

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
January 2, 2001**

President Bryan Wolfe called the first meeting of 2001 to order 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 Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Borough Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The nineteen guests present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mrs. Brosius told council that she contacted Mr. Bill Hoffman regarding a memorial for his father, Mr. Robert Hoffman, at Pineknottter Park. A sketch of the design that has been proposed was given to the council. She stated that the block stone that is proposed for the memorial comes from the Danville-Riverside Bridge and is offered for use for any veterans. The family would like to pay for this memorial. Mrs. Brosius suggested that perhaps the council would like to designate a section of Pineknottter Park for memorials.
- Mr. George Stabnau stated that he is opposed to the Rental Ordinance because the borough is charging the landlords instead of the tenants.

**Executive Session**

The council meeting was recessed at 7:04 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 7:26 p.m. The issues discussed were a police personnel issue and the Teamsters contract.

Mr. Ditton made a motion that council agrees to the new Teamsters Contract, effective as of January 1, 2001. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

**Code Officer's Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activities as Code Officer and Street Inspector for the month of December. He also gave council a yearly report. Copies of the reports are available in the borough office.

**Old Business**

1. Mr. Dave Walters of Larson Design Group, Inc. was presented an update of the Pineknottter Park Project to the council. Mr. Walters had sent council a letter, dated December 29, 2000, for a change order with Gutelius Excavating, Inc. The original contract price was \$182,650.00, as bid. The new contract price as a result of the change order is \$180,600.00. The contract time has also been extended, based on the contractor's schedule to reseed the park. Based on the contractor's schedule, the contract times changed to 154 days for substantial completion and 163 days for final payment. The substantial completion inspection is scheduled for May 16, 2001. Following the inspection, the contractor will have until May 25<sup>th</sup> to address any punchlist items. The contractor must have the project completed by May 25, 2001, so

final payment can be made. The borough will have thirty days to pay the bill from the time it is received. If the contractor does not address the work on the punchlist, he will not be paid for the work. Under the performance and payment bond, the contractor is guaranteeing the work of the entire project for one year. The contractor has requested the extension so the weather is warm enough for the seed to germinate. Mr. Wolfe asked about the work change directive. Mr. Walters explained that the work change order is requested to allow the Recreation Commission to fill the base paths with ball mix. The contractor's labor will be decreased because he will not be filling the base paths. The contractor will need to taper the ground from the infield to the base path and from the area outside of the base paths to the base paths. Mr. Walters did not have an itemized list for the change orders with him, but will provide council with an itemized list. The contractor has sent a sample of the mixed material to a laboratory for testing. The results have not yet been obtained. The representative from DEP has stated that the material looked good and he does not anticipate any problems, according to Mr. Walters. DEP had required that once the material was spread, it be tested. Mr. Walters had asked for approval to test a mix of the material before it was spread, in order to insure that the material would be acceptable before the borough went to the expense of having it spread. DEP agreed to this idea, and will not require testing once the material is spread, if the test of the sample mix is approved. Mr. Walters stated that he is paying for the additional testing because DEP required that one of their employees be present when the sample was mixed.

As part of the grant for the lighting at the ball field, a preparedness plan has been required by DEP. The plan is prepared and Mr. Walters will review it with a DEP representative before it is submitted to the council.

Mr. Bowersox would like to have cross-sections taken of Pineknott Park so that in future years the borough can prove that the ground was at the proper grades. Mr. Walters will submit a written proposal to the council. Mr. Walters recommended taking the cross-sections at every 50 feet. Mrs. Groninger asked if DEP would provide the borough with an acknowledgement that the Pineknott Park Project is completed. Mr. Walters stated that he believes the borough should insist that a Statement of Closure be provided. He will provide the borough with a proposal for the cross-sections in two weeks. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve Change Order number one, which modifies the pay item for grading and seeding from a square foot price to a square yard price, and deletes items three through six of the contract. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. The motion is pending receipt of the itemized list from Larson's. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve work change directive number one, which says that the contractor will not fill in the base path areas of the ball field. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion.

Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked if Mr. Walters was going to oversee the work. Mr. Walters stated that as long as the Recreation Commission matches the grades on each side of the base path, they would meet the grade requirements. DEP has approved the work conceptually, but it must be done as soon as the contractor is finished with the grading. Mr. Shaffer asked if the Recreation Commission had met and approved this work. Mr. Daddario stated that the Legion maintains the field. Mr. Shaffer withdrew his motion. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to accept the change order. Motion died for lack of a second. Mr. Daddario stated that he could provide the council with an agreement from the Legion. Mr. Shaffer asked for a written commitment from the Legion that they will comply with the specifications and if it is not completed properly, they will take full responsibility. The motion was tabled.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the topic could be brought up at later meeting. He explained that the council needs to know who is going to complete the work, to the satisfaction of the engineer. The change order was signed and will be forwarded to the contractor.

2. Recycling Building Addition – Mr. Walters explained that the plans proposed a six-inch layer of concrete on top of an existing area of concrete. The contractor has informed the borough that the surface is uneven and if he matches the grade, he will not be able to maintain six inches of contract. The contractor suggested taking the concrete out, putting a stone base, and installing six inches of contract. Mr. Walters recommended that the borough do as the contractor suggested. The borough crew can take out the concrete that is currently there. There may be additional cost for the stone if the borough does not have enough for the project. Mrs. Groninger requested that the grant be billed for the time borough crew spends on this project. Mr. Bowersox stated that the stone would need to be compacted. Mr. Ditton made a motion that the old concrete is removed, and stone and six inches of concrete installed, as per the contractor’s recommendation. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that the time and equipment rates for the borough crew be billed to the grant. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Wolfe, Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.
3. The borough has received a check for \$175,000 from the state that is earmarked for the Second Street School. Mr. Wolfe asked for two motions; one is to put bids out for a new roof. The second motion is to put bids out for a new heating system. Ms. Kelley stated that she thought the council had already passed motions for a new roof and heating system. Mr. Redington has consulted with a heating contractor about heating the building with natural gas. He stated that the borough does not have specifications for the heating system or roof. He has obtained an estimate to replace the roof with one similar to the present roof for approximately \$30,000. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the topic be tabled until the January 16, 2001 council meeting. A motion to transfer funds from the grant money in the General Contingency Fund to the General Fund to cover all expenditures paid for the Second Street School was made by Mrs. Groninger. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Wolfe would like the council to act on the Second Street School Committee’s recommendation on how the school should be utilized. The Property Committee will schedule a meeting to review the building.
4. Mr. Wolfe read Ordinance No. 2001-1, Technical Amendments to Landlord Regulation Ordinance of 2001. The ordinance is on file in the Borough Office and will amend ordinance 2000-5 if and when it is adopted. Atty. Best noted that the phrase “preceding calendar year” should be changed to “current calendar year”. Mr. Wolfe noted that the inspection fee should be \$100, not \$125. The \$25 yearly fee is an annual fee to be paid on every rental unit. Mr. Gavason asked who would be the inspector. Mr. Ruane stated that he would be inspecting the units. Mr. Daddario asked if he is certified. Mr. Ruane replied that under Act 54, he has three to five years to become certified. Mr. Daddario asked who is responsible if something happens to an apartment after the building has been inspected. Mr. Shaffer stated that the certification signifies that at the time of the inspection, the building passed. A list of specifications will be sent with the initial letter to the property owners. The BOCA codes are available for review in the borough office. Atty. Best stated that if the

BOCA codes are copyrighted, we may not copy the entire booklet. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-1. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

5. Borough representatives are meeting on January 3, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. with Judge Ranck to request a five-mill increase in the millage rate for 2001. The hearing is opened to the public. The increase is to obtain revenue for streets, storm sewers and curbs.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of November 21, 2000. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The bills total \$2,596.58.
3. A request was received from the Clancy Program to allow juveniles on probation to perform community service in the borough. One juvenile has requested permission to help the Improvement Committee with removing the Christmas decorations. The Clancy Program provides supervision for the juveniles. The Improvement Committee has agreed to the assistance. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. A letter requesting a temporary handicapped parking space at St. John's Lutheran Church was received from Mrs. Roberta Fisher Nevill. Mrs. Groninger made a motion that St. John's Luther Church be permitted to erect portable handicapped parking sign during church services/ functions. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mrs. Groninger asked if volunteer groups have been asked to have their own audits on their books as a means good business practice. The Borough Secretary maintains the checking accounts for the Liberty Pool and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
6. The Recreation Committee has ordered the skating rink for in the park. They were interested in the possibility of using the Santa House to serve refreshments. Mr. Gavason suggested that they request permission to use the Pineknotter's small Coke wagon instead.
7. Mr. Ruane stated that an Appeals Board is needed in the borough. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to advertise for a three-member Appeals Board. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The motion stipulated that the Code Officer and Borough Secretary review the qualifications required to serve on the board. Roll call vote – All ayes.
8. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Public Safety Committee would meet on January 4, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
January 16, 2001**

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 Mr. Tom Slodysko, Ms. Susan Kelley, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Josh Newbury, Fire Chief, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The four guests present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius asked if council had any information regarding the Second Street School. Mr. Wolfe stated that he felt that before decisions were made concerning the use of the building, a heating system and roof needed to be installed. Mr. Redington is in the process of obtaining recommendations from contractors.

**Executive Session**

The council meeting was recessed for an Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened at 7:20 p.m. Topics discussed were personnel and litigation regarding a drainage issue.

**Code Officer's Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity in January. He will be attending classes in April concerning the BOCA code.

**Old Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe postponed the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2001-1, Fees for Rental Properties, until February 6, 2001, because the solicitor was not present.
2. Traffic Light/ Flashing Light Update - Ms. Kelley stated that she spoke with a representative of the Shikellamy School District regarding the borough's consideration of painting crosswalks on Duke Street. The school district is considering hiring a crossing guard for the corner at Fourth and Duke Streets. Ms. Kelley asked if the school district would support a traffic light at that corner. She was told that the business manager would be consulted and a letter sent to the borough. Ms. Kelley also spoke with a Penn DOT representative regarding the application for the flashing light on Route 11. Penn DOT has not received the application yet. However, if the numbers of the traffic count do not merit a light, the borough will have to accept the decision. Rep. Phillips's office is planning to submit the request when funding for the light is located. Mr. Wolfe has invited Rep. Phillips to a council meeting to thank him for the assistance he has provided to the borough. Rep. Phillips will be attending the February 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting.
3. Information was received from Atty. Best stating that Judge Ranck will be ruling on the petition for the millage increase next week. Atty. Best has been instructed to prepare the order.
4. The auditor is completing the forms needed to obtain the \$100,000 loan from SUN Bank.

5. Brinjac has requested the \$9,082.94 owed to them by the borough since 1999. Mrs. Groninger moved that the borough pay Brinjac \$1000 per month until the bill is paid in full. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger amended her motion to approve payment of \$4,500 in January and \$4,582.94 in February. The borough will request all documentation from the company. Mr. Shaffer stated that he is not in favor of spending the \$9,000 before tax money comes in to the borough in March. Roll call vote – Ms. Kelley, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Slodysko voted aye. Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger asked if Ms. Kelley was reimbursed for her travel expenses to attend the Penn DOT seminar. The money had not been reimbursed because no voucher was received. Ms. Kelley will provide the office with a voucher. Mr. Shaffer stated that a notice of water turn-off at the Rescue Squad building was received. The Property Committee recommended that the borough pay the \$64.44 so the borough will not be charged to have the water turned on again. The water company will be notified to put the bills in the borough's name. Mrs. Groninger asked to see the documentation for Larson's bill. The bill was for the PPC plan, required as part of a grant application for Pineknott Park. An explanation about the money owed to the Municipal and School Earned Income Tax Office was requested. The borough contributes to the cost of operating that office based on the earned income tax money collected for the borough. Mr. Ditton questioned the amounts spent for repairs to the borough trucks. Council discussed the ages of the trucks. A bill received from the Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce is a one-time fee to have the borough's web site linked to the Chamber's web site. The other bill from the SVCC is for the borough's annual membership. The bill from Waste Management was discussed because Waste Management refuses to pay a hauler's permit fee to the borough. Roll call vote to approve payment of the bills – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to contact garbage haulers to bid on the waste removal at the Recycling Building. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The motion was amended to state that the garbage haulers must have paid the permit fee to the borough. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe has reviewed the borough's Long Term Comprehensive Plan that was drafted fifteen years ago by the borough and Point Township. He recommends that the council begin an update of the plan. He has also reviewed Lewisburg's new long-range plan. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the council members, the Planning Commission, and other governmental agencies work together get a new plan started. Mr. Shaffer asked if Point Township would be included in the new plan. Mr. Wolfe stated that he is open to all ideas and suggested contacting SEDA-Cog and other agencies to seek funding. Any council member who would like a copy of the plan to review should contact the borough office.
4. The Public Meeting for the Flood Mitigation Plan is scheduled for January 23, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Officials will be present to explain the planning process and the impact to the borough on the levy raising north of the borough. After the public meeting, the committee will meet. The surveying crews have completed their work in the borough. The data will be available in March. Postcards will be sent to remind the committee members of the meeting. An news article to inform the public of the meeting will be sent to the Daily Item.

5. A newsletter will be prepared for the beginning of March. Articles to be included describe the street project and the borough web site. Mr. Wolfe asked for other suggestions.
6. When the millage rate has been finalized, the council will prepare a list of streets that will be repaired. Mr. Bowersox would like to advertise the bids in March. Mr. Don Free, of Penn DOT, will meet with the Street Committee on Friday, February 16, at 9:00 a.m. to help plan the street project. The water company has written a letter to the council that it would like to replace a water main on Second Street. Second Street is on the borough's list to be repaired, but it is not at the top of the list. Information was received from Dave Walters that the gas company is meeting with an environmental consultant to determine if the gas line can be run along the edge of Pineknott Park. They plan to run the gas line along the railroad right-of-way, extending down along the entrance road to the park, and going under Route 11 towards the sewer plant. The line would then be extended out Priestley Avenue. Mr. Walters will keep the borough informed. Mr. Bowersox stated that the utility companies would be informed of the street paving plans once they are determined.
7. Mr. Wolfe stated that the yearly calendar of events should be put on the website.
8. Mrs. Groninger moved that the borough provide a handicapped parking space for Mr. and Mrs. John Slear at 355 Queen Street. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
9. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to appoint the following to the Northumberland Special Fire Police: William Farone, Captain; Jon Apple, Lieutenant; Herb Gottshall, Jr., Sergeant/ Secretary; Herb Gottshall, III, Treasurer; and Patrolmen Gary McNeir, Budd Reader, Bob Ciotti, and Tom Croft. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Shaffer stated that the borough has no requirement that the fire police members reside in the borough. They are required to be a member at one of the fire departments. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mrs. Groninger suggested sending letters of appreciation to these people.
10. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to appoint Jan Bowman as Secretary of the Board of Health for the borough. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
11. Mrs. Groninger reported that the Property Committee met at the Rescue Squad building on January 15. The committee recommends that the borough rent the building, with a target date of March 1<sup>st</sup>, after completing the improvements suggested by Mr. Ruane. The committee recommends obtaining a five-year lease with the rent for the first year being \$725 per month, the second year, \$775 per month, and the third through fifth years, \$800 per month. The lessee will pay for all utilities. An application will be drawn up and a contract drafted and approved before a tenant is accepted. Mrs. Groninger made a motion that the borough rent out the Rescue Squad building. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
12. Mr. Walters of Larson Design contacted the borough office to relay the information that Gutelius is requesting permission from DEP to remove the frozen material from the material at Furman's, haul material that is not frozen to the site, and mix it with unfrozen material that is piled at Pineknott Park. They plan to try this method on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to see if it will work. Mr. Walters is sending a letter that the cost for as-built drawings with cross sections at fifty-foot stations will be approximately \$3,300 to \$4,300. He also stated that DEP might request these drawings before signing off on the project. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to obtain as-built drawing with cross sections at fifty-foot intervals, tying into benchmarks, at a maximum cost of \$4,500. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe stated that he will not vote for

another nickel for Pineknott Park in this year. Mr. Shaffer said that he read in a news article that DEP stated that if it posed any hazard to the public health, they would have never allowed the borough to develop a park on top of the closed landfill in 1983. Mrs. Groninger stated that if the borough had as-built drawings developed when the landfill was first closed, it would be proof that the borough had covered the landfill to specifications. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Ms. Kelley, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Slodysko voted no. The motion was defeated 4-3. Council discussed the fact a new motion could be made at a later date. A written proposal from Larson's should be available at the next meeting. Several council members were concerned that the money is not budgeted for the as-built drawings.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
February 6, 2001**

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 Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Greg Shaffer. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dan Yapple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

Mr. Wolfe announced that Ms. Susan Kelley has submitted a letter of resignation as a borough council member. Ms. Kelley has moved to California. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to accept Ms. Kelley’s resignation, with regret. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council vacancy would be advertised and applications will be accepted until February 19, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. The council hopes to appoint a replacement at the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The position must be filled within thirty days from the date that the council accepted Ms. Kelley’s resignation. Mr. Wolfe requested that all candidates for the vacant council seat send a letter of application and attend the council meeting on February 20, 2001 in order to be considered. The term for this council seat ends December 31, 2001. Ms. Kelley had been the chairman of the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Ditton as acting chairman of the committee. Ms. Kelley also served on the Streets, Parks and Recreation, and Personnel Committees. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Ms. Kelley. Mr. Wolfe stated that five council seats and the position of Mayor are up for election this year. Four of the council seats are for four-year terms; one is for a two-year term.

The seven visitors present at the meeting introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mrs. Gretchen Brosius added her thanks for the work that Ms. Kelley had done for the borough. Mrs. Brosius had served on several committees with Ms. Kelley and stated that she had been a very active member of the council. Mrs. Brosius also informed the council and others present that Mr. Sabo is in Nottingham Village and is not doing very well.
- Mrs. Ruth Ford asked for the council to approve that a room in the Second Street School be utilized as a museum. She thinks that many borough residents would have articles and documents that could be included in the museum.
- Mr. Waltz asked if the borough crew was continuing to collect recyclables. The schedule is the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the month, providing none of these days is a holiday.

## **Executive Session**

The council adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. The meeting was reconvened at 7:20 p.m. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to contact the Civil Service Commission members to create a new eligibility list for the police department. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Code Officer's Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspection Supervisor for January 2001. He informed the council that the Zoning Board has been meeting on the last Tuesday of the month. A Zoning Hearing, regarding a variance for Verizon, at the corner of Front and Orange Streets, is scheduled for February 27, 2001.

He added that the Planning Commission has approved a subdivision plan for Mr. Roy Moyer. He presented the plan to the council for its approval. Mr. Wolfe signed the plan. Mr. Ruane reported that a new porch and a new door have been installed at the property on Queen Street.

## **Old Business**

1. The Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2001-1, the “Technical Amendments to Landlord Regulation Ordinance of 2001”, was conducted by Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-1. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2001-2, “Rental Regulation Act of 2001”. This ordinance addresses rental units that are exempt by Ordinance 2001-1. Mrs. Ford asked the council if it was possible to keep group homes out of Northumberland. She suggested putting restrictions on the group homes, such as requiring that a doctor be available 24 hours. Atty. Eugene Brosius informed the council that a few years ago, the federal government interceded when the council tried to reject a group home in the borough. This ordinance provides for inspections of rental properties that are not being inspected by a state or federal department. Mr. Ditton made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-2. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Street Committee Report
  - Mr. Bowersox reported that the Shikellamy School District has written a letter to the borough supporting the installation of a traffic light at the corner of Duke and Fourth Streets.
  - Mr. Bowersox informed the council that the Street Committee met on January 25, 2001, and discussed ordering pipe and inlets for the streets that are to be paved. According to Mr. Don Free, the borough will need to obtain bids for the pipe and inlets. The list of streets is being prioritized. Mrs. Fran Bogovich requested that Buchanan Street be added to the list. Last year, one side of the street was repaired to correct a drainage problem. Mrs. Bogovich stated that a drainage problem exists on her side of the street. Mr. Bowersox agreed that the street needs repaired. On February 16, the Street Committee will be meeting with Mr. Don Free, of Penn DOT, to write the bids for the street projects planned for 2001. The council hopes to have the bids out in March. Mr. Yapple stated that the Sewer Authority is considering making repairs to Priestley Avenue and Fourth Street. He requested the list of streets that the borough will be paving this year so the Sewer Authority can complete any repairs on those streets before the street is paved. Mr. Bowersox stated that the borough would not allow the utility companies to open the street for five years

following the paving, except in emergency situations. Mrs. Bogovich asked who is responsible for installing streetlights in the hill section. Mr. Wolfe told her that he believes it is probably the borough's responsibility. Mr. Bowersox stated that the deeds would need to be checked and the solicitor should be consulted. Mr. Wolfe added that lights for on the hill section would have to be considered next year because this year's commitments are set.

- Mrs. Brosius asked if the borough is considering a push button for pedestrian crossing on the traffic light proposed for Fourth and Duke Streets. Council felt that a pedestrian crossing button should be included. Mrs. Brosius also asked why the other traffic lights in the borough do not have push buttons. Mr. Shaffer stated that he believes the new lights are to have buttons for pedestrian crossing, but the traffic lights are not yet completed.
4. Larson Design Group, Inc. has requested that the borough sign a contract for their engineering services for the year 2001. Larson's does not charge retainer fees as a part of the agreement. The advantage to having the contract is that the engineering firm would be readily available to answer any questions from the borough. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the contract from Larson Design Group. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger asked if a schedule of fees was included with the contract. Mr. Wolfe read the contract. No fee structure was included in the contract submitted to the council. Mr. Wolfe tabled the motion, pending the receipt of a fee structure.
  5. In December, the Second Street School Committee recommended that the school be utilized as a community center that would house the municipal administrative offices as well as the police department. The playground area and gymnasium would be used for recreational purposes. They recommended that the grant money that has been received be spent for the replacement of a heating system and roof. Mr. Redington informed council that he has contacted two roofing contractors and two heating contractors to provide the information needed to draw up the bids. He hopes to have the specifications soon. Mr. Redington added that one of the roofing contractors informed him that the deterioration of the roofing sheeting was more extensive than originally thought. He added that it was suggested that a different type of roof be considered instead of the flat roof. Mr. Wolfe suggested the council adopt the creation of a Community Center Board as recommended by the Second Street School Committee. One member would be a council member, one member would be a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and three to five other residents would be named as members. Mrs. Brosius stated that she has visited the Lewisburg Community Center. Their board is an authority, composed of several municipalities. Mr. Shaffer suggested that Mrs. Brosius and Mr. Daddario to explore the methods of operation at other area community centers. Atty. Brosius suggested that the council expand the advisory committee, under the direction of Mr. Redington. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to appoint the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street School Advisory Committee. The members of the committee are Mr. Larry Redington, Mrs. Gretchen Brosius, Mr. Mike Daddario, Mrs. Ruth Ford, Ms. Margaret Weirick, Atty. Eugene Brosius, and Mr. Greg Shaffer. Two youth representatives will be selected from recommendations from the high school guidance office. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  6. Houtz Printing is currently working on the newsletter for delivery next week. Mr. Wolfe announced that the borough's web site is [www.northumberlandborough.com](http://www.northumberlandborough.com).
  7. Mrs. Groninger questioned if the work at Pineknott Park should be continued before the temperature is consistently above freezing and the soil is not frozen. The

baseball leagues have informed the council that they have obtained other fields to play baseball for the 2001 season. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to inform Larson Design Group, Inc. that no work is to begin at Pineknoller Park until DEP's conditions are met and the borough receives DEP's written approval. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

8. Two borough residents have volunteered to serve on the Appeals Board. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael P. McWilliams and Mr. Robert Waltz to serve on the Appeals Board. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote – All ayes.
9. The borough does not have a deed to the Priestley Avenue Extension. Mr. Wolfe will contact Atty. Best regarding the status of obtaining a deed and the ordinance to accept the street. Atty. Best will also be asked about the legality of charging residents for the curbing on Priestley Avenue.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of the Council Meetings of December 5, 2000, December 19, 2000, December 27, 2000, January 2, 2001, and January 16, 2001, as corrected. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. SUN Bank notified council that the Business District Parking Lot Certificate of Deposit matures on February 8, 2001. The current interest rate on the Certificate of Deposit is 5%; the borough's checking accounts are currently earning 6.49% interest. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to transfer the money from the Certificate of Deposit into one of the borough's checking accounts. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council plans to honor Representative Merle Phillips at the February 20th meeting. The council plans to present him with a citation for the assistance he has provided to the borough. The Daily Item will be contacted and invited to attend this meeting.
5. Mrs. Fran Bogovich stated that the existing midrise has had six vacancies since December. She is also aware of vacancies at the high rises in Sunbury. She is asking why the borough needs another midrise in town. The agreement between the borough and the Housing Authority is for the Housing Authority to pay 25% of the profit to the borough once the loans are paid off. Mr. Wolfe stated that he believes the payback is to begin once the second midrise is paid for. Mr. Ditton stated that he had heard that the Housing Authority has a waiting list. Mr. Wolfe stated that he was aware of borough residents who do not wish to move into the downtown midrise, but are waiting for the new midrise to be built. Mrs. Bogovich stated that the Housing Authority provides the borough with a copy of their audit report each year and that they have money invested in Certificates of Deposits. She does not feel that something else could be done with the Sixth Street property since the vacancies exist at the other area high-rises. She added that the Housing Authority could then start to pay the borough a percentage of the profits. Mrs. Groninger suggested that council take some of the concerns to a Housing Authority meeting. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Housing Authority agreed to pay the borough 25% of their profits in response to the borough loaning them \$1,000,000. Atty. Brosius stated that the borough gave the Housing Authority \$1,000,000. Mr. Daddario stated that the midrise is exempt from the borough's rental inspections because they are nonprofit. Mr. Shaffer said that one

- of the high-rises in Sunbury have converted some of the units to low-income housing. He also stated that the Department of Labor and Industry inspects the midrise each year. Mr. Wolfe asked that representatives from the Housing Authority, Mr. Dale Heim and Atty. Mike Balducci, be invited to attend the next council meeting.
6. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to designate Statewide Tax Recovery Services to collect delinquent 2000 per capita and occupation privilege taxes. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  7. Mrs. Groninger asked if the borough has received any responses from garbage haulers to service the borough. No responses have been received yet.
  8. The borough has received information about the State Association of Boroughs Spring Conference. It is scheduled for March 18 through March 20 at the Holiday Inn at Harrisburg/ Hershey. Mr. Wolfe stated that he hoped that someone from council would be able to attend.
  9. Mr. Ditton was told that people have been dumping garbage at the Recycling Center. At times, these people can be identified. When they can be identified, the police are called and the violators are fined. However, the borough receives very little of the fine. It was suggested that violators perform community service at the recycling center. If they do not wish to perform community service, they would be assessed a fine. Mr. Redington said that the violators have been sited under state law and suggested that the borough adopt an ordinance prohibiting dumping garbage at the recycling center. In this manner, the borough would receive the money for the fine. Mr. Wolfe will consult the solicitor regarding this ordinance.
  10. Mr. Bowersox asked that Atty. Best also be asked if an ordinance could be written that provides for the borough to release the bituminous or cement concrete when contractors are working for the borough.
  11. Mr. Ditton asked if the list of exempt properties in the borough could be obtained for review. The list is available in the office. The list of exempt parcels will be reviewed and the Assessment Office will be contacted if it is felt that an exempt status should be changed.
  12. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to purchase a 2002 Ford Explorer from Ford Motor Company at a price of \$26,211.85 for the Police Department. This price includes the vehicle cost and an extended warranty. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The money to pay for the vehicle will come from the Parking Meter Fund. This fund currently totals around \$16,000. Mr. Redington stated that there would be some additional costs required for changing over the radio, etc. The vehicle will be purchased through the Municipal Lease Program with two yearly payments at a cost of \$13,573.54 per payment. The vehicle will be ordered now with delivery expected in three or four months. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  13. Mr. Redington stated that when the new vehicle is received, the police department would be rotating a vehicle out of service. Mr. Redington is recommending that the 1997 Chevy Blazer be sold. The other option would be the 1995 Ford, the unmarked police car. The blazer has 72,000 miles; the car has 60,000. Mr. Bowersox suggested that the borough could keep the Blazer for the code officer and sell the code car. He stated that the car would not be worth as much as the Blazer. Mr. Redington stated that the wholesale value of a vehicle used as a family car that would be similar to the Blazer is \$12,000. The equipment currently in the Blazer would transfer into the Explorer and the proceeds from the sale of the Blazer could be used toward the additional costs in transferring the equipment.
  14. Mr. Bowersox related a conversation with a representative from Allenwood Equipment Company. He stated that the borough could trade-in the snow blower and

the two-wheel drive backhoe for a four-wheel drive backhoe. Mr. Shaffer suggested that Mr. Bowersox obtain prices. Others concurred.

15. Mrs. Groninger suggested that since the borough belongs to the Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce that a representative of the borough should attend the meetings, whenever possible. Mr. Redington and Mayor Wetzel have attended meetings. Mr. Shaffer suggested that Jan Bowman attend if council members are unable to attend. Mrs. Groninger stated that she wanted to encourage representatives from the borough to attend.
16. A letter was received from DEP announcing a Watershed Team Meeting to be held on February 28, 2001 at the Columbia County Ag Center. If anyone is available to attend, a response is requested by February 16<sup>th</sup>.
17. Mr. Redington stated that the Police Department would like to purchase an additional speed-timing device at a cost of \$700. The money to purchase the equipment would eventually come from the sale of the Blazer. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to loan the \$700.00 for the speed-timing device with the money to be reimbursed after the sale of the Blazer. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
February 20, 2001**

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

**Presentation to Representative Merle Phillips**

Mr. Wolfe thanked Rep. Phillips for his assistance in obtaining money for the borough for Second Street School. Mr. Wolfe presented Rep. Phillips with a plaque, declaring him an honorary citizen of the borough, and a Pineknottter hat. Rep. Phillips stated that he feels that his job is to bring assistance back to the communities in his district. He told council that he is also working on other projects for the borough, including Pineknottter Park and the traffic light at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Duke Streets. Mrs. Groninger stated that the people of Northumberland appreciate the work he has done for our borough, and the recreational facilities that have been improved because of his work.

**Appoint New Council Member**

Mr. Wolfe announced that two candidates have applied for the vacant borough council seat. Mr. Gregory Carl stated that he has lived in the borough for 12 years. He is a union steward at International Home Foods. He feels that this experience will assist him in the work as a borough council member. He is thirty-three years old and worked on the Haunted House last year. Mr. Carl is planning to run for a four year seat in the election this year. Mrs. Groninger asked if he is available during the day. His work hours are weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or later. He stated that normally, he is not available during the day. He is interested in serving on the Property and Ordinance Committees. Mr. Donald Troxell was the other candidate for the position. He has been a lifetime borough resident and works in construction. He is interested in working with the Second Street School project and the street program. He feels that his past experience in the construction business would be an asset to the borough in the development of these projects. Mrs. Groninger asked if he is available in the daytime. He is self-employed and can be available if needed. Mr. Troxell is interested in serving on the Street and Property Committees. Mr. Wolfe nominated Gregory Carl and Donald Troxell for the vacant council seat. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. She stated that she appreciates Mr. Carl’s youth and his work on the Haunted House. At this time, she feels that the borough needs someone who would be available during the day and could help on the street committee. She believes that the borough would benefit by Mr. Troxell’s expertise regarding streets and construction. Mr. Wolfe requested a roll call vote, with the council members naming the candidate of his choice. Roll call vote – Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Wolfe voted for Mr. Carl; Mrs. Groninger voted for Mr. Troxell. Mr. Carl was named to the council by a 4-1 vote. Mr. Wolfe thanked Mr. Troxell for applying for the position and encouraged him to be involved. Mayor Wetzel administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Carl.

Mr. Wolfe asked the solicitor about the council's responsibility to call a public hearing when a council member has been absent from two consecutive meetings. Atty. Best stated that the council does have the power to call a meeting to discuss the council member's absence. Mr. Wolfe requested that the borough office contact Mr. Slodysko to obtain a convenient time for him to meet with the council. The office had received the information that Mr. Slodysko is in Florida.

### **Public Comment**

The 12 visitors present introduced themselves.

- Mr. Jim Groninger, the borough's representative to the Penn Valley Airport Authority, informed the council that the Airport Authority is currently undergoing a runway expansion project. They have applied for grants for this project and are also raising money for a new terminal building at the airport. A kick-off is scheduled for the Central Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting on Friday and he invited council members to attend. Mr. Groninger stated that several businesses in the immediate Northumberland area are utilizing the airport.
- Atty. Chuck Saylor, a candidate for the third judgeship in Northumberland County, introduced himself and requested the support of the citizens of the borough. He, his wife, Marty, and family have resided in Northumberland since 1974. The other two candidates for the position are from the coal region. Atty. Saylor informed the council that he is cross-filing for the May primary and invited anyone to contact him with any questions or concerns. He also stated that he is willing to meet with any interested group.

### **Northumberland Housing Authority**

Mr. Dale Heim informed council that two representatives from DCED inspected the midrise and the Steele School site on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Housing Authority is applying for a grant through DCED. The Authority also plans to meet with a lending officer from a local bank for additional financing. He stated that there are twelve or thirteen people on the list for the new building. This building will have thirty units. There are currently four vacancies at the Lewis Building. He stated that older residents do not like to move in the cold weather and that several people are in the process of selling their homes. Mr. Heim stated that Rep. Phillips was instrumental in helping the Housing Authority with the grant application for DCED. The Housing Authority hopes to have the project completed in 2002. In the last 9 ½ years, the Authority has had less than a 1% vacancy allowance at the Lewis Building. The Housing Authority does have tenants who smoke. Mr. Heim said that the people who smoke, do so in their units or outside, not in the public areas. The Housing Authority meets the third Thursday of each month. The board is comprised of eight members. The two vacancies on the board are due to the recent deaths of two members.

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

- Mr. Paul Ruane stated that he performed the first rental inspection this morning and has another inspection planned for tomorrow.
- The borough received a letter from PG Energy requesting that the borough waive the permit and inspection fees for the gas main that is being extended from Milton, along the railroad right-of-way to Priestley Avenue, north on Priestley Avenue to Hanover Street, and east on Hanover Street to below the railroad tracks. Mr. Ruane stated that the gas company is offering to pave Priestley

Avenue and Hanover Street where the line is installed. The letter does not specify the thickness of the overlay, or if they would be responsible for any necessary base repairs. Mr. Bowersox stated that the borough should meet with the gas company to obtain more information before approval is given.

- Mr. Heim asked if all rental units are to be inspected by the borough. He was informed that all properties that are inspected by state or federal agencies are exempt from the borough's inspections. Another gentleman asked what the money would be used for that is raised by the inspection fee. Mr. Wolfe informed him that it is being used to pay the inspector as well as to generate more revenue within the general fund.

### **Executive Session**

The council adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. The council meeting was reconvened at 7:54 p.m. Mr. Wolfe announced that council discussed a personnel issue and the Cop Grant.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe conducted the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2001-2, Rental Regulation Act of 2001. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2001-2. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger questioned the \$125.00 fee. This fee is assessed per entity, not for each unit, and is to be charged once a year. No other fee is to be charged. Mr. Daddario asked if properties that are inspected by insurance companies are exempt from the inspection. Mr. Shaffer stated that if a government entity inspects a rental property, the borough would not inspect the property. Roll call vote – all ayes.
2. Larson Design Group, Inc. has submitted a contract for 2001. They have also submitted their fee structure to the borough. Mr. Walters had informed the office that when a cost estimate is provided to the borough, the council could then negotiate to reduce the estimate. The fee schedule provides for a range and is non-negotiable. The contract does not have a retainer fee. By entering into the contract, the Borough would have better access to the engineering professionals. Mrs. Groninger discussed a phone conversation with Mr. Walters regarding the hydraulic study of the borough. Mr. Walters had information of work that had been prepared by Brinjac and Larson engineers. Since that conversation, the information that had been provided to the borough has been located. Mr. Shaffer stated that without a contract, the borough would be at the mercy of the engineering firm and their availability. Mr. Ruane informed the council that during the construction at the Recycling Building, it was necessary for the contractor to talk to the engineer. The engineer was available and came to the site to discuss the situation. Larson's had charged the borough for the plans. The engineer has inspected the construction site several times and has not charged additional fees. Mrs. Groninger stated that the council has learned that they must stay on top of any project and obtain written documentation rather than verbal verification. Mr. Ditton does not like the fact that Larson cannot be held responsible for any mistakes that may be made. Atty. Best stated that even though this clause is part of the contract, the borough may still have legal recourse. Engineers from Larson's can meet with the borough on Monday to review the borough's storm water system and discuss a hydraulic study. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the contract with Larson Design Group. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted aye. Mr. Ditton voted no. The motion passed 5-1.

3. Second Street School Update  
Mr. Redington stated that he has received information from a roofing contractor. Mr. Ditton said that he has learned that one of the fire companies in Sunbury has had problems with a roof that was installed on a building without the expertise of an engineer. He suggested that the council should consider engaging an engineer to develop the specifications for the roof. Mr. Redington stated that he feels that the roofing project at the school is something that can be done without consulting an engineer. He does feel that it would be prudent to engage the engineer to assist with the heating and cooling system for the building. Mr. Redington feels that the borough should be able to install the heat and roof with the money that was obtained from the grant from the state. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that Larson's be consulted about the design for the heating and air conditioning system for the building and to obtain a price for their services. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Redington has asked the guidance counselor for recommendations for the youth representatives to the Advisory Board. Mrs. Brosius announced that the Advisory Board would meet the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the borough hall. Mrs. Groninger stated that Todd Sees is interested in working with the committee.
4. Mr. Wolfe stated that at the last council meeting, Mr. Robert Waltz and Mr. Mike McWilliams were appointed to the Appeals Board. Their terms were not set at that meeting. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Waltz to the one year term and Mr. McWilliams to the two year term. Mr. Wolfe also announced the terms for the members of the Planning Commission. Mr. Slodysko is the council representative; Mr. Ditton's term expires in August of 2001, Mr. Mike Mertz's term expires in August of 2002, Mr. James Troup's term expires in August of 2003, and Mrs. Carol Spigelmeyer's term expires in August of 2004.
5. Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger presented the Street Committee Report. Mr. Don Free, from Penn DOT, met with the Street Committee and recommended that the borough obtain a hydraulic study and have the drainage system updated before streets are paved. Mrs. Groninger stated that at the last meeting the committee discussed placing bids for the topcoat on Strawbridge Road, inlets and storm pipe renovation, and base repairs at 5<sup>th</sup> and Prince Streets. The committee recommends patching streets where necessary, opening a parallel ditch off Penn Street, and try to open the storm drains that flow into the drainage ditch. Fourth Street from King to Orange or from Duke to Orange is to be paved. The committee has discussed installing new storm pipe at the same time. New curbing is to be installed at the northeast corner at Second and King Streets. Don Free explained that the drainage is most important, and should be done from the low part of town up. Mr. Wolfe asked if the streets to be patched are those on the plan that was established. Mr. Bowersox said that base repairs are needed at Fifth and Prince Streets and these are part of the plan. Mr. Bowersox stated that handicapped curb must be installed at the corners of streets that are paved. Council decided to meet with engineers from Larson Design Group on Monday, February 26, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss a hydraulic study. The hydraulic study would aid in determining what size pipes are required to handle the water. The study could be done in phases over several years. Larson Design Group and Brinjac have provided some information regarding drainage problem areas throughout the borough. Mr. Bowersox would like to have the work discussed let out for bid in March. Mr. Wolfe commended the Street Committee for the work they have done. Mr. Shaffer stated that if the work on streets and storm drains are begun at the lower part of town, council should consider having the streets on the hill section, such as Susquehanna and Jefferson, patched by a professional sealing firm. If the cracks

were sealed, these streets could be preserved. Mr. Bowersox stated that Eastern charges \$4,000 a day for a milling machine. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Ditton to the Street Committee, in addition to Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger. Mrs. Brosius questioned if the committee could consist of four council members since there would be a quorum. Atty. Best recommended that only three council members be appointed to the committee. Mr. Shaffer was appointed. Mr. Wolfe stated that the committee meetings are open to the public and all council members could attend the meetings. Mr. Wolfe would like other residents of the borough to become involved.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Ditton made a motion to pay the bills; Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Brinjac will be contacted for additional information they may have for the borough before the final payment is made to them. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe announced that Mr. Steve Slayton has completed the 1999 Report. Mr. Ditton questioned why any information obtained after December 31, 1999, should be included in the report. Atty. Best explained that, under general accounting principles, the auditor must identify facts that pertain to the period of time after the audit, if he knows them. Mr. Shaffer added that anything relating to the financial status of the borough or its possible future status, known as of the date the audit is published, must be included in the 1999 audit based on Standard Accepted Accounting Principles. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept the 1999 Audit Report, which was prepared by Steve Slayton. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted no. The motion passed 5-1. Copies of the 1999 audit report were made available for public inspection.
3. The Recycling Committee would like the council to disburse funds the volunteer organization. The recycling account currently has a balance of approximately \$900.00. The Recycling Committee also has a bank account. The committee receives payment for clear glass, but not for green or brown glass. Newspapers are collected but generate no income. Mr. Wolfe requested that representatives of the Recycling Committee be asked to attend the council meeting on March 20. The issue of disbursing the funds was tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Bowersox asked if the borough must continue the curbside pickup. Mr. Redington stated that the curbside pickup started when funding for the trailer and salary for one employee had been obtained with grant funds. It is unknown if the borough is still obligated to have the curbside pickup.
4. The Fire Police have received grant money to purchase a new vehicle. The tag from the old vehicle is to be transferred to the new vehicle. They have a prospective buyer for their old van. The titles for the vehicles are in the borough's name so a representative of the borough will need to sign the papers. The borough covers the insurance on the vehicle. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to permit the Fire Police to purchase the 1993 Suburban from Sunbury Motors for \$12,500, and to authorize them to sell the van they currently own to the highest bidder. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Carl to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
6. Mr. Wolfe stated that Ms. Kelley was on the Parks and Recreation, Streets, and the Personnel Committee, and chairman of the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Shaffer is replacing her on the Street Committee and Mr. Carl is replacing her on the Parks and Recreation Committee.
7. Upcoming seminars were discussed.

- Mr. Shaffer made a motion to send two of the borough street crew to the HRI seminar on February 27, 2001 in Williamsport. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  - The Dirt and Gravel Road Seminar is scheduled for March 28. Action on this seminar was tabled until more information is obtained.
  - Mr. Bowersox made a motion to send Steve Haas to the Tree Pruning Seminar at the Edison Hotel on March 28. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Ms. Weirick and Mr. Shuman, members of the Shade Tree Commission, are also planning to attend. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  - Mr. Shaffer made a motion that Don Keeley and Jim Dodge attend the Spring Road Maintenance Seminar on April 18, 2001, in Williamsport. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
8. Mr. Redington stated that Rep. Phillips informed him that he continues to have discussions concerning the traffic light at the corner of Fourth and Duke Streets.
  9. Pfeiffer-Naginey has contacted Mr. Redington to update the police policies and procedures. He is requesting that the borough employ Deniel Robenolt, the former borough intern, to do the typing needed to complete the project. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to hire Ms. Robenolt to complete the project at a per diem rate of \$7.00 per hour. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  10. The Police Department is hosting a Spanish Class for law enforcement officers from the borough and neighboring communities on Thursday evenings. The Police Department will collect the tuition from the outside entities and the borough will then issue one check to pay the teachers. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to permit the Police Department to host the class and to collect the tuition and pay the teachers as requested. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  11. Mr. Gottshall requested permission for the Fire Police to park their new vehicle in one of the three bays underneath the crime lab. The suggestion will be discussed with the borough crew.
  12. Mr. Wolfe announced that Heim's Disposal Service gave the borough a bid to remove the refuse from the Recycling Center. Their bid is higher than the amount the borough is currently paying to Waste Management. No other bids have been received. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Police Department enforce the law to obtain Hauler's Permits. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to enforce the ordinance that the garbage haulers must obtain permits. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger amended her motion to include the enforcement of all ordinances. Mr. Ditton amended his second. Council discussed the need for this motion. Mr. Shaffer made a suggestion that Waste Management be sent a certified letter, stipulating that they obtain permits within ten (10) days, for each truck, or they would be cited for each truck that is seen in the borough without a permit. Mr. Redington asked if council wanted to obtain a new hauler for the borough before citing Waste Management. Mrs. Groninger removed her motion.
  13. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that Area Ambulance Service should not be permitted to have a key or move into the Rescue Squad building until the lease is signed. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  14. Allenwood Equipment has provided Mr. Bowersox with a price of \$4,835 for a quick disconnect for the snow blower. Liquid Fuel money could be used for this purchase. Mr. Bowersox had obtained pricing for a new backhoe, trading in the old backhoe. He stated that the cost was not feasible. A representative from Allenwood demonstrated the use of the snow blower to the street crew and council members. The issue was tabled until a later date.

15. Correspondence was received from Brad Southern, a young man who is interested in having a skate park in the borough. Mr. Shaffer read an article in the Pennsylvania Borough News that most boroughs, after discussing the issue with their insurance companies, have decided not to build skate parks because of the liability. Mrs. Groninger suggested forwarding the correspondence and a copy of the article from the Pennsylvania Borough News to the Recreation Commission. The borough office will write a letter to Brad Southern, acknowledging his request and informing him of the council's action.
16. Mrs. Groninger showed the council members a design for a sign for the entrances to the borough. Mr. Dink Shaffer had prepared the design. Mr. Redington had included the purchase of signs in the grant application for Pineknott Park. Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough could purchase the signs, stipulating that once the grant money is received, the borough account be reimbursed.

Due to the time, 10:00 p.m., Mr. Ditton made a motion to extend the meeting. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to ask Mr. Dink Shaffer to construct four signs for the entrances to the borough, with the amount for time and material not to exceed \$1,000. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would second the motion if the amount were raised to \$2,000. Mr. Redington said that the amount being applied for through the grant is \$1,000 for each sign, for a total of \$4,000. Mr. Wolfe removed his motion and stated that he would contact Mr. Shaffer to obtain more information.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**March 6, 2001**

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 Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Greg Carl. Mr. Tom Slodysko was absent.

Mr. Wolfe read Mr. Slodysko’s letters of resignation from Borough Council and the Planning Commission. He cited his employment responsibilities and conflicts with being able to attend council meetings as the reason for his resignation. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept Mr. Slodysko’s resignation, with regret, and to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Slodysko for his work on council. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wolfe announced the new committee assignments. Mr. Carl was named as the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Mr. Bowersox is to remain a member of that committee and the third position on the committee is vacant. Mrs. Groninger is the Chairman of the Property Committee. The members are Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Carl. Mr. Ditton is the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, with members being Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wolfe. The Public Safety and Finance Committees remain the same. Mr. Shaffer replaces Ms. Kelley on the Streets Committee, Mr. Bowersox is the chairman and Mrs. Groninger is the other member. Mr. Carl will serve as the Acting Chairman of the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Ditton and Mr. Wolfe are the other members.

The visitors in attendance introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Peter John told council that he had parked on the even side of Queen Street on Monday and received a ticket. Mr. Wolfe explained that the mayor had declared a Snow Emergency. The information that a Snow Emergency was in effect was sent to the newspaper, radio stations, and TV station. The streets in the Snow Emergency route are posted. Mr. John stated that the residents were not aware that an emergency had been declared. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the issue should be addressed in The Pineknott News, informing residents to listen to the radio station for Snow Emergency information.

Mr. Wolfe stated that in the future, the council would consider better ways to communicate the fact that a Snow Emergency is in effect. It was suggested that the borough could post signs along the route stating that the Snow Emergency is in effect.

**Sewer Authority Report**

- Mr. Dan Yapple stated that the Authority is meeting with their engineers to determine work to be done on Priestley Avenue between Queen and King Streets, and possibly above King Street.
- The authority has met with ButterKrust concerning the authority’s MIPP (Municipal Industrial Pretreatment Program). This plan had been put into effect by borough council, prior to the formation of the Sewer Authority. ButterKrust, or any industry, may not

discharge material that would be detrimental to, or overload, the sewer system. The standards have been established as what the maximum level of discharge may be from an industrial source. The discharge is monitored through sampling. Every industry is different with the type of pre-treatment system that is required. ConRail, Keystone Forge, and Mohawk Doors have pretreatment systems. Resilite does not have a pretreatment system. They do have a permit. Their discharge is monitored and does not require pretreatment. The bakery may need to install a pre-treatment system. Mr. Wolfe asked if the pretreatment system is being required before the bakery moves into the building. Mr. Yaple explained that the bakery would need to meet the parameters. If the parameters can be met through housekeeping, a pretreatment system would not be necessary. The company has been provided with the parameters and will need to determine if a pretreatment system is necessary. Mr. Yaple told council that he thought the ordinance that addresses this plan is Ordinance 94-1. Mr. Yaple stated that the type of pre-treatment system that may be needed by the bakery should be relatively simple. It is called a bag filter system or a simple settling basin to remove the worst of the flour and the grease, and let the water go. The company may still discharge material that contains pollutants. Typical sewage concentration is up to 250 parts BOD and up to 250 parts of suspended solids. Mr. Yaple stated that this is a nationally accepted average. If the bakery would discharge at 2,500 BOD, and they have had slugs like that according to documentation that Mr. Yaple was shown at Sunbury, the plant would receive ten times the average load. If that happens, the plant would get an amount in one shot that would equal the entire organic load of the town in one day, and the plant would not take it, according to Mr. Yaple. There are hydraulic loads and organic loads. If the organic load is not managed properly, the plant could be overloaded because the biological capacity would be used up, and plant would need to be expanded. Otherwise, if too much “food” is put through the system than the “good bugs” can eat, then some of the “food” will end up in the river and the borough could be fined. Before a company may begin discharging into the sewer system, they must sign a permit, stating that they will not exceed certain parameters, or they may be fined. The industry must supply the sampling, the metering, and demonstrate how they plan to meet the standards. He said that ButterKrust has shown him numbers of what was discharged into the Sunbury system, and this amount would be a problem at the Northumberland Sewer Plant. Mr. Wolfe stated that he did not want ButterKrust to be discouraged from moving into the community because they are bringing good jobs to the area. Mr. Yaple agreed, stating that he has spoken with representatives from ButterKrust and their engineers, and is willing to assist them in determining how to best meet the parameters. He stated that the Sewer Authority is held responsible to meet DEP and EPA guidelines and therefore the requirements should be enforced.

### **Recycling Committee**

Mr. Phil Hallden, President of the Recycling Committee, addressed the council. According to Mr. Hallden, seven organizations volunteer at the Recycling Center. The hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

- The market for recyclables is down. Last year 133 tons of newspapers were recycled. The committee does not get paid for newspapers. The committee is currently being paid 1 ½ cents per pound for steel. Other recyclables that can be sold are clear glass, aluminum, and cardboard. The committee is stockpiling aluminum, steel, and cardboard until the prices increase.
- Mr. Hallden stated that the renovations at the Recycling Center have gone well.
- The Recycling Committee has been filing Performance Grants for five years and has not received money. Mr. Hallden stated that the reports have been filed with Northumberland County. Mr. Hallden has met with a county representative and was told

that no records exist with the county. It is Mr. Hallden's understanding that the county was to file a report with the state. Once the county received payment, the borough was to be paid. The borough should receive \$5.00 per ton from the state for all material recycled in the borough. Mr. Ron Sommers, of DEP, has provided the borough office with a contact in Harrisburg to obtain additional information. According to Mr. Sommers, the borough can file a report for the Performance Grant without going through Northumberland County.

- Mr. Hallden stated that the organizations had received \$1,000 to \$2,000 per organization in past years. Recently, because the prices for recyclable materials are low, the organizations have not received as much money. The borough spent \$5,134 from the General Fund in 2000 for expenses associated with recycling. These expenses included electric, water, telephone, fuel, and vehicle repairs.
- Lycoming County sends payments for clear glass to the borough. This money is deposited into the Recycling Account. Mr. Hallden explained that the Recycling Committee has always had a savings account and a checking account. The Committee receives money collected for cardboard and cans. Lycoming County will not distribute payment for recyclables to the committee; they make payment to the municipalities.
- According to Mr. Sommers, the borough must provide curbside pickup of three different recyclables once a month, as stipulated by a former grant received from the borough.
- The current Recycling Grant includes provisions for public education. The Committee will provide information for the next borough newsletter to explain the materials accepted at the recycling center.
- Mr. Hallden stated that he would like the people who are caught dumping garbage with Recycling materials to have to volunteer at the center. Mr. Hallden also feels that Waste Management should be removing the three bins of garbage free of charge in exchange for parking a truck at the center and collecting garbage from residents.
- Mr. Hallden asked if the county pays the borough to have secured parking at the Recycling Center? He feels that they should be paying the borough for this space.
- The Recycling Committee is researching a grant to purchase a baler for newspapers and plastic at a cost of \$30,000 to \$40,000. This includes installation. He does not know if a local match will be required for this grant. Council requested that if local match is needed, the committee should try to provide the council with the amount when the budget is being prepared. Mr. Hallden agreed and also suggested that the borough charge the local businesses for picking up their recyclables.
- Mr. Shaffer made a motion to close out the borough's Recycling Account and make a line item for Recycling in the General Fund. The Recycling Committee is to be issued a check once a year for funds received by the borough for recyclables. The money in the Recycling Account is to be given to the Recycling Committee. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mrs. Groninger made a motion to inform the county that the secured parking space at the Recycling Center would no longer be available as of April 1, 2001. The council discussed the option of charging for the space. Mr. Redington stated that the county charges the borough for storing vehicles at the county garage. Mrs. Groninger withdrew her motion.
- Mr. Shaffer made a motion to charge Northumberland County \$20.00 per vehicle per month to park at the Recycling Center, effective April 1, 2001. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 4-2.
- Mr. Shaffer made a motion to disburse the balance of the Recycling Account to the Recycling Committee. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## Old Business

1. Mr. Redington informed the council that the Second Street School Committee met on March 5, 2001. They are exploring ways to run the Community Center part of the building by contacting Community Centers in other municipalities.
  - Mr. Redington spoke with an engineer from Larson Design Group, Inc. to discuss biomass heating, burning corn as a fuel source using a boiler system. Grants may be possible for alternative fuel source heating systems.
  - The committee is exploring the cost of installing roof trusses over the old roof and putting metal roofing on the building. The metal roof would be more costly than the flat roof. Mr. Redington has contacted Zartman Construction for technical advice. The committee recommends that before making a decision on the roof, all possibilities be explored.
  - The committee now has three youth representatives.
  - The borough has received notification that \$52,000 for handicapped features for the school building has been approved. Mr. Redington had applied to the county for the funding. Northumberland County administers Community Block Grant funds for smaller communities that are unable to apply directly for the grants.
2. Pineknoller Park Update – The first payment of \$37,827 is due to Gutelius Excavating, Inc. Atty. Best stated that the information required by the state for the borough's loan would be submitted tomorrow. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to transfer \$37,827 from the General Contingency Fund to the General Fund to pay Gutelius Excavating, Inc. The General Contingency Fund is to be reimbursed when the loan is secured. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
3. Mr. Bowersox reported that the Street Committee plans to pave Strawbridge Road and part of Fourth Street this year. The committee is working with PG Energy to pave Priestley Avenue.
  - Larson Design Group has recommended that a hydraulic study of the borough be done in stages, addressing the most pressing problem area first. They will provide the council with a cost estimate for the hydraulic study and will be present at the March 20 council meeting. Both Larson's and Don Free of PennDOT have stated that the storm sewer and drainage problems in the borough should be addressed before streets are paved.
  - The streets to be paved in 2001 are Hanover Street from Water Street to Priestley Avenue, Fourth Street from King Street to Hanover Street, and the Prince Street intersection at Fifth Street. Inlets are to be repaired or replaced on Prince Street at Fifth Street and Strawbridge Road. Mr. Bowersox stated that Fourth Street could not be paved until the water company repairs the street cut that was made last year.
  - The Street Committee's written report of the February 20, 2001 committee meeting is on file in the Borough Office.
  - Mr. Bowersox made a motion to hire Dave Bogovich to help the borough crew remove snow from the downtown area, beginning at 6:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Rates had been obtained from several contractors.
4. Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer for the month of February. He also commended the Zoning Board and its solicitor for the professional manner in which a Zoning Hearing was conducted.
5. Property Committee Report
  - Mrs. Groninger reported that the lease is ready for the Rescue Squad Building. Atty. Best has approved its legality. The rent is \$725 per month for the first 9 months; \$775 per month for the next 12 months from 1/1/02 to 12/31/02; and \$800 per month for thirty-six months, from 1/1/03 to 12/31/05. Mr. Wolfe commended the committee for a job

well done. The lock to the building was changed on March 1, 2001. The borough will retain two keys to the building; and the tenant will be given four keys.

- Mrs. Groninger stated the Property Committee is getting prices for a new furnace for the borough garage. The present furnace is not functioning and cannot be fixed.
  - Mrs. Groninger requested permission to remove chairs from the council room to be glued and repaired. Mr. Wolfe approved the request.
  - Mrs. Groninger informed council that the fire extinguishers in all the borough buildings and vehicles are checked once a year and that the length of a dollar bill is approximately six inches.
  - Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the four-year, nine-month lease with A.R.E.A. Agency Services, Inc. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The lease term begins April 1, 2001 and terminates on December 31, 2005. The total lease payment is \$44,625. A security deposit is required. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to cancel recycling for the month of March due to the snowstorm that occurred during the recycling days scheduled. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Discussion. The borough had already announced that the recycling pickup would be rescheduled for next week due to the snow emergency. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger voted aye, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion failed 1-5.
  7. Mr. Wolfe announced that he is still obtaining information concerning signs to the entrances of the borough.
  8. Mr. Wolfe stated that the information for the invoices for Renters' Ordinance has been inputted in the computer. He asked if discount, face, and penalty and penalty periods for the collection of the fees should be established. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt the following billing structure for the Renters' Ordinance. The discount period is to be from the date of billing to May 31, at a discount of 2%; the face period is from June 1 to July 31; and the penalty period runs from August 1 to December 31, with a 10% penalty. Invoices that are not paid by December 31 will be turned over to the collection agency. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2001 Council Meeting. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger asked for an explanation about the refund check to Kelly Spigelmeyer for her Social Security. The borough office discovered that Social Security has been deducted from Kelly Spigelmeyer's pay from her date of hire in 1999. As a member of the police force, she should not have been paying into Social Security. Steve Slayton, the borough's auditor, recommended that amended returns be submitted for the 2000 federal deposits for refunds to the borough for the money paid into Social Security in error. This check to Ms. Spigelmeyer is for a refund for the fourth quarter of 2000. The borough also received a \$481.81 refund for this period. The borough and Ms. Spigelmeyer will be receiving refunds for the first three quarters of 2000. Mr. Slayton will assist in obtaining refunds for Ms. Spigelmeyer and the borough for money paid in error in 1999 also. Roll call vote to pay the bills - All ayes.
3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the Fire Police Schedule of Events. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. A letter was received from the SEDA-Cog Flood Mitigation Committee recommending revisions to the borough's floodplain management ordinance. A second letter from SEDA-Cog requested that the borough adopt "A Resolution to Apply for Assistance to Prepare an Application for the Community Rating System". Mrs. Gretchen Brosius explained that it is

her understanding that if the borough does not participate in this program, if an emergency should occur, the borough might not be eligible for FEMA funds. Mrs. Groninger questioned if the revisions would limit the borough from adding improvements to Pineknott Park in the future. Council discussed the areas in the one hundred and five hundred-year flood plains and the fact that the effects of the levy, which was constructed up river, are unknown. Mrs. Brosius stated that the committee is also addressing the storm ditch that runs parallel to the railroad tracks and hoping that it can be cleaned out, as well as the tunnels that run under Duke Street. Mrs. Brosius announced that the Flood Mitigation Committee is having a joint meeting with Point Township's Flood Mitigation Committee on March 22, 2001. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt resolution 2001-A, "A Resolution to Apply for Assistance to Prepare an Application for the Community Rating System". Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The Ordinance Committee will meet on March 19, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. to review the revisions recommended to the borough's floodplain management ordinance. SEDA-Cog will provide the borough with copies of the "Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting, Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding".

5. The borough's contract with Service Electric Cablevision, Inc. can be renewed at the end of this year. The borough's current contract with the cable company pays the borough three (3%) percent of the company's basic rate. According to information received from the Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, municipalities are entitled to receive up to five (5%) percent of all fees charged by a cable company. The current contract was for fifteen years. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to draft a letter to Service Electric Cablevision Inc., indicating that the borough would like to renegotiate the contract. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. 2001-3, "The Anti-dumping Ordinance of 2001". Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2001-3. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
7. Council discussed replacing the copy machine in the borough office. The annual service agreement for the current machine will cost \$855. Information has been received about purchasing or leasing a new machine from Phillips Supply House. Council suggested obtaining quotes from other companies. The discussion was tabled, pending other quotes.
8. Mr. Ditton commended the borough crew for an excellent job of cleaning the streets during the snowstorm. Other council members agreed.
9. Mr. Ditton mentioned the fact that an amended page to the 1999 audit report has been received from Mr. Steve Slayton, the borough's auditor.
10. Correspondence has been received from the Degenstein Foundation, requesting contributions for a new scholarship fund that is being established. No action was taken.
11. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve PGEnergy's request to permit a one-foot cutback, instead of a two-foot cutback, and the waiver of the permit fees in exchange for paving a section of Priestley Avenue. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
12. Mr. Bowersox provided the council with a price of \$45.00 per hour for a grade-all, which could be used for cleaning out the ditch at Penn Street. An operator fee is \$30.00 per hour.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to extend the meeting for fifteen minutes. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

13. Mrs. Groninger thanked Jan Bowman for recouping money for the borough this year. She also commended Mr. Ruane and Mr. Redington and stated, "We have good things happening in this borough".

14. Mrs. Brosius added that, as someone who has sat in council meetings since 1998, she feels that the borough has come a long way, and she appreciates the work the council and office have done for the borough.
15. Mr. Wolfe asked for a motion to advertise for the vacant council seat. Mrs. Groninger stated that the borough is not required to advertise the position. She recommended that since the two good applicants were interviewed when the council filled the last vacant seat, that the council appoint Mr. Troxell, the second applicant, to this vacant council seat. Mr. Troxell had been interviewed at the last meeting and stated that he would be interested in serving on the street and property committees. He could also be available to meet during the day as needed. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to appoint Mr. Troxell. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Wolfe asked that Mr. Troxell be contacted and stated that he would be sworn in at the next council meeting.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**March 20, 2001**

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 Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mr. Greg Shaffer, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Mr. Judith Groninger was absent.

Mayor Wetzel conducted the swearing in of the new councilman, Mr. Donald Troxell.

**Larson Design Group, Inc. Presentation**

Mr. Kurt Hetrick of Larson Design Group, Inc. presented a proposal for a Storm Water Runoff Improvement Study to look at drainage concerns from Fourth to Sixth Streets, extending from Elliott Drive, Strawbridge Road and Fifth Streets to the river. The proposal includes checking the drainage areas, running the hydraulics in that area, and checking the existing conditions of the borough’s system and the sizes of the pipes in the area. He estimated that the fieldwork would take from four to six days. At the conclusion of the fieldwork, the company would review their findings with borough council members and the street crew, before developing the study. He explained to the council that another community utilized a study that was compiled for that community to aid them in applying for funding through county and state grants. Mr. Ditton questioned if the firm would be able to provide more information to the borough than the study that was completed by Brinjac. Mr. Bowersox stated that Larson’s could tell the borough location where inlets should be and the size of the piping needed for the water flow throughout the borough. Mr. Hetrick stated that the firm would complete the mapping the borough obtained from Brinjac. Based on the condition and drainage impact of the inlets and trunk lines, they would evaluate the number of inlets needed; their spacing based on grades of the streets, and required pipe sizes. The improvements to the system would start at the lower end of town and go to the higher end. The process for the first draft would be completed in one month. They would then meet with the street personnel and council to add to the study. Mr. Hetrick stated that the field workers would locate the inlets and pipes to the best of their ability. When the engineer looks at the drainage area, he will, by topographic means, estimate the runoff from areas outside the designated area that will affect the designated area. Mr. Ditton asked what the cost would be for a study of the entire borough. Mr. Hetrick stated that South Williamsport is conducting an infrastructure study at a cost of approximately \$70,000. Mr. Ditton asked if a fixed price could be presented. The estimate for this study includes ninety-five man-hours. If the study takes more than ninety-five man-hours, the borough is to be charged at a rate of \$58.80 per man-hour. Mr. Shaffer stated that he is not in favor of resurfacing streets until the drainage system is updated. Mr. Wolfe asked if streets would be paved this year. Mr. Bowersox stated that plans are to pave Priestley Avenue, Fourth Street from King Street to Hanover Street and Hanover Street from Water Street to Priestley Avenue. Mr. Troxell stated that council should know what is underneath the streets before paving. Mr. Hetrick stated that the intent of the proposal was to provide a lump sum cost. Mr. Hetrick stated that in order to keep the project moving, Larson’s could be held to the lump sum cost. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to engage Larson Design Group, Inc. to conduct the hydraulic study at a lump sum cost of \$25,300. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton asked to see a justification of the cost, based on what council had been

given as an estimate to conduct a study of the entire borough. Mr. Carl felt that the study should be completed before streets are paved. But, he also would like an explanation as to why the cost of the estimate for the study increased. Mr. Shaffer stated that if the drainage problems are resolved, that is also an improvement to the streets. Mr. Ditton stated that he would like a price for a hydraulic study for the entire town, with a separate price for the designated area. Mr. Troxell asked if the council is aware of current drainage problems. The lines that go down Sixth Street end at the lower side of Penn Street. They are blocked at Penn Street. Mr. Ditton stated that the gully is not included in the area to be studied. Mr. Hetrick recommended that when a borough does an impact study, they should look at the different drainage areas coming into and going out of the borough. This study is looking at a particular area in the borough, with consideration given to the water that is coming into the area from above and the water exiting this area. This area was chosen because it contains a lot of problems. Mr. Hetrick stated that he could provide a quote for a study of the entire borough. Mr. Wolfe asked if the Street Committee was planning to have a study of the entire borough. Mr. Bowersox stated that he would like to have a study of the entire borough, but it could be done one section at a time. Mr. Wolfe stated that he wants to see work completed on the streets this year. Mr. Ditton stated that he would like to have the cost for the study of the entire borough before agreeing to this proposal. Roll call vote – Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Bowersox voted yes. Mr. Ditton and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

Larson Design Group, Inc. provided a proposal to conduct a survey of Pineknott Park, as built drawings, showing cross-sections at fifty-foot intervals. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve the survey as proposed, at a cost of \$4,300. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe stated that he is not in favor of spending any more money on Pineknott Park this year. The borough is already spending \$185,000 and he will not vote to spend any additional money. He asked if the issue could be tabled until more information could be obtained from Dave Walters. Mr. Bowersox stated that by obtaining the survey, the borough would have proof, in future years, that DEP requirements had been met. The survey would not be completed until after the work is completed by Gutelius. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton and Mr. Bowersox voted yes; Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted no. Motion failed 2-4. Mr. Shaffer proposed talking with Mr. Walters and stated that he is in favor of eventually approving the survey. Mr. Hetrick suggested that the borough meet with Mr. Walters and DEP regarding the survey and ask DEP sign off on Pineknott Park once the project is completed.

Larson Design Group, Inc. had also provided a proposal for inlet repair bids. This proposal was not reviewed because the council has decided to obtain bids just for the inlets that need repaired due to safety factors. The Street Committee had received council's approval at a previous meeting for this work to be done.

### **Public Comment**

The twenty-three visitors present introduced themselves. No one offered any public comments.

### **Executive Session**

The council went into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:53 p.m. Mr. Wolfe announced that the issues discussed were litigation and personnel issues.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to hire Mrs. Debbie Stengele on a part-time, as needed basis, for \$8.00 per hour. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to increase Mr. Paul Ruane's salary as Street Inspector Supervisor from \$10.50 to \$11.00 per hour as of April 1, 2001. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to increase Mrs. Janice Bowman's salary an additional one percent more than the budgeted three percent increase, effective April 1, 2001. The total yearly increase would be \$960. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Old Business**

### Street Committee Report

- Mr. Bowersox stated that three inlets at Strawbridge Road & Prince Street, one or two inlets at Fifth and Prince Streets, and two or three inlets at the King Street Park are to be replaced. Construction companies have been contacted for quotes on the project. They are Keister Construction Co., K & T Construction, North Ridge Construction, HRI, and Zartman Construction.
- Mr. Bowersox made a motion to install handicapped curbing at the corners of King Street Park. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mr. Bowersox made a motion to purchase 100 foot each of 15-inch, 18-inch, and 24-inch state-approved, corrugated plastic pipe. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mr. Bowersox complimented the Borough Crew and North Ridge Industries for a job well done during the snowstorm two weeks ago.
- E. J. Breneman has taken cores of the streets in the borough. The results have not yet been obtained.
- Sara Crothers of PennDOT has been contacted about the areas of Front Street that are falling apart. A utility company has repaired some of the potholes, but the street is in poor condition. Mr. Bowersox made a motion that PennDOT be contacted regarding the condition of Front Street, with a copy of the letter sent to Representative Merle Phillips. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

PG Energy has requested that the borough sign a deed of easement giving the gas company a permanent easement on the borough's property along Pineknott Park. Mr. Ditton questioned why the gas company required a permanent easement. The borough is restricted from doing anything within the twenty-foot easement. He is willing to provide a temporary construction easement. Atty. Best stated that while the gas company is given a permanent easement; they are not given the property. Mr. Wolfe stated that if the borough wished to do anything to that particular area, PG Energy's approval would be required first. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that PG Energy be granted the easement with the stipulation that the lease be revised to read that the fence must be reinstalled and any improvements or stipulations required by the state or DEP to Pineknott Park overrule the contract. The borough would have the right to make the required adjustments as requested by the state without seeking the approval of PG Energy. Mr. Ditton questioned if PG Energy would oppose the installation of the lights for Pineknott Park. Atty. Best recommended that the council table the vote on the easement at this time. Atty. Best will contact PG Energy to express the council's concerns. Someone asked if the gas company was planning to pave Priestley Avenue. Mr. Ditton stated that the gas company has offered to pave Priestley Avenue in exchange for a waiver of the borough's permit fees.

Mr. Michael Daddario requested that the bricks at the intersection of Front and Queen Streets be replaced where needed. Mr. Daddario also requested that the dips in the intersection at Second and Orange Streets be repaired.

Mr. Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer. He received a complaint about the railroad crossing on Orange Street. North Shore Railroad has proposed that they will install railroad ties on both sides of the rails and requested that the borough install macadam between the ties and on both sides of the rails. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to work with North Shore Railroad to repair the crossing. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Ditton voted yes; Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted no. Motion was defeated 2-4.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the second reading of Ordinance No. 2001-3, the Anti-dumping Ordinance of 2001. This ordinance prohibits the deposit of waste materials on borough property and setting penalties for violators. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### Second Street School Update

- Mr. Daddario stated that Mr. Redington met with Larson Design Group regarding the heating system.
- Mr. Shaffer stated that Mr. Redington has suggested that the First Ward polling place for the primary election be moved to the Borough Hall because portions of the ceiling in the gym are coming down. The borough council agreed to the change and requested that the county be notified.

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the cost figures obtained for a new copy machine. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve a sixty-month lease of a copy machine for the borough office. The office staff is to select the copy machine. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2001 Council Meeting. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Added to the list of bills was a \$579.00 bill from Atty. Best for a matter discussed in Executive Session. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Priestley Avenue Extension – Atty. Best stated that he has not received the information from Mr. Zeigler of Light-Heigel Associates in order to prepare the deed for the Priestley Avenue Extension. Mr. Bowersox informed council that he has spoken with Mr. Stassel, from Emmanuel Homes, and Mr. Stassel thought Mr. Zeigler had the necessary information. Atty. Best will contact Mr. Ziegler.

Mr. Bowersox asked if council wished to reconsider allowing the county to park at Recycling Center. The Transportation Director has returned the keys to the Borough Office and they are parking the vans elsewhere. No further action was taken.

SUN Bank has sent Inactivity Notices to the borough for the No. 1 Fire Company Truck Fund, the Hookies Truck Fund, and the Rescue Squad Truck Fund. The accounts have been inactive for twenty-four months. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to close the Rescue Squad Truck Fund and

transfer the money to the UDAG account. This money had originally come from the UDAG fund. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to deposit \$25.00 into the No. 1 Fire Company Truck Fund and \$25.00 into the Hookies Truck Fund. The money is to be transferred from the UDAG fund. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### Parks & Recreation Account

A detailed list of the bills that were paid from the Park & Recreation Account in 2000 was provided to the council. Mr. Wolfe explained that during 2000, the borough received \$95,000 in grant money for repairs to the pool. The total cost for the project was \$146,000 so the additional money for the project was paid with money from the Parks and Recreation Account. \$65,000 had been transferred from the UDAG fund several years ago, possibly in 1998. It is believed that some of this money was to be used for repairs to the pool. In addition to the pool repair expenses, \$14,000 was paid for engineering fees for the Dump Clean-up, and \$3,255 was paid to Larson Design Group for the plans for the lights at the Pineknottter Park baseball field. This \$3,255 will be reimbursed to the Parks and Recreation Account when the grant money for Pineknottter Park is received. The costs of the engineering fees had been submitted in the grant proposal. Mr. Wolfe stated that he had instructed Mrs. Bowman to transfer \$4,000 from the General Contingency Fund to the Parks and Recreation Account to reimburse the Haunted House funds that had been spent for these other projects. Mr. Shaffer thought that the \$65,000 from the UDAG fund had been transferred to the Parks and Recreation Account to repair and maintain the pool. The Liberty Pool Account currently has a balance of \$19,000. The Liberty Pool Account was used to pay the regular operating expenses at the pool. The daily pool receipts were deposited into this account. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council must decide if the \$14,000 paid to Larson Design Group for work performed at Pineknottter Park should be paid from an account other than the Parks and Recreation Account. Mr. Carl stated that he has suggested that the money acquired through the Haunted House be split into three categories – 25% for Parks and Recreation, 25% for operating costs, and 50% should be designated for future purchase of a property. Mr. Wolfe stated that he felt the \$4,000 designated for the Haunted House should be reimbursed. He also stated that \$1,500 had been transferred from the General Contingency Fund to pay for the ice skating rink and that money should be reimbursed to the General Contingency Fund at some point.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to reimburse the \$4,000 to the Haunted House, and as they make money, reimburse the \$1,500 to the General Contingency Fund. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion.

Mr. Carl asked if a separate savings account could be created for the Haunted House. Mr. Wolfe stated that with QuickBooks, the money could be tracked separately. Mr. Carl asked if it would be possible to have money more easily accessed for purchases for the Haunted House. Mr. Shaffer included authorizing Mr. Carl to spend up to \$500 for the Haunted House in his motion. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Ordinance Committee met on March 19 to discuss the changes in the borough's codes as requested by the Flood Mitigation Committee. The committee agrees with the recommendations from the Flood Mitigation Committee with a few minor changes. Under Article 2, Administration, Section 28-8, the review by a "permit officer" will be changed to a "designated officer". The building permit fees are set under Section 28-13. The committee recommends drafting a new ordinance, removing the fees from the ordinance and setting them by resolution. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt these changes. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission have requested approval for a Fishing Tournament for the Berwick Bass Association. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the request as per the permit received from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Representative Phillips sent as copy of Act 82 of 2000, Real Estate Tax Sale Law. This law states that if someone owns a property in the borough and is not maintaining it properly, they may not purchase additional borough property through a tax sale. The council must clarify the borough's position with a Landlord's License Ordinance. Mr. Wolfe suggested incorporating this law with the current Landlord Ordinance. Atty. Best will review the ordinance and law.

A new heating system is needed for the borough garage. One quote has been received. Two more quotes will be obtained. Other companies have been contacted.

Mr. Troxell stated that he has received a complaint about an open ditch at A & Water Streets. Mr. Ruane will be asked to check the area.

Mr. Shaffer announced that Mr. Joe Reed, the assistant EMA Director, was elected president of the Flood Mitigation Committee to replace Ms. Kelley. The committee meets with the Point Township committee on March 22, 2001.

Mr. Ditton stated that the new census count for the borough is 3,714, down from the previous number of 3,860, according to the Shamokin newspaper.

Atty. Best stated that he has not heard from the cable company regarding renegotiating the borough's contract.

Mr. Ditton explained that the council is working on rectifying the real estate assessments in the borough. Some borough residents are being taxed for vacant lots instead of houses. Council members have received a copy of the letter that was sent to the county.

Mayor Wetzel commented on an equipment sale through Penn DOT. Mr. Bowersox stated that the borough does not own a roller.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**April 3, 2001**

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 Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Donald Troxell, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mr. Wendell Wetzel, Mayor, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The twelve visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- ◆ Mrs. Brosius informed the council that a volunteer group has approached the Recreation Committee with an offer to perform a service in the borough. The Recreation Committee is requesting that the council approve having the group paint the Girl Scout Little House. The volunteer group will be in the borough on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. The council discussed the project and that the house should be painted a green color similar to the current color. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to allow the volunteers to paint the Girl Scout House “Girl Scout green”. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  
- ◆ Mr. Bruce Parcesepe, of 159 Queen Street, requested that parking permits be issued to residents who live in the area of the borough with parking meters. He stated that Sunbury issues parking permits. The Public Safety Committee will explore the matter.  
Mrs. Brosius asked if the meters are checked periodically. She is aware of several meters that do not work. The police are aware of these meters and need to obtain parts to fix them, according to Mayor Wetzel.  
Mr. Parcesepe also stated that the meters are not checked daily. Mayor Wetzel stated that the meters should be checked once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

**Sewer Authority Report**

Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, informed the council that \$200,000 to \$250,000 has been put aside to make repairs to the streets. The Sewer Authority has a sewer project for Fourth Street. He has requested that the council let them know what streets are being paved this year, as well as next year. Mrs. Groninger stated that Priestley Avenue is being paved this summer. The Sewer Authority is planning to work on Priestley Avenue as soon as possible. The work on the sewer line will be done between Queen Street and Sheetz Avenue. The bids are to be let the end of April. Repairs should be made on 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Queen Street to Wheatley Avenue. The main and laterals should be replaced if the street is going to be paved. Otherwise, Mr. Yaple will do spot repairs on Fourth Street. Mr. Bowersox stated that the Street Committee has plans to pave Fourth Street from King Street to Hanover Street. Plans are also being made to pave Hanover Street from Water Street to Priestley Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Queen Street to Duke Street this year. Mr. Bowersox would also like to pave at least a portion of Strawbridge

Road this year. The committee may decide to pave part of the road this year, and part next year. Mr. Yaple asked that he be informed what section would be paved and if the manholes need adjusting. Mr. Bowersox stated that the results of the Hydraulic Study would determine what other streets could be paved. Mr. Bowersox is meeting with Don Free, of PennDOT, to prepare the bid proposal for inlets to be repaired. The project must be advertised for bids because the estimated cost is over \$10,000. Since this work is being paid for with Liquid Fuels money, the borough must follow those guidelines.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paving Second Street from Queen Street to Duke Street, and Hanover Street from Water Street to Priestley Avenue. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The method used is to be cold recycling, or as advised by the engineer. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Shaffer asked what other areas the Sewer Authority has designated as needing major repairs. Mr. Yaple stated that the Sewer Authority would need to do major repairs on Fourth Street from Queen Street to Wheatley Avenue and Prince Street from Sixth to Seventh Street. Queen Street from Fourth Street to Sixth Street also needs major repair work. However, the authority does not have the money to make all these repairs this year. They will be spending most of their money on Priestley Avenue this year. He said that he would prefer to complete the work on Fourth Street this year, if the money is available. Mrs. Groninger stated that Fourth Street from Duke Street to King Street would not need to be paved once the water company completes its repairs. This area is in the hydraulic study. The inlets at Fourth and Orange Streets have been repaired and that section of Fourth Street can be paved.

Mrs. Groninger suggested having a special meeting in the evening to discuss the streets. Mr. Wolfe stated that if street committee meetings would be scheduled in the evenings, more council members could attend the meetings. Mr. Bowersox said that he would like to have the meetings in the evenings; however, it is more difficult to arrange to have PennDOT representatives and the street crew present for evening meetings than meetings held during the day.

Mr. Yaple stated that he agrees with Mrs. Groninger, and if the water company does a good job of restoring Fourth Street along their trench line, the street would not need paved this year. If the borough does decide to pave Fourth Street between Queen Street and Wheatley Avenue, the Sewer Authority would replace about 280 feet of pipe. However, if the borough decides not to pave, the restoration specifications change and the cost to the Sewer Authority would be greater.

Mr. Wolfe asked the Street Committee members if, once the hydraulic study is completed, they would decide what work could be completed this year. Mr. Bowersox stated that they would. They are currently working on installing inlets at various intersections. He explained that it is too costly to mobilize equipment to pave just two blocks. Mr. Yaple was urged to complete the work on Fourth Street this year, because if the street is not paved this year, it will be paved next year. He asked if the pavement restoration specification is five and one half inches of binder or four inches of binder and one and one half inch of top. Mr. Bowersox said that he is willing to permit five and one half inches of binder, if the rest of council agrees. Mr. Wolfe stated that streets would be discussed later on the agenda.

### **Old Business**

1. PG Energy has requested a right-of-way from the borough for the gas line that is being placed through Pineknott Park. Their representatives were present to answer any questions

that council may have. Mr. Ditton stated that the deed does not permit anything to be placed within twenty feet of the gasoline. The borough may not regrade, replace, or put material or a fence over the area. Mr. Ditton feels that the borough has too much money invested in the park to give this area away. Mr. Shaffer added that the fence separates Pineknott Park from the railroad property, and must be replaced if it is removed during the construction of the pipeline. Mr. Emil Augustine, a representative from the company, explained that the gas company does not want any type of permanent building to be built over the gas line. The company has done exploratory digs. They feel that by placing the line three feet from the fence line, the area will be solid dirt and not fill. As the line approaches Route 11, it will come out closer to the road leading into Pineknott Park. The company is aware that the borough plans to install light fixtures at the park. They would like the fixtures to be at least ten feet away from the gas line, in case any repairs must be made to the line. The pipe is normally placed three and one half feet underground. In other areas, people have put fill over the gas line right-of way. If eight to ten feet of fill are placed over the gas line, the company cannot maintain it. Atty. Best advised that the current deed reads that the borough may not do anything along the pipeline, without the PG Energy's express written permission. He suggested including a statement providing "nothing herein shall prevent the borough from installing or maintaining fencing or lighting as specified, with the ten-foot stipulation as mentioned". Mr. Augustine told the council that the gas company requires a total of twenty feet for the right-of-way. The line will be placed three feet from the fence so an additional seventeen feet of ground is needed for the right-of-way. The borough would still have the access road and room to install the light standards. Mrs. Brosius asked about the area behind the baseball field that is being considered for walking trails. Mr. Augustine stated that this area would not be affected by the right-of-way. Mr. Ruane stated that the borough requested that the pipeline be extended along the railroad instead of going up one of the borough streets. Atty. Best recommended adding this language to the easement; "nothing herein shall be construed to limit the borough's right to maintain the baseball field located at Pineknott Park, to install lighting fixtures adjacent to the park, or to establish hiking trails across the easement. No light fixtures shall be installed within ten feet of the gas line." Mr. Augustine agreed to the amended language.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to grant the easement to PG Energy with the language amended per the solicitor. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Atty. Best will work with PG Energy to specify the language. Roll call vote – all ayes. PG Energy will amend the deed and deliver it to the borough office to be reviewed by the solicitor before it is signed.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve issuing a permit to PG Energy for the work on Priestley Avenue and to waive the fees for this project. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. PG Energy will pave Priestley Avenue in exchange for the waiver. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted yes; Mrs. Groninger voted no.

## **2. Street Committee Report**

Mr. Bowersox requested approval to bid out the repairs to storm inlets, installation of handicapped curbing at King and Second Streets, and replacing sidewalks. Mr. Wolfe said that the council had previously approved that the work be done and no further approval was necessary.

Mr. Redington has attended a Penn Vest seminar and learned that grant money and low-interest loans are available through the state for storm sewers, sewers, and hydraulics. This will require Larson Design Group's involvement because some of the information required is

technical information. Larson's are familiar with the requirements. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Hydraulic Study has been started and is assuming that the preliminary study will be available at the next meeting in two weeks.

The engineers working on the Northumberland National Bank project have contacted Mr. Dave Walters, of Larson Design Group, Inc., for approval on the drainage at the bank's parking lot. Mr. Walters has written a letter to the borough explaining that the review of this project will require some time and before Larson's begins this work, he would like the council's approval to proceed. He also explained that it is customary for the engineering firm to bill the municipality, and the municipality should be able to recoup the costs from the contractor requesting the approval. Mr. Bowersox stated that he had requested that the bank's engineer consult with the borough's engineer on this project, and pays the fees associated with the work. This was at a council meeting held last year at the Kiwanis Building. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve Larson's review of the Northumberland National Bank project and to negotiate a price for the work. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The council discussed the location of storm inlets in the project area. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Shaffer voted yes; Mr. Troxell and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to purchase a vibratory plate tamper from Allenwood Equipment for \$1,649. The borough crew will use this to patch potholes. Three quotes were obtained with this price being the lowest. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

3. Mr. Ruane reported on his activity for March 2001 as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor. Mr. Ruane informed the council that he has received co-operation from landlords requesting inspections of their rental units. Mr. Wolfe requested that the "boarding houses" in the borough be inspected, according to the ordinance. Over \$1,300 in yearly rental fees has been received thus far.

Mrs. Groninger asked if copies of the building permits are mailed to the Assessment Office. Mr. Ruane stated that he delivers them personally. Mr. Wolfe informed the council that several properties in the borough are not assessed properly because an assessor has not been in the borough since March of 2000. Parcels with new homes are being assessed as vacant lots. As a result, the borough is not receiving tax money for these buildings. The borough is not receiving any cooperation from county officials in resolving the matter. Mr. Cwalina, County Commissioner, and the Assessment Office have been contacted. Mr. Wolfe made a motion that Atty. Best contacts the county solicitor, Atty. Zurick, to pursue this channel in having the properties properly assessed. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.

4. Atty. Best informed the council that Atty. Greg Stuck has requested a list of property owners who have rental properties in the borough. Council discussed whether or not this listing is a public record. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to provide the list of rental properties to anyone who requests it, at a charge of \$.25 per page. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The office does not currently have a printed "list" of rental properties. Approximately 290 invoices have been printed and mailed to the property owners. The borough's information is stored in the computer. Since it is not simply a matter of making copies, Mr. Shaffer withdrew his motion. Mr. Bowersox withdrew his second. Mr. Wolfe recommended that the cost to provide these copies be determined before the work is completed. Atty. Brosius

suggested contacting Atty. Stuck and explaining what is involved to provide this information. Mr. Wolfe tabled the discussion.

## **5. Second Street School Update**

Mr. Bowersox presented the proposal from Larson Design Group, Inc. to design the heating system for the Second Street School at a cost of \$7,600. This cost will be paid for with grant money obtained for the building. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the proposal. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Bowersox told the council that Zartman Construction has completed preliminary designs for a truss-like roof. They have not yet provided a cost estimate. They will provide a rough estimate, and reserve the right to bid on the project.

## **6. Mr. Shaffer gave the Police Chief's Report because Chief Redington was at the Kiwanis Building for the police civil service testing.**

Mr. Shaffer reported that the Police Department could apply for a federal grant to pay for one half the cost of five new ballistic vests for the police officers. The grant application expires on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shaffer showed the council the material of the current vests. They are made of a heavy, stiff fabric. The vests have a five-year life guarantee from manufacturer. The guarantee for the current vests, with the exception of one, have all expired. The new vests are made of a special, lighter material. The total cost for five new vests is \$4,399.77. One half of this cost would be covered by the federal grant. Although the vests were not included in the budget, Chief Redington suggested using some of the approximately \$2,800 that the borough will be reimbursed for overtime work performed for the county last year on the drug task force. This reimbursement was not included in the budget because the police do not know in advance the amount that will be received. The cost to the borough for the vests would be \$2,199.87. The balance of the \$2,800 would be deposited into the general fund. The police contract includes a clause stipulating that when the vests' lifetime expires, it is up to the borough to replace the vests when funding is available. The borough would pay the total cost of the vests up front, and be reimbursed for half the cost by the grant money.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to purchase five ballistic vests for the Police Department, with one half the funding to be reimbursed by the federal grant. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Shaffer informed council that the borough has approximately two weeks until the new traffic lights are signed over to the borough. Penn DOT should be informed of any complaints or comments before that time. Once the lights are turned over to the borough, the borough would be responsible to pay for any changes necessary. Mr. Redington suggested asking the solicitor about refusing to sign the new maintenance agreement for the lights until PennDOT agrees to install a light at Fourth and Duke Streets. The lights at King and Water Streets and Duke and Water Streets control traffic on state highways and the borough is required to assume ownership and pay for light maintenance on state highways, an unfunded mandate. Mayor Wetzel stated that the lights are allowing only a few cars to go through. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Shaffer agreed that the lights are not timed properly. In the matter of withholding approval of the maintenance agreement, Atty. Best recommends continuing to work with Representative Phillips to secure a traffic light at Fourth and Duke Street.

Mr. Redington asked that the Street Committee consider moving the two yellow, flashing, warning lights, one from Front Street and one from Duke Street, to Hanover Street so that a proper school speed limit can be established in front of C.W. Rice. The borough would need to pay to install the lights and purchase at least two “15 Mile Per Hour When Flashing” devices to properly mark the school speed zone. Mr. Redington offered to meet with the Street Committee if they wished to explore the idea further. Mayor Wetzel added that Mr. Redington is considering this because of the safety of the school children. Students from Sunbury may be transferred to the Rice Building in the future. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Street Committee explore the recommendation. Mr. Ditton suggested that the Street Committee also speak with the school district about changing the bus stop so students need not cross Front Street. The borough would not need a crossing guard if the bus would stop on the other side of Front Street.

7. Mr. Wolfe is obtaining information for new signs for the entrances to the borough. Several companies have been contacted and their representatives will be asked to attend a borough meeting. Atty. Brosius asked if anyone noticed the sign coming into the borough at the “White Bridge”. He had repainted the sign several weeks ago. It had not been noticed, but council thanked Atty. Brosius for his work. Mr. Wolfe stated that he would approach various groups for donations toward the cost of the signs.
8. The borough crew picks up recyclable items from area businesses. This practice began several years ago. They also pick up items from businesses in Point Township. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to instruct the street crew to stop picking up recyclables at Point Township Businesses. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Shaffer suggested that businesses be informed that the borough crew would no longer collect brown glass because no money is obtained for brown glass. Mr. Wolfe asked if anyone would make a motion to revise the items that are picked up at the businesses. The borough must pick up three recyclable items with the curbside pickup, according to DEP. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Public Safety Committee review the list for curbside pickup and invite members of the Recycling Committee to attend. Mr. Shaffer set a meeting of the Public Safety Committee for April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
9. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Ordinance Committee would be meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
10. The borough crew has informed the office that people are taking brush to the Recycling Building. However, some people are taking items that cannot be put through the chipper and they recommend that this practice be stopped. Atty. Best suggested posting a sign that reads “No Brush Dumping”. The Public Safety Committee will address this issue at their meeting.
11. Atty. Best informed the council that the Borrowing Base Certificate required for the loan is being revised. He does not think the process should take much longer. Mr. Wolfe said that the borough has made a payment of \$37,000 for the dump clean-up. Mr. Wolfe explained that \$85,000 was budgeted from the General Fund, in addition to the \$100,000 loan, for the total cost of the clean-up. Mrs. Groninger stated that since we have not yet received the loan money, it is costing the borough the interest money that we receive on our checking account. Atty. Best stated that the loan money should be approved by the second week in April. Mr. Wolfe announced a Finance Committee meeting for April 30, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. to review the budget.

12. Mrs. Groninger asked if the 2000 Census results were known. Mr. Ditton had the figures at the last meeting. The borough's population has decreased, according to the census.
13. Mrs. Groninger stated that when the last piece of pipe is removed at the corner at King and Water Streets, the trucks will be cutting over the sidewalk, to make the turn. Mr. Shaffer suggested asking PennDOT to leave the pole in place and fill it with concrete to keep traffic from cutting that corner. Mr. Wolfe suggested putting a large stone at that corner, with flowers around it. The Street Committee is to explore possible solutions.
14. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to approve a contract with Larson Design Group, Inc. for \$4,300 to obtain as-built drawings with fifty-foot cross sections at Pineknott Park. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger votes yes. Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion passed 4-3.
15. Mr. Troxell reviewed the quotes received for the borough garage heating system. The system is a long-tube heater that provides radiant heat. Mr. Ditton made a motion to accept the bid of \$2,150.00 from Greg Tweed of Tweed's H.V.A.C. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
16. Mr. Bowersox recommended that the vibratory plate tamper be paid for with Liquid Fuel money. Council concurred.

#### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. The total of \$702.00 is to be paid from the Liquid Fuels Fund, \$22,316.02 from the General Fund, \$16.43 from the Liberty Pool Account, and \$108.24 from the Parks and Recreation Account. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to advertise for three alternates to the Zoning Board, new members to the Improvement Committee, and a member to the Planning Commission. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Service Electric TV sent a letter to Atty. Best stating that they would like to negotiate the franchise fee. The next step is for the council to enact an ordinance authorizing the borough to charge a higher rate. Atty. Best added that he would have this ordinance ready to enact in May; then the negotiation process could begin.
4. Northumberland County sent a copy of the "Municipal Waste Management Ordinance" to the borough. The Ordinance Committee has copies to review.
5. Mr. Bowersox asked that an ordinance be enacted requiring that contractors ask for a release on bituminous concrete and cement concrete. Mr. Wolfe replied that council has already approved that this ordinance be written.
6. Mr. Carl commented that the bass tournament that was approved at the last meeting is for members only. This tournament has been run for several years. Other council members were not aware of any problems because this is a "members only" tournament.

7. Mr. Carl made a motion to approve the request from the Red Cross to use the Liberty Pool from June 18 to June 29 for the Water Safety Learn to Swim Program, subject to approval by the Recreation Committee. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
8. Mrs. Groninger asked if the prices obtained for the copy machine are prices using the state government piggy-back operation. The prices are government prices.
9. Mr. Troxell asked about the quotes that were received for the street work on the curbing and sidewalks. Mr. Bowersox stated that the work would need to be bid out. Prices were not discussed.
10. Mr. Wolfe made a motion giving Mrs. Bowman permission attend a seminar in Danville on June 6<sup>th</sup>, entitled, “Help! I’m a Municipal Secretary”. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**April 17, 2001**

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 Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Larry Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Dan Yaple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The thirteen visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius reported that the Days of Care, a project sponsored by the United Fund, was a success. Volunteers from the Daily Item helped to clean the Girl Scout Little House. Mrs. Brosius also thanked Mark and Denise Gulliver for their work at the Girl Scout Little House.

**Larson Design Group, Inc. - Storm Water Management Study**

Mr. Max Inkrote, of Larson Design Group, Inc. presented the preliminary storm water map. He explained that the map is a result of the fieldwork conducted by Larson’s during the past several weeks. The next step is for borough residents to review the map and provide additional information regarding the locations and sizes of pipes. Mr. Inkrote will leave a map at the Borough Building for additional input. Once the data is obtained, Larson’s will identify the problems, prioritize and recommend the repairs to be completed.

Various agencies provide funding for storm water improvement. Mr. Inkrote will suggest sources of funding to explore. Mr. Redington added that the first deadline for Penn Vest funding is May 9<sup>th</sup>. A meeting with DEP is required before applying for the funds. There are different deadlines throughout the year, each about three months apart. Mr. Inkrote stated that some of the funding is loans and some is grants. Mr. Redington stated that Penn Vest is a combination of a low interest loan (maximum 2.9%) and grant. Penn Vest money could also pay for engineering services.

Mr. Inkrote informed the council that he hopes to have a final map and written proposal for the next council meeting. However, the costs may not be available at that time.

**Signs for Entrances to the Borough**

Doug and Trish Brill from Middle Creek Signs, McClure, Pa., presented several styles of signs for the entrances to the borough. Dimensional signs are constructed of urethane, a man-made material that does not crack or warp. They can be sandblasted, hand carved, and/ or gilded with 23K gold. Pictures can be included on the signs. The flat signs are made of aluminite. The flat signs cost approximately one-third the cost of the dimensional signs. The total square footage of the sign and the artwork add to the costs. The Brills recommend washing the signs every few years and applying car wax to keep the colors from fading. Signs may need repainted every five to eight years. A 4 x 6 foot sign made of urethane, hand carved and gilded will cost about \$80 per square foot while the sandblasted signs cost about \$60 per square foot. Council discussed

various illustrations that could be used on the signs. Grant money is available for signs that make reference to Pineknott Park.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to obtain sketches of carved signs for the borough's entrances from Middle Creek Signs. The cost of the sketches is included in the cost of the signs. The four sketches will depict Pineknott Park, the Priestley House, the Point, and the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Permits from Penn DOT may be needed to erect the signs.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Finance Committee would meet on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to review the budget and the finances in order to locate possible funding for the signs.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**

Mr. Richard Dobeck of the Coast Guard Auxiliary had attended a council meeting last year and asked to lease a dock at the Point to the borough for \$1.00. The Coast Guard Auxiliary would like, instead, to donate the dock. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will continue to put the dock in and take it out of the river and would like permission to use the dock.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the dock from the Coast Guard Auxiliary at no cost to the borough, pending approval from the solicitor and the insurance company. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The dock should be available in May, pending the level of the river. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be cleaning up the riverbank. Mr. Dobeck requested that the borough haul the brush and debris from the area. Mr. Dobeck will contact the borough office to arrange for someone to approve which trees may be removed. Mr. Bowersox would like the Shade Tree Commission to be involved in the decision.

#### **2. Street Committee Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane, Street Inspector Supervisor, stated that construction on Fourth Street from Duke Street to Hanover Street is finished. He is keeping a diary of the work being done by Gutelius Excavating, Inc., the contractor working for Pennsylvania American Water Company. He will contact the water company to inform them that the work is not being done properly. Mr. Wolfe stated that Mr. Ruane, acting as Street Inspector Supervisor, should be the public official to enforce the borough ordinances.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion that if the company is not complying with the ordinance, the water company should be sited. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Ruane recommend holding preconstruction meetings with the utility and the contractor before work is begun. Council discussed whether to site the water company at this time. The ordinance stipulates that the borough may hire another contractor to complete the job correctly, and charge the company for the work plus an additional 25%. Mr. Ruane suggested that the company be instructed to contact the borough office the day before construction in the borough is planned. It is the water company's responsibility to have an inspector on site.

Mr. Shaffer revised his motion to state that the borough should send a letter to the water company. The company should be supervising the contractor on a daily basis, making sure

that he is complying with the borough ordinances. If the ordinances are not followed, the company will be sited. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Whenever a company applies for a permit, they agree to abide by Chapter 50 of the borough codes. Chapter 50 discusses the requirements for construction on the borough streets, and penalties if the ordinances are not followed.

3. Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane informed the council that the property at Fifth and Orange Streets is in the process of being sold. Several buyers are conducting environmental studies of the area.

Mr. Ruane conducted a rental inspection today. The owner of this property stated that he did not object to paying for the inspection.

Mr. Wolfe suggested that a schedule be established to inspect the group homes in the borough. The ordinance stipulates that group homes be inspected once a year.

4. Mr. Bowersox stated that the bid request for the storm sewer inlets, sidewalks, and curbing at the park has been advertised.

5. Second Street School Update

Mr. Redington stated that the committee is considering buying the materials for the roof and organizing a community work party to install the roof. With volunteer labor to install the roof, the borough would have enough grant money to replace the roof and install heat in the building. Larson Design Group, Inc. has not yet completed the proposal for heating the building.

The Daily Item is writing an article on the Second Street School building, which is to be published in tomorrow's newspaper.

Mr. Redington attended a PennVest meeting and learned that money is available for storm water management. This money is a combination of grant and loan monies. The first step is to explain the borough's proposal and the scope of the project to Penn Vest representatives. The council could learn what the borough would be eligible for in terms of grant money. Money is also available for design work. Mr. Redington suggests that the council act now, and ask that this current engineering project, the storm water management study, be considered for part of the grant. The first deadline is in May. The grant money is available for two more years. Mr. Redington will contact a representative from PennVest.

6. The next Council Meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2001, Election Day. The polling place for the First Ward has been changed from the Second Street School to the Borough Building. Mrs. Groninger moved that the May 15<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting be changed to May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

7. Mr. Bowersox informed the council that he told Dan Yapple that the borough would pave the entire length of Fourth Street this year. Mr. Troxell stated that from King Street to Hanover Street, Fourth Street could be paved. Mr. Shaffer stated that until the storm water study is completed, Fourth Street should not be paved below King Street. Mr. Ditton stated that the Sewer Authority should work on Fourth Street this year, if the borough plans to pave next year. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to pave Fourth Street this year, after the outcome of the

hydraulic study. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger voted yes; Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion failed 2-5.

8. Downtown Revitalization Committee

Mr. Carl stated that he would like to see a Downtown Revitalization Committee become actively involved. Two people who are interested in serving on the committee have talked with Mr. Redington. Mr. Carl made a motion to advertise for residents to serve on a Downtown Revitalization Committee, and to send letters to area businesses, encouraging their participation. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Council discussed the fact that this committee should be comprised of borough residents, and that council members would not sit on the committee.

Mrs. Fran Bogovich asked if the Improvement Committee should be a part of the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Improvement Committee members could be involved with the Downtown Revitalization Committee but that the committees would be two separate groups.

9. Mr. Wolfe explained that the issue of assessments in the borough was discussed at the last council meeting. The county controller's office has informed Mr. Wolfe that during 2000, an assessor was in the borough for one day, March 1. During that day, he was also in Point Township. No assessor has been in the borough to reassess properties since March 1, 2000. The mileage records show that the county field assessors worked a total of 163 days throughout the county; only part of one day was spent in Northumberland. According to the records in the controller's office, the assessors have not been anywhere in the entire county to reassess properties since December 7, 2000. Mr. Wolfe stated that not just the borough is affected by the lack of revenue. The school district and county are also affected. The borough code officer provides copies of the building permits to the assessment office to inform them of new construction. In 2000, the borough issued building permits for construction totaling over \$2,000,000. Mrs. Groninger suggested writing to the county, requesting that an assessor work in the borough. The assessment office and the commissioner's office have already been contacted. The reason given for the lack of assessment changes is that the assessment office has been busy adjusting the assessment cards due to the ratio change, and printing the tax bills.

10. Mr. Wolfe informed the council that the loan from SUN Bank has not yet been approved by the state. Additional paperwork has been sent and the approval should soon be received.

11. Mr. Carl suggested that the council establish a long-term plan for fixing sidewalks in the borough. He would like to have new sidewalks throughout the town within five years. The Ordinance Committee will review the borough codes pertaining to sidewalks. The Ordinance Committee meets on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

12. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Public Safety Committee would meet on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

13. A resident who had attended the last council meeting had asked if the borough would provide parking permits for residents in the downtown areas. Mr. Redington stated that past councils were hesitant to enact permit parking. Mr. Shaffer stated that he is not in favor of permit

parking in the borough. Sunbury has permit parking in lots, not on the main streets. Mr. Shaffer does not think that the borough would have enough meters for the downtown businesses if permits were available to residents. Mrs. Groninger questioned what would happen if more residents wanted permits than there are meters. The consensus of the council was to keep the meter parking as it is.

14. Mrs. Groninger asked about the Social Security refund for Kelly Spigelmeyer. The refund for 2000 has been received; the refund for the last two quarters of 1999 will be applied for when Steve Slayton begins the borough's audit. Obtaining this refund is more complicated than obtaining the refund for 2000. Mr. Shaffer stated that Ms. Spigelmeyer is aware of the situation.

### **New Business**

1. Mayor Wetzel stated that he spoke to Mr. Redington concerning a tanker truck that came through town, rather than on the main route. To regulate traffic, whether thru traffic, or parking, the borough must post the traffic regulations on the streets. If trucks are being prohibited in a certain area, the borough must inform truck drivers of that fact. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to purchase signs that stipulate, "Local Truck Traffic Only" and "Parking of Dual Wheel Vehicles Prohibited", pending PennDOT approval. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The two separate signs are to be purchased in bulk and posted two on a post, as appropriate. Liquid Fuels money can be used to pay for the signs. Mr. Redington explained that truck traffic must be permitted traveling south on Strawbridge Road because this road is a state road in Point Township. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of March 6, 2001. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$9,064.97. \$13,573.54 is to be paid from the Parking Meter Account for the first lease payment for the Ford Explorer. The bills to be paid from the Liberty Pool Association total \$27.86; and the Liquid Fuels bills total \$2,664.00. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to write a letter to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, approving a liquor license for Linda Troutman. Ms. Troutman has purchased the former Cole's Hardware building and plans to open a restaurant and cigar lounge. She would like to purchase a liquor license that is on sale in Trevorton and is required to have a letter of approval from the Northumberland Borough Council. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Lee Shaffer, the Borough Health Officer has endorsed bringing the liquor license to the borough and recommends that council approve Ms. Troutman's request. The Solicitor has also stated that no legal problems exist. Mr. Troxell asked if the church would oppose a liquor license at that location. Council discussed the fact that other churches are close to restaurants and fire departments where liquor is served. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mr. Troxell and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-2.
5. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve a twelve-month maintenance agreement with Buffalo Valley Telephone Company. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The company had been called for service once in the past year. The council has the option of being billed at current rates for labor and materials instead of the signing a maintenance agreement. Roll call vote.

Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion failed 1-5.

6. Medico Industries has invited borough officials and employees to their "Government Day". Mrs. Groninger volunteered to attend. Council suggested that members of the borough crew be asked if they would like to attend.
7. The North Central Pennsylvania Conservancy has invited council to attend a dinner. No one will be able to attend.
8. Mr. Troxell has talked to the borough crew about trading in the snow blower and backhoe for a four-wheel drive backhoe. The crew does not feel they need a four-wheel drive backhoe. Other council members stated that estimates had been obtained and the cost for the four-wheel backhoe, with the trade-ins, was too high. Mr. Troxell suggested getting a front-end loader for the cabota. It could be used to load the red trucks and to clean the parking meter area downtown. This way the tractor could be used year-round. Council will consider this.
9. Mr. Troxell asked how much asbestos is in the Second Street School. The Shikellamy School District has provided the borough with an asbestos report for the building.
10. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Fire Police had their new vehicle reconditioned. It is painted black with reflective decals. The radios have been installed. A grant to pay for the vehicle was obtained through Representative Merle Phillips.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**May 1, 2001**

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 Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Dan Yapple, Sewer Authority Superintendent, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The six visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius announced that the National Day of Prayer is being observed on Thursday, May 3, at noon, in front of the Borough Building. The Christ United Methodist Church will also be opened Thursday evening to observe the event.

**Sewer Authority**

Mr. Yapple reported on the projects that are planned by the Sewer Authority for this summer. The bid advertisement was in the paper today for the project on Priestley Avenue and will be opened on May 21<sup>st</sup>. This project involves replacement of the sewer main and three laterals. The project on Second Street will be advertised soon.

Mr. Yapple has prepared a report for the Sewer Authority, identifying the proposed surcharges for ButterKrust Baking Company. The company would be billed the surcharges if it exceeds the limits established by the Sewer Authority. Mr. Yapple will furnish the borough with a copy of the limits when approved. Mr. Yapple explained the type of processing that would be required at the bakery. ButterKrust has invited the Sewer Authority to tour the facility in Sunbury. Mr. Shaffer expressed interest in attending this meeting. Mr. Yapple will inform the council of the date of the tour.

Mr. Wolfe stated that in the future, he would like to have written reports of committee meetings, the solicitor’s report, and the mayor’s report. If the committee wishes the reports to be typed by the office employees, the information should be in the office by the Friday before the council meeting.

**Solicitor’s Report**

- Atty. Best is in the process of completing the deed for the Priestley Avenue Extension.
- The ordinances for the flood mitigation and authorization of the franchise fee with the cable company will be finalized by the next meeting.
- Atty. Greg Stuck requested the list of landlords that the borough invoiced according to the Renters’ Ordinance. His request had been tabled at a previous council meeting because council is not certain that this listing is a public record. Mr. Shaffer stated that beginning July 1, a new Privacy Act becomes effective and he questions what this means in terms of providing this list to the public. Atty. Best stated that he would research the act. He also stated that not all correspondences or files within the borough are public records. He feels that Mr. Ruane’s files, as well as police files, are not public record.

Atty. Stuck's correspondence indicated that not every landlord was served with notice. The borough has sent invoices to every known landlord. The ordinance has been publicized, therefore, landlords who have not received invoices, should contact the borough office. If Atty. Stuck is aware of a landlord who has not received notice, Atty. Best suggested that he forward the information to the borough office. Mr. Ruane stated that he has received cooperation from landlords requesting inspections of their properties.

- Atty. Best wrote to Atty. Zurich, the county solicitor, a month ago concerning the real estate assessments in the borough. Atty. Zurich has not replied.

### **Executive Session**

The council went into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

The council meeting was reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Currently, the borough does not have substitutes for the Crossing Guards. Council authorized advertising for substitute Crossing Guards.
- Complaints have been received about motorized scooters. Chief Redington stated that licenses are not required for scooters at this point. Atty. Best stated that an ordinance is required to address the issue. While traveling on the streets, anyone riding scooters is required to follow the vehicle code. Under the vehicle code, the scooters can be eliminated from the roadway. Council discussed whether scooters should be permitted on the streets or sidewalks. Mr. Shaffer will work with Chief Redington and the Mayor to make a recommendation.
- A complaint about children playing basketball in the street at Hanover and Front Streets has been received.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor for the month of April.

Mr. Ruane informed the council that S & L Trucking has purchased the Phillip M. Bell building on Fifth Street.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance**

Mr. Wolfe stated that the committee met yesterday. A written report of the meeting is on file in the borough office.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay \$4,635 toward the principal of the loan from SUN Bank. This is the difference in the amount for the seven payments the borough will make this year and the amount of twelve payments that had been included in the 2001 budget. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to transfer \$16,889 from the General Contingency Fund to the General Fund. This amount is the difference between the budgeted and actual amounts for the Second Street School expenses and anticipated revenue refund from the 2000 expenditures. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the borough would receive \$6,525 for rent in 2001 for the Rescue Building, with a net income of \$5,726. This rental income was not included in

the 2001 budget because council had not known that the building would be rented at the time the budget was approved. Mr. Ditton made a motion that rent money received for the Rescue Squad Building be used to purchase signs for three of the entrances to the borough. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. The cost per sign is approximately \$1,900. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe discussed the expenses that the borough pays for recycling. Money had not been budgeted for these expenses in the 2001 budget. The Finance Committee is recommending that money be transferred from the General Contingency Fund to the General Fund to pay for these recycling expenses. Mr. Wolfe tabled the issue until the actual numbers are determined.

Mrs. Groninger made a motion to contact businesses and organizations that have soda machines to consider obtaining machines that dispense cans instead of plastic bottles, when available. This is to encourage recycling. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Finance Committee had discussed compensating Mr. Redington for his tenure as Borough Manager. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to table the Finance Committee's recommendation that Mr. Redington not be compensated for his tenure as Borough Manager. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The grant for the sixth police officer runs through March of 2003.

Mr. Troxell made a motion that, as of January 1, 2002, payments to borough officials, including the Mayor, Health Officer, and Fire Chief, should be made at the end of a specified period, rather than the beginning. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. The payments are to be disbursed at the end of June and December or the end of each quarter. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to transfer the \$500 budgeted for the Rescue Squad to the EMA for radios. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to present a \$200 donation to the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library at a meeting on May 10, 2001. This amount is included in the 2001 budget. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Parks and Recreation Committee requested that the committee be permitted to decide how the monies in the Parks and Recreation and Liberty Pool Accounts are spent. The Finance Committee feels that the council is ultimately responsible for how the money is spent in the borough and the accounts should remain as they are now. Parks and Recreation will be provided with copies of bank statements and bills to be paid from these accounts. The committee does have a small account for recreation and a Soapbox account. Council has also approved that Mr. Greg Carl can obtain up to \$500 when needed for materials for the Haunted House.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the Liberty Pool's contract with Northumberland County at a minimum of \$4,500 for use of the pool this summer for county camps, providing the Parks and Recreation Committee approves. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Ordinance**

Mr. Carl reported that the Ordinance Committee met on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and established a schedule of meetings to review sections of the Borough Code. Committee members will be contacted to attend meetings that pertain to their committee and make recommendations to the Ordinance Committee for revisions to the Borough Code.

Mr. Carl has suggested a long-term sidewalk project. Council discussed the scope of the project. Mr. Shaffer asked if the sidewalk project is to replace and repair sidewalks or if it would include installation of new sidewalks throughout the developments. The Ordinance Committee will review the matter, with input from the Public Safety Committee. Streets and Sidewalks are to be discussed at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinance Committee Meeting, so this issue will be addressed at that time.

The members of the Ordinance Committee have copies of the ordinances and council meeting minutes that address signs in the borough. Atty. Best will review this topic.

## **Parks & Recreation**

The Anselmo Fund has issued a \$4000 grant to the Liberty Pool for a new pump and concrete steps for handicapped access.

A \$500 Anselmo grant has also been received for a crafts program for children, to be held this summer at the Girl Scout House.

The committee discussed work to be completed at the pool. The bottom of the pool has not been painted. Mr. Carl stated that Mr. Slodysko would be contacted.

## **Personnel**

No information to report.

## **Property**

Mrs. Groninger reported that all is well with the Rescue Building rental.

## **Public Safety**

Mr. Shaffer reported that the Public Safety Committee met on April 23 and will work with the Ordinance Committee to review ordinances pertaining to Public Safety.

Chief Redington requested that James Dodge be permitted to intern with the Police Department this summer as part of his college coursework. This paid internship can be funded through the Degenstein Foundation. James Dodge is the son of a borough employee. Atty. Best stated that he does not feel this is a conflict in that the family member is not making the decision to hire him. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to permit James Dodge to work as an intern with the Police Department. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Street**

Minutes of the Street Committee Meeting held on April 26, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. are on file in the borough office.

Mr. Wolfe opened the bids received for the Improvement of Storm Water Drainage System and Replacement of Some Existing Sidewalk and Curbing. The bids, ranging from \$41,250 to \$60,990, were received from seven contractors. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to award the bid to the lowest correct and qualified bidder. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton stated that he would prefer to examine the bids before voting to award the contract. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion carried 6-1.

Penn DOT has invited the council to a Transportation Meeting on May 2, 2001, 4:00 p.m. at the Penn DOT building. Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger plan to attend.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to purchase additional pipe for various street projects. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. The amount of pipe to be purchased is 500 feet of 18-inch pipe, 100 feet of 15-inch pipe, and 100 feet of 24-inch pipe. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Redington reported that Zartman's is assisting with obtaining a cost for the roofing at the Second Street School. Mr. Redington met with Larson's last week regarding the specifications for the heating system. It will probably be a boiler system with a hot water type of heating system. Council discussed the possible uses of the building. They included the housing of the municipal offices and using part of the building for a Community Center. Council discussed using General Fund money that may become available, but will not raise taxes for the building. Mr. Wolfe suggested that a meeting be held to discuss the use of this building and funds that may be available.

Mr. Redington explained that the borough has received preliminary notice of a state grant for \$163,000 for the lights for Pineknott Park. Extra money available from that grant may possibly be utilized for design plans for the Second Street School. The Second Street School Committee will meet Monday, May 7, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Money for seeding the baseball field is designated in the grant. Mr. Redington also wrote to Merck requesting a \$4,500 grant for topsoil for the baseball field.

Mr. Redington explained the type of lights that are being considered for the ball field at Pineknott Park. The brand name is Musco Lighting. DEP has approved the plan. Dave Walters is preparing a quote for Larson Design Group to oversee the installation of the light columns.

Mr. Wolfe scheduled a meeting of the Personnel Committee with Mr. Redington to discuss grants on Monday, May 7, 2001 at 6:00 p.m.

2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to appoint Mr. John Laubach to the Second Street School Committee and to the Improvement Committee. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to appoint Mr. Don Troxell to the Planning Commission. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Troxell is appointed as the representative from council. Mr. Ditton is a member of the Planning Commission, but he is not a representative from council. Mr. Ditton's term expires in August of this year.

4. Mr. Wolfe stated that volunteers are needed for these committees:
  - The Downtown Revitalization Committee
  - The Improvement Committee
  - Zoning Board Alternates

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe tabled the approval of the March 20, 2001 minutes until the next meeting.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Shaffer amended his motion to include paying Northumberland County \$680.17 for printing the tax bills, instead of the \$884.62 billed. A letter is to be included, referencing a letter from the Chief Assessor stating that the county would print the bills for the same cost as in the past. The amount the borough is paying is the average of the amounts paid for the tax bills and mailing costs over the past three years. Mrs. Groninger withdrew the second. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Kenneth Wagner requested a handicapped parking space for 75 Orange Street. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve a handicapped parking space for Mr. Kenneth Wagner, stipulating that he comply with the street sweeping schedule. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Ditton, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted no. The Public Safety Committee will review the handicapped parking space issue. A letter will be sent to Mr. Wagner.
4. Milton Borough has invited the borough council to form a Council of Government (COG) with Milton and two other municipalities, Delaware Township and Watsontown Borough. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to reply with a letter of interest in pursuing the formation of the Council of Government. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Wolfe explained that Larson Design Group, Inc. has reviewed the Northumberland National Bank plan for a parking lot and recommends that the borough not approve the bank's plans until various issues are addressed. The council will review the information.
6. Mr. Shaffer announced that he is meeting with the Fire Police on Sunday, May 6, 2001.
7. Mr. Carl asked for clarification of council's vote to approve his purchases of up to \$500 for the Haunted House. Council agreed that Mr. Carl could be reimbursement for any items he may purchase, up to \$500.
8. Mr. Bowersox asked why work has not been done on Pineknottter Park. Gutelius had told Mr. Walters that the ground at Furman's was too wet to bring in to the park. The contract stipulates a time deadline.
9. Mr. Bowersox stated that Eastern Industries closed streets to remove trees and did not have any signs or barricades at the intersections to inform motorists that the street was closed in the middle of the block. As chairman of the Street Committee, Mr. Bowersox has the authority to direct the companies to barricade the streets, informing motorists that the road is closed to traffic.

10. Mr. Ditton would like the railroad to be informed not to blow the train whistles through town. The topic was discussed, but no action taken.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**May 22, 2001**

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 Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton, and Mrs. Judith Groninger. Others present were Mr. Wendell Wetzell, Mayor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mrs. Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. The 13 visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No one offered any comments at this time.

**Larson Design Group**

Mr. Max Inkrote reviewed the Storm Water Runoff Improvement Study that had been prepared by Larson Design Group, Inc. The design and construction costs are rough estimates. The design costs are based on Larson's preparing the bid packets, plans, and field surveys. If all of the construction would be bid at one time, the construction cost would be lower than bidding the projects separately. The estimates include prevailing wage rates. Council discussed whether or not prevailing wage rates would need to apply.

PennDOT is willing to excavate the ditch along Penn Street as part of the agility agreement. The ditch is close to the railroad right-of-way. Mr. Bowersox stated that the Borough Crew could do the clearing and grubbing. The ditch needs to be maintained regularly.

The approximate total of the costs for design and construction is \$1.123 million. Mr. Paul Nataly, of PennVest, has been contacted and will meet with the council and Larson's, and DEP to discuss possible funding. Mr. Inkrote suggested inviting SEDA-Cog and the county also. Competitive grants are available.

Mr. Inkrote stated that priorities one through seven are in need of immediate improvements. Several of these items are already under contract with Schlegel Excavating, Inc. The cost of item 16 is high due to the fact that Boyer Machine Shop has a concrete ramp, which would need to be taken out and replaced, in order to replace the pipe underneath.

Mr. Inkrote feels that the four-foot, smooth-lined pipe being suggested for Ropewalk Avenue will carry the water diverted from the five-foot squash pipe, the corrected size of the pipe in Section 7. He recommends leaving the old system in place to carry water that is directed there below King Street. The water from the hill area will be diverted along King Street and down Brickyard Avenue. Wherever the pipe bends at a 90-degree angle, a manhole will be installed.

Mr. Inkrote explained that other areas of the borough, not included in this study, would be impacted by the solutions recommended for this area because water is being diverted from other areas.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority**

Mr. Jack Fasold informed the council that the Sewer Authority has accepted bids for three projects, Priestley Avenue from Sheetz Avenue to Queen Street, Second Street from Duke Street to Queen Street, and paving the parking lot at the sewer plant.

The Sewer Authority toured ButterKrust Bakery in Sunbury. ButterKrust's start-up date in Northumberland is December 2001. The Sewer Authority has set the tap-on fee and the rates for sewer charges for the bakery. This fee schedule was set for the authority's Municipal Industrial Pretreatment Program (MIPP), not just for ButterKrust.

The authority plans to TV the line on Duke Street. This line had been installed a year ago. The work will be done at night and will take approximately two nights to complete.

### **Solicitor's Report**

The first reading of Ordinance 2001-4, the Telecommunications Act of 2001, was conducted. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-4. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

The first reading of Ordinance 2001-5, the Flood Hazard Mitigation Ordinance, was conducted. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-5. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt Resolution B. This resolution accepts the deed of dedication for a public street to extend Priestley Avenue. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Attorney Best will file the deed with the Register and Recorder's office. The borough can then contact PennDOT to obtain Liquid Fuels money for this section of Priestley Avenue.

### **Executive Session**

The council went into an executive session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. The council meeting was reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane informed the council of his activity for the month of May. Schedule for group homes.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance** - No report

**Ordinance** – The Ordinance Committee held a meeting May 21, 2001. A written report is on file in the borough office. The committee will be meeting on May 31, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the borough hall.

**Parks & Recreation** – No report. The committee meets on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 in the borough hall.

**Personnel** – The Personnel Committee met on May 7, 2001. A written report is on file in the borough office. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt the guidelines of the schedule of amounts for the administrative fee for future grants. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The proposal is as follows:

Up to \$100,000	10%	\$500,001 to \$600,000	7.5%
\$100,001 to \$200,000	9.5%	\$600,001 to \$700,000	7.0%
\$200,001 to 300,000	9.0%	\$700,001 to \$800,000	6.5%
\$300,001 to \$400,000	8.5%	\$800,001 to \$900,000	6.0%
\$400,001 to \$500,000	8.0%	\$900,001 to \$1,000,000	5.5%
		Greater than \$1,000,000	5.0%

Roll call vote – All ayes.

**Property** – No report

**Public Safety** –No report

**Street** – Mr. Bowersox reviewed the streets to be paved this year. Strawbridge Road is to be paved with 1½ inch of top. Base repairs are to be done as needed. Council has approved this work at a prior meeting.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to pave Fourth Street, north of Wheatley Avenue to Hanover Street. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to let for bid the paving of Fifth Street from Duke Street to Hanover Street, eliminating the intersections at King and Queen Streets. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mr. Fasold stated that the Sewer Authority has repair work to complete on Queen Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets. By eliminating the paving at the intersection, the repair work will not need to be completed before Fifth Street is paved. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to have PennDOT excavate the parallel ditch along Penn Street, under the agility agreement. The elevations are to be obtained from Larson’s engineers. The borough crew will clean and grub the area. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Chip Schlegel, of Schlegel Construction, Inc. suggested changes to the current contract. Council discussed his recommendations and made the following motions.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve an exploratory dig at Second and King Streets by Schlegel Excavating, Inc., at additional cost to the contract. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Troxell, Mr. Bowersox, and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 4-3.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to raise two inlets at Second and King Streets instead of replacing them, as recommended by Mr. Schlegel. Mr. Ditton seconded the

motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve an exploratory dig at Fifth and Prince Streets by Schlegel Excavating, Inc., at additional cost to the contract. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

Mrs. Groninger made a motion to approve that two inlets on the northeast and northwest corners of the King and Second Street intersection be either replaced, or raised and the grates replaced, at Mr. Ruane's discretion. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion that effective June 5, 2001, all committee reports should be written. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

### **Old Business**

1. Pineknotter Park Light Pole Installation – Mr. Ditton made a motion to accept the proposal from Larson Design Group, Inc. for engineering services in connection with the installation of field lighting for Pineknotter Park ball field at a lump sum of \$9,400. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Council discussed the installation requirement of 12 feet in depth in undisturbed soil and whether to expect additional costs since the installation site is over the former dump, and not in undisturbed soil. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion passed 6-1.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2001, April 3, 2001, and April 17, 2001. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mrs. Groninger was absent during the vote. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills, including the loan payment and the bill from Schick's Garage. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger was absent during the vote. Motion passed 6-0. The bills to be paid from the General Fund totaled \$18,836.82. The Park and Recreation Fund bills totaled \$176.83. The Liberty Pool Association bills totaled \$90.51 and the Liquid Fuels bills totaled \$12,922.06.
3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve that the Fire Police provide assistance to Upper Augusta Township on June 10, 2001 for a boat race at the Sunbury Social Club, and to the Evangelical Hospital on August 17, 2001 for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Community Event. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and

Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger was absent during the vote. Motion passed 6-0.

4. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt an amendment of the Articles of Incorporation for the Penn Valley Airport Authority. This amendment adds a provision that provides that the authority's term of existence be extended to a date not exceeding fifty years from the date of approval of the articles of amendment. It was labeled Resolution C for the year 2001. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. A DEP Planning and Recycling Roundtable will be held on June 8, 2001 at Tedd's on the Hill. Three members of the Recycling Committee and the Borough Secretary plan to attend. Council members are invited, with reservations requested by June 4, 2001.
6. Second Street School Committee plans to present the heating and roofing projects to the council in two weeks. The estimates for these projects are higher than originally anticipated. The committee is planning that the building from the stage toward Second Street be utilized as a Community Center; and the area from the stage to Park Avenue be used for borough offices. Mr. Shaffer stated that if the borough offices were relocated to the Second Street School building, the current municipal building could become a source of rental income for commercial offices. The rental income could help offset the cost of the Second Street School. Areas in the school could also be rented for commercial use. Mr. Shaffer made a motion that the Second Street School be converted to a combination Community Center and municipal building with space constraints and requirements to be defined. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. The municipal building entails the police department and the borough offices. Mr. Shaffer amended his motion to include that areas of the building should also be considered as potential commercial rentals. Mr. Carl amended his second. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 5-2.
7. A letter from the Assessment Bureau was received, requesting payment of the unpaid balance of \$204.45 for the tax bills. The borough had paid the Assessment Bureau \$680.17 for the tax bills, referencing a letter from the Chief Assessor stating that the county would print the bills for the same cost as in the past. The amount of \$680.17 was the average of the amounts paid for the tax bills and mailing costs for the prior three years. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to pay the outstanding bill to the Assessment Bureau. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion failed 0-7. It was noted that the Assessment Bureau has reassessed the new construction in the borough for the 2001 school tax bills.
8. Mrs. Brosius informed the council that the Pineknottter Days Committee is considering having Hot Air Balloon rides and wished to know if the balloon ride could be located at Pineknottter Park. Council stated that it should not be

located at the park due to the construction work and reseeded being completed there.

9. Pepsi was contacted regarding the soda machines in the borough. According to their representative, the machines with plastic bottles are more profitable than the machines with cans. The plastic bottles also sell better. Mr. Ditton stated that the amount of the profits is negotiable. The reason the council was in favor of the machines with cans is because the cans are recyclable, whereas the plastic bottles are not. Mr. Carl suggested obtaining the baler to recycle plastics, if it is profitable. Mr. Bowersox suggested that the pick-up for recycling be limited to three materials - cardboard, aluminum, and clear glass. Council discussed the cost to the borough for the recycling expenses.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**Northumberland Borough Municipal Building, 221 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Northumberland, PA**  
**June 5, 2001**

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 Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Don Troxell, Bryan Wolfe, Paul Bowersox, and Greg Carl. Others present were Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. The seventeen visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No one offered any public comment at this time.

**Northumberland Sewer Authority**

Cindy Lark informed the council that the authority’s work on Second Street and Priestley Avenue would be completed this summer. Council is invited to attend the preconstruction meeting with the contractor, which will be held the end of next week. Center State Amesite was awarded the bid. Additionally, bids are currently being let out for repairs to the line on Fourth Street between King Street and Wheatley Avenue. The Sewer Authority would like to be informed of the date for the paving of Second Street to be certain that their work is completed. Ms. Lark also announced that Dan Wiand is the interim supervisor of the Sewer Authority.

**Medico Industries**

Mr. Tom Kuharchik presented information on a 1996 Wacker roller with 982 hours of use. The cost for the roller is \$6,500. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to purchase the roller, model RD880, at a price of \$6,500, upon receipt of the qualifications of the capacity of the roller. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Bowersox stated that the roller could be used for a variety of projects, including patching the streets, and compacting the road through Pineknott Park. Mr. Carl asked if additional personnel would be required. Mr. Bowersox stated that the roller could be operated without additional personnel. He added that the street crew does need additional personnel. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Troxell and Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

In a separate matter, Mr. Kuharchik told the council that if the borough rented a skidster from Medico Industries for 6 months, Medico would allow the borough 100% of the rental cost toward the purchase price during the first three months of the rental, and 80% of the rental cost toward the purchase price during the next 3 months. Mr. Bowersox stated the need for this equipment for the winter months. Mr. Kuharchik explained that a skidster can accommodate 70 different attachments. No action was taken at this time.

**P. W. Campbell - Northumberland National Bank Project**

Mr. Jim Gurden, of P.W. Campbell Company, presented a plan for the driveway and parking lot behind the Northumberland National Bank. The bank proposes to construct a

curb cut along Queen Street for a driveway from the parking lot, with parking extending along one side of the drive to Queen Street. The adjacent property owners and the bank have agreed to grade the property. The slope will mean that the property will drain onto Queen Street. No storm water system is directly related to the property. The closest system is at the corner of Front and Queen Streets. The soil conditions and perk rate are good through out the site. The engineers for the bank and Larson Design Group, Inc. are planning to work together to insure that no additional water would be introduced onto Queen Street. The bank is requesting that council approve the site plan. Mr. Dennis Norman, the representative from Larson Design Group, Inc. has met with the bank's engineers and feels that he can work with them to determine the best way to address the storm water. Mr. Gurden stated that the borough's Land Development Ordinance contains several requirements that are not feasible at this site. Typically, a waiver of requirements is requested of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission makes a recommendation to council, and the council approves or disapproves the waiver of the requirements. Mr. Wolfe requested a written request from the bank's engineers, stating what requirements in the ordinance need to be revised in order to permit the bank to continue with the project. Atty. Stuck stated that a construction easement is going to be approved for the driveway to Queen Street, once the borough approves the variance.

Mrs. Groninger made a motion to approve the variance on the parking and setbacks for the Northumberland National Bank on said properties, upon the approval of the Planning Commission. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton prefers that the Planning Commission to be consulted before council gives its approval. Atty. Best's legal opinion is that the council should not be acting on this motion. He also feels that if Mr. Troxell is a contractor for the bank, he should abstain from voting. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted no; Mr. Troxell abstained. The vote was tied at 3-3. Mayor Wetzel was absent from the meeting due to an appointment. Because he was not present to vote, the motion died. Mr. Ditton stated that the Planning Commission would set a special meeting as soon as the written information from the bank is received.

### **Replacement of Storm Sewers**

Mr. Chip Schlegel, of Schlegel Excavating Co. addressed the council concerning the contract between the borough and Schlegel Excavating, Co. Mr. Schlegel recommends that at King Street Park, one inlet is replaced, four inlets are repaired, and curbing is installed at the Second Street end of the park. At the corner of Fifth and Prince Streets, a twenty-four inch pipe runs north/ south on Fifth Street. Mr. Schlegel's proposal is to keep the junction box at the corner of Fifth and Prince Streets and add a manhole cover. New inlets will be placed on both sides of Prince Street. A new junction box will be placed at the corner of Prince and Fifth Street, on the south side of Prince Street. It will also have a manhole lid. New inlets will be placed on each side of Fifth Street, above Prince Street. At the corner of Fifth Street and Strawbridge Road, two new inlets and one D & H box are to be installed. This is in addition to the present contract. The cost for the D & H box is \$4,631. Mr. Schlegel provided an itemized listing of the changes and the costs associated with the changes, as requested by the street committee. The total amount for the contract would be \$42,312.00. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the changes to the contract with Schlegel Excavating, Inc. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. A copy of this list of changed is on file in the borough office. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-4, the "Telecommunications Act of 2001". Mr. Carl seconded the motion. This was the second reading of the ordinance. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adopt ordinance 2001-5, the "Flood Hazard Ordinance of 2001". Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. This was the second reading of the ordinance. Roll call vote – All ayes.

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

Mr. Ruane presented his report for May 2001. He also received a request that the borough crew move a handicap sign from Queen Street to around the corner on Priestley Avenue.

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** – no report

### **Ordinance Committee**

Mr. Carl reviewed the written report for the Ordinance Committee meetings on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>. This report is on file in the borough office. The Ordinance Committee is submitting a Northumberland Sidewalk Beautification Project. This project would last for five years. The committee is exploring funding through grants that would help low-income property owners to afford the cost of new sidewalks. Every recommendation that the committee passed unanimously or with a 2-1 vote is included in the plan. This plan would be adopted for the duration of the five years. After that time, the current ordinance would apply. Mrs. Groninger asked if the committee has considered who would enforce the rules. Mr. Wolfe stated that by adopting this ordinance, the residents have five years to comply with the ordinance before enforcement would begin. The issue of enforcement could be addressed at that time. Mr. Bowersox objected to having the current ordinance weakened by eliminating the requirement of mesh in the sidewalk. Mrs. Brosius suggested that the tree line, (the area between the curb and sidewalk), be addressed, stipulating what is allowed in the tree line. Mr. Ditton stated that the ordinance does not address this area. Atty. Best recommended that the tree line area could be addressed as part of a shade tree ordinance that is being reviewed. Mr. Ditton expressed his objections to several items in the proposal. He questions why slate, blacktop, and brick sidewalks are unacceptable while cobblestone, wood, and other materials are not referenced. He also questions why designs are not acceptable. He would like the committee to review these issues before adopting the ordinance.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt the five-year Sidewalk Beautification Project. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe stated that the vote is for the entire "package". Roll call vote. Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion failed 3-4. The ordinance is sent back to the committee for revision.

### **Parks & Recreation Committee**

Mrs. Brosius announced that the Soapbox race is scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup>. Craft classes for ages 5 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be conducted on Wednesday mornings, beginning June 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. The program is free.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the new pump has been installed at the pool and the pool is operational.

**Personnel Committee** - no report

**Property Committee**

A written report is on file in the borough office.

- The Property Committee plans to schedule a meeting. The meeting will be publicized. Mrs. Groninger moved that council gives its approval for the committee to decide whether a request from the Pineknott Days Committee for Hot Air Balloon rides at Pineknott Park or Second Street School is granted. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- No activity should be expected at Pineknott Park for several months. The grass seed needs to germinate, and three cuttings should be completed before anyone is permitted in the area. The shed had not been moved; therefore the ground is graded around the shed and seeded. At some point, the shed will have to be moved. The former parking lot has been seeded. Mr. Shaffer questioned if the gravel that had been removed from the lot should have been returned. Mrs. Groninger stated that the contractor and the engineer determined the contract.
- Second Street School and Property Committees plan to have a joint meeting regarding a roof for the school building. The meeting will be advertised.
- The borough crew is not collecting brush.
- The recycling truck will pass down each street one time. The crew will not make return trips. Recycling should be placed at the curb by 8:00 a.m. if the residents wish to have it removed.

**Public Safety Committee**

Mr. Shaffer presented his report for the Public Safety Committee. The written report is on file in the Borough Office.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve repairing and reprogramming the siren and reprogramming at the estimated cost of \$797.00. The cost to repair the board and relays is \$597; the reprogramming cost is \$200. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted no.

The Fire Department requested a meeting with the Public Safety Committee to discuss the department's long-term plans. Mrs. Groninger asked if both fire companies have approved the plan. Mr. Newbury, Fire Chief, stated that this is a preliminary meeting. The fire companies have approved no plan yet.

The Public Safety Committee will meet on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The EMA and the Fire Board will provide the council with written reports.

A request was received to determine if trees located on the north side of Route 11 constitute a hazard. Mr. Shaffer will inspect the area.

## **Street Committee**

Mr. Bowersox presented the report from the Street Committee. He made a motion to pave Prince Street between Fifth Street and Strawbridge Road, including base repairs at the intersection of Prince and Fifth Streets. If the Sewer Authority has work to complete in this block, that work is to be completed before the paving. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The issue of renting a skidster or bobcat was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Wolfe announced that he regretfully received Mrs. Groninger's resignation from the Street Committee. Mr. Wolfe will sit on the committee until the next council meeting, at which time he will appoint another member from council.

The Street Committee will not be meeting on Thursday mornings. The meetings will be set at a later date.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Second Street School Committee**

Mrs. Groninger made a motion to appoint Joe Epler to the Second Street School Committee. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **2. Downtown Revitalization Committee**

Borough residents and business owners have volunteered to serve on the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Mr. Wolfe will announce a date for an organizational meeting at the next council meeting. Other interested parties are encouraged to participate.

### **3. Storm Sewer Project Funding**

Members from council and the office met with representatives of PennVest, DEP, Northumberland County and Larson Design Group, Inc. to explore funding for the storm sewer project. Written reports of the meeting are on file in the borough office.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to proceed with the funding study for priorities 1 and 7 through 16 of the Storm Water Study. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Items 2 through 6 are currently under contract with Schlegel Excavating, Inc. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The first step is for the borough to conduct a survey in the area, which will be improved by the storm sewer project. This survey is to determine the percentage of low to moderate-income households in this targeted area. The survey should be conducted by going door-to-door. More information will be obtained before the next council meeting.

### **4. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council has received some specifications from Middle Creek Signs for the entrance signs to the Borough. He suggested that council review the designs and discuss them at the next council meeting.**

### **5. Mrs. Brosius requested that a borough representative be appointed to the Flood Hazard Mitigation Committee. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Troxell to the committee.**

6. Northumberland Borough Housing Authority  
Atty. Michael Balducci received a letter from DCED awarding a grant to the Housing Authority for the project to be located on the Steele School property. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the \$337,000 grant proposal from DCED for the Northumberland Borough Housing Corporation. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The Housing Authority would like the building to be under roof before Christmas.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger requested that the \$125.00 fee for the Priestley Avenue Extension deed be withheld. The motion was not revised. The amount from the General Fund totaled \$8,562.37; the Liquid Fuels bills totaled \$5,242.10; and the Liberty Pool Association bills totaled \$2,277.26. Roll call vote – Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to permit the River of Life Assembly of God Church to use the King Street Park on either August 19 or August 26, 2001. The church may choose which date. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Furman Foods, Inc. has requested that the council agree to \$30,900 credit for soil provided to the borough for Pineknott Park. This credit would be toward the annual PILOT that Furman's pays in conjunction with the UDAG Grant. Mr. Wolfe will contact Mr. David Geise for additional information.
4. Mr. Carl requested that council members attend the next Ordinance Committee meeting pertaining to the sidewalks to address their concerns about the proposed Sidewalk Beautification Project.
5. Mrs. Bogovich requested that the council reconsider the purchase of the entrance signs to the borough. She feels that the money earmarked for the signs should be spent on other things, such as the streets, street lighting, and sidewalks.
6. Mr. Bob Pinter, the reporter from WKOK, announced to the council that the story on the Second Street Haunted House won third place in the state competition. He presented the council with a copy of the tape, and the judge's comments.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**Northumberland Borough Municipal Building 221 2<sup>nd</sup> St., North'd, PA 17857**  
**July 3, 2001**

President Bryan M. 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 Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. James Best, solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The seven visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Stepanik, a resident on King Street, requested that council consider placing stop signs on Sheetz Avenue at the intersection with Park Avenue, or designating Sheetz Avenue as a one-way street going toward Front Street. The Street Department will review the request.

**Northumberland Sewer Authority**

Ms. Cindy Lark informed the council that the Sewer Authority's work on Fourth Street would be completed this week. Second Street is to be started once the water company is finished in the area. As soon as Second Street is completed, Priestley Avenue will be started.

**Larson Design Group, Inc.**

◆ Mr. Max Inkrote informed the council that a pipe blew out in the area between Orange Street and Sheetz Avenue. Today, workers on the borough crew and from Larson's Design Group, Inc. performed a temporary fix at the location. This area was addressed in the Storm Water Management Study recently completed. Mr. Inkrote presented the council with three options to fix the pipe:

1. Install another pipe to replace the old one at an approximate cost of \$66,000 for construction.
2. Construct a significant portion of the new system along Brickyard Avenue, as proposed from Hanover Street to King Street (Priority 12) at a cost of approximately \$205,000.
3. Construct a shortened version of Priority 12, from Orange Street to King Street, at a cost of \$137,000.

Mr. Wolfe estimated that the borough currently has approximately \$119,000 to use for street/storm sewer projects this year. The storm sewer problem is borough-wide and the council is currently seeking funding for improvements to the system. Mr. Inkrote stated that any work completed here could be included in the Letter of Prejudice to PennVest for funding since this is an emergency situation. The funding obtained through PennVest would be loans. A survey of the households in the storm water management study area is being conducted to determine if the borough could qualify for a competitive community block grant.

- ◆ Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay Gutelius \$133,743 as recommended by Larson's. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve Change Order #2 for Pineknotted Park, at a cost of \$13,350. This cost is to cover the hauling of the additional fill material. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton questioned who determined the amount of material needed and why the estimate of dirt moved to Pineknotted Park from the island was so much less than originally believed. He felt that the company that hauled the material to Pineknotted Park should have known how much ground was hauled. Council also discussed the DEP's requirements to cover the landfill. Topsoil was not required in this contract. Gutelius is going to return to fill in the uneven areas in Pineknotted Park and reseed where the grass has not grown. Mr. Wolfe called for a roll call vote to approve Change Order #2. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion failed 3-4.
- ◆ Mr. Shaffer moved to table the request from Larson Design Group, Inc. concerning the electrical service at Pineknotted Park.
- ◆ Council discussed the recommendations made by Larson Design Group, Inc. for the Northumberland National Bank Storm Water Management Plans. Mr. Troxell and Mr. Ditton, members of the Planning Commission, agreed with Larson's recommendations. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept the changes for the Northumberland National Bank Storm Water Management Plans, as recommended by Larson Design Group, Inc. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept Larson Design Group, Inc.'s proposal for design services for the proposed re-roofing project at the Second Street School. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Atty. Best announced that the Public Hearing for Linda Troutman's request for the transfer of a Liquor License is scheduled for July 17 at 6:30 p.m. This hearing will be publicized in the Daily Item.

### **Executive Session**

The council went into an Executive Session to discuss a litigation issue at 7:50 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

### **Mayor's Report**

No report

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

- ◆ Mr. Paul Ruane presented his report for the month of June.
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox made a motion that Mr. Ruane be paid time and a half for time worked over forty hours per week. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance Committee**

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee would meet on July 25 at 6:30 p.m., and tentatively, on August 29, September 19, October 24, and November 28 to discuss the 2002 budget.

### **Ordinance**

- ◆ The next ordinance meeting is July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00.
  
- ◆ The approved recommendations for changes to the ordinances have been given to the solicitor to prepare.

### **Parks & Recreation**

The July meeting had been cancelled.

### **Personnel**

No report

### **Property**

No report

### **Public Safety**

- ◆ Mr. Shaffer received a request for a crossing guard at King and Water Streets because even with the pedestrian crossing sign, drivers are not giving pedestrians the right-of-way.
  
- ◆ Mr. Shaffer made a motion to address a letter to the Shikellamy School district requesting that they reroute the buses to eliminate students crossing Front, Water, and Duke Streets. Bus stops should be arranged so that the students are picked up in an area that does not require them to cross a major highway. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  
- ◆ Mr. Shaffer will inform council of the date for the meeting with the Fire Department and other groups.

### **Street**

- ◆ Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve the Agility Agreement with PennDOT. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox informed the council that he is meeting with a representative from Breneman's on Monday at 10:00 a.m.
  
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox made a motion to advertise the bids for cold-recycle paving of Priestley Avenue, Hanover Street from Water Street to Priestley Avenue, and Second Street from Queen Street to Duke Street. The gas company is providing the surface coat on Priestley Avenue. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  
- ◆ Mr. Bowersox made a motion to advertise for bids the paving of the Fifth and Prince Streets intersection, Strawbridge Road; the berm along the one side of Buchanan Street; Fourth Street from Wheatley Avenue to Hanover Street; and Fifth Street, from Duke Street to Hanover Street, eliminating the intersections at King and Queen Streets. The replacement of

curbing and handicapped curb, where required, is included in this motion. The borough will reserve the right to reject all bids. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Bowersox would like the bid to be out by August 15<sup>th</sup> and the work begun by the middle of September.

- ◆ The Street Committee will schedule a meeting, which will be advertised.
- ◆ Mr. Ruane has a record of the street cuts that were recently made by PG Energy.
- ◆ The Street Committee will conduct a final inspection of the work being done by Schlegel Excavating, Inc. once the project is completed.

### **Old Business**

1. Second Street School Committee - Mr. Shaffer made a motion to advertise for bids for the Second Street School heating system, with the right to reject all bids. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Storm Sewer Project Funding - Borough interns are to begin the survey on Thursday for funding for the storm water system repairs.
3. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to purchase two additional signs for entrances to the borough, at a cost of approximately \$1,500 per sign. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Troxell asked if there is a location for the sign on Route 147. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council will decide where to place the signs and that the signs should be situated close to the borough line. Roll call vote - Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-1.
4. Mrs. Brosius requested a copy of the letter that was sent to the railroad, requesting that the railroad clean up the area. Mr. Wolfe stated that Mrs. Patty Young sent a letter and the borough does not have a copy. Mrs. Groninger stated that Mrs. Young had asked that the borough's solicitor send a letter to the railroad. Atty. Best said that several railroad companies are involved with the underpass. He recommended contacting the yardmaster in Northumberland, inviting him to attend a borough council meeting.

Mrs. Groninger left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of May 22, June 5, and June 19, 2001. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The amount to be paid from the General Fund is \$138,724.84, including the \$133,743.00 payment to Gutelius. The bills to be paid with funds from the Liquid Fuels Account total \$10,120.00. The Liberty Pool Association bills total \$935.76; the Parking Meter Account bills total \$608.00; and the bills from the Fire Police Equipment Fund total \$64.90.

3. Mr. Bowersox informed council that minutes of a special council meeting held on March 9, 1993, include a statement that the lights in the Branchview Subdivision would be the property owner's responsibility.
4. Mr. Carl vacationed in California and noticed that the sidewalks were in perfect condition in that area. Mr. Wolfe added that a sidewalk ordinance is being enforced in Selinsgrove. The Ordinance Committee will revise the recommendations that were presented to the council in June for a Sidewalk Beautification Program in Northumberland.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**July 17, 2001**

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 Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Ms. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Paul Bowersox. Others present include Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The 12 visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Sam Mattern addressed the council pertaining to a variance at his property on Sixth Street. Atty. Brosius, the solicitor for the Zoning Board, informed him that the Zoning Board could not act on this issue since the request is not for a variance, but a complete reversal of the provision. Under section 10a.08 of Ordinance 92-4, “tract number two shall be limited to the parking of automobiles”. Therefore, a new ordinance amending the zoning code would be required. Atty. Best cautioned against “spot zoning”. Atty. Best suggested that the issue be advertised that the council would meet to consider an amendment to the ordinance. The council would consider the request at the next council meeting.

**SEDA-Cog**

Mr. Jim McAllister, Transportation Planning Manager for SEDA-Cog explained grants that are available through SEDA-Cog for transportation. When PennDOT updates the 12 year program, SEDA-Cog updates its improvement program. Mr. McAllister suggested that the council apply for available grant money to enhance the downtown area. The Transportation Enhancement Program requires for 20% matching funds. However, land and engineering fees may be considered toward the matching funds. This SEDA-Cog region has a budget of \$1.5 million. Sidewalks, landscaping, and street lighting are all eligible costs. Applications will be available in August, with a deadline of October 31. Chambers of Commerce, museums, and any non-profit group may apply. A workshop will be held in September in Lewisburg to explain more about the funding and grant application process. The money will be awarded in October of 2002. The program extends for two years. Information is also available on the website at [www.enhancements.org](http://www.enhancements.org).

**Larson Design Group, Inc.**

Mr. Dave Walters addressed the council about Change Order #2 for Pineknottter Park. The change order was for the amount of \$13,350.40 to haul in 2,086 yards of material. 1,986 yards are already in place. The contractor will bring in 100 cubic yards of top soil to fill in the low spots at the park. The total amount of fill at the park is 4,500 cubic yards. Mr. Ditton expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of accountability in determining the amount of soil needed to be hauled in to the site. Mr. Walters stated that the material stockpiled on the site from the island had to have the stones, larger than four inches in diameter, removed. Mrs. Groninger voiced concerns about paying the bill to the contractor before DEP has given its approval to the finished project. Mr. Walters

explained that the contractor has the obligation to provide vegetation and proper grading at the park. The areas to be addressed were pointed out to the contractor at the final walk-through. The contractor has agreed to correct the grading and fill in the low areas. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept Change Order #2. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Council discussed whether penalties could be assessed because the project was not completed by the agreed date in the contract. Mr. Walters stated that the determination of whether the project was substantially completed by the contract date was required. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion failed 3-4.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to notify Gutelius Excavating, Inc. that upon the company's completion of the Pineknott Park project to the satisfaction of DEP, the council will meet with the company to discuss penalties, which may be assessed, for the project not being completed by the contract end date. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Walters has examined the collapsed storm sewer on Hanover Street. The 12-inch deep hole in the roadway does not appear to go into the storm sewer. Mr. Walters recommends having borough crew check if the hole is going into the storm sewer. If not, the crew could add modified and backfill. A creek runs close to the inlet. The borough could conduct a dye test to determine if this water is running into the creek. Mr. Walters added that the inlet on the other side of Hanover Street also appears to be in poor condition.

Mr. Walters presented a proposal for an amendment to the contract for the engineering services for light standards for the ball field at Pineknott Park. He explained that core borings are required to determine the depth of the garbage at the park in order to design the light standards. Task 1, at a lump sum cost of \$9,400 was the original contract agreement. Approval is needed for tasks two through five. Mr. Shaffer moved to proceed with tasks 2 through 5 at an additional cost of \$13,500, to be reimbursed with grant money. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger questioned task #4 at a lump sum cost of \$3,500 for site design. This task includes designing a handicapped-accessible walkway. Mr. Walters stated that this walkway has been changed from what was designed and eliminated from the original contract. This walkway leads to the restrooms at the VFW building. Mr. Walters told the council that this is part of the grant application that was submitted to DCNR. Mrs. Groninger questioned if the entire cost for this contract was requested through the grant. Mr. Walters was not certain and Mr. Redington was not present at the meeting. Mr. Wolfe tabled the motion.

Mr. Bowersox made the same motion. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Mr. Walters will check on the progress of the Second Street School re-roofing design for bid.

### **Sewer Authority**

Ms. Cindy Lark informed the council that construction on Second Street is to begin Monday and that the construction on Prince Street between Strawbridge Road and Fifth Street is planned. The authority will also be working on Prince Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was recessed at 8:05 pm for an Executive Session and resumed at 8:20 p.m. A personnel issue was the topic of discussion.

**Solicitor's Report** - No report

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wetzel announced that the Chevy Blazer, a police vehicle is ready to be put out for bids. The money obtained through the sale will be deposited in the Parking Meter Fund.

Mr. Troxell made a motion to put the Chevy Blazer out for bid. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Wetzel also announced that motorized scooters are not to be ridden in the borough, except on private property.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, reported his activity for the past two weeks. Mr. Ruane delivered a letter informing the owner of the property on Duke Street that the property needs to be cleaned up and rats exterminated. The borough crew had removed a porch and cleaned up the yard of this property last year. A bill had been sent to the property owner, but has not been paid.

Mr. Ditton moved to give the property owner notice, under the Municipal Lien Law Act, that if the invoice is not paid, the borough will enter a lien on the Duke Street property, and legal interest would accrue on the amount of the lien. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no.

Council discussed the problem of property owners who neglect their properties.

Mr. Ruane recommended that the borough develop a complaint form for residents to complete when they have complaints. Council agreed with his recommendation.

The gas company will be working at Pineknott Park in approximately two weeks to bore under the railroad tracks for the new gasline.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Streets**

The committee is working on developing the specifications for the bids for the street work. Council discussed the street projects that are planned for this year. A committee meeting is planned for July 24 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **Public Safety**

The Public Safety Committee will meet on July 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The Danville Police Department has requested approval for the Fire Police to assist at the Iron Heritage Festival. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the request. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Property - No Report**

### **Ordinance**

The Ordinance Committee has a meeting scheduled for Monday, July 24 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Carl set an additional meeting for Monday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the sidewalk ordinance.

## **Personnel - No Report**

## **Parks & Recreation - No Report**

### **Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius announced that the Flood Mitigation Committee would conduct a public hearing on August 28 at 7:00 p.m.

### **Old Business**

#### 1. Second Street School Update

The committee is having the specifications for the roof prepared.

The borough has received a letter from Rev. Brian Seidel, of the River of Life Church. The church is interested in renting the property this fall. The church as liability insurance and would like to rent the building on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. Mr. Shaffer suggested sending a letter to Rev. Seidel, thanking the church members for their interest. However, until a new roof and heating system are installed, the council does not feel the building is ready to be rented.

#### 2. The Downtown Revitalization Committee met on July 16. Karen Nogle and Buzz Meachum were appointed co-chairmen. The committee has scheduled meetings for the second Monday of each month.

#### 3. The survey of area in Storm Water Management Study is ongoing.

#### 4. The Police Department is issuing ID cards to borough employees and elected officials.

### **New Business**

#### 1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of July 3, 2001. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### 2. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no.

#### 3. Mr. Shaffer moved to appoint Atty. Robert Walsh as solicitor for the Civil Service Commission at a fee of \$95.00 per hour. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

4. Mr. Wolfe announced that the next issue of the borough newsletter will be distributed in September.
5. The council extended their best wishes to Representative Phillips, who is hospitalized.
6. Copies of House Resolution 31 have been distributed to the council members. This resolution directs the House Local Government Committee to examine the quality and efficiency of the state highway system within borough communities. Public hearings will be scheduled. Comments may be submitted to Rep. Phillips to be forwarded to the Local Government Committee.

Mrs. Groninger moved to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**August 7, 2001**  
**Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

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 Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, and Mr. Don Troxell. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzell, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The 29 visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Gary Beveridge presented a letter to council requesting that a storm water runoff in his neighborhood be remedied. This letter is on file in the borough office. Larson’s Design Group had been contacted about the problem. The Street Committee will evaluate the problem.
- Mr. Harold Sees explained that a runoff culvert behind his house collapsed. The property was flooded in June and July. The borough crew has replaced his driveway twice. Mr. Sees stated that the foundation of his garage is being eroded, his garage has been flooded and an 8-foot by 8-foot shed was moved. The council had been aware of the situation and the engineering firm is assessing the problem.
- Several representatives from local baseball organizations were present at the meeting.

Mr. Carl Spigelmeyer, President of the Little League, informed council that 350 kids are involved in Little League. He requested that the council expand the endeavors to provide recreational activities, including ball playing, for the youth in the borough. A pending grant for \$163,000 depends upon the completion of the construction at Pineknott Park.

Mr. Travis Fisher stated that it created an inconvenience for the Legion ballplayers to have to travel to Sunbury for their home games. He also commented on the Shikellamy High School’s successful season

Mr. Lewis informed the council that the Legion program ended up playing at Bucknell. The fall team must be based in White Deer since the field in Northumberland is not completed. The team would like to rent the field in Northumberland for fall ball next year. Ball parks with lights can host tournaments that would bring added tourism to the town.

Bobby Felmy, a ballplayer, added that playing in their hometown is an advantage for the players in that more fans attend the games.

Adam Renn, a player for the Shamokin-Northumberland Diamondbacks, added that in prior years, the team played in Northumberland. This year they had to travel to Shamokin to play and they would like to be able to play in Northumberland again.

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius, a representative of the Recreation Commission, informed the public that the borough had to spend \$200,000 to satisfy DEP's requirements. She added that the representatives of the ball teams should address their concerns to the contractor, who has not completed the contract.

Mr. Spigelmeyer appealed to both the council and Mr. Gutelius to complete the Pineknotted Park project as soon as possible.

Mrs. Groninger explained that the borough council accepted a bid last fall and believed that the team would be playing on the field this spring. The project must be approved by DEP and the borough is obligated to finish the project as required by DEP. It was explained to the ball team representatives that the council would be meeting in Executive Session to discuss completion of the ball field. A vote could then be taken during the public portion of the meeting and the representatives were encouraged to stay for that vote.

- Reverend Jeff Wakely, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, addressed a concern that had been brought to the council regarding a variance to the former Bell property. He is concerned about trailers being parked on the lot at the corner of Sixth and Sheetz Avenue. The parking lot opens onto Sheetz Avenue. He is concerned that trailers parked in this lot would block the visibility at the intersection and impede traffic on Sheetz Avenue. He also noted that the Midrise is being built in that neighborhood.

Mr. Sam Mattern stated that the lot is 114 feet in depth. The trailers are up to 45 feet in length. He stated that the lot would be utilized three or four months during the year.

Sister Jean Gallagher stated that her mother owns the property next to the parking lot. The truck traffic runs from 4:00 a.m. Mr. Mattern stated that he wants to have the trucks in the daylight and by utilizing this parking lot, the truck traffic would be less throughout the night hours.

Mr. Paul Dressler lives across from the docks on the former Bell Building. He has a letter from the borough council, dated 1992, stating that the one lot is restricted to automobiles. Atty. Best advised that the ordinance can be revised with a new ordinance.

### **Executive Session**

The council recessed at 7:55 for an Executive Session. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m. Legal issues were discussed.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the proposal from Gutelius Excavating, Inc. regarding the work to be completed at Pineknotted Park. Gutelius Excavating Inc. will complete the punch list compiled by Mr. Dave Walters, of Larson Design Group, Inc. by August 17, 2001. Once Mr. Walters approves the completed work, in writing, to the borough, the borough will pay Gutelius for Change Order #2 and the final 5% of the contract, which had been withheld from the last payment. The reseeding of the area is to be completed within a reasonable length of time this fall, based upon the weather. This contract is to cap and vegetate the landfill. Mr. Gutelius is not guaranteeing that grass will grow. The project is covered under a bond for one year. Mr. Walters will send a letter to DEP once the work

which was requested by DEP is completed. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Sewer Authority**

Ms. Cindy Lark informed the council that the Priestley Avenue project was started on Monday. It should be completed in mid-to-late September, with the worst case scenario being mid-October. Prince Street will be started once Priestley Avenue is completed and will take approximately one week.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Atty. Best announced that he had several resolutions for the council to consider:

Mr. Wolfe read Resolution D – A Resolution to apply to the Community Rating System (Flood Mitigation). Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Resolution D. This provides that the borough will implement the flood protection activities that are presented in the application for Community Rating System (CRS) classification. By joining the CRS, reductions in the premium rates for flood insurance policies on properties in the community are possible. Additionally, Jan Bowman was appointed the CRS coordinator for the borough. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council had approved a liquor license for Ms. Linda Troutman following a public hearing. Council must now pass a resolution. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt Resolution E, approving a liquor license for Ms. Linda Troutman, as required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Troxell and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

Atty. Best prepared five ordinances which will be advertised and read at the August 21 and September 4 meetings. These ordinances revise various chapters of the borough code book as recommended by the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the Zoning Board cannot grant a variance to the property at Sixth Street and Sheetz Avenue. In order to permit parking for vehicles other than cars, the council must change the ordinance. The change should be in the benefit of the community; not spot zoning to aid in a business, according to Atty. Best. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to prepare an ordinance modifying restrictions on the parking lot at the corner of Sixth Street and Sheetz Avenue, owned by Mr. Sam Mattern. Mr. Mattern is to be permitted to park trailers in the lot as he sees fit. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

**Mayor's Report** - no report

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

Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, read his report for July. The report is on file in the borough office.

Mr. Ruane stated that it is necessary to obtain a search warrant and an exterminator to eliminate the rats that have been seen at the vacant property on Duke Street.

Mr. Wolfe raised concerns about the West Nile virus and above-ground pools that are not being used in the borough. Mr. Lee Shaffer, Health Officer, will be consulted.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Streets**

Bids for the street paving projects have been advertised. A pre-construction bid meeting for the cold in place recycling project is scheduled for August 13. A written report is on file in the borough office.

Three quotes to replace curbing on Second Street have been received. Zartman Construction's quote was \$17,000; Lundy's quote was \$10,750; and Lytle's quote was \$9,600. Mrs. Groninger moved to accept to accept Lytle Construction Company's quote of \$9,600 to remove and replace the curbing on Second Street from Duke Street to Queen Street with start and finish dates stipulated in the contract. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.

### **Public Safety**

Mr. Shaffer announced that the Public Safety Committee met on July 25, 2001. The minutes of the meeting are on file in the borough office.

Since the Fire Chiefs were unable to attend the meeting, the Fire Department tours will be rescheduled.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt a policy permitting borough officials to ride along in the police vehicles. The maximum number of times an official may ride along shall not exceed three times per month and they will be at the discretion of the police officer. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. The committee recommended this policy with a 2-1 vote. Mrs. Groninger noted that she felt the number of times an official ride along should be a maximum of three times per quarter and that the mayor should be included in making the decision. Mayor Wetzel stated that he felt that one time per month would be sufficient. Mr. Wolfe explained that council had determined that this issue was not under the jurisdiction of the mayor. Roll call vote. Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 4-3.

### **Property**

- Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve advertising for bids for the Second Street Roofing Project. The Property Committee and Second Street School Committee will meet on August 30 at 7:00 p.m. to review the bids for the council to act on at the September 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Mr. Redington stated that a pre-bid conference is scheduled for August 22 at 9:00 a.m. for the roofing project. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
- Mr. Redington announced that a pre-bid conference is scheduled for August 22 at 1:00 p.m. for the Second Street School boiler project. Council had already approved advertising the bids for the boiler project. The bid opening is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and the review of the bids will be at the September 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting. Three contractors have recommended that the boiler not be moved to the Second Street

building from the Northumberland National Bank because it would not be cost effective.

The contract language includes that the contractor pays tax on the materials for construction. The solicitor will review the contracts to have the purchases made on a tax-exempt basis, as recommended by the engineers.

- Larson Design Group has submitted a proposal for the engineering services for design plans for the Pineknott Park baseball field complex. DCNR requires that a baseball complex be laid out with an engineer's design. In addition, the lighting must have an engineer's approval. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the proposal for design plans for the Pineknott Park baseball field complex at a cost of \$22,900 from Larson Design Group, Inc. This money may be reimbursable with grant funds. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Council discussed how the fee would be paid. Mr. Shaffer withdrew his second, due to concerns that the borough may not have enough money in the General Fund to pay for these costs. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion passed 4-3.

### **Ordinance**

Mr. Carl announced that the Ordinance Committee met on July 31<sup>st</sup> and discussed sidewalk replacement guidelines and sidewalk standards. The sidewalk replacement guidelines are a list of items to use in determining which sidewalks should be replaced in the borough; the sidewalk standards are construction methods that should be followed by the property owners and contractors. A written report is on file in the borough office. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to adopt, as written, the revisions to the Sidewalk Ordinance. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 4-3. Atty. Best will prepare the ordinance, which will be advertised, read, and voted on at two borough council meetings.

The meeting scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> will be held in the Girl Scout Little House because the Flood Mitigation meeting is being held in the borough building.

### **Personnel**

The Personnel Committee will meet on August 13 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Parks & Recreation**

Mrs. Gretchen Brosius informed council that members of the Parks and Recreation Committee will be sandblasting the pool, at a savings to the borough of approximately \$16,000.

Mrs. Brosius displayed various projects that were completed during the Krafty Korner, a children's craft class which was held on Wednesday mornings during the summer. An average of 25 to 30 children participated each week. Mrs. Brosius will send thank-you notes to various people who contributed toward the Krafty Korner.

Mrs. Brosius added that the committee is working on various projects and more volunteers are needed.

## **Finance**

Mr. Wolfe reported on the Finance Committee meeting conducted on July 25, 2001. A written report is on file in the borough office.

The Finance Committee met with a representative of Service Electric Cablevision to discuss the franchise fee and contract. The current contract for a 3% franchise fee expires at the end of this year. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve contracting with Service Electric Cablevision for a ten-year agreement at a franchise fee rate of 5%. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The motion was tabled for a motion to extend the meeting.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to extend the meeting. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. The meeting was extended.

Mr. Wolfe put Mr. Shaffer's motion back on the floor. Discussion. Mr. Shaffer amended his motion to a five-year agreement instead of a ten-year agreement. A late fee of 1½% per month is to be assessed as well. Mr. Bowersox amended the second. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to use \$13,793.31 from the UDAG fund with the balance, approximately \$9,160, to come from the General Fund to pay for Larson Design Group's proposal for the design plans for the ball field at Pineknoller Park. The money is to be reimbursed with grant funds, if possible. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Old Business**

All Old Business had been addressed during the Committee Reports.

## **New Business**

1. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to reappoint Russell Meachum to the Zoning Board. The three-year term will end on August 31, 2004. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. A vacancy exists on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission had changed their meetings to the last Monday evening of the month.
4. Mr. Ditton moved to donate \$250 to the American Red Cross for the Learn to Swim Program. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**August 21, 2001**  
**Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

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 Paul Bowersox, Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James L. Best, Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The 11 visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- ◆ Mr. Waltz asked if the borough has a cat ordinance. He has a problem with cats in his yard. The council is considering adopting an ordinance.  
Mr. Waltz also stated that his neighbor had a handicapped parking space. The neighbor has moved and the sign is still there. The borough crew will be asked to remove the sign.  
Mr. Waltz asked if residents may paint a driveway yellow so vehicles cannot park too closely to the driveway. The Street Committee will discuss the topic and make a recommendation to council.
- ◆ Mrs. Chris Pope informed the council that they have been experiencing problems with teenagers on Third Street who do not live in the area. Vehicles have been vandalized. The residents in that area are requesting that the police patrol the area more often. License plate numbers were given to Chief Redington.
- ◆ Rev. Brian Seidel asked if the letter he submitted to the borough about the Second Street School would be addressed this evening. Mr. Wolfe stated that it would be addressed under Old Business.
- ◆ Mr. Persing, a resident at the corner of King and Water Streets, requested that the borough hire a crossing guard for that corner. Mr. Wolfe moved to hire a crossing guard for the corner of King and Water Streets. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Discussion. Council questioned if it would be safe for a crossing guard since Mr. Persing does not feel it is safe when he helps his children to cross the street.

Mr. Wolfe withdrew his motion. Atty. Best volunteered to send a letter to the Shikellamy School District requesting additional bus stops on the lower side of Water Street so the students do not have to cross Water or King Streets. Atty. Best also suggested contacting PennDOT. One idea is to program the traffic light with red lights in all directions when the crossing sign is lit. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the police sit at that corner to assist the students to cross the streets.

**Executive Session**

The council went into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss two legal issues. The council meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

### **Sewer Authority**

Mrs. Cindy Lark reported on the Sewer Authority work on Priestley Avenue and Second Street. The Priestley Avenue project was delayed because the contractor was working for the water company on Second Street. Mr. Ruane added that the contractor has run into problems due to the shale and old storm sewer pipes under the street.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Five ordinances have been advertised.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 2001-6. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to amend the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance by adopting Ordinance 2001-6. Ordinance 2001-6, Alcoholic Beverages Act of 2001, amends Chapter 21 by repealing sections 21-1 and 21-2 and prohibits alcoholic beverages on public property in the borough. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 2001-7. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-7. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Ordinance 2001-7 repeals the Amusements Ordinance. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 2001-8. Mr. Bowersox moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-8. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Ordinance 2001-8, Dog Act of 2001, amends Section 24-1 to read, "Moreover, no person shall permit any dog to enter onto any public property which is posted No Dogs Permitted." Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 2001-9. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-9. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Ordinance 2001-9, Licensed Occupation Act of 2001, amends wording and adds a section to require a deposit for the cost of crowd control and expenses. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of Ordinance 2001-10. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-10. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Ordinance 2001-10, Noise Control Act of 2001, changes the hours in Section 37-3 to 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Troxell voted aye. Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the second reading for these ordinances will be conducted at the September 4, 2001 meeting.

**Mayor's Report** - No report.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor for the month.

### **Announcement**

The council meetings in October will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. The first meeting in November will be held on the first Monday of the month.

## Committee Reports

### Streets

1. Mr. Wolfe opened the bid from E.J. Breneman for the Cold-in-Place Recycling Street Project. The bid amount was \$129,200.00. This was the only bid for this project.

Mr. Wolfe opened the bids for the 2001 Street Paving Project. The amount of the bid received from Mid State Paving, LLC, was \$99,015.00 and the bid received from HRI, Inc. was \$94,332.00. This project is to pave Priestley Avenue, Hanover Street from Water Street to Priestley Avenue, Second Street from Duke Street to Queen Street, Fifth Street from Duke Street to Queen Street, Strawbridge Road, and the berm on one side of Buchanan Street.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Cold-in-Place Recycling may not begin after September 1, according to state regulations. Since the preliminary work on Priestley Avenue and Second Street will not be completed before then, the Cold-in-Place Recycling cannot be done until next spring. E.J. Breneman's representative agreed to the change in the contract dates at the mandatory pre-bid meeting.

The time frame for the cold-in-place recycling affects the 2001 Street Paving Project. Strawbridge Road, Fourth Street and Buchanan Street can be completed in 2001. Priestley Avenue, Hanover Street, Second Street and Fifth Street cannot be completed until after the cold-in-place recycling is completed in 2002. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the low bid from HRI for the paving project with the required amendments. Paving may occur up to October 24 on Strawbridge, Buchanan and Fourth Streets. The paving of the other streets will follow the cold-in-place recycling in the spring. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept the bid from E. J. Breneman for cold-in-place recycling with changes in dates as stated in Addendum 1. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

2. Council discussed the work of the borough crew. Members of the crew work as inspectors when needed. The Finance Committee is considering hiring of a full-time Street Supervisor in 2002.
3. Resolution F  
Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt Resolution F. This resolution provides for the reimbursement from PENNVEST for project costs already expended for the Storm Water Study and emergency repairs to the storm sewer system. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. The survey for the CBDG money has been narrowed down to the area of Priority 7 of the Storm Water Study. Currently, approximately 40 residences in this area need to be surveyed. A list of the addresses is available.

### Public Safety

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Fire Police activity and the EMA activity for the month.

#### Property

1. The Property Committee determined where the new signs for the entrances to the borough should be placed. Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wolfe then met with MiddleCreek Signs. The Property Committee recommended that the civic signs that are on the current borough signs at the Blue Hill and Priestley bridges remain as they are, rather than putting these signs on the new posts. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Property Committee decide on a way to present the civic signs in a more uniform way. The Property Committee's report is on file in the Borough Office.
2. Mrs. Groninger recommended that a chain be placed along the fence at the Second Street playground to prevent vehicles from parking on the playground.
3. Mr. Redington announced that pre-bid conferences would be held tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. for the roofing project at the Second Street School, and at 1:00 p.m. for the heating system project at the Second Street School.

#### Ordinance

The Ordinance Committee meeting scheduled for August 28, 2001 has been cancelled.

#### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has one vacancy. Mr. Ditton's term has expired. Mr. Troxell is the representative from council.

The meetings are changed to the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

#### Personnel

The Personnel Committee recommends hiring Mr. Mark Cassel as an additional part-time police officer. This position fulfills the COPS grant requirement. Mr. Ditton made a motion to hire Mr. Cassel as an additional part-time police officer. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Parks & Recreation – No report

#### Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 29, at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Old Business**

##### 1. Second Street School Update

Rev. Brian Seidel addressed the council, requesting the use of the Second Street School by the River of Life Church. He feels that the church and borough could work together to get the building ready for use. The church has also offered to purchase the building from the borough to use as a Recreation Center.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough is permitted to lease the building; however, until the building has a new roof and the heating system is installed, the borough could not enter into a lease. Rev. Seidel stated that the church would like to use the gymnasium, the stage area, and several classrooms.

The council has determined to utilize the building as a Community Center. The borough has received a grant for \$175,000 and is pursuing other grants. The bids for the roof will be opened at the September 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting. The time frame for the renovations to the building is estimated at approximately one year, providing more grant funds can be obtained.

2. The contractor has completed the work at Pineknott Park and has received payment, as agreed. The grass seed has been planted and the specifications have been met. Larson Design Group will prepare the record drawings, including cross-sections of the filled area at 50-foot intervals, and complete the forms required by DEP so the project can receive DEP's approval.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Council requested a list of rates from Atty. Best. As part of the budget process, Mr. Wolfe asked that Atty. Best prepare a proposal for his retainer for 2002. Roll call vote – Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 6-1.
2. The Second Street Community Center Committee would like to apply for a \$741,000 grant from DCED for Phase 1. Mrs. Groninger moved to go forward with the grant application for the Second Street School, with amendments to broaden the terminology. She suggested that instead of stipulating that the west wing would house Municipal and Police Departments, the application should state Municipal offices, thereby making the wording more general. Mrs. Groninger felt that by using broader terminology, the borough would keep its options opened for the use of the rooms and would not be confined by grant stipulations in the future. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. The Flood Mitigation Committee will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, August 28, at 7:00 p.m. A news release has been sent to the Daily Item.
4. The Property Committee will meet tomorrow, August 22, at 7:00 p.m.
5. Mr. Troxell has inspected the storm water problem on Strawbridge Road during a heavy rain and observed that the water was running along the curb on Jefferson Street and into the catch basin. He does not feel the borough should be responsible for correcting the problem. One property owner has removed the swale in his back yard, added a porch and an above ground pool. A neighbor has also put a pool in his yard. Mr. Troxell stated that, at one time, a swale ran through the three backyards and the water was diverted to Susquehanna Road. By removing the swales, the water is draining toward the houses. He noted that the water is staying in the street, except for the driveway at the property on Jefferson Street, behind the houses on Strawbridge Road. Water is running down the driveway and into the yards. He feels that the driveway was cut too flat and the water would not run down the driveway if the driveway were corrected at the curb. Mr. Bowersox said that he felt that the inlets on Strawbridge Road could not handle the water. Mr. Troxell stated that the water was draining into the inlets with no problem. He said that this area was always a wet area, but that until the pools had been installed and the swales removed, the property

owners did not have serious water problems. Mr. Wolfe suggested consulting with the borough's engineer.

6. Mr. Carl informed the council that the Little League has been offered free topsoil and would like to improve the infield and plant new grass seed. Mr. Wolfe recommended contacting the engineer for approval. DEP is to sign off on the project once the engineer certifies that the project has been completed as required.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
Municipal Building  
September 4, 2001**

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 Paul Bowersox, Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzell, Atty. James Best, solicitor, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The nine visitors present introduced themselves. Mr. Don Troxell was absent due to a death in the family.

**Public Comment**

- ◆ Mr. Buzz Meachum, Co-chairman of the Revitalization Committee, informed the council of the group’s activities. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10, at 7:00 p.m. The meetings last for one hour and are scheduled for every other week. The main goal of the committee is to promote the positive aspects of Northumberland. The group has had three organizational meetings. Plans are being made to improve the downtown Christmas decorations, by decorating the trees with small white lights. Another project the group plans to undertake is to clean up the area around the railroad underpass. At the next meeting, Mr. Jeff Lynch, a local artist, will be present. Mr. Lynch’s painting of the Railroad Station may be a fundraising project for the committee. The committee welcomes new members.
- ◆ Mr. Jeff Persing stated that corner of King and Water Streets is still a problem for pedestrian crossing. He has requested that a school bus stop be established on the lower side of the intersection. Mr. Persing suggested setting the red light that traffic in all directions is stopped when the pedestrian crossing light is on.

A group of Boy Scouts entered the meeting and were welcomed by President Wolfe. Mr. Scott Hixson, the troop leader, stated that the boys are working on a citizenship merit badge.

**Sewer Authority**

Ms. Cindy Lark stated that the work on Priestley Avenue is progressing. She, Atty. Brosius, the Sewer Authority’s solicitor, and Mr. Fasold will be present at the Ordinance Committee meeting. The authority will be ready for ButterKrust to tap on to the sewer in December.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Mr. Wolfe conducted the second readings of Ordinances 2001-6, 2001-7, 2001-8, 2001-9, & 2001-10.

- A. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-6. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- B. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-7. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- C. Mr. Bowersox moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-8. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- D. Mrs. Groninger moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-9. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- E. Mrs. Groninger moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-10. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

The ordinances are on file in the borough office.

### **Mayor's Report**

- ◆ Mr. Wolfe opened four bids for the 1997 Chevy Blazer, a police vehicle. Mrs. Groninger moved to sell the vehicle to Mr. Jeffrey Feerrar of Watsontown at a price of \$5,150.51. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- ◆ Mr. Wolfe asked if the problem brought to the council at the last council meeting concerning teenagers congregating on Third Street had been addressed. Chief Redington stated that the police have been patrolling the area. No complaints have been lodged since the residents attended the August council meeting. Council requested that the police continue to patrol the area.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor. Mr. Ruane explained that the penalty for the rental ordinance is a civil penalty and the complaint is handled differently than a criminal complaint. Atty. Best stated that he would talk with Mr. Bolton regarding the matter.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Streets**

The committee met on August 29, 2001, and discussed putting out the paving bids early in the year in 2002. Council discussed the construction of inlets on Strawbridge Road and Fifth Street. A retaining wall is needed behind the inlet at Strawbridge Road and Prince Street. An inlet on Fifth Street requires a new grate.

Mr. Ditton moved to rescind the vote to post “No Truck Parking” signs throughout the borough. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

#### **Public Safety**

No report

#### Property

Second Street School will be discussed later in the meeting.

#### Ordinance

No report. The committee meets on September 17, 2001 at 7:00 pm to discuss the sewer ordinances.

#### Personnel

The Personnel Committee scheduled a closed meeting for Monday, September 10, 2001 at 6:00 pm.

#### Parks & Recreation

Mr. Carl announced that the Haunted House is being planned. He told the Boy Scouts to speak to their guidance counselors if they are interested in working at the Haunted House for their senior projects.

Mrs. Brosius informed the council that student volunteers from Susquehanna University helped to weed the playgrounds at Pineknott Park and Second Street School.

#### Finance

The Finance Committee met on August 29, 2001. The committee recommends the approval of a \$17,000 economic study for a pool project. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the study. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

#### Planning Commission

Mrs. Groninger made a motion to accept Mrs. Carol Spigelmeyer's resignation, with regret. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

Two vacancies exist on the Planning Commission. Mr. Ditton's term expired at the end of August.

Mr. Shaffer moved to appoint Ms. Margaret Weirick to the three-year term and Mrs. Fran Bogovich to the four-year term. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### **Old Business**

##### 1. Second Street School

- A. The bids for the Second Street School building had been opened at a Property Committee Meeting on August 30, 2001. Mrs. Groninger recommended that the Second Street School Committee be asked to

explore other options for the roof. Mrs. Brosius read minutes of the May meeting of the Committee. Mr. Shaffer moved to accept bids for items #1 (the gymnasium roof) and #3 (the roof above the newer sections of classrooms close to the playground) at a total of \$119, 942.00, with \$113,728.86 to come from the remainder of the grant, and \$6,213.14 from the UDAG or General funds. Steam Specialists was the low bidder. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion failed 2-4.

- B. Mr. Wolfe moved to have the Second Street School Committee review the options, with the possibility of the council holding a special meeting, if required. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- C. The bids for the boiler system for the Second Street building were reviewed. Mr. Shaffer moved that the Second Street School Committee review the bids at the meeting tomorrow. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

## 2. Flood Mitigation Plan

Mrs. Brosius reviewed the recommendations of the Flood Mitigation Committee. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the Flood Mitigation Committee's plan to apply for funds. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The borough will apply for funding for the items recommended by the committee.

- 3. The PENNVEST application has been completed and sent to the appropriate state departments.
- 4. Mr. Bowersox requested that workshops be set up for determining the streets to be paved in 2002. The Street Committee has set committee meetings for the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm or following the Finance Committee meeting, if one is scheduled.
- 5. Mrs. Groninger requested that the gas company be contacted to remove the tree stumps at the underpass.
- 6. Mrs. Groninger suggested sending letters to the garbage haulers on the permit list to obtain a new garbage hauler for the recycling center. Mr. Bowersox stated that Dan's Disposal may be interested. Mr. Ditton suggested offering him a contract. Council discussed the ordinance requiring garbage haulers to obtain permits in order to operate in the borough. Waste Management has not complied with this ordinance. Council requested that Chief Redington cite haulers for collecting garbage in the borough without a permit.

## **New Business**

- 1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve paying the bills, withholding final payment to Larson Design Group for the storm water study until the borough receives a

copy of the technical specifications. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

2. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve the request from the Back Forty Bass Club to use the boat launch at the Point for a Fishing Tournament on 9/23/01. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve the request from the Capital City Bass Masters to use the boat launch at Hanover Street on 9/16/01. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Discussion was held concerning the fact that borough residents use this launch more than the launch at the point. When a tournament is conducted, the launch is tied up by the tournament participants and borough residents are unable to utilize the launch. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Carl voted no. The motion failed 2-4.
4. Mrs. Groninger suggested sending questionnaires to borough residents, asking for input.

#### **Executive Session**

The council adjourned to Executive Session at 9:27 pm to discuss personnel issues. The meeting reconvened at 9:37 pm.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
September 18, 2001  
Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge to the Flag

Moment of Silent Meditation

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Bryan Wolfe, Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, and Mr. Don Troxell. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. Five visitors were present.

**Public Comment**

No one offered public comment at this time.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Atty. Best was absent because he was attending a hearing regarding Brush Valley and the proposed federal prison.

**Mayor’s Report** – No report.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Ruane requested permission to attend a Zoning Officer’s seminar. Permission was granted. He explained that a special zoning hearing will be required for ButterKrust. Schlegel’s Excavating, Inc. continues to work at Fifth and Prince Streets. Mr. Shaffer requested that cones be replaced at the inlet at Strawbridge Road and Fifth Street.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Neal Kreamer arrived after the start of the meeting and asked to address the council.

- ◆ He suggested creating a Christmas village on the stage in the Second Street School and also a Holiday Craft Show in the gym.
- ◆ Mr. Kreamer has complained about garbage at the property at 322 King Street. The resident has moved out. Stray cats have been seen in the neighborhood. Mr. Ruane stated that he must locate the property owner.
- ◆ Mr. Kreamer questioned if cars could be returned to the front of the residences once the street sweeper has gone down that side of the street. He thought that the Parking Ordinance was being revised to permit parking once the street sweeper has gone past. He also asked if once the street sweeper is done running for the season, the residents could be permitted to park in front of their properties, instead of moving their cars for the street sweeper schedule. He suggested that in the case of a snow emergency, announcements could be made over the radio. Mr. Wolfe said that the signs that say “No Parking” are not strictly for street sweeping. Mr. Kreamer suggested adding a small sign to the street signs, stipulating from “April through November”. Mr. Shaffer stated that during light snowfalls, it is helpful to the street crew to have the cars off one side of the street when they are clearing the streets.
- ◆ Mr. Kreamer has called the surrounding communities. Almost all have no open burning. Many have mandatory recycling. Mr. Kreamer requested that the council ban open burning.

Council discussed the requirements to change the ordinance. The Ordinance Committee is to review the ordinance.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Streets**

Mr. Bowersox presented quotes to repair the crosswalks at Front and Queen Streets. Mr. Bowersox moved to award the contract for pouring concrete in the crosswalk area, stained and scored to look like brick, at a price of \$9,690, to the Robert Feaster Corporation. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion failed 1-6.

Mr. Carl left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

The storm pipes in two sections of the borough are collapsing and creating problems for the property owners in the areas. Mr. Bowersox presented prices for emergency repairs to the storm sewers on Sheetz Avenue and Wheatley Avenue. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the quotes from Center State Amiesite for "Part 1" (the Sheetz Avenue Culvert) and "Part 2", (the Wheatley Avenue Culvert) at a total cost of \$26,400. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger requested that the items be presented separately since she cannot vote on "Part 2".

Mr. Wolfe moved to repair the culvert at Sheetz Avenue at a cost of \$10,550. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye. Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

Mr. Wolfe moved to repair the culvert on Wheatley Avenue at a cost of \$15,850. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger abstained. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe voted aye. Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 4-1.

Mr. Ruane mentioned that the Sewer Authority wanted to know which streets were being paved next year so they can coordinate projects.

Mr. Bowersox said that the Coast Guard Auxiliary asked where to store the dock. The Sewer Authority was considering allowing the dock to be stored on their property. Mr. Snyder will take the request to the Sewer Authority Board meeting.

### **Public Safety**

Mr. Shaffer stated that the Fire Department Rescue Truck is on standby for disaster relief in New York City.

### **Property**

Mrs. Groninger stated that the vacant properties in the borough create a problem. Council discussed several properties in the borough and the options available to rectify the problem.

Danley's Disposal is interested in meeting with the borough regarding a contract. He would be willing to collect garbage at the Glass Center if the borough provides him with a contract.

## **Ordinance**

The Ordinance Committee met on September 17, 2001 with the Sewer Authority. They will be adding a Chapter 44, Sewers, and refining Chapter 45, Sewer Use.

## **Personnel**

The Personnel Committee met. The Street Crew will help with inspections when necessary. According to Mr. Ditton, inspections must be scheduled in advance.

**Parks & Recreation** - No report.

## **Finance**

The Finance Committee is meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 pm to discuss salaries. The October meeting has been rescheduled for November 7. Incomes will be discussed in the November meeting.

## **Old Business**

### 1. Second Street School

The committee met on September 5. They have developed options for council to consider. New information was provided about the Pennsylvania Joint Purchasing Council. The roofing contractor under contract with the PJPC has visited the school and can have written proposals and will meet with the borough on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in the borough hall. The contractors are available to attend an evening council meeting to make a formal presentation. In order to engage this contractor, the borough would be required to join the Pennsylvania Joint Purchasing Council. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the council conduct a special meeting, if necessary. He will be on vacation.

Mr. Shaffer moved to join the Pennsylvania Joint Purchasing Council for \$250. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Shaffer all voted aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Redington said that the Haunted House Committee has discussed putting large tarps over the roof to keep the roof from leaking during the Haunted House. The committee would like to pull down the ceiling that is loose.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve the tarp for the roof at the Second Street School and for the street crew to assist in removing the loose ceiling. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger all voted aye. Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-1.

Discussion was held regarding the fact that the borough is paying the water company for water use at Second Street School and no one is using the building. The water meter should be disconnected.

Heating bids and options were also discussed for Second Street School. The low bidder should be notified but because of financial considerations the bid will not be awarded at this time.

Council would like to know when the new heating system will be installed at the borough garage. Mr. Troxell will call Greg Tweed.

Mr. Wolfe has been contacted by Middle Creek Signs. The signs should be up by Friday. PennDOT has changed the location for several of the signs by a few feet. Discussion was also held regarding the old signs. The posts could be utilized to display the signs from various organizations in the borough.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of July 17, August 7, August 29, and September 4. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the paying the bills, including any bills due before the next council meeting. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
3. The 2002 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Northumberland Borough and the Northumberland Borough Police pension plans were presented. The total amount is \$31,191. This information is sent to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.
4. Mr. Wolfe announced that the October council meetings are scheduled for October 9 and 23. The first meeting in November will be on Monday, November 5, since Tuesday is Election Day.
5. Mr. Bowersox requested that the council reconsider the quote for the pipe at Wheatley Avenue. Council discussed the fact that the borough cannot afford it at this time.
6. Council discussed the budget and borough finances. The Finance Committee meets on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Mr. Wolfe invited all council members and the public to attend.
7. Mr. Bowersox asked the status of Mr. Ruane's raises. He has received a raise to \$11.00 per hour, as Street Inspector Supervisor. Mr. Wolfe stated that salaries would be discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting.
8. The Revitalization Committee has requested that the borough pay for the electricity for white lights that are to be put in the trees in the downtown area. The committee plans to purchase the lights for the trees along the downtown streets. The lights will be lit for the month of December.
9. Mr. Wolfe stated that the owner of Peace of Home has requested permission to remove the tree that is in front of her business. She has been referred to the Shade Tree Commission.

Mrs. Groninger moved to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
October 9, 2001  
Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was conducted and a moment of silent meditation was observed.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Charles “Bud” Ditton, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, Mr. Bryan Wolfe, and Mr. Paul Bowersox. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Lawrence Redington, Chief of Police, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Sam Mattern questioned the status of his request for a change of the zoning ordinance regarding his parking lot on Sixth Street. Atty. Best stated that he is preparing an ordinance to change the zoning ordinance. He cautioned the council against “spot zoning”. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the council conduct a special meeting next week to address the change of the ordinance. Atty. Best informed the council that the meeting would need to be advertised within a specified timeframe before the meeting. He will review the stipulations and the meeting will be scheduled.
- Mr. James Groninger asked if the paved driveway on his property would be replaced. The borough has repaired storm pipe under the driveway. The size of the driveway is fifteen feet by twenty feet. Atty. Best stated that it is the borough’s responsibility to replace the driveway. Mr. Wolfe assured Mr. Groninger that it would be taken care of.
- Mr. Groninger commented on the letter from Penn Valley Airport Authority requesting that the borough contribute \$500 to the authority for 2002 and 2003. The contribution is in the budget for 2002.
- Mr. Groninger asked if the borough would be interested in selling the snowblower. Mr. Troxell moved to put the snowblower out for bids. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Mayor Wetzel voted aye to break the tie. The motion passed with the mayor’s vote.
- Mrs. Brosius commented that when the pipe was installed under Groninger’s driveway, the secretary in the law office stated that the entire building was shaking. Mrs. Brosius asked if the board that had been in the pipe was removed. Mr. Ruane stated that when checked, the board was no longer lodged in the pipe.

- Mr. Bowersox asked if the Street Committee should have voted on the snowblower first, and was told that the motion was made and accepted.
- Mr. Elmer Danley was present. The council is interested in obtaining his services for removing the garbage at the Liberty Glass Center. Mr. Danley is interested if the borough agrees to a contract. Mr. Danley asked why Waste Management does not have to have a license to operate in the borough. Waste Management has been cited for failure to obtain a license to haul garbage in the borough. Mr. Danley said that the letter he received from the borough stated that he would be fined every time he was in the borough without a license. Mr. Danley offered to meet with someone at the Recycling Center to discuss the terms of the contract. Mrs. Groninger will meet with Mr. Danley at the Recycling Center at 4:30 p.m. on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Atty. Best stated that the hearing with Waste Management was held last week and the borough won.

The sidewalk ordinance was prepared. The ordinance will be advertised. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council would review the ordinance and act upon it at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The ordinance will be advertised.

**Mayor's Report** – No report.

### **Sewer Authority**

Ms. Cindy Lark reported on the delay of the work on Priestley Avenue and the status of the work at ButterKrust. The small section of work on Prince Street has been completed.

Mr. Ruane explained that a sewer lateral came under the new curb at the corner of Fifth and Prince Street. The Sewer Authority discovered that the lateral was crushed. Mr. Ruane stated that the lateral was not seen when the curb was installed, but that three-foot stakes are used to hold the frames in place. It is possible that the pipe was damaged by a stake. Ms. Lark stated that the PA One Calls do not require the Sewer Authority to mark laterals if they do not know their location. Discussion. Mr. Shaffer moved to have the lateral fixed at the borough's expense. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

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

Mr. Ruane reported on his activities as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor for the month of September. The report is on file in the Borough Office.

### **Committee Reports**

**Streets** – The report is on file in the Borough Office.

- Milling along the curb on Fourth Street was not included in the contract with HRI, Inc. The borough will obtain a price and a change order to add milling along Fourth Street to the contract.

- The deed to the Priestley Avenue extension has been filed with the Register and Recorder's Office. Atty. Best has the deed and will bring it to the borough office.
- The 2002 Liquid Fuels (Act 655) allocation is \$65,095.22 and the Estimated Turnback Maintenance (Act 32) payment for 2002 is \$3,200.00.
- Mr. Shaffer reported that the borough is on the list for anti-skid for the winter.

## **Public Safety**

- Mr. Shaffer recommended that any fire trucks purchased with money obtained from the borough should have the borough named on the title as co-owner. Mrs. Groninger asked how the titles were handled in the past. The trucks have not been titled with the borough as a co-owner; however, the borough pays for the insurance on the vehicles. Mrs. Groninger asked if the borough would be held liable for payment of the vehicle if the fire company could not maintain the payments. Mr. Shaffer stated that the borough could sell the truck in order to get back the money that was paid by the borough. Mr. Groninger suggested that the borough could put a lien on the new truck instead of being named as a co-owner. Mr. Shaffer will obtain additional information. Mr. Wolfe recommended that the Finance Committee examine the issue before it is brought to the full council. Mayor Wetzel stated that the determination to purchase a new truck was not approved by the entire company. Mr. Shaffer stated that he had no information that the truck was not approved by the company. Mr. Shaffer added that the fire companies are in the process of having their books audited, as requested by the council. The Finance Committee is in the process of preparing the 2002 budget and has included three mills for the purchase of fire apparatus or trucks.
- The Fire Department invited the Borough Council to tour the two stations on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Council accepted.
- The Fire Board meetings are held at the No. 1's and are open to the public. The president of the Fire Board is Jim Troup. Mr. Shaffer stated that the Fire Board does have a secretary who takes minutes of the meetings.

## **Property – No report**

## **Ordinance**

- Mr. Wolfe presented the Sanitary Sewer Ordinance, Ordinance 2001-11, and Resolution H, establishing fines for violations of Code Book Chapter 44. Mr. Shaffer moved to advertise that Ordinance 2001-11 and Resolution H would be read twice by the council to be considered for adoption. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- The sidewalk standards ordinance, Ordinance 2001-12, will also be advertised to be read at the next two council meetings.

**Personnel** – No report

**Parks & Recreation**

- Mrs. Groninger moved to accept, with deep regret, Mrs. Gretchen Brosius's resignation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Shaffer voted no. Mayor Wetzel voted aye to break the tie. Motion passed.
- Mr. Shaffer moved to appoint Mrs. Jerra Carl to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mr. Shaffer moved to accept Mrs. Gretchen Brosius's resignation from the Second Street School Committee, with regret. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 4-2.

**Finance**

- The committee met on September 19. A written report is being prepared.
- A list of fees and fines is being prepared for adoption for 2002.

**Old Business**

1. Second Street School – The roofing bids for the building were discussed. The new grant application was worded to include any work that was completed, but not covered by prior grant funds.

Mr. Ditton moved to place a steel roof, with insulation, on Zone 1 and rubber roof on the other three sections of the building. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton amended his motion to accept the bid from Brickhill Construction, Inc. for a steel roof, with insulation on Zone 1, and to accept the bid from Tremco, Inc. for the single ply membrane roof for Zone 3. The cost for Zone 1 is \$53,170 and the cost for Zone 3 is \$64,000 at a total cost of \$117,170. Roll call vote. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Mayor Wetzel voted no to break the tie. The motion failed with the mayor's vote.

Mr. Shaffer moved to accept the bid from Brickhill Construction, Inc. to construct steel roofs, without insulation, on Zones 1 & 3 at a price of \$119,942. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Bowersox voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted no. Motion failed 2-4.

Mr. Shaffer moved to accept the bid of \$53,170 from Brickhill Construction, Inc. for a steel roof, with insulation, for Zone 1, and to patch the roof on the rest of the

building, as necessary. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Pineknotter Park  
Larson Design, Inc. has completed the as-built drawings of Pineknotter Park and Mr. Walters has certified that the landfill has been covered, as required by DEP. Mr. Walters has sent a copy of the as-built drawing and certification to DEP.
3. Mrs. Groninger complimented the work completed by the gas company along the underpass. The company has cleared out trees and weeds, and graded the area.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve minutes of August 21, 2001 and September 18, 2001.  
Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve paying the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Center State Amiesite is to be contacted about the bill for the Wheatley Avenue Culvert. The original quote was for thirty feet of pipe and the amount of pipe used was approximately 20 feet. The company will be contacted about the amount of the bill. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$17,662.65; the bills from the Liquid Fuels Account total \$17,917.49. The bill to be paid from the Parking Meter Account is \$331.00; the Liberty Pools bills total \$442.95; and the Park & Recreation bills total \$1,908.24.

3. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to approve the Halloween Parade Committee's request to use Gazebo the night of the parade. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to permit the Trinity United Methodist Church to place a sign in the King Street Park for a bazaar. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to send a letter to Senator Helfrick endorsing the Central Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce's efforts to have the state incorporate the chamber's service area into one Congressional district. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 4-2.
6. The borough has been informed that the Unemployment Compensation Insurance rate for 2002 is being increased from 1% to 3.5%.

7. Mr. Ditton explained that the City of Sunbury is adopting an ordinance to establish a curfew during school hours. They will send a copy of the ordinance to the borough for the council to consider adopting in the borough.
8. Mrs. Groninger asked if the police have had any problems on Third Street recently. Residents had attended a council meeting to complain about teenagers loitering in the area. The police have been monitoring the area and have had no problems.
9. The franchise renewal with the Service Electric Cable, Inc. has not been resolved. The borough had asked for 5% of the total revenue for a five-year term. The cable company has offered 4% of the basic rate for a ten-year term. Mr. Shaffer moved to agree to four percent (4%) of the total revenue collected by Service Electric Cable, Inc. and to cable modems, free of charge, for the borough office and police department for a five-year term. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
10. A special zoning board hearing will be held on October 24 at 7:30 pm in the borough building for ButterKrust concerning the property at Fifth and Prince Streets.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting**  
**October 23, 2001**  
**Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was conducted and a moment of silent meditation was observed.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Mr. Paul Bowersox, Mr. Greg Carl, Mrs. Judith Groninger, Mr. Greg Shaffer, Mr. Don Troxell, and Mr. Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Mrs. Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The nine visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Fran Bogovich thanked the council for the repairs made to the Buchanan Street shoulder.

Mr. Charlie Attinger asked about the 3-mill fire tax. Mr. Wolfe informed him that at the September meeting of the Finance Committee, the committee voted to add a 3-mill fire tax. This has not been finalized or brought before the full council. Mr. Attinger asked how the money would be disbursed. Council said that the Fire Board would be given the money to split equally between the two fire departments. Mr. Wolfe also stated that the one stipulation is that the companies must provide audit reports to the council. The Fire Board meets the last Tuesday of the month at the Hookies. The members are appointed by each fire company. Atty. Best stated that the Fire Board is not a "Public Entity".

**Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark presented a letter from the Sewer Authority requesting that the Borough Council meet with the Authority to discuss street work, the paving of Strawbridge Road, and future projects. The Authority would like to meet before the work on Priestley Avenue is completed.

Mr. Jack Fasold stated that three new manholes on Strawbridge Road need to be raised to grade. The cost will be about \$300 to \$400 per manholes. There are two manholes on Priestley Avenue that the Authority would like to install to the correct depth so they do not need to be raised later.

The council will meet with the Sewer Authority on Tuesday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the borough building.

**Solicitor's Report**

The Sanitary Sewer Ordinance and the Sidewalk Ordinance will be discussed at the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting so the full council is present. Mr. Ditton is on vacation this week and Mr. Wolfe will be unable to attend the November 5, 2001 meeting.

The council received a correspondence from Mr. Dwight Walter, of Service Electric Cablevision, Inc. Mr. Walters has offered the borough a franchise fee of 4% on the basic fee. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept Service Electric's offer of 4% of the basic cable payable in two installments a year for a term of 10 years. Mr. Bowersox seconded the

motion. Roll call vote – All nays. Motion failed 0-6. A letter will be sent to Mr. Walter informing him of the council's vote and that the council is requesting a 5-year agreement for 4% of the total cable revenue, payable quarterly. In addition, the council would like cable modems for the borough office and police department included as part of the contract.

### **Mayor's Report**

No report.

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

- Mr. Paul Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor. A Zoning Hearing will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Building regarding ButterKrust's expansion plans.
- Mr. Ruane asked Atty. Best if he has discussed the borough's Rental Ordinance with District Justice Bolton.
- Mr. Ruane commended HRI for the work they performed in the borough.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Streets

Mr. Schlegel requested a final inspection of the work done by his company in the borough. The meeting has been set for Wednesday, October 31 at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Fasold stated that the main sewer line had been crushed at Fifth and Prince Street. The sewer line has been replaced. The replacement had been planned before the line was crushed.

#### Public Safety

A tour of the fire department was postponed because only two council members were present. The tour will be rescheduled.

#### Property

- Mrs. Groninger reported that council members met with Mr. Elmer Danley at the Recycling Center. He has agreed to haul the borough's garbage, beginning the first week of November. Mr. Danley will park a garbage truck at the Recycling Center every Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to collect trash from residents. A contract has been prepared, but not yet signed. The dumpster located inside the Recycling Building belongs to the Recycling Center/ Borough. Waste Management is hauling the borough's garbage until October 26<sup>th</sup>. They have been contacted to remove their dumpsters at that time.
- Mr. Wolfe asked why the Recycling Center is not opened every Saturday. Mr. Hallden will be contacted. If volunteers are unable to man the center every week, the suggestion was to be opened on certain Saturdays during the month.
- Brush is no longer accepted at the Recycling Center.
- The borough owns a small Kubota tractor with a lawn mower. Mr. Troxell suggested the purchase of a small front end loader. He has obtained two quotes. The price from Mifflinburg Farm Supplies is \$3100, with the rear tires filled with liquid for weight. Allenwood Equipments price is \$2695, without the rear tires filled. This price is installed. The tires can be filled at Mummau's for less than \$100. Mr. Wolfe recommended that the purchase should first be considered in a Property or Street Committee meeting.

- The advertisement for the Snow Blower is being prepared.

#### Ordinance

The Ordinance Committee will be meeting on October 30, 2001, at 8:00 to discuss the Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Board has been invited to attend.

The committee discussed removing the fines and fees from the Code Book chapters with the intention of setting all fines and fees by resolution at the beginning of each year. Atty. Best advised that this change should be adopted by an ordinance.

Mr. Shaffer moved to remove fines and fees from the existing Code Book to be set by resolution at the beginning of each year. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Bowersox moved to change any specific officer referenced in the Code Book to the borough's designated officer, and to change the reference from a specific BOCA book to the "latest edition of the BOCA or International Code Book" adopted by the council. Greg Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed 6-0.

Personnel - No report

Parks & Recreation - No report

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee will meet on November 7<sup>th</sup> to make decisions on the income side of the budget. The last meeting was on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The minutes of this meeting are on file in the Borough Office.

Mr. Wolfe provided several highlights of the meeting:

- The Northumberland/ Point Township Downtown Revitalization Committee plans to sell 200 prints of the Front Street Station. The borough is loaning the committee \$4,500 to purchase the prints. The money will be returned to the borough once the first 50 prints are sold.
- The committee voted to pay each council member a stipend of \$1000 per year and to raise the mayor's salary from \$850 to \$1000. The five council members elected this November would be eligible for the stipend in January. The other two council members would not be eligible until after the next election. Mr. Wolfe stated that other communities in the area pay their elected officials. Mrs. Groninger stated that she and Mr. Ditton are opposed to paying elected officials and would consider resigning. Ms. Cindy Lark stated that as a borough resident, she recognizes the amount of time the council members spend by serving on the council, but she hopes that the money is not taken from other items that are needed in the borough. The Sewer Authority members are also eligible to receive stipends; however they are not compensated at this time. Mr. Wolfe assured her that money would not be taken from other budgeted items to provide for the stipends.
- The council discussed the 3 mills of tax to be earmarked for the Fire Department. The money is to be put in a Truck Fund for the two companies

to divide equally. The Finance Committee has tentatively approved the three mills, with the condition that the Fire Department must provide outside audit reports for each company. It is council's understanding that the Fire Board represents both companies. Both companies must agree to the fund and the requirements.

- Mayor Wetzel had attended the Hookies meeting last week and voiced his concern about how the company will pay for the truck that has been ordered by the Fire Department. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Fire Department has a truck delivered and cannot pay for it, would the borough be liable to pay for the truck. Atty. Best stated no. If the borough is listed as a co-owner, the borough would be liable for the truck payments.

### **Old Business**

1. Second Street School
  - The contractor for the new roof on the one portion of the building has been contacted.
  - Mr. Redington stated that he has not received information about the grant application.
  - Atty. Gene Brosius spoke to the council about the council's committing to the use of the building.
  - Mr. Carl stated that the Haunted House is going well. The tickets sales are currently at about \$4000 with two more nights remaining for the event.
2. Pineknott Park
  - The core borings for the light standards are being drilled this week.
  - No additional information has been received about the grant.
  - The as-built drawings have been completed and sent to DEP along with the engineer's certification. DEP has not yet replied.
3. Mrs. Groninger asked if the deed to the Second Street School is in the borough office. It is.

### **New Business**

1. The minutes of October 3, 2001 were discussed. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2001 as amended. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mrs. Gretchen Brosius informed the council that the Central Susquehanna Valley Visitor's Bureau is an organization that provides a visitor's brochure. The borough has a yearly dues and subscription budget of \$600 and has used \$56.00 to date. The borough could join the Central Susquehanna Valley Visitor's Bureau for a \$150 membership fee. This fee would link the borough's website to the Bureau's website. Mr. Wolfe moved to join the Central Susquehanna Valley Visitor's Bureau at a reduced cost of \$150 for membership. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. The Northumberland County Planning Commission and the Northumberland Borough Planning Commission have approved the subdivision for JoAnn Fasold.

Action was tabled until the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting so the council can review the plans.

5. Mrs. Groninger asked if Center State Amiesite was contacted about the bill for the Wheatley Avenue Culvert. Mr. White was contacted and the bill has been reduced for the ten feet of pipe that was not used.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
November 5, 2001  
Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

Vice-President Paul Bowersox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted and a moment of silent meditation was observed.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Don Troxell, and Paul Bowersox. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The four visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Mayor’s Report**

No report

Atty. Best, solicitor, arrived at 7:03 p.m.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, presented his report for October. The report is on file in the borough office.

The council discussed the topic of the Sewer Authority’s raising the manholes on Strawbridge Road and whether risers or concrete donuts should be used. Mr. Shaffer moved to instruct the Sewer Authority to put risers in the manholes on Strawbridge Road, instead of using concrete donuts. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ruane reported that the borough does not have a height limit for fences. He recommended that a six-foot height limit be considered.

**Solicitor’s Report**

At the next meeting, the council will address the new ordinances.

**Committee Reports**

**Streets**

The committee has not met since the last council meeting. The street paving for 2001 has been completed. A gas leak was discovered on Fourth Street approximately two weeks after Fourth Street was paved. Mr. Bowersox would like the gas company to mill and repave the street from the curb to the center from Wallace Street to Hanover Street. He feels that it is the gas company’s responsibility because the contractor was not aware of the shut-off valve being damaged when the milling was conducted. The cut would be about six feet from the curb. The cut could be patched temporarily until spring.

Mr. Ditton moved to request that PG Energy mill and pave one half of the width of Fourth Street for the one half block from Wallace Street to Hanover Street. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **Public Safety**

The EMA has requested a meeting before the end of the year to review the borough's disaster plan. Mr. Shaffer will call a meeting of the Public Safety Committee. The date and time will be announced.

Mayor Wetzel added that Union County has met to discuss the terrorist attacks and the borough would be wise to do the same.

A correspondence has been received about handicapped parking spaces. The council had discussed handicapped parking and is reluctant to issue permits. There is parking space available in that specific block.

Mr. Bowersox received a phone call from Mr. Cliff Shaffer, a member of the Fire Department. Mr. Shaffer stated that he is opposed to the 3-mill fire tax. Mr. Greg Shaffer stated that the Finance Committee would discuss the budget at the meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Ditton received a complaint from a resident on Priestley Avenue asking when the stones would be cleaned off the street. Mr. Ruane stated that part of the street has been repaired and the company is planning to do more work on Friday. Mr. Bowersox stated that the contractor should either plate the street cuts or install cold patch.

Residents are also having problem with the parking on Queen Street due to SUNCOM employees parking on the street instead of in their parking lot. A letter will be sent to SUNCOM, requesting that their employees park in the lot.

A correspondence was received from Mr. Robert Moyer regarding the work done by Schlegel Excavating, Inc. The letter will be kept on file with Schlegel's contract. Mr. Troxell suggested that the area on the school property at the corner of Strawbridge Road and Prince Street be raked and seeded since the contractors used that area to park equipment and store stone. Mr. Bowersox will look into the matter.

## **Property**

No report

## **Ordinance**

The Ordinance Committee met on October 30, 2001. A written report is on file in the borough office.

## **Personnel**

No report

## **Parks & Recreation**

Mr. Carl stated that the committee met on November 1. Tentative plans are that the ice skating rink will be assembled the week after Thanksgiving in the King Street Park. The committee is also considering building a bonfire occasionally. Council discussed the location of the skating rink. Some of the council members prefer that the rink be set up at the Second Street School playground. A suggestion was made to put something around the rink so there is not a drop-off from the edge of the rink.

## **Finance**

The committee meets on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the 2002 budget.

## **Health Report**

Mrs. Groninger moved that the borough not charge Christian Schools for the health Officer's Inspection or License fee and that the borough refund the fee for this year. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Old Business**

1. Pineknotted Park – Mayor Wetzel informed the council that DEP has conducted an inspection at Pineknotted Park and requested that areas where erosion occurred be filled with topsoil and mulched. They approved reseeding the area in the spring. DEP also requested that the pipe with concrete be removed from the area north of the field. The borough crew has complied with DEP's requests. A letter has been received from DEP approving the work that was completed at Pineknotted Park. The contract for completion of the work at the park had been with Gutelius Excavating, Inc. Mr. Bowersox stated that the record show, for future reference, that the conditions described by the Mayor existed after Gutelius left the area. Council discussed the fact that the borough had difficulties with Gutelius Excavating, Inc. on a prior project. Mrs. Groninger agreed that when Gutelius was working on Fourth Street, problems arose. One of the workers used foul language, and threatened council members. The residents in the area complained about the work and the stones that were dumped on the street. The company did not clean the street when the construction was completed and their workmen were uncooperative. This part of the record will be included in the file for Gutelius Excavating, Inc. for future reference.
2. Sub-division plans were received by Joann Fasold. Council stated that Mr. Wolfe would sign the plans, noting the borough's approval.
3. Penn DOT plans to start the work in the ditch along Penn Street next week as part of the Agility Agreement with the borough.
4. Mr. Ruane informed the council that he has received a request from a resident of the downtown area to construct a driveway. It would be necessary to remove a parking meter. Mr. Bowersox stated his opposition to a driveway at this location due to the lack of visibility exiting the driveway in this neighborhood. No action was taken.
5. Mrs. Brosius asked if a resident may establish a driveway without a curb cut. Mr. Ruane has spoken to the gentleman and will visit him again. Mr. Ditton stated that the ordinance does not stipulate that a curb cut must be made for a driveway. Mr. Shaffer added that anyone may park on the street in front of the area where the vehicle is parked, without a driveway cut.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of October 23, 2001. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Carl stated that the statement made at the council meeting that the Fire Board meets on the last Tuesday of the month should be clarified. The Fire Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Mr. Ditton stated that he believed that the 3-mill tax for the Fire Department was approved by the Finance Committee to be set for the new truck for the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company; not to be divided equally by the two companies. The issue will be

- discussed by the Finance Committee at the meeting on Wednesday. Roll call vote to approve the minutes – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve paying the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger requested that the bill for the roofing be paid with money from the grant for the Second Street School building. Roll call vote – All ayes. The council discussed the bill from Schlegel Excavating, Inc. This is the final payment to Schlegel Excavating, Inc. Mr. Bowersox requested that the letter from Mr. Robert Moyer, expressing dissatisfaction with the work performed at his property, be included in Schlegel’s file for future reference.
  3. Mrs. Groninger stated that members of the Property Committee discussed the purchase of an attachment for the cabota. The committee approved the purchase and presented two quotes. The quote from Allenwood Rental for \$2,696 does not include filling the tires. Mr. Troxell added that the tires can be filled at Mummau’s for \$100. Mifflinburg Farm Supply’s quote was for 3,100, with the tires filled. Mr. Troxell moved to purchase a trailer for the cabota from Allenwood Rental at the cost of \$2,696 and have the tires filled at Mummau’s, when money is available. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
  4. The council discussed the color for the metal roof at the Second Street School. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve “lightstone” for the roof color. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Troxell voted aye. Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 4-2.
  5. The Ordinance committee has changed the November meeting date November 26, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
November 20, 2001  
Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted and a moment of silent meditation was observed.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Don Troxell, Bryan Wolfe, Paul Bowersox, and Greg Carl. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Atty. James Best, Solicitor, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The eleven visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- ◆ Mr. Robert Stahl voiced his concern about council’s decision to sell the snowblower. Groninger stated that the borough does not own a four-wheel drive front end loader. The borough has only one two-wheel drive front end loader. Mrs. Groninger informed Mr. Stahl that the snowblower has never been used. Other towns own similar snowblower, but they are smaller. Mr. Wolfe stated that he voted against selling the snowblower. He added that the council is reserving the right to reject all bids. Mr. Bowersox said that he is not in favor of selling the snowblower. He stated that the snowblower is not too big to be connected to the equipment owned by the borough. Mrs. Groninger replied that the borough does not own trucks large enough to remove the snow. Mr. Bowersox said that the borough could lease the trucks. Mr. Stahl informed the council that he was in favor of purchasing the snow blower and that he feels it is a mistake to sell it.
  
- ◆ Mr. Persing stated that the Police Department has been at the corner of Water and King Streets five times in the past month. He would like a better solution for the pedestrian crossing at that corner. Mrs. Groninger stated that the borough shares the cost of the crossing guards with the school district and that it is difficult to get crossing guards. Mr. Persing stated that he has talked to the school district, the borough council, the police, and PennDOT, and has not received satisfaction. He added that as many as ten students live in the neighborhood; however, many are driven to school by their parents. Approximately three to four students cross at this intersection. Mayor Wetzel stated that the school district is responsible for providing transportation to the students. The school district had been asked this summer to reroute a school bus, adding a stop below Water and King Streets. Council agreed with Mrs. Groninger’s request that a letter be sent to the Shikellamy School Board asking them to investigate the possibility of adding a bus stop for the students who live below Water and King Streets. Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough office would contact the superintendent’s office.
  
- ◆ Mr. Mike Daddario spoke on behalf of the Downtown Revitalization Committee. The committee would like to put the wooden Christmas trees on the parking meters, stamped with “Free 2 Hour Parking”. Council discussed the pros and cons of providing the free parking.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to extend free two-hour parking in the downtown area as of Monday, December 10, 2001 through January 1, 2002. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion failed 3-4.

Mrs. Groninger moved that the meters be covered for a two week period, from December 17 through January 2. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

### **Executive Session**

The council adjourned for Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues. The meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Ditton stated that the Personnel Committee met on November 13, 2001. Upon recommendation from the committee, Mr. Ditton made a motion to suspend Mr. Dave Bogovich from the position of Assistant Fire Chief, effective immediately, for conduct unbecoming an officer. Mr. Bogovich can request a hearing before the council within thirty days; or his suspension becomes automatically permanent. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Sewer Authority**

Ms. Cindy Lark reported that the Sewer Authority plans to wait until spring to put risers in the manholes on Strawbridge Road. She presented a letter stating that the Sewer Authority “will consider itself absolved of any responsibility in the future for maintenance or repairs caused by the use of risers instead of the concrete doughnuts.” Council discussed the reasons for requesting the risers, and the Sewer Authority’s responsibility to maintain the manholes. Atty. Best stated that while the letter expresses the Authority’s position, it is not a finding of the court or tribunal. Should there ever be a dispute between the borough and Sewer Authority, it would need to be resolved by a judge. Mr. Ditton made a motion to reply to the Sewer Authority, rejecting their letter absolving them from making repairs to the manholes with the risers. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The borough office has provided the Sewer Authority with the list of streets to be paved in 2002.

Ms. Lark submitted the Sewer Authority’s recommendation that the borough council reappoint Mr. Don Shuman to the Sewer Authority for a five year term, ending on December 31, 2006. Mr. Bowersox moved to reappoint Mr. Shuman to the Sewer Authority for a five year term, ending December 31, 2006. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Ms. Lark informed the council that Verizon will be reopening the pits on Priestley Avenue on December 7 and the Sewer Authority will be working there on December 11.

### **Northumberland Borough Housing Corporation**

Mr. Wolfe stated that at the last Finance Committee meeting, a public comment was made concerning the payments from the Northumberland Borough Housing Corporation being postponed until the new high-rise is built. As part of the original agreement with the original high-rise, the Housing Authority would begin repaying the loan from the borough once the mortgage was paid for. A prior council then waived the repayment until the new high-rise building is paid for.

The council is interested in learning how soon construction would begin and if the Housing Corporation could repay any of the money owed to the borough in the near future.

Mr. Dale Heim replied that, if the council hadn't waived the repayments, the Housing Corporation would not have been able to go forward with the new building. He informed the council that the drawings are 95% complete. One change was made to add a double door. Because this extends the building, a variance is required. Alternate heating sources are being explored. An attorney from Harrisburg is working with the authority. They are anticipating obtaining funding through the Sunbury Redevelopment Authority, at lower interest rates. Mr. Heim stated that he and the Housing Corporation are working for construction to begin as soon as possible. He added that this type of project takes time.

Mr. Heim asked if someone from council would be willing to sit on the board. At one time, council did have a representative to the board. The Housing Corporation provides the council with annual audited reports.

Mr. Bowersox asked who should be responsible to maintain the property. Mr. Heim said that the board had not been asked to maintain the property, but would consider it. Currently the borough crew cuts the grass and removes the snow. The property is deeded to the borough.

No action was taken regarding the Northumberland Borough Housing Corporation at this time.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2001-11, Sanitary Sewers. This ordinance, if adopted, will be added as Chapter 44 of the Borough Code. The ordinance was prepared by the Sewer Authority's solicitor and approved by the borough's solicitor. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-11. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The second reading of this ordinance will be at the December 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2001-12, Sidewalk Standards Ordinance of 2001. Mr. Bowersox moved to adopt Ordinance 2001-12. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Troxell, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 4-3. The second reading of this ordinance will be at the December 4<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Wetzel informed the public that the borough received a check from the state for grant money for the ball field at Pineknott Park. He added that Representative Phillips was instrumental in helping the borough to obtain the funds. A letter will be sent to Rep. Phillips thanking him for his assistance. The mayor commended Mike Daddario for his work at the park. Larry Redington was recognized for planning the program which was conducted on November 16, 2001.

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

Mr. Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor. He informed the council that the owners of the boarding houses and bed and breakfasts have been contacted to arrange inspections. Mrs. Brosius asked if property owners are required to remove their leaves. Mr. Ruane stated that the borough does not have an ordinance addressing leaves. Mr. Troxell has received complaints about a sign that is located between Fifth Street and Strawbridge Road. The property owner will be contacted and requested to move the sign back from the road.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Streets

Mr. Bowersox commented that the statement that the borough's equipment is not big enough to handle the snowblower is not true. He said that the borough does have equipment to run the snowblower. Mr. Ditton said that the borough does not have the trucks to handle hauling the snow. Mr. Troxell said that he was told that when the snowblower is hooked up to the backhoe, the back end of the tractor is too light to handle it. Mr. Bowersox stated that this is not true. Mr. Bowersox made a motion not to sell the snowblower this year. The motion died for a lack of a second.

#### Public Safety

No report. The committee will meet in January.

#### Property

No report.

#### Ordinance

The committee meets on November 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Atty. Best will prepare the ordinance regarding "Fines and fees" for the next council meeting.

#### Personnel

No report.

#### Parks & Recreation

The Anselmo Fund has awarded \$15,000 for the ball field at Pineknott Park to the "Parks and Recreation Committee". The request was submitted by the American Legion Ball Team. Mr. Daddario and Travis Fisher will speak to the committee.

## Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on November 28, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the 2002 budget. The budget is available in the borough office for public inspection.

PennVest has awarded the borough a \$1,113,715.00 loan. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to accept the Penn Vest Loan for \$1,113,715.00. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The money from this loan will be used to correct storm drainage issues that were addressed in the storm water study. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## Old Business

1. The new rates for the Geisinger Health Plan will be discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. The contract for 2002 has been received.
2. Mr. Troxell said that there is no “Seventh Street” sign at the corner of Seventh and Duke Streets. The street crew will be informed.
3. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Northumberland Christian School has been reimbursed for the Food and Drink License. The check for \$20.00 has not yet been sent. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the costs for the Health Officer and supplies should be covered by the income generated from the licenses.

## New Business

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2001. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mrs. Gretchen Brosius reported on the two meetings held at Rockefeller Township by several municipalities who are considering the formation of a Council of Government (COG). The group is drafting an agreement and plans to invite communities in Northumberland County and Snyder County to join. The name is to be the Susquehanna Valley COG or Central Susquehanna Valley COG. The initial cost is projected to be \$300, with yearly dues of \$75. The council would appoint a representative to the group. Each community could decide what projects they are interested in participating in. By working together, the communities can save money by obtaining lower bids for contracts.
4. The borough has received a resignation letter from Stephen S. Slaton, CPA – Attorney, PC. Mr. Shaffer moved to accept his resignation, with regret. And also to contact the State Borough’s Association for recommendations of how to proceed to obtain a new auditor. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
5. Council discussed the request for a handicapped parking space from Linda Baker, at 627 Queen Street. Mr. Bowersox moved to approve the handicapped parking space for Ms. Baker. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 4-3. It was suggested that the current list of handicapped parking spaces be reviewed.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
December 4, 2001, 7:00 p.m.  
Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pledge to the Flag was conducted and a Moment of Silent Meditation was observed

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Paul Bowersox, Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzel, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The 14 visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Jim Troup, a member of the Northumberland Fire Board, presented a letter supporting Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bogovich. This letter is on file in the borough office. Mr. Josh Newbury requested comments from the borough council regarding the letter. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council acted on the advice of the borough’s solicitor. A hearing is being scheduled in December. A letter was sent to Mr. Bogovich’s attorney, Robert Muolo. Mrs. Groninger added that the incident was brought to the council’s attention by the Police Chief.

Mr. Pat McPherson, a member of the Number One Fire Department, said that the Fire Board is planning to mandate the courses that the volunteer firefighters must have in order to remain a volunteer firefighter. He suggested that the council should go on record stating that the only courses needed to be a volunteer firefighter in the borough of Northumberland should be those mandated by the state and federal government. Mr. Shaffer stated that the Public Safety Committee would meet with the Fire Board and review the issues. The Public Safety will meet in January. Mr. Newbury added that the County EMA Director spoke to him about additional courses to be offered. IST and R & I are now required by the state. The Number One’s have seven active firefighters. The Hookies have 15 to 18 firefighters.

**Solicitor’s Report**

The solicitor was unable to attend the meeting, but did send a letter to the borough council along with Ordinances to be adopted.

**Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss a contract issue. The meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of Ordinance 2001-11 (Sanitary Sewers). Mrs. Groninger moved to approve Ordinance 2001-11. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe explained that Resolution H provides for fines due to violations of Ordinance 2001-11 to be set by resolution. Mr. Bowersox moved to approve Resolution H. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the second reading of Ordinance 2001-12 (Sidewalk Standards Ordinance of 2001). Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-12. Mr. Bowersox

seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton urged the council to send the ordinance back to committee to be rewritten. Mrs. Groninger agreed that the ordinance should not be adopted in the current state. Mr. Carl explained that he is in favor of the ordinance and feels that the sidewalks throughout the borough are not safe. This project will span five years to help alleviate any financial hardship this may pose for borough residents. Roll call vote – Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Bowersox voted aye. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 4-3.

Resolution I (designates streets on which sidewalks are required) will be available at the December 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Mr. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2001-13. This Ordinance adopts the process of setting a schedule to be enacted by resolution for all fines, penalties, and costs for violation of ordinances and for all fees and costs charged by the borough for permits, hearings, and other services authorized by the borough code or ordinance, resolution, or vote of the Borough of Northumberland. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-13, Fee Schedule Ordinance. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed 7-0.

The Ordinance Committee discussed modifications to Chapter 2 (Borough Manager), Chapter 8 (Personnel), Chapter 26 (Fair Housing), Chapter 32 (Insurance Fire Damage), and Chapter 53 (Taxation) of the code book. Mr. Bowersox made a motion to approve corrections to the Ordinances as recommended by the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed 7-0.

**Mayor's Report** – No report.

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

Mr. Ruane reported on his activity as Code Enforcement Officer and Street Inspector Supervisor.

The Water Company plans to install a new line on Priestley Avenue. The work will be finished in the spring before the road is paved.

Mr. Ruane stated that the items stored in the Second Street School pose a hazard and should be cleaned up.

The swimming pool needs to have more water added to it to support its walls. Mr. Carl stated that one joint needs to be repaired. He and Travis Fisher are looking into it.

ButterKrust is installing a new pipe for storm water. They would like the borough to replace the line they are tying into. Mr. Ruane told ButterKrust that we could supply the pipe but the Borough did not have the funds to replace the line. Mr. Ruane explained that a new pipe is planned for the other side of Fifth Street according to the Storm Water Study. No decision has been reached regarding this matter.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Streets**

Mr. Bowersox had no report for the street committee.

Mr. Bowersox said that DEP has required that the material excavated for the placement of the light standards at Pineknott Park should be placed in 55-gallon water-proof drums or other appropriate containers.

**Public Safety**

The new ladder truck is at the Hookies and will go into service by the end of January. Council has been invited to view the new truck.

**Property**

The Property Committee will meet to review the grant specification for the grant for the Second Street School.

**Ordinance**

The Ordinance Committee will be meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Personnel**

No Report

**Parks & Recreation**

No Report

**Finance**

Mr. Wolfe summarized the proposed 2002 Budget. The Finance Committee met and approved the budget. General real estate mills have decreased to 19.45 mills. The 7.5 mills tax increase covers the following: 4.5 mills for Debt Service; 2 mills for Recreation; and 1.5 mills for Fire Equipment purchases. The budget includes nearly \$60,000 for debt reduction purposes. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the 2002 Budget, as is. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Council discussed the budget.

The Northumberland Number One Fire Company sent a letter that they are not interested in obtaining funds through a tax increase. The 1.5 mills (Fire Equipment) are for the Hookie's new truck.

Mrs. Groninger stated that she would like to see money included in the budget for additional Storm Water Studies and for the Shade Tree Fund. No money has been budgeted for either. The Shade Tree fund does have a balance of several thousand dollars.

Mrs. Groninger asked what the EMA turnout gear is. Mr. Shaffer explained that turnout gear is fire protective gear.

Mrs. Groninger had complaints from Mrs. Attinger and Mrs. Young, borough residents, about the \$4,000 increase for the solicitor. The committee explained that in 2001, Atty. Best was paid under two line items in the budget. He received a stipend for attending the monthly meetings, and was paid additionally for legal services performed. This new line item in the budget is for a total of \$7,500 for all services performed for the year 2002, excluding travel expenses outside of the county.

The fees charged by the Health Officer were discussed. The fee is being raised to \$25.00 and all businesses and organizations will be charged, except for entities of the borough.

Mr. Wolfe said that Second Street School is to be funded by grants, not taxpayer money.

The Fire Prevention Contribution is for the Fire Prevention materials distributed to the schools.

Salaries were discussed. The total amount budgeted for salaries is \$484,540.82. This amount includes money for a Street Supervisor and another part-time Code Officer. The amount budgeted in 2001 was \$408,650.00. The COPS grant requires that the borough employ the sixth police officer through March of 2003.

The 1.5 millage rate for the Hookie's new truck was discussed. This money is designated for the new truck for 2002. The money could be distributed differently in future years, or the tax could be repealed. Mrs. Groninger noted that each fire company has \$5,000 in separate accounts that were donations from the UDAG money.

The borough also has an account for Hazardous Materials.

Mrs. Bogovich asked about the money designated in the budget for the recycling center. The recycling center is run by volunteers and the borough incurs much of the expense. These expenses had not been included in prior budgets. Mr. Wolfe stated that the borough residents are required to recycle, according to a borough ordinance.

Roll call vote to adopt the 2002 budget: Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Carl voted aye. Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

### **Old Business**

1. COG Meeting will be conducted on December 12, 7:00 p.m. at the Rockefeller Township Building. Mrs. Brosius and Mr. Wolfe plan to attend.
2. Penn Vest Loan Information has been received. Several provisions must be met before the borough can close on the loan. A storm water ordinance must be adopted. Mr. Ditton will review the necessary requirements of the Penn Vest loan for closing.
3. Mr. Wolfe read a correspondence from Shikellamy School District Superintendent, Dr. James Hartman, regarding the intersection at King and Water Streets. The school district will provide busing for the students who live on the lower side of the intersection. Discussion. A representative from PennDOT will be contacted to meet and discuss the problem.
4. Mrs. Brosius received a letter from Norfolk Southern Railroad regarding the "lower Water Street bridge". The letter states that the crumbled concrete was scraped from the bridge and information would be provided to the borough, if the council wishes to paint and improve the cosmetics of the bridge at the borough's cost.

### **New Business**

1. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to accept the minutes of November 20, 2001. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve paying the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve subdivision plans submitted by Mark Heintzelman. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. The borough crew will be picking up Christmas trees after the beginning of the year. The final dates for pickup are January 15, 16, & 17, following the street-sweeping schedule. On these final three days, the trees must be on the curb by 8:00 a.m. The crew will drive down each street once and will not go back for trees that are put out after they have completed that street.
5. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to advertise for a Street Supervisor and a part-time Code Officer. The Personnel Committee will draft the job descriptions. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. A letter will be sent to the Street Crew informing them of the hire of a Street Supervisor and inviting them to apply for the position. Roll call vote – all ayes.
6. Mrs. Groninger clarified that the leaves taken to Pineknottter Park are to be used for mulch. Council discussed that any requests of the borough crew should be made through the borough office.
7. Mr. Ditton mentioned the handicapped parking space listing. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to require each person with a handicapped parking space to submit a copy of their license or placard to the borough by January 31, 2002. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.
8. A discussion regarding the lights at Pineknottter Park was tabled for the next council meeting.

Mr. Wolfe moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Northumberland Borough Council Meeting  
December 18, 2001  
Northumberland Borough Municipal Building**

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pledge to the Flag was conducted and a Moment of Silent Meditation was observed

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Paul Bowersox, Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Wendell Wetzell, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. The seven visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark stated that the Sewer Authority is working on the bore under King Street so that project can be completed. As soon as the Authority knows what work will be completed next year, she will inform the council.

**Housing Authority**

Atty. Michael Balducci informed the council about the grant that is being received for the mid-rise for the elderly at Sixth and Orange Streets. \$1.675 million is being borrowed from local bank consortium. The grant is intended for non-construction costs.

Atty. Best entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Two items are pending. A variance with the Zoning Hearing Board is needed. The Sunbury Redevelopment Authority has been approached to be the conduit for the financing and the Housing Authority is waiting on their approval.

The grant money will not be drawn on until the bids come in. The estimated cost is 2 million dollars. The Authority has about 2.3 million dollars in funds available, including the grant. The projected start date is spring. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council is supporting the project, and would like to see the project go forward. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the grant for the Northumberland Housing Authority. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

**Executive Session**

The council adjourned for an executive session at 7:15 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:35 p.m. A personnel issue was discussed. The council will be meeting in Executive Session at the conclusion of the New Business.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Mr. Wolfe conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance 2001-13, “Fee Schedule Ordinance of 2001”. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2001-13. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Atty. Best read Resolution I, “Streets on Which Sidewalks are Required”. Exhibit A is the list of sidewalks.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mr. Wolfe presented Mayor Wetzel with a clock commemorating his term as mayor. Mayor Wetzel thanked the council.

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

Mr. Ruane reported on his work as Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Wolfe announced that Mrs. Gretchen Brosius would be sworn in as mayor on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. Discussion occurred as to when the current Mayor's term expires. If the term ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, the President of Council would be in charge in case of an emergency.

At the first meeting of the council, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the council members will be sworn in by the Mayor and elections for President, Vice-President, and a Chairman Pro-Tem are held. At that meeting, the council will set up committees, determine a meeting schedule, and vote on ordinances.

## **Committee Reports**

Streets – No report

Public Safety – No report

Property –

Mrs. Groninger spoke with Mr. Redington about a grant meeting for the Second Street School. The committee will meet at a later date.

Ordinance –

The committee meets December 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Personnel-

The Personnel Committee received a draft of the job description for the Street Supervisor prepared by Mr. Ditton.

Parks & Recreation – No report

Finance –

The Finance Committee is meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that Mr. Lee Shaffer has informed the office that Sunbury has increased the Food and Drink License to \$50 per year. Mr. Greg Shaffer made a motion to increase the Food & Drink License fee to \$50 per year. Only municipal entities are to be excluded. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Bowersox voted aye. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted no. Motion defeated 2-5.

Mr. Wolfe reviewed the 2002 budget. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt the budget. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger expressed concern that another storm water study was not included in the budget. The budget may be reviewed in January. Roll call vote: Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye. Mr. Bowersox and Mrs. Groninger voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

## Old Business

1. One bid for the snow blower was received from V & G Construction, Shamokin, PA. The bid was for \$7,595. This amount is below the council's reserve so the bid was rejected.
2. Mr. Wolfe presented the information from the COG Meeting in Rockefeller Township. The Agreement to join the COG must be reviewed and acted upon. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to move forward to join the COG. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Penn Vest Loan Information – Mr. Wolfe recommends that the council conduct a work session to determine the requirements for the Penn Vest loan. A work session will be held on January 9, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ditton explained the project must begin by November 2002 and the closing date must be requested five months in advance.
4. Traffic Light at King and Water Streets. Discussion was held regarding the right turn on red and PennDot's recommendations.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to prohibit right turns on red at the traffic light on King Street turning onto Water Street. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Bowersox and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer voted no. Motion defeated 2-5.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to request the PennDot post a "No Left Turn" sign on Water Street approaching King Street. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote -- Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Bowersox, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Troxell voted no. Motion passed 4-3.
5. Mr. Wolfe reported on a meeting with Mr. Dwight Walters regarding the borough's franchise with Service Electric Cablevision, Inc. The cable company has offered the borough a franchise of 4.5% of the basic services for 10 years. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to accept Service Electric's proposal for a 10-year franchise agreement with a rate of 4.5% of the gross revenue from the basic cable television service. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All no. Motion defeated 0-7.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion to solicit proposals from any cable companies in the region who would service the borough. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the borough realizes a 5% franchise fee on all gross revenues from any cable service contracting with the borough. The contract would extend for five years, with the fees paid to the borough on a quarterly basis. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.
6. Community Development Block Grant. Mrs. Bowman updated the council regarding the \$53,000 grant money for Second Street School. The borough has been asked to voluntarily turn back the funds since there are no plans for using the grant in the next twelve months. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to return the CDBG money obtained through the county for the "removal of architectural barriers" at the Second Street School and to reapply at a later date. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

Mr. Bowersox made a motion to apply for CDGE funds for stormwater system repairs. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.
7. A letter was received from Mr. Melvin Schlegel regarding funds that were deducted from his payment for work at Fifth and Prince Streets. Another contractor was contacted to repair the sewer line that was damaged. Mr. Bowersox stated that a five-foot piece of pipe was missing when Schlegel Excavating completed the repairs. K. & T. Excavating was called to replace the pipe because the Moyers' sewer line was backing up. Mr.

Wolfe made a motion to reimburse Schlegel Excavating \$414.27. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Bowersox voted no. Motion passed 5-2.

8. Mr. Ditton asked if there is any new information about the lights at Pineknott Park. Mr. Carl stated that Larson Design has contacted Mr. Redington and may be sending the borough additional information.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to approve the December 4, 2001 minutes as corrected. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.
2. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.
3. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to continue the borough's agreement with Sunbury Community Hospital & Outpatient Center's Random Testing Consortium for 2002. Mr. Bowersox seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.
4. Mr. Ditton questioned the overtime for the police. The BNI overtime is for police work with the drug task force and is reimbursed to the borough.
5. Mrs. Groninger asked if the letters for the handicapped parking spaces have been sent to borough residents. The letters have been sent.
6. Mrs. Groninger asked if the curb is painted yellow at the intersection of Water & King Streets. PennDOT had requested that the curb be painted to allow easy access for the snow plow.
7. A monthly report was received from the Penn Valley Airport Authority.
8. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve Chief Redington's request for 56.25 hours comp time for overtime worked in 2001. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes.

### **Executive Session**

Council went into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. to discuss a legal issue.

Atty. Best excused himself from the Executive Session and left the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

The council meeting was reconvened at 9:55 p.m. Mr. Bowersox moved to appoint Atty. Eugene Brosius as special counsel. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion passed.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary