associates. Council members had understood that these drawings would be provided as part of the engineering firm's contract, with no additional fee. However, a bill has been received from Light-Heigel and Associates for the as-built drawings of the Priestley Avenue Extension. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay the \$287.66 bill, pending receipt of a written description of the Priestley Avenue Extension property to be deeded to the borough. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### 5. Finance Committee Report

- Mr. Wolfe announced the first reading of the 2001 Budget. The Finance Committee is proposing a twenty-five (25) mill real estate tax, 20 mills for general purposes and 5 mills for streets. One (1) mill of tax is equivalent to approximately \$13, 000. A one mill tax increase for general purpose funding is included in the 20 mills. Due to the change in the assessment ratio by Northumberland County for 2001, the Borough must obtain judicial approval to increase tax revenue by more than 5% over the tax revenue for 2000. Council is petitioning the Court to permit the Borough to add a five mill street/ road fund tax. The approximately \$67,000 generated by the five mill street tax, plus the \$80,000 liquid fuels money, will be used for streets, curbs, and storm sewers.
- The Finance Committee has unanimously adopted a rental income fee, consisting of three components. The first is a Moving In and Inspection fee of \$125.00. Whenever someone moves out of a unit, the Borough will charge a \$125.00 fee for the Code Officer to inspect the unit before a new tenant moves in to insure that the unit complies with the Borough Codes. A Yearly Fee of \$25.00 per unit for every rental property in the borough will be charged. If the Moving In and Inspection Fee was charged for a unit, the Yearly Fee will not be charged. Mr. Daddario asked if the midrise was being assessed these fees. Atty. Best said that the midrise could be exempt because it is a nonprofit organization. Mr. Wolfe said that the borough has some substandard rental units in town and this is a way to inspect the properties and

see that they are properly maintained. The council has also received comments from property owners who feel that the renters in town are not contributing their fair share to the town. Council feels that the landlords can pass these fees on to the tenants, allowing the renters to pay their fair share towards supporting the services in the town. Mr. Shaffer stated that there are many rental units in town that are in unsafe condition. Mr. Daddario said that a landlord charges a security deposit and an additional fee is too high. Mr. Shaffer explained that the landlord has the option of charging a security deposit. Council does not mandate this cost. Atty. Best said that other communities have fees for rental properties. Currently, the Borough does not have an ordinance that permits routine inspections. One member of the public asked why the borough couldn't charge an hourly fee. The Council did not feel the flat inspection fee was too high. People who rent properties in town use the streets and storm sewers and other facilities. In some cases, the borough cannot contact the landlord when a complaint is received. Some properties are rented through Real Estate Agencies. Council members feel that renting properties is a business. Mrs. Brosius asked if there would be a way to lessen the fees charged to a good landlord. Mr. Wolfe stated that a good landlord would not have to pay the \$250.00 fee for not complying with the ordinance. For each addition offense, the fine would double, up to a limit of \$1,000.00. Mr. Shaffer said that a good landlord who maintains his property would not have tenants moving in and out of their properties as often and therefore would not need to pay the Moving In and Inspection Fee. The cost on an annual basis is less than \$10.50 per month, including the Moving In and Inspection Fee. When questioned, Mr. Best explained that the midrise is exempt from this ordinance because it is non-profit. The midrise has Labor and Industry inspections. Mr. James Snyder stated that the Housing Authority Board also conducts an inspection of the building once a year.

- Mr. Wolfe continued to explain other components of the 2001 budget. He said that the Finance Committee computed that the cost to the Borough for the police force would be lower in 2001 by adding a sixth police officer to the force. This is due to the fact that if the Borough does not hire a sixth police officer, money from the COPS grant would have to be repaid at a cost of approximately \$60,000. The cost of the sixth police officer is approximately \$31,000.
  - Hospitalization for borough employees increased by \$21,000, from \$41,000 to \$62,000.
  - The \$100,000 loan for Pineknott Park will cost \$1,100 per month or \$13,000 per year for loan payments. This budget also includes a \$85,000 lump payment for work at Pineknott Park.
  - Mr. Wolfe announced that the budget will be posted in the Borough Office, and copies may be obtained free of charge.
  - Mr. Wolfe made read Ordinance No. 2000-5, Fees for Rental Income Ordinance. The Ordinance is on file in the Borough Office. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2000-5. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Snyder asked if any consideration was given to having the property owner provide list of renters in each building to ensure that they are included on the tax roles. Mr. Best stated that he is looking into the matter and the Borough may wish to adopt a general property ordinance, similar to Lewisburg's.
6. Mr. Richard Bittle of DEP has provided the Borough with a letter stating that the Borough is complying with DEP's requests regarding Pineknott Park. This letter and a copy of the contract with Gutelius have been faxed to Mr. Vargo, as required, to obtain grant money from the National Parks Service. The Borough is still waiting

for Northumberland County to adopt a resolution changing the lease description. The County has informed the office that the resolution will be adopted at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commissioners' Office has been aware of this request since October and has been contacted numerous times.

7. Mr. Ditton, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, recommended that the Borough hire Mr. Edward Hennessey as the sixth police officer. Mr. Wolfe stated that he was at the meeting and felt that both applicants were good candidates. Mr. Ditton agreed and explained that the selected candidate has several years of experience with the Borough as a part-time officer and would not need training. The other candidate has no experience and would need to become certified. Mr. Ditton made a motion to hire Mr. Hennessey. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Bowersox noted that he was against hiring a sixth police officer, but he is voting to hire Mr. Hennessey. Mr. Ditton made a motion to offer Mr. Bradley Hare the position of Part-time Police Officer. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. This position is also funded through a grant. Roll call vote – All ayes. The hiring date for these positions is January 1, 2001.
8. Two proposals concerning the Geisinger Health Plan were presented to the Council. One is a five-tier plan, the other a two-tier plan. The employees of the Sewer Authority are also covered through the Borough's group because they do not have enough employees for a separate group. The Borough would save money by selecting the two-tier plan option. However, the five-tier plan is more economical for the Sewer Authority. The Council decided to adopt the five-tier plan, with an agreement with the Sewer Authority that they would reimburse the Borough the difference in cost to the Borough. This amount is \$665.64 for the year. The Sewer Authority would still save \$1,771.92. Atty. Best stated that a motion was not necessary.
9. Mr. Bowersox questioned if the sixth police officer would have a probation period. Mr. Ditton replied that he would have a one-year probation.
10. Mr. Wolfe explained that Ordinance 2000-6 officially allows the Borough to incur the \$100,000 debt through SUN Bank. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2000-6. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Ordinance 2000-6 is on file in the Borough Office.
11. Brinjac contacted Atty. Best for payment of a settlement that was reached a few years ago. Mrs. Scheller had been paying towards the settlement, but had not made the final payments totaling \$9,000. The last payment had been made in October of 1999. The council requested that Atty. Best obtain a copy of the agreement from Brinjac.

### **New Business**

1. The bills to be paid include a bill for additional pipe from L/B Water Service that was used at the Hayter property. The amount of the bill is \$602.84 for the pipe, plus \$28.22 in late charges. The Borough has already paid for one half of the additional pipe bill, \$602.84. When the pipe was installed, Mr. Hayter could not be reached for approval and now does not agree to pay additional amount. Mr. Hayter has written a letter to the Council that he has had additional landscaping expenses and is not willing to share the additional cost of the pipe. This larger pipe was needed because of the sizes of pipe it was connecting. L/B Water Service has contacted the office and stated that since the bill is in the Borough's name, the Borough is liable for payment. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to add the L/B Water Service invoice to the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mrs.

Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Slodysko, and Ms. Kelley voted yes; Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The amount of the bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$14,496.65; the Fire Police Account - \$726.00; the Shade Tree Account - \$1064.25; the Parks and Recreation Account - \$415.27; the Liberty Pool Account - \$39.37; and the Liquid Fuels Account - \$959.16.
3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to reappoint Ms. Cammy Beaver to the Sewer Authority for a 5-year term beginning January 1, 2001. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Ms. Cindy Lark, an employee at the Sewer Authority, said that the terms are staggered so that a 5-year term becomes available on the Authority each year. Ms. Lark stated that the position is advertised if a member does not wish to be re-appointed. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. A representative from the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System will meet with council members next Tuesday, December 12, at 3:30 p.m. to answer questions. The designation of excess interest to accounts was tabled until after this meeting.
5. The Christmas holidays for Borough employees will be December 25 and 26, and the New Year's holidays will be the afternoon of December 29, and January 1, 2001, New Year's Day.
6. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that the Borough Council holds an end of the year meeting on December 27, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. to pay the bills. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted yes; Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion passed 6-1. The meeting will be advertised.
7. Mr. Bowersox said that Fourth Street should be paved next year due to the recent construction. Mr. Wolfe said the council would have to review the list of streets slated to be repaved that was completed a few months ago. The issue also needs to wait until after the court hearing on January 3, 2001, so the council knows if the five mill street tax is approved. The utility companies would like the list of the streets that the Borough is considering to repave in 2001.
8. PA American Water Company has invited the council members to an awards ceremony on December 7, 2000. If anyone can attend, the office will contact the Water Company, as requested.
9. Mr. Wolfe distributed a list of meeting dates for 2001. The Council Meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except for Election Day. The Council will meet on Monday, November 5, instead of Election Day, Tuesday, November 6. The meeting dates will be advertised.
10. Mr. Dave Walters of Larson Design Group, Inc. informed the office that he has spoken with Kevin Marion, of PG Energy, concerning the gas line. PG Energy is seriously considering the recommendation of council to run the new gas line along the railroad property and north on Priestley Avenue, instead of going through the downtown area. Mr. Walters has not heard if a decision has been reached.
11. Mr. Bowersox recommended that regularly scheduled committee meetings be advertised in the ad for the council meetings.
12. Ms. Kelley spoke with Mr. Tom Bresnehan, of SEDA-Cog. He informed her that surveyors have not yet been in the borough. They will give a two-day notice to the Borough Office in case property owners question their presence. The Public Meeting concerning the Flood Mitigation Plan is scheduled for January 23, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Hall.

13. Businesses on the lower side of Duke Street have asked if the Borough would paint crosswalks at intersections on Duke Street. PennDOT has approved painting the crosswalks, according to PennDOT specifications. Mr. Shaffer suggested painting crosswalks on Duke Street at Front and Fourth Streets. Mr. Bowersox asked if the school would still bus the students who live on the lower side of Duke Street if the street has crosswalks. Council decided that more information is needed before a decision is made.
14. Ms. Kelley asked if the Borough is preparing to submit proposals to the Northumberland County Planning Commission for a Block Grant. Meetings are scheduled for December 7, 2000, and January 11, 2001. Mr. Redington has an application and is preparing a proposal for a grant for the Second Street School.
15. Ms. Kelley attended a seminar sponsored by PennDOT in Pittston in November. She attended three classes and toured the facilities in Lackawanna. Issues addressed at the seminar were pertaining to maintenance, grants, and storm water drainage. She has obtained a sample ordinance proposal.
16. Ms. Deniel Rovenolt, has completed her internship with the Borough. The Lewisburg Hotel has employed her as a secretary. The Council requested that a letter be sent to Deniel, thanking her for her service to the Borough.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion.

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

## **Northumberland Borough Council Meeting December 19, 2000**

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **Pledge to the Flag Moment of Silent Meditation**

### **Roll Call**

Council members present were Mrs. Judy Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Ms. Sue Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, and Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzell, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Atty. James Best, Solicitor; and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The 32 visitors present introduced themselves.

### **Second Street School Committee Report**

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius, representing the Second Street School Committee, announced that the committee recommends using the former school as a recreation center. The building could be used to house the administrative and municipal offices, as well as the Police Department. She announced that copies of the survey conducted by the committee are available for review. The Borough has obtained grant money for the purchase of the school and to install a new heating system and a new roof. Another grant is being written to obtain funding to make the building handicapped accessible. The committee also recommends that the council appoints a board, comprised of five to seven members, including a council member. The board should explore the Community Center concept in more detail and determine what municipal offices should be relocated to the school building. Letters of intent were received from Mark Nogle, Steve Taylor, and the Northumberland Christian School requesting permission to use the building for recreational purposes. Mrs. Brosius stated that the Northumberland Christian School does have insurance. She does not know if either of the other groups has liability insurance. Mr. Wolfe thanked the committee for their work and recommendations.

### **Public Comment**

- Mr. Marlin Burrell had a question pertaining to the grant money that was received from the federal government for the COPS program. He stated that the borough would not have to repay the money. Mr. Wolfe explained that, as per the grant, if the borough does not employ six full-time police officers, the federal government would require that the grant money be returned. To meet the requirement of having six full time officers, the council voted to hire the sixth officer. Mr. Burrell asked where the money would come from when the grant expires. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council met with the police officers and the police chief and determined that at this time it was in the best interest to hire an additional police officer. This officer knows that the decision may be changed in the future. Mr. Wolfe stated that his decision was strictly a financial issue. The Chief of Police has recommended a sixth police officer. Mr. Burrell stated that the town cannot get any bigger and does not need six officers. Mr. Burrell questioned how many police cars the borough owns. The response was three vehicles for the Police Department and one for the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Burrell commented on the ordinances on the books that are unenforceable. One ordinance states that oversized vehicles may not be parked on the streets. The ordinance cannot

be enforced because the streets are not posted. Ms. Kelley stated that in order to post signs, it would cost the borough \$10,000. Mrs. Groninger explained that the council has appointed a committee to review the borough ordinances and to revise those that cannot be enforced. Mr. Burrell stated that the Northumberland Police Department is paid better than other departments in the area. Mrs. Groninger stated that the salaries are already under contract and are not negotiable to this council.

Atty. Best arrived at 7:19 p.m.

- Mr. Robert Stahl asked what groups had expressed interest in using the Second Street School. The three groups are interested in using the building for baseball pitching practice, soccer practice, and the Northumberland Christian School would like to use the building for gym classes and after school activities and basketball practices. These groups are interested in using the building now. Mr. Wolfe told Mr. Stahl that he is in favor of the Valley Players holding performances at the school and will add this suggestion to the list.
  - Mr. Wolfe announced that a limit of one half hour would be set to discuss the Rental Ordinance. He stated that the borough has an influx of rental properties that the council does not feel are “up to snuff”. In order to provide for the safety and well being of the people living in the buildings, the council examined the ordinances. The ordinances did not provide for inspections of the properties. The ordinance stipulates that a yearly fee of \$25.00 be imposed. The Moving In and Inspection Fee is set as \$125.00. This fee will cover the cost of the inspection. Mr. Wolfe explained that the borough’s budget would increase by \$16,000 from 2000 to 2001. The reasons for the increase are an increase of \$22,000 for the borough employees’ insurance. Pineknotter Park will cost the borough \$85,000 and a payment of \$13,000 on the \$100,000 loan. The work needs to be completed at Pineknotter Park or the borough will be fined by DEP. The Renter’s Ordinance accounts for two per cent (2%) of the total budget, or \$14,000. The council is assuming that of the borough’s 400 rental units, if ten percent (10%) have a turnover of tenants, the borough will receive \$5,000. Each unit will be assessed a \$25.00 Yearly Fee, unless a Moving In and Inspection Fee has been paid. The total received for Yearly Fee will be approximately \$10,000. Another part of the ordinance addresses violations. Any person who fails to comply with the ordinance will be subject to a penalty of not less than \$250 or more than \$1,000. Mr. Wolfe requested that anyone with a comment or question, stand at the end of the council table, introduce himself, and address the council.
1. Mr. Greg Stuck, a new landlord, posed several questions. He asked where the ordinance states “renter’s tax?” He recommends requesting that the property owners provide the borough with the names and addresses of the tenants and the borough can tax them. He asked if the borough has a Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Ruane was recognized. Mr. Stuck stated that \$100 is too high a fee for the inspection and asked how he is to charge this additional amount to his tenant when the tenant is already paying \$350 for rent, a security deposit, and then \$100 for the inspection fee and \$25 for the yearly fee. He felt that the tenant would have difficulty paying these fees. Mr. Shaffer stated that this is the cost of doing business. The amount for the yearly fee averages \$2.09 a month. If the inspection fee is also charged in the year the monthly average is around \$10.50. Mr. Stuck would like the borough to assess the tenants these fees, not the landlords. Mr. Stuck suggested that the council focus on the landlords that do not maintain their properties. Mrs. Groninger said that individual property

owners had been to council meetings, and they are opposed to higher real estate taxes. Mr. Stuck questioned if this ordinance is discriminatory because it only focuses on residential landlords. He questioned why, if he rents to the clergy, the property would be exempt. Mr. Stuck asked why a group home or a business rental is exempt. Atty. Best stated that commercial tenants are in a better position to negotiate with the landlords. Mr. Stuck suggested that the borough access every property owner a \$25 fee. He stated that he knows the council is working hard at this and appreciates what they are doing, but feels council should take this ordinance back to the drawing board and work it over more.

2. Mr. Richard Savidge and Mrs. Brandy Savidge addressed the council. Mr. Savidge stated that the landlords are already paying taxes, and if the borough has a budgetary issue, why not raise taxes. Mrs. Savidge stated that a tenant pays occupational tax, plus the property tax is factored into their rent. Atty. Best stated that the borough does not impose an occupational tax. Mr. Wolfe stated that someone renting a property does not pay a property tax to the borough. Mrs. Savidge replied that the tenant does pay property tax indirectly. Mr. Savidge also questioned why the clergy would be exempt. Mrs. Kelley stated that the Methodist Church inspects properties every year and has strict standards. Mr. Savidge stated that he has rented properties to clergymen, and has never had a unit inspected. He asked if the borough would provide him with a certification that the apartment has been inspected and is fine. He also asked if the borough is assuming all liabilities that if someone dies, his insurance company can sue the borough. Mr. Ruane can certify that the property passed the inspection. The standards being used are the BOCA codes. Mrs. Savidge replied that the BOCA codes are not referenced in the ordinance. Mr. Best explained that the borough has already enacted the BOCA codes and does not need to be referenced in the ordinance. Mrs. Savidge informed the council that the state is establishing standards for all communities for rental units. She also asked whom to appeal to if she does not agree with the Code Officer's findings. Ms. Kelley stated that there is a zoning board for code enforcement. Mr. Ruane explained that he has a checklist to follow during the inspections and gave several examples. Mrs. Savidge stated that this same type of ordinance was found to be unconstitutional in Allentown court. She added that their attorney has said that the ordinance is not legal. Atty. Best stated that this ordinance is not a tax. It is a landlord-regulating ordinance. Mr. Savidge asked why the council wouldn't raise taxes. Mr. Ditton stated that a landlord is taxed for one property, not each separate unit. Mr. Bowersox asked Mr. Savidge if he lives in the borough. Mr. Savidge told him that they do not live in the borough but they own the Priestley Townhouses and have 32 units in the borough. He assured the council that his property is "up to snuff". He asked if trailers are permitted in the borough. It is not believed that a trailer can be set up in the borough. Mrs. Groninger stated that people who rent property are using the borough's services, the streets, the police department, etc. She asked the Savidges if they consider the rental properties a business. The response was yes, it is a business. Atty. Best explained that landlords are business people. It is normal and typical for businesses to be regulated. This is what the borough is proposing. Other communities in the area inspect rental properties. Mr. Savidge stated that Northumberland is adopting this ordinance to balance the budget. Mrs. Groninger stated that the council had examined the borough to see where improvements could be made. It was noted that rental properties were not regulated or inspected. Council felt that by imposing inspections, the properties would be brought up to standards, and those apartments would be rented to people who would take care of them. Mr. Savidge

stated that the BOCA code is an issue of safety, and not appearance. Mr. Ruane said that the BOCA code does address appearance also.

3. Mrs. Helen Martin argued that the BOCA codes are not currently enforced. She has been a landlord for twelve years and has never had any properties inspected. She feels that there are very few deplorable properties in the borough. If the BOCA codes are being enforced for rentals, they should be enforced for homes. She asked if this fee would cover Mr. Ruane's time. She said that in Sunbury, the code officer provides a report showing every room and what must be done to bring the property up to code. Once the repairs are completed, the landlord is given a letter stating that the property is up to code. She stated that as a real estate agent, she receives calls from people who wish to buy investment properties, but not in Sunbury. Mrs. Martin asked how many board members own rental properties? She also asked if any landlords or tenants were on the committee? Mrs. Groninger stated that she owns a rental property with two units. Mr. Wolfe stated that he is a "renter". Mrs. Martin stated that the renters pay a one percent (1%) earned income tax. Mrs. Groninger stated that the borough trying to establish a "user's fee" for public services. The tenants use the streets, the police, and the fire department.
4. Mr. Young stated that when he built his apartment buildings he was required to provide two parking spaces for each apartment he built. His tenants are not parking on the streets.
5. Mr. Burrell said that the borough should assess everybody for these services. Mrs. Groninger stated that by adopting this ordinance the council felt that they were doing just that.
6. Mr. Mike Daddario is a landlord with six apartments in the borough. He urged the council to table the issue, get some of the people together, and discuss the ordinance. Mr. Wolfe stated that this topic has been on the agenda for the last two council meetings, as well as three finance committee meetings.
7. Mrs. Carol Spigelmeyer owns a building on Queen Street, next to a "ghetto property". The former borough manager had inspected the property. At that time, she could find nothing wrong with the building. She stated that people who rent to elderly people do not know how long they will be renting to an elderly person. She asked if the property would need to be inspected three times a year if elderly people die. She does not mind paying the fee once a year, but feels that landlords may hesitate to rent to elderly people.

Mr. Wolfe opened the floor to the council members. He asked the solicitor if the ordinance is okay. Atty. Best stated that it is. He explained that the borough had excluded the clergy and the high-rise because the borough is not interested in having non-profit organizations pay money to the borough. He added that the borough is regulating commercial residential landlords. Mrs. Groninger asked for the council to extend the comment session for another thirty minutes. Mrs. Groninger asked if the SRO hotel meant to exclude rooming houses. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to extend the comment session for thirty minutes, until 8:30 p.m. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe amended his motion to include that each speaker has five minutes. Mr. Bowersox amended his second. Roll call vote - All ayes.

1. Mr. Bob Welby asked if the borough has considered the liability involved. He stated that although \$14,000 is shown in the budget as income, the borough would have additional expenses for the inspections and liability. He stated that the code enforcement officer would need to increase his hours. He also told council that the

Town of Bloomsburg enforces rental properties for the college students. The code enforcement officer inspected a property in December. The following March, three students died in a fire. The code enforcement officer and the town are being sued. Atty. Best stated that borough has insurance.

2. Mr. Carl owns two rentals on Duke Street. He questioned if the borough is going to charge for the rooms that are rented by Furman's. He asked how this would be enforced and if the code officer will inspect the property each time someone moves out. The borough has other properties that are in bad condition and specified one on Duke Street. The borough crew has cleaned up the outside of the Duke Street property and the side and rear porches have been removed.
3. Mr. Bill Zimmerman owns a rental property across from the Northumberland National Bank. He feels that the Moving In and Inspection Fee of \$125 is too expensive. If two tenants move out in one year, the cost would be \$250. Mrs. Groninger said that the property owners that attend the meetings are ones who take care of their rental properties. She feels that the borough needs to inspect properties and be sure that they are up to code. Mr. Zimmerman would like the council to get a group of landlords together and discuss prices and fees before the ordinance is enacted. He does not object of having inspections; he thinks that is a good idea.
4. Andrew Dalto said that he was a tenant for seven years and hardly ever saw his landlord. He bought a property on Orange Street four months ago. He had tried to reach the code officer and had been told there was none. Mr. Ruane became the code officer in July. Mr. Dalto suggested putting an article in the paper, telling the tenants to call the code officer to inspect the property if the landlord is not maintaining it. The landlord should be charged for not complying with the codes if violations are discovered.
5. Dave Ramer lives in the borough. He questioned why the property owner on the hill pays higher taxes than the property owner in the downtown area. He was told that the County Assessor sets the property values for the taxes.
6. David Hackenberg owns properties on Orange Street. He also owns property in Sunbury. He stated that Sunbury inspects properties on a periodic basis. He questioned what the code enforcement officer is inspecting. He feels that the inspection rate is too high and should be based on an hourly rate.
7. Julie Watts, a landlord and a realtor, stated that whenever the income on a property is reduced, the value of the property is reduced. These expenses will factor into the value of the properties in the borough and she questioned if council wants see lower the property values. She feels that the good landlords will sell and the slumlords will move in. Mr. Shaffer disagreed with that. He feels that landlords who are regulated will have tenants who rent on a long-term basis because the units are up to code and in good condition.
8. Another person stated that the \$125 fee would need to be charged to the tenants every time somebody moves in and no one will want to rent property in the borough. The fee charged by Sunbury for the inspections is \$20 to \$25. He also stated that the landlord is responsible to repair any damages that have been done by the tenant.
9. Mr. Daddario asked why the mid-rise is exempt. Atty. Best replied that non-profit organizations are exempt. Mrs. Groninger stated that she feels that the borough should assess every rental unit. Atty. Best stated that Labor and Industry inspects the mid-rise. Someone else asked about Group Homes and Halfway Houses and stated that these businesses are for profit.

10. Mr. Burrell asked if the borough is enacting this ordinance for safety. He stated that a neighboring owner-occupied dwelling is not up to code. The code officer has inspected that property and the owner has informed him that the freezer located in back of the building is locked. Atty. Best stated that the borough may not legally set up a program to inspect private homes. If someone has a problem with a neighboring property, a complaint should be made to the code enforcement officer. Mr. Shaffer stated that the fee structure is for inspections of business properties, which happen to be rental units.
11. Mr. Troxell stated that people rent because they do not have a lot of money. The landlord will need to pay the rental fee and inspection fee because the tenants will not be able to afford the additional fees. Mr. Wolfe stated that he rents because he does not want the hassle of owning a house. He does not think that it can be assumed that all renters cannot afford to own property.
12. Someone asked why the borough can enter a rental property to inspect it once a tenant is no longer living there. Atty. Best explained that if the property is owned for commercial purposes, the borough has a right to inspect the property, without a search warrant or consent. It is called a regulatory search. The same person asked why other commercial properties weren't being inspected. Atty. Best replied that if there were a complaint, the property would be inspected. Other types of inspectors inspect commercial properties.

Mr. Wolfe stated that Ordinance 2000-5 was read at the last public meeting. Mr. Wolfe read the ordinance a second time. Mr. Wolfe made the motion to adopt the ordinance. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked to amend Section 5 of the ordinance by eliminating the exemption of the clergy, group homes, halfway houses, and SRO hotels. Mr. Wolfe asked how to inspect an SRO hotel room when someone may be moving in on a weekly basis. Atty. Best recommended a separate ordinance addressing bed and breakfasts, hotels, and rooming houses. Mr. Wolfe agreed that a separate ordinance for these exceptions could be addressed at the January 2nd meeting. Mr. Daddario stated that the council was elected to serve the people of Northumberland and asked the council to table the ordinance, get a committee together, and think it over more. Mr. Wolfe stated that he believes that this ordinance should be passed and that the first ordinance of 2001 could address Mrs. Groninger's concerns. Mrs. Groninger believes that inspection is necessary. She feels that the fee is what everyone is upset about. Mr. Watts stated that he has people moving from one unit into another because it is a larger a unit. Mr. Wolfe asked if council had any other comments. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye. Mr. Ditton voted no. The motion passed 5 to 1.

### **Pineknotter Park Update**

The Pineknotter Park project has been started and is proceeding according to the weather. Mr. Bowersox stated that at this point, the contractor could only bill the borough for mobilization.

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Mr. Mark Gulliver asked the council to approve erecting a portable ice skating rink in King Street Park. The size of the rink is forty foot square. It would be placed on the Second Street side of the Santa House. Volunteers from the Parks and Recreation Commission would man the rink. Because the rink will be close to some of the trees, cushions will be wrapped around the trees to pad them. The kit includes the liner, brackets,

boards, and a resurfacers. The cost will be approximately \$1000. Two types of liners are available. One type is designed to be placed on the ground; a heavier liner is available if the rink is placed on macadam. Mrs. Groninger asked if the committee has considered using the Second Street playground area. The committee has considered several areas and preferred the park. Mr. Gulliver explained that in order to place the rink on the macadam at the Second Street School, it would be necessary to drill holes in the macadam to anchor the boards. Mr. Ditton asked if Jolly Hollow was considered. Mr. Daddario stated that Jolly Hollow now has an open creek. The rink and materials will be purchased with funds from the Parks and Recreation Budget. This will be a free skating rink. Since this is a borough "sanctioned" activity, the borough's liability insurance would cover any accidents. The committee plans to contact the Improvement Committee for permission to use the Santa house to sell refreshments. Mr. Gulliver explained the differences between the two liners. The committee was planning to purchase the "silver" package with the lighter weight liner at a cost of \$787. The cost of the "silver" package with the heavier liner is \$906. A "gold" package costs \$1637. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to allow the Recreation Commission to purchase the material for the rink. The committee is to determine which package to purchase with the funds coming from the Parks and Recreation Account. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes. Mrs. Brosius asked if the Second Street location might be more convenient and easier to clear of snow. Mr. Gulliver stated that the committee had not considered that and that they felt that the atmosphere at the park would be a nice place for skating. Mr. Bowersox voiced concern for the noise disturbing the residents around the park. Mr. Gulliver stated that the volunteers supervising the skating would probably want to close the rink by 9:00 p.m. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to permit the rink at the King Street Park. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger requested that if the rink is not located at the Second Street School this year, the committee consider relocating the rink next year. Mr. Redington asked if the Little League field was considered. Mr. Gulliver responded that the Little League field was another site considered. He also stated that the committee would explore other possible locations in future years. Mr. Bowersox asked if the ice would be against the trees. Mr. Gulliver's answer was that the ice would be two to three feet from the trees. Roll call vote - All ayes.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Public Safety Committee**

Ambulance Services - Mr. Shaffer announced that the Public Safety Committee met last week and entertained two proposals to replace the service of the Northumberland Rescue Squad. By a vote of 2-0, the committee recommends that the borough appoint Area Ambulance Service as the replacement service for the Rescue Squad. Area Ambulance will provide an ALS unit, 2 BLS units and a wheel chair van. They would also like to rent the former Rescue Squad building. Mrs. Groninger asked if the agreement was contingent upon rental of the property. Mr. Shaffer stated that it was not. Area Ambulance is still the closest service to the borough at their current location. The borough will petition the county to designate Area Ambulance Service as the primary service provider to the Borough of Northumberland. Mr. Bowersox asked if Area Agency could guarantee 24-7. Mr. Brian Bailey explained that no service could guarantee 24-7. If a unit is tied up on an EMS call, another company will be brought in. The only time Area Ambulance Service would not be available is when they are on another emergency call. Currently, Medic 49 is the primary medic unit for ALS service to the borough. Only the council can change the coverage for the borough. Mr. Wolfe asked if the welfare of the residents of the borough would be better served

by adopting the proposal. Mr. Shaffer responded that it is his opinion that not only the welfare of the borough residents, but also the welfare of residents in surrounding communities, is better served by the borough accepting this proposal. Currently, the borough is tying up two medic units by not designating a primary service, according to Mr. Bailey. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to designate Area Ambulance Service as a primary service for the borough. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mrs. Groninger stated that the Property Committee would meet in January to discuss the rental of the building. Rescue Squad memberships will be honored until March. Area Ambulance Service’s membership rates are \$30 for a single membership and \$50 for a family membership. Mr. Shaffer will draft a letter to the county informing them of the borough’s decision to designate Area Ambulance Service as its primary service provider and also write to Point Township, recommending that they do the same.

## **2. Personnel Committee**

Mr. Ditton reported that the Personnel Committee met with the union representative and some of the street crew. The PMRS retirement plan was explained to them. The wording in the union contract will be changed to reflect this retirement plan. All other aspects of the contract have been discussed. Once the wording of the retirement plan is changed, the union will forward the contract to the council for their approval.

## **3. Street Committee**

- Priestley Avenue Deed of Dedication and Ordinance – Atty. Best has contacted Light Heigle for a property description. They will need to contact a surveyor in another office to complete the work. Payment for the as-built drawings will be made once the borough receives the property description.
- Mr. Bowersox voiced a complaint on the work done for the Sewer Authority on Strawbridge Road. He stated that temperature was too low at the time the road was paved. Mr. Bowersox pulled the release, however the contractor completed the paving. He stated that the Sewer Authority was also not in favor of the paving because of the cold weather. Mr. Bowersox asked for cores to be made in the spring, paid for by the contractor or the Sewer Authority. He would like to witness the coring and have the testing done at an independent laboratory. Mr. Bowersox would like the council to adopt an ordinance stating that the borough release any concrete, bituminous or cement, prior to a contractor paving a project.
- Mr. Bowersox would like to meet with the street committee to decide which streets will be paved in 2001 so the utility companies can be notified.

## **4. Finance Committee**

- Mr. Wolfe made a motion to revise ordinance 2000-5 under section 6B. If a property is inspected once, and the fee is collected, the fee will not be collected again in that same calendar year. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The new ordinance will be read at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup> meetings. The property will be inspected each time the rental unit is vacated. Another ordinance will be prepared to address the exemptions in the current ordinance.
- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2000-6, authorizing a \$100,000 loan from SUN Bank. Mr. Wolfe stated that a number in the ordinance was incorrect. Atty. Best stated that the correct number could be inserted and Ordinance 2000-6 could be read for the second time. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2000-6 with the corrected figure; Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mr. Wolfe announced the Second Reading of the 2001 Budget. The budget has been available for review in the borough office. Judge Sacavage will determine whether to

approve the five-mill street fund tax. The hearing is scheduled for January 3, 2001. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the 2001 budget. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### **5. Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System**

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt option one as the means of allocating the 2000 excess interest. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. This option credits excess monies based on the distribution reported by PMRS. An equal percentage will be credited against individual balances and an equal percentage benefit increase will be credited to each retiree. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### **6. Community Block Grant**

Mr. Redington asked for council to approve an application for a Community Block Grant from the county for money to work on handicapped accessibility for the Second Street School. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the grant application. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### **7. Former Borough Manager Compensation**

Mr. Bowersox requested that the borough compensate Mr. Redington for the months he worked as Borough Manager. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee would discuss this at its first January meeting, once the budget can be examined. Mr. Bowersox suggested discussing the issue at the December 27, 2000 meeting. Mr. Wolfe agreed that it should be discussed.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2000, as corrected. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Ms. Kelley stated that PG Energy had offered to pay the bill from Larson Design Group for information requested regarding the gas line. An invoice has been sent to PG Energy for this bill. The amount due from the General Fund is \$29,922.66, and the amount due from the Parks and Recreation Account is \$325.62.
3. The borough crew will begin picking up Christmas trees on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, continuing through January 17<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the street sweeping schedule will be followed and once the borough crew has completed a street, they will not pick up any more trees on that street. This notice will be advertised in the Daily Item. Mrs. Groninger requested that the borough crew remove the picnic benches from the King Street Park, weather permitting.
4. Mr. Bill Hoffman contacted Mr. Wolfe because the Hoffman family would like permission to erect a memorial to their father in Pineknott Park. Mr. Wolfe felt that borough residents might wish to contribute to this type of memorial. Mrs. Brosius stated other people have requested erecting memorials and some of the benches in the park are in memory of various people. Council discussed forming a committee to take care of memorial requests. Mrs. Brosius offered to contact the Hoffman family for more information regarding the memorial. Mrs. Brosius stated that the Second Street School Committee has discussed the possibility of erecting a “memory wall” with plaques on a Second Street School gym wall. Something like this could be done at Pineknott Park, also.
5. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Borough Office is changing computer software at the beginning of the year and a new computer should be purchased to handle the new software. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to purchase the new computer for the Borough Office. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The new computer had been included in the 2001 budget.

6. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council would meet on December 27 at 7:00 p.m. Any additions to the agenda should be submitted to the office by Friday, December 22. The reason for the meeting is to pay all the bills and close out the year.
7. Mr. Bowersox informed the council that a representative from Allenwood Equipment came to service the snow blower, change the oil and install a new battery. They will demonstrate the machine at the council's convenience. Mr. Bowersox would like as many council members present as possible. He also stated that the possibility of trading in the snowplow and the loader, and purchasing a new four-wheel drive backhoe was discussed with the borough crew.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to extend the meeting ten minutes. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion.

Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Bowersox to schedule a time for the snow blower demonstration and those council members that can attend will be there.

8. Ms. Kelley announced that the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday night is canceled for the month of December.
9. The Zoning Board has canceled its December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.
10. Mrs. Groninger announced that the property committee would meet in January to discuss the Rescue Squad building.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
December 27, 2000

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge to the Flag  
Moment of Silent Meditation**

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Mr. Greg Shaffer, and Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered at this meeting.

**Old Business**

1. The Borough Web Site, [www.Northumberlandborough.com](http://www.Northumberlandborough.com), is now operational. The Borough Office will manage the web site, once the new computer is operating. The Mayor, President of Council, Council, and Secretary will have email. The record of the Borough Council meetings on the web site will relate the actions taken by the council, rather than the actual meeting minutes. This is being done so as not to intimidate anyone who addresses the council who may not wish to have his comments on the Internet. A full copy of the approved minutes is available for review in the Borough Office.
2. Various organizations have requested permission to use the Second Street School. Two of the organizations suggested using heaters since the school is not heated. Mr. Shaffer stated that the wiring at the school could not handle the electric heaters. He is also not in favor of any type of propane heaters inside the building. Mr. Taylor had agreed to contribute toward the cost of the electricity. His organization would like to hold practice sessions once or twice a week. Mr. Wolfe stated that the organizations would need to have the required insurance. A schedule could be maintained at the borough office and one person from each organization would be responsible to unlock and lock the doors.

Mr. Tom Slodysko arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Bowersox suggested using extension cords to pull from circuits in other parts of the building. Mr. Slodysko stated that someone could safely tap into a main breaker, however, he feels it will be difficult to heat the gym with electric heaters. Mrs. Brosius had a concern about electric heaters in a gym with children using baseballs and soccer balls. Mr. Shaffer stated that once cables are strung for batting cages, it might interfere with activities of other groups. Mr. Wolfe asked if any council member would like to make a motion permitting the use of the building by these groups. No motion was offered. Mr. Wolfe hopes to obtain the grant money and install the new heating system and a new roof in the spring. Mr. Redington stated that the borough should be receiving the state grant money at any time. Mr. Wolfe suggested corresponding with the organizations, explaining what insurance is required and that the borough plans to make repairs to the building. Mr. Wolfe asked that the Parks and Recreation Committee establish guidelines for use of the building.

It was decided that it would be best to wait to allow use of the building until after the repairs have been completed.

3. The new renter's ordinance, 2001-1, will be read on January 2, 2001. This ordinance is the same as the one adopted at the December 19, 2000 meeting, except it states that each unit will be charged a yearly Rental Fee of \$25 and the Inspection Fee of \$100 will be charged just once in a calendar year. This is regardless of how many times a tenant moves out of a rental unit and the unit is inspected. Mrs. Groninger does not think that halfway houses, group homes, hotels, boarding houses, the clergy, or the high-rise should be exempt. Mr. Shaffer stated that anything that is regulated by the Department of Labor and Industry, and is inspected outside of the borough's ordinance, would not need to be inspected by the borough. Mr. Wolfe stated that a separate ordinance could be written to address the issue of halfway houses, group homes, hotels, and boarding houses. Atty. Best said that this ordinance could establish inspections for these properties once each year with an Inspection Fee of \$125.00. Atty. Best stated that his intent to exclude the clergy and the mid-rise was because he did not think the borough wished to charge non-profit organizations. The mid-rise is a non-profit organization. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Ordinance 2000-5 goes into effect on January 1, 2001. Mr. Ditton stated that a reporting mechanism must be set up. He does not think the ordinance should be adopted until it can be enforced. Mr. Wolfe stated that council needed to pass the ordinance before the paperwork could be completed. The Public Safety Committee will meet to discuss the guidelines to be used by the Code Officer for the rental property inspections. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt ordinance 2001-1. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Slodysko, Mr. Shaffer, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted no. The motion passed 5-1.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Slodysko seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger added a bill to reimburse Sue Kelley the amount of \$21 for a seminar she attended. The gas bill for the Girl Scout House was questioned. The borough crew will be asked to check that the heat is turned down. Roll call vote - All ayes.
2. At the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, council discussed compensating Mr. Redington for his tenure as Borough Manager. Mr. Wolfe explained that the borough has not received the grant from the state for the Second Street School and the general fund balance is \$13,000. He advised tabling the issue until the grant money is received.
3. Mr. Redington requested that the council grant him 32 hours of comp time. Mr. Shaffer explained that the time was used for administrative duties. The borough can either allow him to take comp time in 2001, or pay him time and a half for overtime. In previous years, he has been given the comp time. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to grant 32 hours of comp time to Mr. Redington. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Shaffer asked if any progress has been made a Pineknott Park. At this time, the weather has prohibited the contractor from working.
5. The office has checked on the hours that burning is permitted in the borough, as stipulated in the ordinance. The codebook listed the time on Saturdays to be from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. The official ordinance was reviewed and the time stipulated for burning is from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Mr. Robert Stahl requested that the council amend the burning ordinance to permit burning between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11 a.m. Council discussed that the reason for allowing burning at 7:00

a.m. is to accommodate those who work during the day. Mr. Wolfe asked if any council member wished to make a motion to amend the ordinance. No motion was offered.

6. Mrs. Groninger asked for an explanation concerning a letter written to Mr. Redington regarding a waiver of retroactivity for the Gutelius Excavating Contract. It was explained that this approval means that if the borough receives a grant through the Community Conservative Partnerships, the money the borough has paid to Gutelius will be considered as all or part of the required local match.
7. Mr. Shaffer announced that the Public Safety Committee would meet on January 4, 2001, at 6:00 p.m.
8. Mr. Stahl stated that he does not feel that the Renter's Ordinance is fair because the fee is too high. He said that of the forty or so landlords present at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, only four were from out of town. Mr. Stahl agrees with inspections of the rental units, but does not agree with the costs, especially under the former ordinance when a fee was assessed every time a tenant moves out.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. for an Executive Session dealing with personnel issues.

The council meeting resumed at 8:04 p.m.

Mr. Bowersox moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman