

Borough of Northumberland
Reorganization Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
January 5, 2004

Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Greg Carl, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Robin Martin, Solicitor, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

Six members of the public were present.

Mayor Brosius conducted the swearing in of newly elected council members Judith Groninger and Gregory Shaffer. Mr. Charles "Bud" Ditton was sworn in this afternoon. He was unable to attend this evening because he teaches an evening class.

Election of Officers

President

Mayor Brosius asked for nominations for President.

Mrs. Groninger nominated Bryan Wolfe for President. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion.

Mr. Troxell moved to close the nominations. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote to close the nominations: Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Wolfe abstained. Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention. The nominations were closed.

Roll call vote was taken on the motion to elect Mr. Wolfe to the office of President. Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Carl, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Wolfe abstained. Motion carried 5-0 with one abstention. Mr. Wolfe was elected President and accepted the position.

Vice-President

Mr. Wolfe asked for nominations for Vice President. Mrs. Groninger nominated Bud Ditton. Mr. Shaffer nominated Greg Carl.

Mr. Shaffer moved to close the nominations. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes. The nominations were closed.

Roll call vote for Vice President: Mr. Troxell, Mr. Carl, and Mrs. Groninger voted for Mr. Ditton. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Straub voted for Mr. Carl. With a tie vote, Mayor Brosius voted for Mr. Ditton. Mr. Ditton was elected Vice President.

Chairman Pro Tem

Mr. Wolfe asked for nominations for Chairman Pro Tem. Mrs. Groninger nominated Mr. Carl.

Mrs. Groninger moved to close the nominations. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Roll call vote for Chairman Pro Tem. Mr. Carl abstained; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted for Mr. Carl. Mr. Carl was to the office of Chairman Pro Tem with a vote of 5-0 and one abstention.

Reappointment of Borough Employees

Mr. Wolfe moved to reappoint the Borough employees who are not working under a union contract. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. The employees are: Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary; Jane Sanders-Ressler, Borough Clerk; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Jim Tamecki, Code Enforcement Officer; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Lee Shaffer, Health Officer; and Sylvia Bucher, office maintenance. Roll call vote - All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Assignments

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Parks and Recreation Committee previously comprised of Council Members is disbanded since there is a Parks and Recreation Commission. The standing committees are Finance, Personnel, Property, Public Safety, and Streets. Representatives will also be appointed to the Sewer Authority, COG, and the Second Street Community Center Committee.

Mr. Wolfe announced the following committee assignments:

Finance – Bryan Wolfe (Chairman), Greg Carl, and Charles “Bud” Ditton

Personnel – Judith Groninger (Chairwoman), Charles “Bud” Ditton, and Darvin Straub

Property – Darvin Straub (Chairman), Greg Shaffer, and Bryan Wolfe

Public Safety – Greg Shaffer (Chairman), Greg Carl, and Don Troxell

Streets – Don Troxell (Chairman), Greg Carl, and Judith Groninger

Sewer Authority Representative – Don Troxell

COG Representative – Paul Ruane

Second Street Community Center Committee Representative – Darvin Straub

Mrs. Groninger requested that Mr. Wolfe remain on the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Wolfe agreed to serve on the Personnel Committee, replacing Mr. Straub.

Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the Committee Assignments as stated, including Mr. Wolfe's replacing Mr. Straub on the Personnel Committee. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Others in attendance introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mr. Brian Crebs, 1st Assistant Fire Chief, stated that the Fire Board has informed him that the Fire Chief, Josh Newbury, has resigned. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Fire Chief had resigned but he withdrew his resignation as of today. The resignation letter was dated December 23rd, however, the Borough Council has not had official notice from the Fire Board. Mr. Troup stated that the Fire Board was to meet on Tuesday, but did not have a quorum. There was a quorum at the November meeting. Mr. Troup added that at the November meeting, Mr. Newbury informed the Fire Board that he was resigning as of December 31, 2003. Council has not yet received minutes of the November Fire Board meeting. Mr. Shaffer added that Mr. Newbury's current term expires on December 31, 2004. Mr. Wolfe said that the Council would back Mr. Newbury unless they hear differently from the Fire Board.

Mr. Crebs requested that a member of the Public Safety Committee and the Fire Police attend the Fire Board Meeting. The Fire Board will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the #1's Fire Department. Mr. Shaffer stated that this time conflicts with another meeting that he attends. Mr. Carl offered to attend some of the meetings. It was suggested that the committee members rotate attending the meetings. The members of the Fire Board are elected in April.

Mr. Troup and Mr. Crebs questioned whose jurisdiction the Fire Police are under. They added that the Fire Police are voted on from each company, but do not attend the Fire Board Meetings. The Fire Police operate on their own. Mayor Brosius stated that the topic was discussed with the solicitor and she has a chart that they could review.

Mrs. Groninger stated that since the Fire Board should meet next Wednesday evening, the Fire Chief position could be discussed at that meeting.

The 2004 Fire Board meetings were advertised with the other Borough meetings.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Additional bills received for payment are \$54.88 for W. A. Dehart from the Liberty Pool account; and bills totaling \$533.07 for R. L. Hummel Automotive Supply and \$81.25 to Geise Associates, Ltd. from the General Fund. Roll call vote - All ayes. Motion passed unanimously. General Fund bills total \$17,001.09; Liberty Pool bills total \$97.75.

2. Mrs. Groninger moved to adopt Resolution A-2004. This resolution sets the Schedule of Fees and Penalties for 2004. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Discussion. These fees were used when calculating the budget.

Mr. Wolfe stated that Lee Shaffer, the Health Officer, informed him that Sunbury has raised their Health Inspection fee to \$100. The Borough's fee is \$50. Mr. Wolfe added that he was not advocating an increase, just informing the council.

Several changes in the fees were noted. The fine for parking on the streets Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, as posted, was increased from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per ticket.

The fees for the Liberty Pool remain the same.

Mrs. Groninger suggested that the hourly fee for Personnel, administration, be increased to \$30.00. Mr. Straub suggested that the Hourly fee for Personnel, research, should also be increased. It was determined to increase this fee to \$60.00 per hour.

The \$15.00 fee for a 6-month extension for the building permit remained the same, with a maximum of one extension.

The fee for a one-page ad in the Borough newsletter is \$580, not \$540 as typed.

The fee for an Accident Report had not been included in the Resolution. The fee was added to the Resolution 0 to \$15. This money is deposited in the General Fund.

The fee for a permit for the street openings was increased from \$250 to \$350 for a cut of 15 square feet.

3. Mayor Brosius requested that the Proclamation that was presented to the former Chief of Police, Lawrence Redington, be included in the minutes. (The Proclamation is included at the end of the meeting minutes.)
4. Mayor Brosius recognized the achievement of Justin Fasold, who became an Eagle Scout on December 27, 2003. She attended that ceremony and will be sending a certificate and letter to Justin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Fasold.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
January 20, 2004

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Gretchen Brosius; Robin Martin, Borough Solicitor; Clifford Kriner, Police Sergeant; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

Eight members of the public introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- Judy Ann Schmidt stated that, from Leighow Avenue, it is difficult to see the traffic traveling south on Strawbridge Road. This same problem exists at Horizon Avenue. Ms. Schmidt suggested that a mirror be installed across from the Leighow Avenue. Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor, was asked to inspect the intersection tomorrow to see what could be done.
- Robert McPherson, a member of the #1 Fire Department, stated that he has submitted his name for the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief. The Fire Board has not had a meeting to vote on the position. Mr. McPherson stated that five members of the board must be present to have a quorum at the meeting. Since only six of the nine members may vote, he explained that four votes are required to win the position. The Fire Board is composed of nine members, three from each fire company and three Fire Chiefs. The Fire Chiefs may not vote for chief. Mr. McPherson believes that the Fire Board may not have a quorum this year because he thinks that the Hookies do not want him to be appointed Fire Chief. Mayor Brosius stated that she has not received minutes of a Fire Board meeting since April. She has attended most of the meetings, with exception of the November meeting. Very few meetings could be conducted because of a lack of a quorum. Mr. McPherson stated that the Fire Board meetings have been changed from the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Hookies to the second Wednesday of the month at the #1's. The meetings now follow the Fire Relief Association meetings.

Mike McPherson added that at a fire scene the night before the scheduled Fire Board meeting, members from the Hook and Ladder Company were informed that the #1's had a person to nominate for the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief position. He said that Mr. Troup was

in Canada the night of the Fire Board meeting, but the other two representatives from the Hookies were also not in attendance.

Atty. Martin stated that the Borough's Ordinance states that the Borough Council is to confirm the people who sit on the Fire Board, after the Fire Board has approved them. The council must also approve the nominee for chief.

Mr. Straub read a portion of the minutes of the December council meeting, which stated that Mr. Crebs requested that a member of the Public Safety Committee and the Fire Police attend the Fire Board meetings. He informed the council that the Fire Board meetings would be on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:00 p.m. Therefore, Mr. Straub concluded, the members of the Fire Board who represent the Hookies were aware of the scheduled meeting. Mr. McPherson stated that they knew at the Fire Board meeting in November when the meetings were scheduled for 2004.

Brian Crebs is the 1st Assistant Fire Chief and Jim Troup, Steve Cimino, and Mike Keeley are the Fire Board representatives from the Hookies.

Mr. Martin stated that he does not think that the council can confirm a Fire Chief without a vote from the Fire Board. Mr. Martin read Section 5.3.B. of the Borough Code, "Commencing November 1, 1982, the Second Assistant Fire Chief shall be elected biannually on the first day of November by a majority of the Fire Board present and voting, excluding the Fire Chief and the First and Second Assistant Fire Chief..." The ordinance does not say what happens if the Fire Board does not have the selection completed by November. However, the ordinance does say that the Borough Council has the job of "confirming", not selecting, everyone. Mr. Martin advised that the Borough could schedule a meeting with the Fire Board. Mr. Wolfe asked if the council also has the power to dissolve the Board. Mr. Martin responded that the council does have that power; but then they would need to establish something to replace the Fire Board.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to hold an emergency Fire Board meeting. Discussion took place about the date of the meeting. Mr. Wolfe withdrew his motion because no date could be agreed upon.

Mr. Robin Bolig stated that the Fire Companies do work well together at fires and in emergency situations.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the Fire Chief does have the authority to structure the command in the event that the Borough Council abolishes the Fire Board.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Fire Board would have another month to vote on the fire chief recommendation and present the name to the council.

- Mr. Mike Hubicki asked if there is a schedule for the streets to be plowed. He stated that a street in Branchview was not plowed. Mr. Fisher stated that the crew was out to salt and cinder the streets.

- Mr. Ditton asked Sgt. Kriner if there is a law that dictates how many signs must be posted throughout the borough to inform the public of no parking, etc. Sgt. Kriner stated that he is not aware of a law that states the placement of signs. Mr. Ditton questioned if signs could be posted at the entrances to the Borough. Mr. Shaffer stated that two signs are to be posted in every block. Mr. Ditton replied that a “No Parking” sign is missing on Fifth Street.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Brosius announced that she has given Brad Hare’s resignation letter to the Personnel Committee.

The Revitalization Committee met last evening and requested that the Mayor voice the following concerns to the council:

- The bricks in the downtown streets should be replaced.
- Cars are being parked in front yards, especially on the hill section of the Borough. Mr. Ruane stated that the Borough has an ordinance prohibiting cars to be parked in front yards. He added that if a car does not have a license or current inspection, it is considered abandoned and the owner may be cited.
- A home on the hill has several families living in a single-family dwelling. Mr. Ruane stated that the occupancy of a dwelling is determined by the size of the living room. More than one family may occupy the dwelling. If the living room measures 10’ x 15’, six or more people may live in the house.
- Houses have living room furniture on the front porches. Complaint forms are available in the Borough Office. Anyone having a complaint about a specific property should fill out a form so the Code Officer can inspect the property.
- Sidewalks are blocked off because they are not completed. Atty. Martin stated that if the sidewalk is not completed, it is necessary to block it off. Atty. Martin stated that enforcement actions could be taken once the weather improves.
- Revitalization reported a successful season at Santa’s House. They acknowledged the Improvement Committee, the Kiwanis Club, and the Revitalization Committee for providing refreshments and helping with the decorating. Special thanks were extended to Donnie Keeley and Jim Groninger for helping Santa with his duties.

The next meeting of the Revitalization Committee is scheduled for February 16th at 6:00 p.m.

The Second Street Community Center Committee

The committee has received Mr. Gary Wolfe’s recommendations and is moving forward with plans to open the gymnasium for summer use. The committee will hold a reorganizational meeting on February 2 at 7:00 p.m. New members and officers are to be named that that time.

No new information has been received from the insurance company regarding the coverage for the fire in the building last July.

Sewer Authority Report

The Sewer Authority and the council will be meeting on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Department Report

No report

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

- Mr. Ruane provided the council with his activities for the month of December 2003 and an annual report for 2003. The Code Officer's reports are on file in the Borough Office.
- Act 45 has been adopted by the state of Pennsylvania. This Act requires that building construction be inspected. The Borough must opt in or out. If the Borough opts in, they must adopt an ordinance and determine fees relating to the state-required inspections. The COG is contracting with Light-Heigle to perform the inspections. Mr. Ruane is obtaining certification to inspect the construction. Mr. Ruane can then be the Borough's primary inspector and Light-Heigle can be utilized as his backup. If the Borough opts out, residents will be responsible for obtaining their own inspectors for construction on their property.
- The Borough won the case concerning the annual rental fees. Additional citations have been served.
- Verizon was working on Fifth Street to repair cable. Mr. Ruane informed the company that the street must be restored by the end of April, before the top coat of paving is begun.
- A truck has been parked on Orange Street. The owner runs an extension cord across the street. Council discussed that this creates a hazard and should not be permitted. Council requested that Mr. Ruane notify him that he may not run the cord over the street because it is a safety issue.

Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. for the Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 7:50 p.m. Topics discussed were personnel and a legal issue.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the \$900 bid for the police vehicle. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Personnel

Mrs. Groninger moved to confirm the compromise that was made with the union on January 19, 2004. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger stated that the Personnel Committee interviewed a candidate for part-time police officer on January 14th. She added that the committee's obligation is to hire from the Civil Service list. The Civil Service Commission presented one name to the Personnel Committee for this position. Mrs. Groninger stated that the Personnel

Committee unanimously agreed to recommend that Michael Vognetz be hired as a part-time police officer. Mrs. Groninger so moved and Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Carl voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Shaffer suggested that the council consider hiring Mr. Shannon Klopp as an additional part-time officer. Mr. Wolfe stated that Sgt. Kriner and the Mayor should recommend to the Personnel Committee whether or not an additional part-time officer is needed.

Mrs. Groninger stated that the Borough has received a resignation from Mr. Bradley Hare. Mr. Shaffer moved to accept Mr. Hare's resignation, with regret. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Sgt. Kriner stated that the department does have a need for additional part-time officers because the part-time officers have other jobs and are not always available. He added that the department is reduced by one full-time officer. Sgt. Kriner also said that by the department operating within the part-time budget, an additional officer would not cost additional money.

Property

No report.

Public Safety

Mr. Troxell asked if residents are being cited for not shoveling sidewalks. Sgt. Kriner stated that they normally put yellow warnings on the doors. The ordinance states that sidewalks must be shoveled within twenty-four hours from the end of the snowfall. The council discussed the situation and vacant properties.

Street

A Street Committee meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation

No report

Old Business

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2003 and January 5, 2004. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mrs. Groninger abstained because she was not present at the December 16th meeting. Motion passed 6-0 with 1 abstention.
2. Mr. Shaffer moved to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked if the rock salt bill is being paid temporarily from the Liquid Fuels account. The Borough Secretary stated that she would like the General Fund to

reimburse the Liquid Fuels account at some point during the year. Mrs. Groninger agreed that the money could be used on a temporary basis, adding that it was her understanding that the Street Tax and the Liquid Fuels funding should be spent to pave the borough streets. Roll call vote to pay the bills – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$17,019.29. The Liberty Pool bills total \$25.92; and the Liquid Fuels bills total \$953.68.

3. Committee appointments

- Mr. Straub made a motion to appoint Jonathan Rees to the Planning Commission to a term ending 8/31/2007. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Mayor Brosius stated that Mr. Rees is a teacher at the Northumberland Christian School and an engineer. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mr. Shaffer moved to appoint the following people to the Second Street Community Center Committee: Bill Shambach, Bethel Shambach, Jacqui Barone, Barb Leffler and Russell “Buzz” Meachum. These appointments are in addition to the original committee appointments and have no terms. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- Mr. Ditton moved to appoint Linda Hixson to the Appeals Board to a term ending 1/31/2007. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

4. Larson Design Group has requested that the Borough accept an agreement with the firm to act as the Borough’s engineers. Mr. Wolfe tabled the issue until the meeting in February.
5. Mr. Straub stated that the Pineknottter Days Association has requested permission to store the hotdog wagon in the Recycling Building so repairs may be made. Permission was granted.
6. Mrs. Groninger stated that in order to improve the community and attract new residents, ordinances must be enforced. The burning ordinance should be observed; sidewalks should be shoveled; trash should be removed; vehicles should be removed from front yards. She added that the bricks in the downtown streets are an added expense but they do beautify the downtown, as do the pots of flowers. She also would like to see young trees planted in the tree line when older trees are removed. Until property owners are encouraged to clean up their properties, the town will not attract new residents. She would like the Borough to be known for “good manners and consideration”.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
February 3, 2004**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Don Troxell, Bryan Wolfe, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, and Darvin Straub. Councilman Greg Carl was absent. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor, Robin Martin, Solicitor, Clifford “Butch” Kriner, Police Sergeant, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor, Cindy Lark, Sewer Authority representative, and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

Three guests introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- Mr. James Bell of the VFW Last Man’s Club and a World War II veteran presented the council with plans for the monument to be erected in King Street Park along Second Street. The monument would be dedicated in memory of the deceased veterans from Northumberland and Point Township.

The Sunbury Monumental Works is building the 8-foot tall tablet, which will be decorated with the emblems of the six branches of the Armed Forces — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Centered on the top will be an 18-inch gold star. Forty-six names will be listed and space is available should it ever be necessary to list additional names.

After attending a council meeting in 2003 and obtaining council’s permission to erect the monument, Mr. Bell stated that news articles in The Daily Item resulted in additional contributions for the project. Donations totaled \$14,460 and the organization decided to erect a larger monument.

Mr. Bell said that the new monument would be dedicated on Saturday, May 29, 2004 at 2 p.m. This is the same time that the World War II monument is to be dedicated in Washington, D.C. State Rep. Merle Phillips will be the guest speaker for the ceremony.

- Mr. William Roll stated that he was present at a past council meeting and had received approval for the stormwater management plans for Phase IV of the Branchview Development. He has resubmitted the plans to the Northumberland County Planning Commission and the Borough's Planning Commission because lot lines were altered. The County has approved the revised plans. At a meeting last Thursday, the Planning Commission tabled approval of the revised plans, pending more information regarding the paved width of the road. Mr. Troxell asked Mr. Roll if the shoulders would be paved. Mr. Roll stated that the shoulders are not to be paved; but the Borough Ordinance does not require paved shoulders. He explained that the width of the paved area would be twenty feet, with 8-foot shoulders on either side. The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 26, to review the plans.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius reported that Sgt. Kriner has obtained figures for new parking meters at a cost of \$102 each with a 2-year warranty.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the purchase of ten (10) electronic parking meters at a cost of \$102 each from Duncan Industries, with the funding to come from the Parking Meter Fund. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius asked if it would be possible to have the snow cleared from around the parking meters. Many of the meters are difficult to access. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Street Supervisor see what can be done.

The new part-time police officer is scheduled to start work on February 7, 2004.

The Priestley Society of Birstall and Heckmondwike had invited Borough officials to participate in events in England commemorating the 200th anniversary celebrations of the life of Joseph Priestley. Andrea Bashore, Historic Site Administrator at the Joseph Priestley House, is attending the ceremonies. Mayor Brosius has sent some memorabilia and to group from the Borough.

The Senior Action Center has invited the Mayor and a Borough Council representative to attend a meeting at the center on March 11 at 12:15 p.m. Mayor Brosius plans to attend and asked that council members let her know who would be available to attend.

The History Day committee has meetings scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th, at the Kiwanis Building, and Monday, February 16th, at the Borough Building.

Twenty-four citations were issued for not clearing sidewalks following the recent snowfall.

Sewer Authority Report

No report.

Public Works Department Report

No report.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the Code Office activity for the month of January 2004.

The council members have been requested to attend a COG meeting on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. at Wolfe's Crossroads to learn about the Uniform Construction Code, the state's new regulations for building inspections. The COG has appointed Light - Heigle & Associates as the entity that will administer the code for any member municipalities who are interested. At this meeting, information will be provided about how the code will be administered and what will be expected of the municipality. Mr. Ruane is obtaining certification for some of the inspections; however, the Borough will need to use Light - Heigle & Associates for some inspections and as Mr. Ruane's back-up.

Parks and Recreation Committee

No report.

Council Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe provided the council with a financial report for the month of January 2004.

Personnel

Mr. Wolfe scheduled a meeting for February 10th at 7:00 p.m. for the Police Contract Negotiating Committee. Mr. Wolfe stated that if an agreement is reached, all council members will be provided with copies of the contract, and a vote of the full council is anticipated in March.

Property

Mr. Straub has provided the committee members and the Street Supervisor with a list of items to be addressed at the various Borough properties.

Public Safety

Mr. Shaffer stated that the Fire Board meets on February 11th.

Streets

Mr. Troxell stated that a committee meeting is scheduled for February 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Old Business

1. Mr. Straub announced that the Second Street Community Center Committee met last night. The committee elected the following officers: Brian Ginck, President; Eugene Brosius, Vice-President; Bethel Shambach, Secretary; and Joseph Epler, Treasurer. The committee is obtaining an estimate for the cost to make the gymnasium usable. It is hoped that the gym can be utilized this summer. A letter is being sent to the Degenstein Foundation to update them on the fundraising efforts for the center. Mayor Brosius stated that Rep. Phillips has assured her that the state funding for the project is still on his list.

Mayor Brosius added that Beth and Kelsey Ginck would also like to join the committee. Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint Beth and Kelsey Ginck to the Second Street committee. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius informed the council that the Shikellamy Librarian, Ann Sabol, is in charge of a group of sophomores who are interested in using the Second Street building as their project to develop ideas and learn about obtaining grants. Mayor Brosius has provided her with some information and Mr. Straub will provide additional information.

2. The meeting with the Sewer Authority and PAWC is tentatively scheduled for February 25th at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that if the council does not hear differently, the meeting would be held at that time.

New Business

1. Mr. Ditton moved to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$24,785.72; the Liberty Pool account bills total \$9.51; and the Liquid Fuels bills are \$946.47.
2. Mr. Ruane stated that Mr. Mark Heintzelman is interested in building a house at the rear of a lot that extends from King Street to unopened Wheatley Avenue. The structure would be accessed on Wheatley Avenue from Eighth Street. Mr. Heintzelman has proposed that he would maintain the road and include a maintenance clause in the deed. Mr. Heintzelman is submitting his proposal to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
March 2, 2004**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; Cindy Lark, Sewer Authority representative; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. Councilman Greg Carl was absent because he had a work commitment.

Branchview Subdivision Plan IV

Mr. Ruane presented the revised Branchview Subdivision Plan IV & V. Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt the plan; Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Planning Commission had concerns about the runoff along the berm. Mr. Troxell stated that this plan complies with the present ordinance, requiring 20-foot width of pavement and 8-foot gravel berms on each side. Mr. Troxell stated that the Borough should consider paving the berms when the road is paved. Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voiced opinions that the Borough cannot afford to pave the berms because other streets need to be paved. Roll call vote to accept the Branchview Subdivision Plan IV & V as revised - All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Seven guests introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Fire Chief Josh Newbury asked what the council’s intentions are pertaining to the Fire Board. He understands that there have been some thoughts on abolishing the Board. Mr. Wolfe stated that the appointment of the 2nd Assistant Chief has been held up because there has been no vote. Mr. Mike McPherson stated that the Number 1 Fire Department has nominated Pat McPherson for the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief position. The Hook and Ladder Company wanted to present his name to their company for approval before the Fire Board would vote. Mr. Wolfe asked Chief Newbury what he thinks the Council should do with the Fire Board. Chief Newbury stated that the Fire Board members are not opposed to

having the Board abolished. Mr. Shaffer explained that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has been contacted and a representative will be present at the next Public Safety Committee meeting on March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss restructuring of the Fire Board as well as requirements for volunteer firefighters. Mr. Wolfe added that the restructuring would most probably include Borough citizens who are not members of the Fire Department or the Borough Council. Mr. Bolig requested that both companies be informed of the meeting. Letters will be sent to the company presidents, Dave Bogovich and Todd Attinger. Mayor Brosius added that she would attend the Fire Board meeting next week and announce the Public Safety Meeting to the group.

Mrs. Patty Young stated that she is surprised that more people aren't present to complain about the taxes, both the Borough and County taxes. She questioned what recreation is available in the Borough that the citizens are being taxed for. She asked why Jolly Hollow could not be used for winter recreation and also if it is for sale. Mr. Wolfe said that the council has not decided whether to sell the Jolly Hollow property. Mr. Ditton stated that the council tried to have ice-skating in the park but the neighbors complained. When there was a skate park at Jolly Hollows, neighbors there complained. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Recreation Tax is being used for the swimming pool, Pineknott Park, and utilities in the parks. Mrs. Young stated that the Borough does not have recreational activities for children. Mrs. Groninger stated that the Recreation Committee has been searching for volunteers and they just aren't available. Mrs. Young is concerned that the Borough is spending money that it doesn't have. Mr. Shaffer explained that the storm water project was done to eliminate flooding and water problems. In addition to the storm water project, this council is paving streets that are in poor condition. Mr. Straub added that a lot of money has been spent on the baseball field at Pineknott Park. Mrs. Young stated that children are no longer permitted to ride their bikes in the park. Mayor Brosius replied that the council prohibited bike riding in the park because of the damage that was being done in the park by older children. Mr. Wolfe said that the council agrees with Mrs. Young's comments. Mayor Brosius suggested that Mrs. Young attend the Recreation Committee meetings to give them her ideas.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius provided the council with her report, which is on file in the Borough Office. She will represent the Borough at an Eagle Ceremony for Ian Keefer.

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Lark reported that the Sewer Authority is looking into making repairs on Orange Street.

The meeting with the Sewer Authority and PAWC is set for tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Department Report

Mr. Fisher reported that the new truck has arrived.

The crew has spread millings on the driveway behind the garage.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane reported on the Code Enforcement Office activity for February. He recommended that the Borough adopt the Building Construction Code ordinance.

Mr. Wolfe moved to begin the process for adopting the Uniform Construction Code. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the first reading of this ordinance would be in April; the second reading would be in May, to go into effect June 1, 2004.

Mr. Ruane stated that a property owner at 555 Susquehanna Road has requested permission to place a stone driveway in front of his garage. There is a driveway that extends to the garage doors, which is at the end of the garage, instead of in the front. Mr. Ditton stated that a property owner on King Street parks in his front yard. Discussion. According to the Borough ordinance, cars may not be parked in front yards. Mr. Martin agreed that it would be a violation according to the ordinance. Council requested that anyone who is not in compliance with this ordinance be cited. Mr. Martin suggested that the issue be discussed in Executive Session.

Parks and Recreation

No report.

Executive Session

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 8:18 p.m. Litigation and personnel issues were discussed.

Committee Reports

Finance

Bond Issue

Mr. Ditton suggested that the Borough put a referendum on the November ballot to get the voters' approval to obtain funding to repair the Borough streets. Council discussed the possible types of funding and whether or not a referendum would be advisable. Mr. Wolfe asked what the council would need to do to initiate a referendum. Mr. Martin will obtain more information for the council.

Transference of Funds

The new truck has arrived. The Finance Committee budgeted to borrow \$30,000 of the \$49,297 total price of the truck. The remaining \$19,297 is to come from the General Fund. Until more tax money is received, it was suggested that \$4,297 be transferred from the General Contingency fund and \$15,000 be transferred from the UDAG fund to pay for the truck. Mr. Troxell moved to transfer the money from the UDAG and General Contingency funds. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Personnel

Grant Writer

Mrs. Groninger stated that the Personnel Committee would like to pursue the hiring of a Grant Writer. She moved that the Borough look into hiring a Grant Writer with the compensation to come from the Administrative fee in the grant.

Mr. Wolfe moved to advertise for a Grant Writer. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton stated that some of the grants have an Administrative Fee based on a percentage of the grant. He feels that a cap should be put on the compensation. It was agreed to defer to the Finance Committee to determine how to compensate this position. No vote was conducted.

Training (welding) for Borough Crew – The topic was tabled because Mr. Carl is absent.

Property

Mr. Straub made a motion to join the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) at a fee of \$70.00. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked if the recycling committee has met and provided information to Mr. Straub. Mr. Straub replied that at this time, no meetings have been held by the group, but Mr. Straub has obtained some information and plans to hold a meeting soon. He added that Tom Wandishin has the group's books. Mrs. Groninger stated that the council would like to know if the volunteer organizations have received money for their work last year. Mr. Wolfe stated that he feels that Mr. Straub is confident that there is adequate interest in continuing the Recycling Organization and a good group of people who are willing to do the work, even if they do not have officers. Mrs. Groninger asked if Mr. Straub thought the Kiwanis Club would be in charge of the Recycling Program. He felt that the group would be interested. Mrs. Groninger added that the Kiwanis Club had supported the swimming pool with their money from recycling. Mr. Wolfe called for a roll call vote on the motion to join PROP. Mr. Troxell, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Wolfe and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 4-2.

Second Street Community Center

Mr. Straub stated that the committee met last evening. Estimates were obtained from T-Ross Brothers to renovate the gym (\$240,000) and construct an addition for bathrooms and a handicapped access (\$240,000). This includes everything, equipment and heating system. The committee is meeting on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. to inspect the building. They wish to see if it would be feasible to use the bathroom facilities that are located in the new part of the building instead of building an addition. Mr. Straub stated that the committee is also considering obtaining prices for rubber roofs for the two wings of the structure.

Mr. Straub moved to accept the proposal of \$20,734 from Tuscarora Wayne Insurance for the settlement for the fire damage at the Second Street building. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 5-1.

Public Safety

The committee will hold a meeting on March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. A representative from D.C.E.D. will be present to discuss the Fire Board and state and federal requirements for volunteer firefighters.

Streets

No report.

Old Business

1. Posting Signs on Designated Streets

Mr. Wolfe stated that this topic was discussed at the work session. Signs can be posted on designated streets prohibiting truck parking. It is not necessary to post all streets. Mayor Brosius asked if the Borough could send a letter to a violator, stating that an ordinance is being broken and asking him not to park his truck on the Borough streets. Sgt. Kriner stated that although an ordinance had been enacted, the streets must be posted for vehicle code violations in order for the ordinance to be enforced. The Mayor discussed the situation where an electrical cord has been run from a property to a truck. Sgt. Kriner stated that warnings have been given and if it happens again, the offender will be cited as a crimes code violation, not a vehicle code violation. The Street Committee will determine where the signs are to be posted.

2. Liens on properties

Mr. Troxell asked if liens were filed on two Borough properties. Mr. Martin said the liens had been filed and he will check on their status at the courthouse. Bills have been sent to a property owner of two properties in the Borough for snow removal done by the Borough Crew. Mrs. Groninger moved to put liens on the properties if the bills are not paid within two weeks of the billing date. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the minutes of January 20 and February 3, 2004. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Shaffer moved to pay the bills, including the PennVest payment, the SUN Bank loan payment and the Solicitor's monthly retainer. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Council discussed establishing an Ordinance Committee. Mr. Wolfe appointed Mr. Ditton Chairman and Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Troxell to the committee. Discussion continued and it was determined not to establish the committee at this time.
4. A correspondence has been received from Ruth A. Moraski of The Zigmund Co., Ltd. regarding the Borough's insurance. Ms. Moraski is an insurance consultant. She will attend the Work Session to make a presentation to council.
5. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to pay for ten subscriptions of the Borough News. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton,

Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Troxell voted nay. Motion passed 5-1.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
April 6, 2004, 7:00 PM**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Clifford Kriner, Police Department; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

There were twenty visitors present who introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Judy Eldridge, a part-time resident of Northumberland, stated that she and her husband recently received a citation for failure to remove snow. At the time, they were in Florida. However, they do employ two people to clear their walks. Ms. Eldridge stated that they attended a hearing with the District Justice and the case was dismissed. She requested that in the future, they be contacted before a citation is issued if there is a problem. Mr. Ditton stated that they should ask a neighbor to inform them if the snow is not cleared. Mr. Shaffer stated that the police department issued citations on the direction of council because complaints were received. He added that the Borough cannot be responsible for contacting everyone who may be out of town during snowstorms.

Ms. Patty Young voiced her concern about the charges for the use of the King Street Park. Her church requested permission to hold a sunrise service in the park and was told that the charge would be \$50.00. It was explained that the council had established a fee for the use of the park because additional work is created for the street crew.

Ms. Young stated that she heard that the council is hiring an Insurance Consultant for \$3,500. She asked why the council doesn't ask insurance agents who live in the Borough to review the insurances. The council will vote later in the meeting on whether or not to hire the consulting firm.

Mrs. Pat Propst thanked the council for the time that they donate to serve on council. She asked why the name of the pool was changed from the Liberty Pool to Liberty Splashland. Mr. Wolfe explained that the change was made two years ago through a contest.

She stated that the Kiwanis had been informed that no taxes would be spent for the proposed water park. Mr. Carl explained that no tax money has been spent for any of the items that are on the design for the water park. Tax money has been used for pool repairs and upkeep. The shallow end of the pool needs sandblasted. The dump tower was built before the name was changed to Liberty Splashland. Money for that was obtained through the Anselmo fund, the Haunted House fundraisers, and material and labor were donated. Other tax money was used to purchase chaise lounges. Ms. Propst stated that she is not in favor because the pool is only operable three months out of the year. Mr. Carl explained that a town in Montana has installed a flow rider and a lazy river. Their season is shorter and the waterpark there is making a profit.

Ms. Ruth Ford stated that she would like to have more emphasis placed on the Second Street Community Center and that the pool plans are competing with the Second Street plans. She feels that more activities would be available year round at a community center and the pool would still only be open three months.

Mrs. Groninger stated that the recreation tax is 1.5 mills. The amount of tax money generated by one mill is \$13,000. She is in favor of increasing this tax to establish a contingency fund for emergency repairs at the pool and for matching funds for grants for Second Street renovations. Mrs. Groninger would like the council to increase the recreation tax so money is available for the pool and other recreational endeavors.

Presentation from Pennsylvania American Water Company

Mr. Wolfe stated that this presentation is for the council to vote whether or not to approve a study of the Sewer Authority to be conducted by the Pennsylvania American Water Company. He added that this does not mean that the council is planning to sell the authority.

Mr. Ted Reed provided hard copies of a power point presentation that was made to the council at their last work session. He repeated that the company's request is for the council to approve the study. If the study is approved, the company will provide the Borough with an analysis and the fair market value of the Sewer Authority. The study would take approximately three months.

Mr. Reed made the following points:

- The Borough receives cash at the time of closing.
- The Borough keeps all cash and cash reserves, including capital reserves, which the authority now owns.
- The Borough keeps all bond reserve funds.
- The Borough keeps all accounts receivable.
- The Borough is responsible for paying all outstanding bonds and debts, and all accounts payable as of the date of sale.
- The Borough is relieved of all regulatory responsibilities.

Mr. Reed stated that the company would want the current employees to remain because they know the system and live in the community. He explained that due to their size, the company has volume purchasing power.

The American Water Company has received state and national awards for their business policies.

Mr. Reed requested that the council determine whether to permit the Pennsylvania American Water Company to conduct the study. He reviewed the items that would be required of the Sewer Authority to conduct the study. Once the study is completed, the company will make an offer. At that time, the council would determine whether to accept, decline, or negotiate the offer.

Ms. Ruth Ford stated that predictions for the future are that water is going to become one of the most valuable assets. She voiced concern that a foreign country would have control of the Borough's water. Mr. Reed stated that under the laws of the United States, the EPA rules; another country does not have absolute power. The PUC must approve increases in the rates.

Mrs. Ford asked why the company should acquire this system. Mr. Reed replied that the company has identified 44 facilities that are conducive to their operation and the Borough's Sewer Authority is one of those facilities. The PUC generally sets their rates that restrict their return to a 10% profit.

Mr. Pat McPherson stated that he is not in favor of "giving away the farm". Mr. Reed asked how much money the Borough receives from the Sewer Authority each year. The reply was zero. Mr. Reed stated that the Borough should not "give away the farm" but should negotiate a fair price for the property. Mr. Reed stated that the council would have the responsibility to decide how to use the money received from the sale. Coatesville has established a trust fund with the money they derived from the sale of their water and sewer authorities. Only the interest is being used. Additionally, Coatesville's sewer system rates have not increased since 1993.

Mrs. Propst asked if in the cost analysis, the company would inform the council of the amount that would come back to the borough in taxes.

Mr. Reed replied that the company would inform the Borough of what the full offer is, what the rates would be, and would provide the Borough with a complete analysis of capital needs which the borough can use. An analysis of capital needs would probably cost over \$20,000 for an engineering study. This analysis will be done by the water company for free.

Mr. Troxell moved to approve the American Water Company's study of the Sewer Authority, with full cooperation of the Borough and the Sewer Authority. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Another representative of the water company, Mr. Bob Schnitzler, was asked if the new water tank that is planned for the township would be an emergency tank or would always

be in operation. Mr. Schnitzler explained that the tank is being constructed to alleviate the problems of low water pressure during a power outage. Mr. Schnitzler explained that the tank would not increase the water pressure, but with the addition of the tank, the water pressure on the hill will be maintained and not decrease during a power outage.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius stated that the History Day Committee has requested permission to block off streets for History Day, as had been done last year. Mr. Wolfe so moved. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Bud Reader has resigned from the Fire Police. A letter of appreciation for his years of service will be sent to him.

The Mayor stated that the council has received the police report for the past month. Mr. Ditton asked why the Borough's police calls are not published in the Daily Item. Sgt. Kriner stated that if this is what the council wishes, it will be done. Mr. Wolfe moved to begin publishing a monthly summary of police calls in the Daily Item, beginning the end of April. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius explained that the police have an inventory of unclaimed bicycles that they would like to donate for a church group to send to Mexico. Mr. Wolfe moved to do so. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Shaffer voted nay. Motion passed 5-2.

Ten new parking meters have been received. They will replace those that are inoperable.

Mayor Brosius received a correspondence from the Mayor of Sunbury, Dave Persing, requesting the Borough's support for a DCED study of a joint police force. Mr. Wolfe recommended that Mayor Persing be invited to the council's work session on April 20th.

Second Street Committee

Mr. Brian Ginck, a member of the committee, stated that at the meeting last evening a goal was set to get the gym opened. They are proposing that ServPro be hired to conduct some of the cleaning in the building. The cost to clean under the stage and in the two stairwells would be approximately \$5,730.

Mr. Troxell asked what would be used for bathroom facilities when the gym is opened. Mr. Straub replied that the bathrooms in the newer wing could be used.

Mrs. Groninger moved to make up to \$6,500 available from the insurance claim for cleaning the building. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Troxell voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Executive Session

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. for an Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 8:50 p.m. Litigation issues were discussed.

Public Works Department Report

The council and mayor offered congratulations to Nate Fisher and his family on the recent birth of his son.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane reported on his activity for the month of March 2004.

Mr. Ditton asked the status of the parking in the front yard on Susquehanna Street. Mr. Ruane stated that the cars are no longer parked in the front yard. Mr. Ditton stated that his neighbor still parks in his front yard.

Parks and Recreation

Pineknottter Park

Mr. Wolfe stated that Brian Luden called him and suggested that the Little League would pay the difference for the fence and concrete over the \$5,000 Anselmo donation. He requested that the Borough forward the \$5,000 to the company when the invoice is received.

Mr. Carl stated that he, Mike Daddario, and Doug Palkendo have been the only committee members who have attended the meetings. Since the committee has no actual protocol, he would like to send letters to all the committee members to determine if they are still interested in serving on the committee. Council approved.

Mr. Carl stated that the Red Cross has requested permission to use the pool for the Learn-to-Swim program. He added that the pool does not charge for this program; however it may be necessary to consider a fee in the future because the pool has additional expenses due to the program. They include use of the chemicals, the facility, electricity, etc. Mr. Carl suggested that in the future, money should be budgeted to cover these expenses or the Red Cross should be asked to contribute a nominal fee toward these expenses. The Red Cross does receive money through the United Way from the Anselmo Trust for the Learn-to-Swim program.

Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the use of the pool for the Learn-to-Swim program from June 14 to July 2, 2004. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Carl stated that he submitted a letter to the council regarding the project at the pool. He asked if the council is still in support of the project and if he may talk to public officials at any level to try to obtain funding for the pool project.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council should decide what projects are most important as well as most “do-able”. He does not feel that the projects should be the pool versus the Second Street renovation. Mr. Carl explained that the council does not know the actual economics on the Second Street project. Studies have been completed for the pool project, which show this to be a viable goal.

Mayor Brosius stated that Mr. Redington has provided estimates of the costs for a community center and conducted a survey during the Haunted House. Mr. Shaffer replied that a professional firm conducted the feasibility study for the pool project and determined

that the project is feasible, while no similar study has been completed for the Second Street project to determine that the community center would be self-sustaining.

Mayor Brosius asked Mr. Shaffer if he supports moving the police station to the Second Street building. Mr. Shaffer replied that he supports moving all the municipal offices to the building, not just the police department. He feels that by housing all the offices there, the current Borough Building could be sold or rented.

Mrs. Groninger said that both projects are worthwhile and are wonderful dreams, dreams that require a lot of work. If the grant money is not forthcoming, the council will need to look real hard, but she is encouraged that volunteers are willing to work for the projects. Mrs. Groninger would like to give the Second Street committee more time to obtaining funding.

Mr. Carl stated that he would like to know what the projected expenses are at the Second Street building and if the community center would be self-sustaining.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he would like the council to set a deadline and if the funding is not received by that time, the council should determine to sell the property. Mr. Wolfe added that he does not know why council is putting one project against the other.

Mrs. Groninger replied that she is not. She also mentioned that Mr. Redington did at one time provide cost estimates.

Mr. Wolfe said that the pool is being used, whereas the Second Street building has been sitting vacant for four years. He added that it is excellent if the committee is planning on cleaning the gym so it may be used. And three years ago, various groups were interested in using the gym.

Mr. Troxell stated that both projects have problems. The pool does not have sufficient parking for the projected attendance. He thinks that the Second Street building is going to cost more to renovate than to tear down and build new. He also does not feel that the Borough can afford the operational expenses once it is done. Mayor Brosius replied that reputable contractors had told the Borough that this is a sound structure. Mr. Troxell stated that the building is sound, but the windows should be replaced; and there is no insulation in the sidewalls. Mr. Carl added that before the project is continued, the council needs to have hard-fact operational expense numbers.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he does not know what the council's commitment is for either project. Just like the ballfield at Pineknott Park, the Borough is going to pay for the lights this year.

Mrs. Groninger stated that she feels that Mr. Carl has a good point about obtaining facts and figures for the expenses. She added that she would hate to give up on something now that there is hope among the volunteers and in obtaining the state grant. Mayor Brosius added that according to Representative Phillips, who was very optimistic, this is the same grant funding as the money for Sunbury's amphitheatre.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council could entertain a motion that if the state funding is not received by the end of September, the council should look to the future of Second Street.

Mr. Straub said that the Northumberland/ Point Township Senior Action Center is interested in moving the center to the building. That would provide a monthly income. The Northumberland Christian School may be interested in utilizing the gymnasium for classes and sports activities. They currently bus students to Winfield every day for gym classes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that if the Borough had a grant writer, perhaps funding could be obtained for these projects. He added that new equipment is purchased for the pool as funding is received.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion that if the Borough does not receive the approved grant funds in the amount of \$750,000 or greater by September 30, 2004, the council moves on the sale of the Second Street School property. Mr. Carl seconded the motion. Mayor Brosius requested that the amount of the grant be verified. Mr. Shaffer amended his motion to be state the actual amount of the approved grant. Mr. Carl amended his second. [The actual amount is \$741,000.] Mrs. Groninger stated that she feels the motion is unfair. Roll call vote: Mr. Carl, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Straub voted nay. Motion passed 4-3.

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Cindy Lark reported that she spoke with Mr. Reed, from the American Water Company, and she will be working to provide him with the information he requires to conduct the study of the Sewer Authority.

Committee Reports

Finance

The Borough received a final accounting from PennVest about the loan for the Stormwater Project. The total amount borrowed is \$998,983.07.

Personnel

- Training (welding) for the Borough Crew is planned for this month at a fee of \$300.

Mr. Carl left the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

- Mary Walden has applied for the Substitute School Crossing Guard position. A motion to hire Mary Walden for this position was made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Shaffer. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Straub obtained information concerning a grant writer who works for Danville. Council discussed options and Mr. Straub volunteered to contact Danville and SEDA-COG for additional information.

Property

Mr. Straub stated that Helen Martin has provided the council with a Market Analysis of the Jolly Hollow property. She estimates that the price for the two parcels is combined \$30,000 to \$35,000. The topic was tabled and is to be discussed at a Property Committee meeting.

Public Safety

Mr. Shaffer, chairman of the Public Safety committee, and Mayor Brosius met to with representatives of the fire department and DCED representative Dean Fernsler. Mr. Fernsler gave a presentation on forming an Emergency Services Task Force. This group would initially be comprised representatives of the fire department, a council member, and citizens at-large. Mr. Shaffer added that both fire departments were present at the meeting and agreed with forming a task force. The Fire Board will remain in place and continue to function. The task force is to have a mission statement and will have a set period of time to formulate recommendations to the council. Mr. Fernsler had explained that because the majority of the members of this task force are citizens at-large, it has a community-based interest, and if citizens are making decisions about what they feel the impact is on the community, council should be more considerate of those recommendations. One citizen will be recommended by each fire company and two citizens are recommended by Borough Council. The citizens may not have fire department or borough council ties. Mr. Shaffer added that the citizens could be owners of a borough business or residents of the Borough or Point Township, since the township is in the immediate response area.

Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Resolution B- 2004 which creates an Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Public Safety Committee is scheduled to meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. [Note: The meeting was cancelled due to Election Day.]

Streets

Don Free, from PennDOT's Municipal Services Unit, met with Mr. Troxell and Mr. Ruane. They looked at Fifth Street, King Street, Sheetz Avenue between Water and Priestley Avenue, and the berms on the hill. Mr. Free estimated that the cost of paving of these streets and berms would be about \$77,000. Mr. Troxell would like to add the paving of Fifth Street from Prince Street to Strawbridge. Mrs. Groninger asked if storm water work is planned. Mr. Troxell stated that new pipe should be installed at Third and King Streets. Mr. Troxell added that Don Free said that the Borough doesn't receive Liquid Fuels money for alleys, but the Borough may spend Liquid Fuels money to pave alleys. Mr. Troxell recommended that the council should consider paving the berms in the Branchview Development when the new street is paved. Mrs. Groninger stated that Don Free had told the committee that he did not recommend that the borough pave the berms on the hill. She added that the residents from the hill had asked the council if they could pave their own berms. Mr. Ditton agreed that the Borough shouldn't pave the berms.

Mr. Wolfe moved to put the above recommended street projects out for bid. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell,

and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 4-2.

Mrs. Groninger left the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Mr. Straub made a motion to extend the meeting until 10:15. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mr. Shaffer voted nay. Motion passed 3-2.

Old Business

1. Liens on properties – Mr. Martin is checking on the liens that have been filed on several properties.
2. Insurance Review
Mr. Wolfe requested a motion to hire Moraski Consultants for a review of the Borough's insurances. No motion was offered.
3. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-1. This is the first reading of Ordinance 2004-1, which adopts the Uniform Construction Code. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Mr. Wolfe stated that the next issue of the newsletter is almost completed.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of March 2, 2004. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Troxell moved to pay the bills. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bill to be paid from the General Fund total \$34,392.11; Liquid Fuels bills total \$884.44; Liberty Pool bills total \$31.49; and bills to be paid from the Parking Meter account total \$1,034.28.
3. Fire Police request. Mr. Shaffer stated that Mr. Gottshall requested that the topic be tabled if he was not in attendance. Mr. Wolfe tabled the topic.
4. Mr. Ditton asked that the traffic light at Water and Duke Streets be repaired. Beck Electric has been contacted and will be called again.

Mr. Shaffer left the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

5. Mr. Ditton remarked on a solicitation letter that was sent to Borough residents from the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company. He objected to some of the comments in the letter. Mr. Ditton stated that the letter says that the Borough is decreasing the fire department's funding over the past several years. Mr. Ditton added that there has been no decrease in funding from the Borough Council; and insurances and fire hydrant rentals have not decreased. And the letter does not mention that the council was providing the company with \$22,000 funding in 2002, but could not give the group the money because they will not produce a requested audit. Mr. Wolfe stated that the fire company had over two years to provide the Borough with an audit. Mr. Wolfe added that, although the council had not voted, it was council's intention to continue with providing the company with

approximately \$22,000 per year until the new fire truck is paid off; but not without an audit. Mr. Ditton questioned what documentation the company provided to the leasing company in order to obtain the new fire truck.

6. Mayor Brosius asked for permission to apply to the state for the Elm Street program. She explained that through this five-year program, funding can be obtained for an area within a half mile of the downtown area. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the Mayor's request. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
May 4, 2004, 7:00 PM**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Greg Carl, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Greg Shaffer, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Clifford Kriner, Police Department; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

There were seven visitors present who introduced themselves.

Public Comment

1. Miss Amber Bender, a junior at Shikellamy High School, requested permission to close a portion of Priestley Avenue from Sheetz Avenue to Orange Street in order to hold a block party for her senior project. She added that the owner of the train station is willing to cooperate with the project. Dates for the block party were discussed. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Mr. Wolfe moved to approve blocking off the portion of Priestley Avenue from Sheetz Avenue to Orange Street on Saturday, August 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the block party. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe amended the motion to include a rain date of August 14th. Mr. Ditton amended the second. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the event be posted on the bulletin board in the park and Mr. Wolfe suggested that Ms. Bender provide an article for the summer newsletter.

2. Mr. Herb Gottshall, Fire Police, asked that the Borough permit the Fire Police to purchase a building in the Borough’s name. Mrs. Groninger asked how many members are active in the organization. Mr. Gottshall replied that currently there are six members of the Fire Police. They would like to have a capital campaign to purchase the lot and erect a building that would include at least a one-car garage and a meeting room. By putting the property in the Borough’s name, the property would be exempt from property taxes.

Mr. Gottshall stated that the group hopes to raise \$50,000 to \$60,000. They are looking at a property on Duke Street that has an existing garage.

Mrs. Groninger stated that the Property Committee was asked last year about a piece of land in the Borough. The only possible available land was in front of the Recycling Center. Mrs. Groninger asked if the group has a treasury and if they have fundraisers now. Mr. Gottshall replied that the group has a fundraiser every year at Pineknottter Days. The balance in their account is currently between three and four thousand dollars. Mr. Martin asked if the lot had been inspected or if it had ever housed a gas station. It is the site of a former residence. Mr. Martin suggested that the Property Committee should inspect the property before consenting to the purchase. The group could still begin raising the funds.

Mr. Straub moved to allow the Fire Police to conduct a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase property for a garage and meeting room. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Second Street Committee

Mr. Brian Ginck expressed the Second Street Committee's disappointment over the outcome of the last council meeting. After he and other members of the committee left the April 6, 2004 council meeting, the Second Street building was discussed again. He stated that the committee works for the council and asked if the council is still interested in having something done with the building.

Mr. Carl stated that he is not in favor of going ahead with the Second Street Community Center project unless he knows that the center can support itself.

Mr. Carl added that he was wrong at the last meeting for saying that people who were surveyed at the Haunted House did not want their tax dollars to go for the building. He added that the survey does not represent the cross-section of people who live in the Borough, but was mostly completed by people under age 40. He also said that the questionnaire was taken four years ago and did not specify how much or what type of tax increase may be proposed. Mr. Carl also said that it would be wonderful if the state releases the grant money to the Borough for the project. But other questions need to be answered such as whether the Borough will have enough revenues from the activities at the building to pay the utility and maintenance costs for the building.

Mr. Ginck replied that as the council was discussing the wish of the Fire Police to have a place to meet, he was thinking that room could be made at the Second Street building for this group.

Mr. Wolfe said that the vote was if the Borough does not get the money from the state, the \$741,000, by the end of September, the council would look at other uses for the property. He does not think that the majority of the council members are opposed to the project.

Mr. Ginck replied that the committee was delayed with their plans by the fire. Also, Mr. Redington retired and he was a driving force for the group.

The group has reorganized and is working toward a goal of opening the gym. They have discussed options to bring money into the building and feel that local groups may be interested in using the gym. Mr. Ginck said that at this point, he can't claim that the building will be self-sustaining. But, he would like to work together to get the project underway.

Mrs. Groninger stated that she would like to correct Mr. Wolfe by clarifying the motion that was made at the April council meeting. She said that Mr. Shaffer's motion was, "if the Borough does not receive the approved grant funds (\$741,000) by September 30, 2004, the council moves on the sale of the Second Street School property." The motion was not about other options for the building. Mr. Ginck added that it would be fair to have the motion amended to look at other options in September; however, he would hope that the building would not just be sold. He added that the committee works for the council and would be happy to meet with council to discuss the issues.

Mr. Straub stated that the Northumberland Christian School is being asked if they may be interested in renting the gymnasium if it is usable. Mr. Carl asked how the committee knows what amount to charge for rent since they do not know the cost of the operating expenses.

Mrs. Groninger read from the minutes of the April council meeting, pages 5, 6 and 7.

Mrs. Groninger added that some council members had been opposed to the purchase of the Second Street property from the beginning and she respects that position. However, she does not understand where the vote came from. She does not think that the letter written by Mr. Carl was asking for a vote on the sale of the Second Street School. Mr. Carl agreed that he was not. Mrs. Groninger feels that recreation is important to the community. The young people who are going to buy properties in the community want recreational facilities. She mentioned the popularity of the circus that was held in the unheated building last year. The committee now has a new life and she does not think that it is feasible to put a deadline on the funding. When Mr. Redington obtained other grant funding, it took months and months. Mrs. Groninger asked that the council amend the motion, time-wise, or rescind the motion, and reconsider the issue. Mr. Wolfe asked what timeframe Mrs. Groninger considers adequate. Mr. Wolfe said that his opinion is that Governor Rendell will not release money for this Borough because there are no votes for him, in two years, from this community. Mrs. Groninger replied that if Governor Rendell releases the money, he might get some good Republican votes.

Mrs. Groninger asked why the council would vote to give the committee money toward the clean-up of the building, if the intention was to sell the building.

Mrs. Groninger moved that the council offer the Second Street Committee \$25,000 to have a professional financial feasibility study done on the Second Street School. Mr. Wolfe asked if the money was requested at budget time last year. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mayor Brosius stated that she would like the council to bring these things to the committee and to the Property Committee, which is the correct way to have votes brought before the board. And if Mrs. Groninger would like the group to have \$25,000, maybe the committee would rather have the \$25,000 to spend for a ceiling in the gym. She added that the committee would enjoy the council's input at a Property Committee

meeting or a Second Street committee meeting before any vote is put before the council to sell the building. She would like a fair way of handling the issue which was not brought before either committee. After much deliberation on her part, Mrs. Groninger withdrew her motion and referred the issue to the Property and Second Street committees.

Mr. Carl moved to rescind the vote made at the last meeting, adding that he will remake the motion again to sell the property if, after September 30th, the Borough does not have the grant money. Mr. Shaffer stated that his motion was to “move on the sale”, which doesn’t mean the property is going to be sold, just that the sale of the property will be entertained. Mr. Shaffer stated that he voted to buy the property and he sat on the committee for it and that he offered several options, including ways of supporting the building, at least partially. He was in favor of moving the entire office complex to the Second Street building so that staff would be there during the day. Police protection would be there around the clock and someone would be in the building if a group wanted to use the gym. He said that he was pin-downed at the last meeting as to whether he supported the move of the Police Department to the building. He agrees that money is a pipedream coming from Governor Rendell. Although he was one of the original seven in favor of purchasing the property, he added that he has changed his mind about the building and will not vote to change or rescind his motion. Circumstances have dictated that council look at other options. The Borough is seeking other insurance for the building because the current policy will not be renewed. Mrs. Groninger stated that the insurer knew that the building was unoccupied. Mrs. Groninger seconded Mr. Carl’s motion. Ms. Cindy Lark stated that she would hope the council would hold a public meeting before deciding to sell the property. Let the public tell the council if they would be in favor of raising taxes to Mr. Carl replied that in order for the residents to know what they want, they should know what the costs would be. Mr. Troxell stated that the utilities may cost \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year for the entire building. This is based on the size of the building and the fact that the sidewalls have no insulation.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he feels that the goal of the motion was to put pressure on everyone involved, including the council, and that by taking the pressure off, the council may be here after September 30th in the same situation.

Roll call vote on Mr. Carl’s motion, to rescind the motion made at the last meeting. Mr. Straub, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted nay. Motion passed 4-3. Mr. Carl suggested that the committee should meet with the Governor.

Mrs. Groninger explained that the pool and Second Street projects are dependent on each other because the pool project, in the later phases, displaces the Kiwanis Building and the Borough Garage. So where will these, the Kiwanis and garage, go? Other land owned by the Borough includes the Second Street property, the recycling center, the Girl Scout House, and Jolly Hollow.

Mr. Ginck stated that the committee meets at least once a month. He questioned in what direction the council would like the committee to go and what the committee could provide them. Mr. Carl replied that he would like to see estimates of the costs of the utilities, heating and lighting. He feels that the income estimates will be the hard part to

calculate. Mr. Ginck explained that Mr. Redington estimated costs in the proposal that he put together and the committee will explore the costs of the utilities.

The committee has a work party scheduled for May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. and is requesting that the council provide the committee with \$500 for cleaning supplies and equipment rentals to clean up the gym. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Mr. Straub moved to allocate \$500 for the clean-up at the gym. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger stated that there should be restitution coming from the parents of the arsonists. Mr. Wolfe asked of the status of the criminal investigation. Sgt. Kriner stated that the individuals are under age 18 and the Borough will not be compensated for a long time. The arrests for criminal mischief and arson could not be made until the amount of the damage was provided by the insurance company. Charges are being filed.

Mayor's Report

- The dedication of the Veteran's Memorial will take place on May 29th at 2:00 p.m. at the Second Street end of the King Street Park. This memorial honors those from Northumberland and Point Township who have given their lives in war for this country. Representative Phillips will be the guest speaker.
- The Memorial Day Parade will be on May 31, 2004. The parade will form at 8:30 a.m. and move at 9:00 a.m.
- The monthly police report is in the council's packet.
- The police union has signed the contract which will be discussed under Personnel.
- On April 27, 2004, the mayor and Mr. Ditton met with representatives of Sunbury, Point Township, and DCED to discuss the regionalization of police services. The Mayor is requesting that the council vote on a Letter of Intent regarding the proposed study of a joint police force. There is also a questionnaire that is to be completed for the study.
- Ten new meters have been installed in front of the midrise. The meters that were removed from this location are replacing other meters that are inoperable.
- On May 6, 2004 at noon in front of the Borough Building, the Northumberland Ministerium will observe National Day of Prayer.
- History Day is scheduled for May 8th at the King Street Park and the Ramsey residence in Point Township. A shuttle bus service between the two locations will be available.
- The Improvement Committee has disbanded and presented a check to the Borough in the amount of \$1,685.79 to be used for the upkeep of the gazebo and the Santa House.

- Susquehanna University will again send students to provide a community service. The Second Street Committee will use them on Saturday, August 28, 2004, to help with a project at the building.
- Representative Belfanti has replied to the Mayor's letter requesting his assistance in obtaining funding for the Second Street building. Mayor Brosius read his letter, informing her that he has forwarded her letter to Representative Phillips with an offer to assist Representative Phillips in advancing the capital budget application for the Second Street building.
- Kyle Ashenfelder, an eleven year old, sent Mayor Brosius a letter stating his interest in the Second Street building. Mayor Brosius requested that the letter be included in the minutes:

“Dear Mayor Brosius,

Recently, I was able to attend a Borough Council meeting. First of all, I was very surprised at the amount of discussions during the meeting. The public comments were very interesting. One thing in particular I was interested in was the possible selling of the Second Street School. Unfortunately, I had to leave before you discussed this, but I read about the discussion in the newspaper. I remember the night when this building was damaged by a fire. That has been a big frustration for the past few years. But no matter what the situation, I think that we shouldn't sell this property. We could do many things with this building, such as, making it into a community center. We have so many opportunities with this building. This would be a great place for my friends and I to hang out after school. Over all, this was a great experience for me. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,
 Kyle Ashenfelder
 April 14, 2004”

Mayor Brosius explained that Kyle attended the council meeting for a merit badge. She responded to his letter and told him that she would share it with the council and the Second Street Committee. She added that Kyle is the future of our town.

Mr. Wolfe requested a motion to approve the Letter of Intent for DCED to study the possibility of a joint police force with Point Township and Sunbury. Mr. Ditton so moved. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton explained that the Borough has nothing to lose; there is no obligation. The DCED report will present the pros and cons of a regional police force and will be at no cost to the Borough. The study will be conducted two ways; one regional force including all the entities, and two regional forces, one on each side of the river. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Sewer Authority Report

- Ms. Cindy Lark reported that the bids have been opened for the repair to the sewer line on Orange Street from Third to Fifth Streets. They are currently checking on the contractor's references before awarding the bid.
- A new worker, Darrell McDowell, was hired Monday. Originally from the area, he worked for the city of Colorado Springs, so he is experienced in working for a municipality.
- Ms. Lark is working with Ted Reed to provide information for the water company study.
- Mr. Troxell requested that Ms. Lark explain how the \$1,000 tap fee is collected from the residents. Ms. Lark explained that if the authority continues with the Orange Street project, letters will be sent to the residents explaining the fee and an interest-free payment schedule. Currently, each resident is responsible for the sewer line from their house to the main. Once the new lines are installed, the Sewer Authority is then responsible for the line from the clean-out that is usually in the curb space to the main.
- Ms. Lark commented that the Authority appreciates Don Troxell's attendance at their meetings.

Public Works Department Report

Mr. Nate Fisher stated that quotes for a new tractor have been obtained. Mr. Fisher obtained a quote for the Kubota at a price of \$8,140 with the trade-in of the old Kubota. Mr. Straub has obtained other quotes from three different sources. Repairs for the old Kubota would cost \$5,000.

Mr. Wolfe stated that \$3,000 was budgeted for supplies for the Street Department and \$4,200 has been spent in four months. He added that the Borough does not currently have a contingency fund. Mr. Wolfe stated that the PennVest loan payments are less than originally budgeted since the Borough did not borrow the entire amount that was approved. But this amount is not enough to buy the tractor. Mr. Carl noted that to rent a mower for the season will cost several thousand dollars. He suggested a rent-to-own agreement.

Mr. Jim Buch suggested hiring an independent contractor to cut the grass, as was done previously.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he feels the crew should continue to rent the equipment because funds are not available to purchase one. He added that the Street Committee could look into outsourcing the work.

Mr. Troxell asked what should be done with the Kubota tractor that is at the garage. Mrs. Groninger stated that attachments were purchased for the Kubota. She thinks that the Kubota should either be repaired or replaced.

Mr. Straub said that when he was at John Deere, he was informed that they had dropped off prices at the garage for a zero-turning radius mower and a bobcat. Mr. Straub asked why a bobcat was priced. Mr. Carl stated for information. Mrs. Groninger said that the crew may use the bobcat that is at the Recycling Center. Not everyone was aware of this new information. It had been believed that items bought with recycling grant money could only be used for recycling.

Mr. Ditton asked if everyone attended the welding class and how it went. Mr. Fisher stated that everyone attended and it went well. Mr. Carl added that all the members of the crew were learning to weld and by the end of the week, enjoyed the class.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the activity of the Code Office for the month of April 2004.

Two subdivision plans were presented for council's approval.

Mr. Shaffer moved to approve a subdivision of Ruth Ford's property at 431 Front Street. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Shaffer moved to approve a subdivision of Brian Ginck's property at 381 Second Street. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Jim Buch explained that he owns a piece of ground between Route 11 and the Old Danville Highway, adjacent to Borough-owned property. He offered to eliminate the "road" that crosses the Borough property, going from Route 11 to the Old Danville Highway. Mr. Wolfe suggested tabling the issue for the street committee to review it. Mr. Buch replied that the work is being done now and he won't have the equipment there later if the issue is tabled. Council did not feel ready to eliminate the road without more study. They thanked Mr. Buch for the offer, but declined.

Mr. Ruane has presented the council with a letter of understanding from Light-Heigle & Associates to provide property inspections on commercial properties and as Mr. Ruane's backup for residential construction inspections. Mr. Martin stated that this contract is the same one that Light-Heigle uses throughout the valley. Mr. Troxell moved to accept Light-Heigle's proposal; Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton stated that other companies are also approaching the Borough to conduct inspections and he is not in favor of limiting the home owners to one company for inspections. Mr. Ditton added that the contract is for one year and the Borough does not have the right to terminate the contract during the contract year. The total liability of the company is the total compensation received at the time. He thinks the Borough should not enter into this type of contract until they've seen others from other companies. Mr. Martin stated that the COG has reviewed contracts from various companies and has selected Light-Heigle. He also stated that if the Borough "opts in", there must be an agreement with a qualified company to perform the inspections. Roll call vote. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Carl voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Ruane attended a seminar on road maintenance. He learned that millings must be graded, rolled, and sealed within six months of spreading them. The soil must be tested before millings may be stored.

PG Energy plans to replace the gas line on Orange Street from Front Street to Seventh Street this year. The company's year runs from July to June. Their representative told Mr. Ruane that the company would contribute money toward the paving of the street.

Mr. Ruane has been told that the property at 38 King Street is sold.

The township is considering taking over the maintenance of Cannery Road from PennDOT.

Dr. Ralph Cianflone plans to erect a memorial for 9-11 on Duke Street at Fourth Street.

Three fire extinguishers are missing from the Second Street School building since last month when the extinguishers were inspected.

Parks and Recreation

Pineknottter Park

Mr. Wolfe stated that there is one issue to address. The electrical conduit at the park was to have been encased in concrete. Mr. Shaffer asked who authorized the work to be done using other material. Bob Bauder, the engineer from Larson Design Group, Inc. told the Borough Secretary that Mike Daddario spoke with employees from Central Builders who made the recommendation to use the flowable fill since it would set faster than regular concrete and PPL uses this when they install underground conduit. However, because the conduit at Pineknottter Park is placed at 1-foot depth, this project's specifications are for a concrete encasement.

Mr. Bauder addressed a letter to the Borough, requesting that the council sign a waiver and indemnity provisions stipulating that Larson Design Group, Inc. not be held accountable for any claims, damages, liabilities or costs arising out of or in any way connected with the improper encasement of the conduits.

Mr. Shaffer made a motion that the park at the ballfield area will not receive any electrical power until the concrete is installed per the specs. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Carl spoke with Bob Bauder about posting signs along the entire length of the conduit, warning about the underground electricity. Mr. Carl stated that Mr. Bauder told him that there is no safety issue, unless someone digs up the conduit. Mayor Brosius asked if the concession stand has anything to do with the conduit. Mr. Carl replied that all the power comes from one main circuit panel. The electrical line to the concession stand is also connected through this conduit. Roll call vote. Mr. Shaffer and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion failed 2-5.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the council must stop endorsing the shortcuts that the volunteers are making, exposing the Borough to additional liability.

Mr. Wolfe offered to contact Bryan Luden about the problem. Mr. Carl suggested calling Mark Nogle also.

Mr. Ditton moved that the lights at the ballfield not be used until the specifications in the project plan are met. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wolfe stated that this measure is being taken for the safety of all participants.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council is in receipt of the April financial report.

Personnel

Police Contract

Mr. Wolfe provided some background. In the spring of 2003, the council and police began negotiations in good faith. Things became bogged down and they were headed for arbitration. The council hired an outside firm in Harrisburg to advise them. The contract as presented is a compromise, that was negotiated first by Mr. Wolfe, and then with the negotiating team of Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Troxell. He added that the contract is not perfect.

Mr. Wolfe explained the highlights of the police contract:

- The Chief of Police is no longer included in this contract.
- The contract is for three, not four, years.
- The pay increase is 2.5% each year for the course of the contract.
- There is no co-pay for health insurance.

Mr. Wolfe added that through the year-long negotiations, neither side got everything they wanted.

Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the contract. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe stated that the attorney hired by the Borough informed him that arbitration would result in a 4-6% pay increase. Mr. Ditton stated that when he first talked to the attorney, he was told arbitration would result in a 2-3% increase. Mayor Brosius noted that the contract refers to 8-hour shifts. She had been informed that the police were considering 12-hour shifts and asked how easy it would be to change the number of hours in a shift from 8 hours to 12 hours. Mr. Martin advised that this could be changed with an addendum. Mr. Wolfe stated that the police were not opposed to the 12-hour shift, but they were not in favor of putting it in the contract at this time. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Borough Secretary witnessed the signing of the contract by the police representatives. She replied that she did. Mayor Brosius questioned the number of officers who could be on vacation at the same time. She does not think it is possible to have more than one officer on vacation at a time. Part-time employees or overtime would be required. Mayor Brosius stated she thought a yearly physical was to be required under this contract. Mrs. Groninger added that Chief Redington had recommended that each officer be given an annual physical. Mr. Wolfe replied that the topic was discussed but not agreed to, adding that the Borough's attorney said that this is very difficult to include in contracts. Mayor Brosius added that the Borough would not wish to have someone working who is not physically able to work. Mrs. Groninger asked if the attorney from Reed Smith was present during the negotiation sessions. Mr. Wolfe replied that the attorney met with council members; but was not present for negotiations. He did, however, advise the negotiating committee on legal aspects and both the Borough's attorney and the police attorney have agreed that this is a legally-sound contract. Mrs. Groninger stated that she thought that the attorney would take an active part in the negotiations. She also would have liked to know exactly what "we gave" and what "they gave". Mr. Wolfe replied that the police wanted a 5% pay increase, initially; more longevity pay, and more for health care (reimbursement toward dental and eye care). Eye care and dental reimbursements increase from \$400 to \$450 per year, per family. Mr. Ditton stated that under this contract, the Borough may not change health insurance. Mr. Wolfe replied that the Borough may not provide a lesser plan, but the Borough may provide health insurance through a different carrier.

Roll call vote. Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Mrs. Groninger added that her vote is not a vote against our police officers, but the manner in which these negotiations went. It was one council member because the police union only wanted one of the council people to negotiate, so the negotiations were between two people. She has been asking for five months and picked up her contract last week. She also feels that it is illegal to give the officers a pay increase without the borough council voting on the pay increase. The motion was adopted 5-2.

Property

Mr. Straub stated that the April 27th Property Committee meeting was cancelled.

Mr. Straub questioned if the council really wants to sell the Jolly Hollow property or if they would want to establish a recreation area there. Helen Martin had provided the council with a market analysis of the property and a value of \$30,000 to \$35,000 for the two parcels that comprise Jolly Hollow. No action was taken.

The committee will meet the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Public Safety

Letters were sent to the Fire Companies requesting that they each nominate members for the Emergency Services Task Force. Each company is to nominate one primary representative and one alternate from their company and one member from the community at large. The names were requested for the May 25th Public Safety Committee meeting.

The office is also contacting people to serve on the committee.

Mayor Brosius asked if minutes of the Fire Board meetings have been received. None have been.

Streets

2004 Street Projects

Mr. Troxell stated that the millings that were spread on Penn Street need to be seal coated. The cost for this brings the total estimates for the street projects to more than the money available this year for paving. With the Liquid Fuels funding and the street tax, the total available is approximately \$130,000.

Mrs. Groninger met with Don Free last week to discuss the street bids. Mrs. Groninger does not feel that the berms on Madison and Jefferson Streets should be paved at this time. There is no erosion. Mr. Troxell stated that a problem exists on Madison Street. Mrs. Groninger replied that the men who came to the council to request that the berms be paved have already paved their own berms. Other residents in this area have grass and mailboxes in the right-of-way which would have to be moved in order to pave the berms. Mrs. Groninger also mentioned the "big driveway" off of Susquehanna Road that is not paved and experiences water runoff whenever it rains because the drain is not big enough. She feels that borough would be better served by installing a larger storm drain

at this location. She added that it will be necessary to rent a roller for the Penn Street project, in addition to the cost to seal the street.

Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the 2004-2005 street projects as stated, less the berms on the hill on Jefferson Street, plus the seal coat bid for Westway Street, for an estimated project total of \$131,000. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Mr. Ruane said that additional funding for pipe and concrete will be required because the bids specify that the Borough will provide these items. Roll call vote was taken on the motion. Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Shaffer voted aye; Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Straub voted nay. Motion failed 3-4.

Mr. Straub moved to approve the 2004-2005 street projects as stated, less the berms on the hill on Jefferson and Madison Streets, plus the seal coat bid for Westway Street. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Carl, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Shaffer, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Troxell voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Troxell moved to amend the present ordinance regarding new streets in the borough from a 20-foot cartway to a 32-foot cartway. Mr. Shaffer seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Old Business

1. Mr. Martin reported on the liens that have been placed on Borough properties. One lien has been placed on property owned by Linda Troutman for \$958.71 for nonpayment of services to the Borough. Other liens will be placed on properties owned by Banker Trust for \$1,510 and Barry Colescott, and others, for \$270. Mr. Ditton asked about the lien that was placed on the Herlinger property on Duke Street that was purchased by Amato's. Mr. Martin stated that the Borough has received no lien money on the property and he does not know why. The property was purchased at Sheriff Sale.

Mr. Carl left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

2. Mr. Shaffer moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-1 (Uniform Construction Code). Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. This is the second and final reading of this ordinance. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Grant Writing – Mr. Straub stated that he has not received an answer from SEDA-Cog regarding grant writing. He will try calling again.
4. Mr. Wolfe stated that the newsletter is at the publishers. It may not be in the mail before History Day on May 8th. The newsletter was given to the publisher on April 12th. If the newsletter is not distributed before History Day, Mr. Wolfe stated that the Borough may have to reimburse the advertisers. [Note: The newsletter was delivered to Borough residents on May 7th.] The office is looking into purchasing a mailing list to eliminate relying on the printer for the mailing labels.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Shaffer moved to approve the minutes of April 6, 2004. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

2. Mr. Shaffer moved to pay the bills. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$27,814.48. Bills to be paid from the General Contingency account total \$5,727.68 and the Liberty Pool bills total \$3,233.75.
3. SUN Home Health Services, Inc. requested the use of King Street Park for a Chicken BBQ & Bake Sale on August 7, 2004. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the use of the park; Mr. Straub seconded the motion. The park rental fee would apply. Discussion. Mayor Brosius stated that she feels the council should revisit the fees for the use of the park, adding that community-based groups should be exempt from paying the fee. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed 6-0.
4. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council has budgeted money for the library this year. He feels that the council should decide how the money is to be disbursed. Mrs. Groninger referenced a newspaper article from June 9, 2003. According to the article, the library's state funding was cut by 20%, which meant the funding was reduced by \$4,559. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Borough had budgeted \$6,500 for the library in the 2004 budget. Mrs. Groninger stated that she believes that the state gave back some of the funding to the library. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to release \$1,000 of the funding to the library and to review the finances periodically until the rest of the funding can be distributed. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe stated that, regardless of what the organization is, once the money is in the budget, he feels that it should be paid. Mr. Shaffer amended his motion, moving that the borough is to pay the library \$1,000 per month until the total amount is disbursed. Mr. Wolfe amended his second. Mr. Wolfe added that he does not think the amount of the funding should be changed because the state funding may have changed. Mr. Ditton stated that he believes that the money was budgeted with a proviso if the library did not get the money from the state. Mr. Shaffer withdrew his motion until it could be determined. Mr. Ditton added that he thinks some of the state funding has been reinstated.
5. Mr. Straub informed the council that three lights in the park do not work because the ballasts are bad and one light needs to be rewired. Mr. Troxell stated that new lights could be purchased for less than \$100. He will look into it.
6. Mayor Brosius requested that council disburse the \$1,000 contribution to the History Day Committee. Mr. Shaffer moved to do so. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
Council Meeting
June 1, 2004, 7:00 PM**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Clifford Kriner, Police Department; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The twelve guests present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Jimmy Neitz and Randy Yoxheimer, Point Township Supervisors, informed the council that the township wishes to take Eighth Street over, from Duke Street to Cannery Road. The township also plans to take over Cannery Road. PennDOT is agreeable to the arrangement. The Township is asking the Borough to approve the arrangement since half (one side) of the street is located in the Borough. Mr. Neitz stated that the state would pay the Borough the turnback fee of approximately \$500. The Borough would then turn the money over to the township for the maintenance. Mr. Yoxheimer added that if the Borough prefers, the Township would be willing to let the Borough maintain the street and keep the turnback money. Eighth Street and Cannery Road are considered State Route 1033, from Route 147 to Gibbons Road.

Mrs. Groninger questioned why the Borough would not want the state to maintain the road. She added that PennDOT does not perform stormwater maintenance in boroughs, but they do perform stormwater maintenance in the townships. Mr. Yoxheimer replied that the Township wants to take over Cannery Road and the State is agreeable, providing Eighth Street is also taken over. Mrs. Groninger stated that a problem was created when the Township eliminated parking on the Township side of the street.

Mr. Yoxheimer explained that because of the new development planned for Kapp Heights, the developer must address storm water issues. In order to make use of the holding basin, the Township will need to cut Cannery Road to install pipe. The State is not willing to cut the road to install the pipe, necessitating the Township’s solution to take over the road.

Mr. Wolfe tabled the topic until a discussion with PennDOT can be arranged.

Mr. Pat McPherson asked if the Borough plans to tar and chip Penn Street (Westway) this year. He does not feel that it is in shape to be done yet. He was informed that additional work, grading and rolling, is planned before the seal coat is applied.

Mr. Robin Bolig asked if utilities are held responsible to repair their street cuts that do not hold up. Mr. Troxell stated that the Borough has inspected street cuts in the past three years and the street cuts are in better shape. It is older street cuts that are not adequate.

Ms. Mary Haas, a resident on Vista Avenue stated that mud and dirt are crossing Vista Avenue from a dirt road. The rain and mud wash into her driveway during a storm. She is requesting that the Borough install a sewer drain on Vista Avenue to alleviate the problem. Mr. Wolfe requested that Mr. Troxell look at the situation. Mr. Troxell agreed to stop. Mr. Ruane informed the council that he had been to the property and recommended that when the Borough has paving material, the top of the driveway be built up to block off more of the water.

Bid Openings

Mr. Wolfe opened and announced the bids for the four projects planned for 2004:

1. Installation of Inlet Boxes/ Pipe Contract
Six bids were received for this project. The apparent low bidder is K & T Excavating, Inc. at the total price of \$11,420.00.
2. Curbing Contract
Five bids were received for this project. The apparent low bidder, at a total cost of \$21,200.00, is G. & M. Crawford, Inc.
3. Paving Contract
G & R Charles Excavating, LTD was the apparent low bidder for the paving project. The \$51,865.80 bid was the lowest of five bids.
4. Bit Prime Coat and Bit Seal Coat
Two bids were received for this project with American Paving Fabrics, Inc. being the apparent low bidder at a total bid of \$12,883.80.

Mr. Wolfe provided a grand total of all apparent low bids. The total is \$97,39.60.

Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the lowest bids, based upon qualifying the bids. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe announced a new procedure for giving the reports. They will be given at the work session, with action to be taken at the next Council Meeting. Mayor Brosius requested that her report be given during the regular Council Meeting. Mr. Wolfe agreed. The other reports will be provided at the work sessions.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius reported that History Day was a success and the Revitalization and History Day Committees thank the council for the financial support and thanked the Police, Fire Police, and Borough Crew for their work and cooperation.

The Last Man's Club provided the new monument in King Street Park, which was dedicated on May 29, 2004. Mayor Brosius thanked them for their work to secure this monument.

Clean-up at the Second Street School resulted in nine volunteers working to replace the burned section of the stage with plywood and cleaning up the playground area.

Kids Krafty Korner will commence on June 9 and run each Wednesday through July 14. This activity for children age 5 through 5th grade will be held at the Scout House from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each week.

The pool opens on June 3rd.

The Mayor's Report is on file in the Borough Office.

Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the council meeting for an Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Lark reported that the low bidder for the work was G.M. Crawford. The bid was awarded. Ms. Lark will inform Paul and Don of the date for the preconstruction meeting. The work should begin before the end of June and should take less time than last year.

Public Works Department Report – no report

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane reported on his activity for the month of May 2004. He attended a two-day seminar on storm water. He recommended that the borough's ordinance be amended to read, "best practices" because there are better ways to control storm water than retention basins.

Parks and Recreation

Pineknotted Park – Mark Nogle

Mr. Nogle read a letter to the council. The letter is included in the minutes. Little League would like to run all the regional junior and senior division ball games at the Pineknotted Park field. The games will run from June 26 to sometime in July. The lights are needed in order to play the games. Mr. Nogle is asking that the project be rectified so the games can be played at the Pineknotted Park field.

Mr. Ditton stated that he knows that the volunteers have done a great job. He has seen a tape that shows the work that was done.

Mayor Brosius stated that the opinion that was given concerning the volunteers was that of one person. She asked the price of the banners. Mr. Nogle stated that a 2-yr

contract is \$300.00. Additional rates are available. Mayor Brosius added that a ball game schedule is posted in the Borough Office.

The American Legion baseball team will start playing games at the field in June.

Mr. Wolfe explained that Mr. Ditton agreed to be the council's "point man" at the park.

Mrs. Groninger explained that the Borough Council did not have a "point person" prior to the last work session. Before he retired in December, Larry Redington was overseeing the project. She agreed that much of the cost at the park was necessary.

Mr. Straub added that the Borough crew covered the conduit because they believed it was ready to be covered. The letter from the engineer arrived after the conduit was covered. Mr. Straub suggested that if the teeth were taken off the bucket, the ground could be removed with the bucket.

Mr. Ditton moved provide \$3,000 to install the 4" thick slab of concrete, 6" wider than the current encasement of the conduit at Pineknott Park. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Finance Committee would determine where the money would come from. Mr. Straub added that \$5,000 has been received toward recycling and this income was not included in the 2004 budget. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Nogle asked who would scrape the dirt off the flowable fill. Mr. Fisher stated that he would do the work if someone would be there to watch and guide him.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Finance Committee meetings to prepare the 2005 budget would begin in July. He will develop a schedule.

Personnel

Mr. Wolfe announced that two council resignations have been received. The first, from Gregory Shaffer is effective today, June 1, 2004. The second, from Gregory Carl, is effective on June 28th, so that one will be addressed at the next council meeting.

Mrs. Groninger moved to accept the resignation from Gregory S. Shaffer, with a letter of appreciation for his service to the community. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that applications for the vacant council seat are available in the Borough Office and online. They will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on June 28, and acted upon at the June 29 council meeting. Although Mr. Shaffer's term would not have expired until December 31, 2007, the term for this appointment ends on December 31, 2005 and a 2-year term will be on the 2005 ballot.

Mrs. Groninger announced that the council must advertise to hire a part-time code officer to work with Paul Ruane. Mr. Wolfe moved to advertise the position, which will pay \$9.00 per hour. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Personnel Committee met with Nate Fisher, the Street Supervisor. He assured them that all is running well. The committee stated that no trash or trimmings are to be picked up by the Borough Street Crew because the Borough does not have the facilities for yard waste. The crew may pick up tree branches that fall in the street or curb line.

The committee discussed the hiring of a police chief. No action has been taken.

Property

A free seminar regarding grant funding is available in July. Mr. Straub would like to attend. Approval was given.

Public Safety

Emergency Services Task Force Appointments

The task force will be comprised of three nominees from each fire company, one member and one alternate from the fire company, and one citizen who is not connected with the fire company. The council will appoint two residents and a member of the council to serve on the committee. The #1's have nominated Robin Bolig as their representative and Robert McPherson as the alternate. They have not provided the council with a name of a non-department member as yet. The Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company has not provided the names of any nominees to the council as yet.

Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint the #1's nominees, Robin Bolig, member and Robert McPherson, alternate, and council nominees Don Frye, and Frank Wetzel to the Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Troxell moved to nominate the following candidates as members from the #1's to the Fire Board: Robin Bolig, Michael McPherson, and Robert McPherson. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company has not yet submitted names for the Fire Board.

Mr. Martin advised that the Hookies should be requested to submit their nominations for the June 29 council meeting.

Mayor Brosius reminded the council that the next Fire Board meeting is scheduled for June 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Streets

Mayor Brosius asked how often the street cleaner is being run. Mr. Troxell stated that it is being run every other week. The Mayor requested that the street sweeper be run weekly for two reasons. There have been a number of storms and leaves and limbs are

down, and the storm drains are clogged. Mr. Troxell stated that the sweeper should be run the week after a storm.

Old Business

1. Fees for Inspections under the Uniform Construction Code

Mr. Martin stated that Act 45 seems to imply that the borough may charge for permits and inspections but he wishes to get additional parameters on the issue. He will report back to the council when he determines what fees are allowed.

Mr. Ruane stated that since the fees cannot be determined, the effective date for the UCC should be changed from June 1, 2004.

Mr. Wolfe moved that the Uniform Construction Code takes affect on July 1, 2004. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

2. Grant Writing

Mr. Straub stated that three websites for grant writing are available. Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Straub will pursue them.

Mayor Brosius requested that the council approve pursuing Main Street grant status. Mrs. Groninger so moved. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. The council had previously approved the Elm Street grant. Roll call vote – All ayes.

3. Mr. Straub asked what was done for the lights in the park. Mr. Troxell stated that he believes that the lights have been fixed.
4. Mr. Wolfe stated that the library has been contacted and they do not need the money that is in the 2004 budget at this time.
5. Mayor Brosius requested that the council review the policy on renting King Street Park. Mr. Wolfe stated that the prices are set for 2004 and can be amended for 2005. The Finance Committee is the committee to amend these fees.
6. Mayor Brosius would like to send letters to owners of large trucks informing them that they are in violation of the ordinance and the vehicles are not to be parked on Borough streets. She asked if signs could be posted at all the entrances to the Borough. Mr. Martin will have an answer for the next meeting.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 2004. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. One sentence on page 12 was not completed. The sentence should read, “The office is looking into purchasing a mailing list to eliminate relying on the printer for the mailing labels.” The motion includes the amendment to the minutes. Roll call vote – All ayes. The minutes were approved as amended.

2. Mrs. Groninger moved to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$27,440.51 and the Liberty Splashland bills total \$3,268.33.
3. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve a request for a handicapped parking space from Neal Wolfe (no relation) at 601A Queen Street. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mayor Brosius stated that there is one handicapped parking space in that block and that the council had denied a request for another one in that block a year or two ago. Mrs. Groninger stated that it is a known fact that Lewisburg gives out no handicapped parking spaces. She feels terrible whenever the council refuses to give out a handicapped space. But she thinks that some handicapped spaces that were given out early on are no longer needed. Roll call vote – All nays. Motion defeated.
4. The Housing Authority has provided an audit to the Borough. Council requested that Mike Balducci be invited to the next council meeting.
5. Mr. Ruane explained that a resident of King Street has requested permission to install off-street parking beside his house. Mr. Ruane added that new curbing would be installed this summer and requested that the council approve providing a curb cut for the driveway when the new curb is poured. Council agreed that the curb cut could be installed by the contractor as long as the permit is for vehicles to be parked beside, not in front of, the house. The property owner is to pay for the permit.
6. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to change the July 6 council meeting to June 29 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. The change is due to Pineknott Days. Roll call vote – All ayes.
7. The council will be manning the hot dog wagon on Tuesday, July 6, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.
8. Mr. Ruane asked if the Borough would like the millings when the construction work is done. Council decided that it does not want the millings.

Mr. Troxell moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
June 15, 2004

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Darvin Straub, Donald Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Gretchen Brosius, Clifford “Butch” Kriner, Police Sergeant; Paul Ruane, Code Officer; Nathan Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary

Public Comment

- Ms. Mary Haas presented a problem she is having with her driveway and is requesting that the borough install a drain in the street before the driveway. The council determined that the driveway was installed after the street was constructed. Mr. Ruane will visit the property to see if additional paving material could be placed along the top of the driveway to divert the water down the street.

- Mr. Kenneth Berge, a representative with the Conklin Company, presented information about his products for vehicle maintenance. He conducts oil analysis and presents ways for the Street Department to reduce the costs of maintaining the vehicles and equipment. He added that the products also improve equipment performance and useful life. He provided the council with literature on the products.

Borough Insurances

Mr. Robert Naginey, of Pfeiffer-Naginey Insurance Agency, presented the council with information regarding a new insurance policy for the Second Street building. Mr. Naginey explained that few insurance companies wish to insure vacant buildings. Tuscarora Wayne was one of those. But after the Borough’s claim resulting from the fire in the building last July, the company has refused to renew the coverage.

Tuscarora Wayne is admitted and is subject to regulation by the Commonwealth. In the event of insolvency of the insurer, the Pennsylvania Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association pays the losses. Another company, Essex Insurance Company, is willing to insure the property. This company is not covered by the Pennsylvania Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association, has submitted a quote of \$3,557.35, without Terrorism Coverage, for the current year. The annual premium, with Terrorism Coverage, is \$3,711.85. This company has been in business for many years.

Mr. Naginey does not recommend obtaining the Terrorism Coverage because in order to collect on a terrorism claim, someone must be acting on behalf of a foreign government or cause and their attempt must be to influence the United States government. The act must be certified by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Naginey explained the difference between flat insurance and co-insurance. Flat insurance ignores the total value of the building. Instead, the coverage is for a maximum \$208,000. This is same as the policy with Tuscarora. Mr. Naginey stated that depreciation would be applied to each item, meaning that very little depreciation would be applied to the new roof.

Mrs. Groninger moved to accept the coverage with Essex Insurance Company without the Terrorism Coverage. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton questioned to whom the Surplus Line Tax is paid. Mr. Naginey will provide the Borough Office with an answer. [Note: It was determined that the Borough is exempt from paying this tax, resulting in a \$97.35 savings.] Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Naginey informed the council that the bulk of the Borough's insurance is through EMC. Keystone Insurance Group, whose headquarters is on Route 11, created this insurance which is endorsed by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs and is an excellent program.

Mr. Straub asked if the insurance company has conducted inspections of the Borough properties for liability issues. Mr. Naginey stated that EMC Insurance Company had reviewed the properties a few years ago. He added that it is the insurance carrier's obligation to inspect the properties.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius reported that a police departmental meeting was held on June 10. Topics discussed were improvements to the police office and the accreditation process. The police have 2 light bars that they would like to sell. The police will again be helping with the Soap Box Race on the morning of July 3rd, and will hold a bike rodeo at the Second Street School that afternoon.

The History Day Committee and Revitalization met on June 14. The souvenir mugs that are remaining will be on sale at the Craft Fair during Pineknottter Days. A final accounting will be available after Pineknottter Days. The committee is looking for suggestions and volunteers for next year.

Mayor Brosius received requests that the dock at the Point be put in the water. The Coast Guard Auxiliary will be contacted. A second request was that a picnic table be placed at the Point. Mr. Fisher stated that one would be moved there. The Mayor's Report is on file in the Borough Office.

Mr. Ditton asked why a streetlight on Front Street is missing. Mr. Ruane stated that a contractor damaged it and he will repay the Borough. A light on Queen Street was damaged in an accident. Mr. Ditton requested that the lights be replaced.

Mr. Ditton stated that the Street Crew is doing a fantastic job at Pineknott Park. The lights are functional. The supplier would like the borough to burn the lights for 100 hours before they come to meter the field. Volunteers would be appreciated to help complete the checklist in order to complete the project and obtain the remaining grant funds. One thing yet to be completed is a handicapped path to the restrooms.

The Borough Secretary presented a request that the Borough clean out the unopened section of Fifth Street that is between Lincoln Street and property owned by Joe Hayter. The request came from a resident who recently purchased the adjacent property. Mr. Wolfe stated that he lives on one side of this property and he is in favor of the area being cleared also; but he did not make the request. The resident who made the request also stated that she would keep the property cleaned up if the Borough would conduct the initial clearing. She is concerned about the animals that live there.

Mr. Troxell moved to clean up the unopened section of Fifth Street that is south of Lincoln Street. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Troxell voted nay; Mr. Wolfe abstained. Motion failed 1-3 with one abstention.

Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m. for an Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 8:00 p.m. Personnel issues were discussed.

Committee Reports

Property

Mr. Straub reported that he met with Katie Bluhm, from SEDA-Cog. She has provided him with grant information and will put him in touch with someone from the Greenway program. She also provided a manual on the grant process for the parks.

Mayor Brosius received information about funding from PennDOT and an informational workshop that will be held on July 15 from 6:30 to 8:30.

Mr. Straub stated that the police would like to sell two light bars and purchase a rifle for the police department with the proceeds. Mr. Kriner explained that he has a buyer who has offered \$300 for both light bars. One light bar is 16 years old; the other is 8. Mrs. Groninger stated that she is concerned that it is a competitive bid. Mr. Wolfe stated that he feels the light bars should be advertised and the proceeds deposited into the General Fund. If the police department would like to purchase a rifle, it could be included in the budget for 2005.

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. An additional bill from Shannon Klopp for a deposition regarding an accident case was also received. Harleysville Insurance Company had subpoenaed Mr. Klopp. This bill was not included since Mr. Klopp can bill Harleysville for his time. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$35,294.30; Liberty Pool bills total \$1,934.84.

Work session items

1. Pineknoller Park – Mr. Ditton reported that work is progressing and the lights are functional. The ditch has been covered and meets with Bob Bauder’s approval. The company that installed the lights will adjust them after 100 hours of operation. Replacement lamps are being provided for the two lights that are not functioning. Mr. Wolfe thanked Mr. Ditton for overseeing the project.
2. Second Street – Committee members will be working at the property every weekend. Last weekend, the backstops were painted. Anyone interested in volunteering should show up on Saturday. The Committee will be having the nickel pitch and the spin art stands at Pineknoller Days. Mayor Brosius asked what information the council would like the committee to provide in September. Mr. Wolfe replied that the council would like a feasibility study for the maintenance on the building. But he does not believe that a September deadline was set. Mr. Carl had moved to rescind the September 30th deadline and that motion had been passed.

The Point Township Supervisors have provided a letter of support for the Second Street Community Center.

3. Mrs. Groninger stated that June 18 is the deadline for applications for the Part-Time Code Officer position. Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Ruane will meet on June 21 to review the applications. They will conduct interviews and have a recommendation for the council at the June 29th council meeting.
4. Mr. Wolfe stated that the deadline for applications for the vacant council seat is June 28. Currently, one application has been received. He added that Mr. Carl’s resignation is effective on June 28 and unless he pulls his resignation, a second vacancy will exist.
5. Mrs. Groninger voiced her appreciation for the planting and work that Mr. E. E. Brosius has done to beautify the area at the railroad underpass.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
June 29, 2004

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Clifford “Butch” Kriner, Police Sergeant; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The nine visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Branchview Development

Mr. William Roll presented the council with an alternative to the approved design plans for Phase IV of the Branchview Development. His written proposal is as follows:

“Branchview-Phase IV

Current approved plans, based upon the borough storm water ordinance call for 20 foot paved road and 8 foot stone shoulders. In addition, from the intersection of Madison and Jefferson, a 9 foot wide stone ditch along the right and left side of Madison is required. The ditch extends from the intersection of Madison and Jefferson to the beginning of phase V where the road becomes relatively level. This section of Madison is steep (the steepest section is a 14.5% grade), and as you know from Buchanan Street, the stone shoulders wash out during heavy rain storms. In addition, the stone ditches are unsightly and will be difficult for property owners to maintain.

Instead of the 8 foot stone shoulders and the 9 foot stone ditch, we propose eliminating the stone ditch and paving the stone shoulders. The shoulders would have a 6 inch stone base, a 2 inch asphalt base, and a 1 inch wearing base. Also rolled curb would be provided for the entire length of Madison Street for phase IV. The mini-basins at alternating property lines would still collect and disperse run-off from the paved shoulders.”

Mr. Roll added that the new section of Madison would be slightly steeper than Buchanan Street.

Mr. Bruce Boyton, the contractor for the project, explained that the concept of the small

basins along alternate lot lines would still be utilized. The redesign would funnel the disposal of the water to the basins by way of the paved shoulders and rolled curbs. Mr. Boyton stated that most of the water on the lots would run in an opposite direction of the stone ditch. The water going into the stone ditch would come mostly from the roadway so he doesn't feel it would be a big impact on the stormwater management. Mr. Boyton added that the current plans, with a stone ditch on both sides of Madison Street, might become difficult for the Borough to maintain. The cartway is 50-foot wide.

Mr. Troxell moved to accept Mr. Roll's proposal as explained. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Straub asked how the water would be controlled at the bottom of the hill. Mr. Boyton replied that catch basins exist between alternating lots. The road will be aligned to permit the water to run into the swale that parallels the property lines. The swale extends to the catch basin. A small diameter pipe controls the outlet of the water.

Mr. Ditton asked if the Borough's engineers had been consulted. The Borough Secretary spoke with Andrew Keister of Larson Design Group, Inc. He suggested that the council stipulate that once the work is complete, if the stormwater is not controlled, the developers would address the problem and the Borough would not accept the street until all stormwater issues are resolved. Mr. Roll agreed to the stipulation. Mr. Troxell and Mr. Wolfe amended their motion and second to include the engineer's recommendation. Roll call vote – Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.

Mr. Wolfe moved to begin the process to change the Borough's ordinance pertaining to new streets accordingly. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. The ordinance will be changed from a twenty-foot cartway with stone berms. Mr. Martin will prepare the ordinance once the council has determined the new specifications. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Interviews for Borough Council Vacancy

The four candidates drew numbers to determine the order of the interviews.

Mr. Frank Wetzel was the first candidate interviewed.

- Mr. Straub asked if Mr. Wetzel is still working with Big Brothers/ Big Sisters. He replied that he has been involved with the program for about 1½ years.
- Mr. Straub asked if Mr. Wetzel is a member of the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Wetzel stated that he recently joined.
- Mr. Straub asked what Mr. Wetzel had done, in his volunteer experience, to prepare him for being on council. Much of his volunteer experience was as an officer with the Rescue Squad. The volunteer group did not ask the Borough for support, but raised the funds themselves. Mr. Wetzel added that through his employment, he deals with people on a daily basis and feels this gives him the ability to serve the people of Northumberland.
- Mrs. Groninger asked if Mr. Wetzel has any specific ideas for the town. Mr. Wetzel replied that he feels that more is needed for the children in the Borough, whether it is a community center at the Second Street School, or something else. He added that kids are prohibited from rollerblading on the sidewalks and he thinks they need to be provided with additional activities. He would be willing to help locate funding, although he does not have a lot of experience in this type of thing. Mr. Wetzel added that he is not married and does not have children so he does have free time to volunteer.

- Mr. Wolfe asked how much time Mr. Wetzel thinks being on council would take. He replied that he thinks it takes a lot, but has no idea of the amount of hours. He feels that he would have enough time in his schedule. He added that he ran over 3,000 calls for the Rescue Squad in one year.
- Mr. Ditton asked if Mr. Wetzel ever ran for council in an election. Mr. Wetzel stated that he has not. Mr. Ditton asked why. Mr. Wetzel replied that his father had served as Mayor of the Borough and he did not feel it would be best to run for the council at that time.
- Mr. Troxell asked what committees most interest Mr. Wetzel. He stated that he is willing to work on any committee, but feels he would be able to contribute more on the Public Safety Committee. Finance would not be his strongest suit, but he would be willing to serve on any of the committees.
- Mr. Troxell asked about Mr. Wetzel's work schedule. He works three twelve-hour days a week, the days alternate. He added that he knows his schedule for the next three years.
- Mr. Ditton asked what Mr. Wetzel's highest priority would be if he were named to the council. Mr. Wetzel stated that the first thing he would like to accomplish is to make sure the people of the community would know that he is working to serve them. He does not have any "personal agenda"; he would just want to serve the residents of the community the best that he can.
- Mr. Wetzel asked what criteria the council is using to fill the vacant seat. Mr. Wolfe stated that he does not believe the council has any "criteria". Mr. Wolfe is looking for someone who has the time to put in and someone who is not an "ax grinder". Mr. Wolfe added that he is not interested in someone who "has an agenda".

Mr. Jonathan Rees stated that he grew up in Northumberland, went to school for engineering, and worked for an engineering firm in Syracuse for five years. He changed his vocation, moved back to Northumberland two years ago, and now teaches.

- Mr. Troxell asked if Mr. Rees is interested in any special projects. He stated that he is willing to work on the Second Street School or the pool projects. He would like to get more students interested in science-related programs or engineering. He would also like to see more jobs created in the area, noting the warehouse on Orange Street.
- Mr. Ditton asked where, what, and why Mr. Rees teaches. He teaches math, physics, and computer science at the Northumberland Christian School. He teaches because he gets more fulfillment from working with kids than he did working as an engineer.
- Mr. Ditton asked why Mr. Rees is interested in serving. He replied that he is interested in volunteering his time for the borough and the youth of the community. He would like to get more jobs in the area and interest the kids in the high-tech subjects.
- Mr. Wolfe asked what is lacking in the town right now. Mr. Rees replied, being back here for over a year, he thinks having more recreational activities would improve the town. He also feels that the streets need attention.
- Mr. Rees stated that he is in the process of applying to provide foster care.
- Mr. Straub asked Mr. Rees to prioritize the committees he is interested in serving on. Finance is his top choice. He would also be interested in the property, streets, and parks committees, in the order. He added that he is flexible.
- Mayor Brosius asked about his interest in applying for grants. He has experience writing grants for the school and would be willing to assist in this manner. He also has experience writing proposals for the defense department that needed to be very meticulous.

Ms. Judyann Schmidt stated that she is originally from Northumberland. She was employed in the nursing field for twenty years and has also worked as a nurse paralegal. She is now disabled and has time to volunteer.

- Mr. Straub asked which committee Ms. Schmidt would least like to be on. She replied Finance. She would most like to be on the Parks and Recreation Committee because she has three grandsons who visit and she has no place to take them. She added that she would like to see the Second Street project succeed for the kids in the community.
- Mrs. Groninger asked how this council could improve its image or the way that they serve. Ms. Schmidt stated that she thinks the community spirit could be improved and suggests that the council try to meet with the residents more often to get feedback.
- Mr. Wolfe asked what else is wrong with the town, beside recreation or streets. Ms. Schmidt replied that she thinks of the streets because of all the construction that has been done to the sewers, etc.
- Mr. Ditton asked if Ms. Schmidt ever ran for council and if she would run if she is not chosen tonight. She replied that she has not run for council but she would run now that she is no longer employed and has more time to volunteer.
- Mayor Brosius noted that Ms. Schmidt currently serves on the Appeals Board.

Ms. Schmidt stated that her family is from the Borough and she had a great-uncle who was mayor, and she would like to follow in his footsteps.

Ms. Noelle Long stated that she is from Northumberland. She went to college, studied abroad for a year, and lived away from the area for a while. She volunteered for the Red Cross. She is currently employed at SEDA-Cog in Lewisburg, working with small businesses interested in exporting their products.

- Mr. Troxell asked if she is working at the present time. Yes, she is.
- Mr. Troxell asked why Ms. Long is interested in serving on the Finance committee. She stated that she has taken accounting courses and is interested in budgeting.
- Mr. Troxell asked if there are any particular recreation projects that interest her. She is interested in helping to develop more things for kids to do.
- Mr. Ditton asked Ms. Long's major was in college. She majored in international and political studies and minored in French.
- Mr. Ditton asked what activities Ms. Long would like to see planned for the older residents in the community. She replied that the Senior Action Center is available for the older residents. She would like to see more activities planned in the Borough beside Pineknotters' Days, perhaps Block Parties.
- Mr. Ditton asked if Ms. Long ever ran for election and if she will run if she is not chosen tonight. Ms. Long said that she has not run, but will if not selected.
- Mr. Wolfe asked what is wrong with the town. Ms. Long stated that she does not feel that there is anything wrong with the town, just that some things could be enhanced.
- Mrs. Groninger asked about her family. Ms. Long stated that she has been married for two years and is a recent dog owner. Ms. Long added that she thinks it is good to get the message out that Northumberland is a nice place to live.
- Mayor Brosius asked Ms. Long for her opinion of the Second Street School project. She replied that she understands that funding is an issue and is interested in seeking grant funding. She has experience with applying for grants in her position at SEDA-Cog.
- Mr. Straub asked how her volunteer experiences have prepared her for council. She feels that her Red Cross experience is valuable. She has had the opportunity to work with people.

Mr. Wolfe stated that this has been a very good experience and he feels that any one of the candidates would be an asset to the council. Currently one vacancy exists. The term would expire in 2005, due to the election laws. A two-year term would be on the ballot in 2005.

Mayor Brosius asked if there is a reason why the council could not vote on two candidates, since Greg Carl's resignation has been received.

Mr. Wolfe agreed and moved to accept Greg Carl's resignation, with regret. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Mr. Straub and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Troxell, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion failed. Mr. Wolfe asked the solicitor for advice. Mr. Martin stated that he believes the council has to accept Mr. Carl's resignation. He added that the council could table the determination on the second applicant, but action must be taken within 30 days. Mr. Troxell stated that he was under the impression that someone was in communication with Mr. Carl and that he was having second thoughts about resigning. Mr. Carl contacted the Borough Secretary and informed her that his resignation was effective on June 28. Mrs. Groninger thought that the situation was that the council could table the action upon Mr. Carl's resignation so they would only have to choose one replacement tonight. She added that this was the reason she voted no. She added that the council is fortunate to have the candidates who have submitted applications for the vacant seat. She is willing to meet in July to choose the second candidate.

Mr. Wolfe asked if the clock starts on the date that Mr. Carl resigns. Mr. Martin replied that the clock starts when the council accepts the resignation.

Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Ditton left the room at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Martin advised that no action could be taken since only three council members remained at the table.

Mayor Brosius asked what the process would be if the two vacant seats were not filled this evening. She asked if the council would decide among these candidates, or if the vacant position would be advertised again. Mr. Wolfe replied that his personal opinion is that the council has four candidates applying for two positions and he would like the council to appoint two of them. Since three council members have decided that they do not want to appoint two of them tonight, it is his understanding that the council would appoint one member tonight and have a special meeting in July to interview candidates again and the Borough would need to re-advertise the open seat. Mr. Martin agreed.

Mrs. Groninger returned at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. Troxell said that he was unaware that Greg Carl decided to resign, so he would move to accept Greg Carl's resignation. Mr. Martin stated that he must first move to rescind the previous motion.

Mr. Ditton returned at 8:11 p.m.

Mr. Troxell moved to rescind the previously approved motion. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 3-2.

Mr. Troxell moved to accept Mr. Carl's resignation. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton questioned why the council is re-voting. Mr. Troxell said that he was under the impression before the meeting that Mr. Carl was reconsidering his resignation. Roll call vote – Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 3-2.

Mr. Wolfe stated that if someone resigns, he vacates the seat. Mr. Martin agreed.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council has two vacant seats. Both terms will end next year.

Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger left the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and returned at 8:17 p.m.

Mrs. Groninger nominated Jonathan Rees for council. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton stated that the last time there was a vacancy, each council member voted for one of the applicants. Whoever received the majority of the votes was named to the council. Mr. Martin advised that the motion should be taken off the floor. Mrs. Groninger agreed to do so.

Mr. Wolfe nominated Frank Wetzel, Jonathan Rees, Judyann Schmidt, and Noelle Long as candidates for council. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. It was determined that the candidate with the most votes would be appointed to the council. The council would then vote for a candidate for the second vacant position. Mr. Wolfe asked if the first person appointed would then participate in the second vote. Mr. Martin said that the candidate must be sworn in first. Mr. Wolfe asked if any member of the public had any comments. None was offered. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Straub voted for Jonathan Rees; Mr. Ditton voted for Judyann Schmidt; and Mr. Troxell voted for Frank Wetzel.

Mayor Brosius swore in Jonathan Rees.

Mr. Straub nominated Frank Wetzel, Judyann Schmidt and Noelle Long as candidates for council. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Straub and Mr. Wolfe voted for Noelle Long; Mr. Troxell voted for Frank Wetzel; and Mr. Rees abstained.

Mayor Brosius swore in Noelle Long.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council's next regular meeting is August 3rd. The third Tuesday of the month is a work session. The only meeting in July will be the work session on July 20th. The new council committees will be announced at the August meeting.

Executive Session – none required

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Cindy Lark stated that the sewer project was to begin this week, however it is being delayed until after Pineknotters' Days. Mr. Ruane attended the preconstruction meeting.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Brosius announced that Pineknotters' Days is coming up. Anyone wishing to volunteer should see the Mayor.

- The police are sponsoring a Soap Box Race in the morning on July 3rd and a Bicycle Rodeo that afternoon at 3:00 p.m.
- Another work session is planned for the Second Street building for July 17 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone wanting more details should contact either Darvin Straub or Brian Ginck.

Committee Reports

Finance

- 2003 Audit Report
The audit was received last week. Mr. Wolfe tabled the vote on the audit until August.
- Beginning in August, the committee will meet once a month to develop the 2005 budget. The committee meets with department representatives and committee chairmen to discuss budget numbers, reviews the income, and determines how to balance the budget. The budget will then be presented to the full council to be voted on twice.

Property

- Mr. Straub stated that a group of individuals in the Borough have offered a parcel of land to the Northumberland Fire Police. The land is located along Front Street, approximately at the intersection with C Street. Mr. Straub has informed Jon Apple that the council would not vote on the offer this evening because of a list of conditions. Mr. Straub reviewed the proposal. A portion of the property, approximately 2.25 acres, would be donated to the Northumberland Fire Police. The remainder of the property, approximately 1.7 acres, would be developed with approximately 5-6 doublewide homes. The Northumberland Fire Police would be responsible for having an appraisal done for a minimum of Thirty Thousand (\$30,000) dollars for a gifting write off for the sellers and would have all survey and subdivision work completed for both tracts and apply for a common entranceway at the PPL r/w site for both properties to share. The current owners of the property are Barry Colescott, Robert Naginey, and Louis VanGilder.

Mr. Straub had suggested that the Fire Police consider seeking funds to build on property at the recycling center.

Mayor Brosius asked about the possibility of condemning property on Duke Street and establishing a building for the Fire Police at that location. Mayor Brosius added that the Borough has applied to both Main Street and Elm Street and that grant funding may be available through these groups.

Mr. Straub stated that he would obtain more information for the August 3rd meeting.

Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Martin if he had a recommendation about the offer. Mr. Martin stated that his initial response would be to decline the offer. He feels that there are too many terms to be met and does not know if the proposed subdivision would meet the borough codes. Mr. Wolfe tabled the topic.

- Mr. Straub plans to meet with Representative Phillips in July to discuss the Second Street School funding.

Personnel

- The Personnel Committee received 12 applications for the part-time code enforcement

officer. The committee and Code Enforcement Officer Paul Ruane held interviews with four candidates and is recommending that the council hire Bud Feaster for the position. Mrs. Groninger so moved; Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger added that Mr. Feaster has been a contractor and has a lot to offer the Borough. Mr. Ruane will train him. The job is part-time, as needed. The pay rate is \$9 per hour. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger added that Mr. Ruane is in the hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery.

- Lori Funk has tendered her resignation as a school crossing guard. The Borough's substitute crossing guard, Mary Walden, has applied for the position. Mrs. Groninger moved to accept Lori Funk's resignation and to hire Mary Walden as her replacement. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Public Safety

- **Emergency Services Task Force Appointments**
The Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company has provided the council with nominees for the Emergency Services Task Force. The company nominates Dave Bogovich as the company's representative, Steve Cimino as the alternate, and Dean Paul as the citizen-at-large.

Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint Dave Bogovich as the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company's primary delegate to the Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Mike McPherson stated that he feels that all representatives on the task force should reside in the Borough. Two of the three are Borough residents. Mr. Ditton asked if the fire company voted for the nominees. No one was present who could answer the question. Mr. Wolfe stated that he also is aware of a concern that there may be a conflict of interest because Mr. Bogovich owns a haz-mat business. Roll call vote – All nays. Motion failed.

Mr. Straub moved to appoint Steve Cimino as the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company's alternate delegate to the Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Discussion. It was stated that Mr. Cimino works for a haz-mat company, but does not own it. Roll call vote: Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mrs. Long voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint Dean Paul as the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company's citizen-at-large representative to the Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. The question was asked whether Mr. Paul works for a haz-mat company. Mr. Troxell stated that Mr. Paul works for Zartman Construction Company. Roll call vote – All ayes.

- **Fire Board Appointments**
The Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company has nominated three members to serve on the Northumberland Fire Board: Jim Troup, Steve Cimino, and Dave Bogovich.

Mr. Straub moved to appoint Jim Troup to the Northumberland Fire Board. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Troxell moved to appoint Steve Cimino to the Northumberland Fire Board. Mrs.

Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Rees voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Mr. Wolfe called for a motion to appoint Mr. Bogovich to the Fire Board. No motion was offered.

Streets

Mr. Troxell stated that the Sewer Authority has not televised King Street between Third and Fourth Streets and asked if council would want to wait until next year to pave this street. Mr. Straub stated that the council has been discussing paving the street. Mrs. Groninger added that King Street has been on the Borough's street plans and the bids are out. Ms. Lark stated that she was not aware of the paving to be done on King Street but the Sewer Authority is not aware of any major repairs to be done in this block. Mrs. Groninger stated that this block should be paved because of the number of cuts made by utilities.

Mr. Troxell asked if the difference in the amount of money estimated for the street projects, approximately \$134,000, and the total of the actual bids, approximately \$97,000, could be used for equipment purchases. He stated that the crew has a tractor that needs replaced or repaired. Mr. Wolfe replied that there are some berms that could be paved also. Mr. Troxell stated that he has looked at the area on the hill where berms have been requested and he is not in favor of paving the berms because some residents have planted their grass to the edge of the street. The money can be saved for street projects next year.

Mr. Troxell stated that the borough is renting a lawnmower for the summer. Mr. Wolfe replied that the council had opted to rent the equipment this year and would discuss the other options at budget time.

Old Business

1. Fees for Inspections under the Uniform Construction Code

Mr. Martin explained that the issue is whether or not the borough may charge for the building permits in addition to the fees for inspections. Act 45 does not state whether or not the old fees may be charged in addition to the inspection fees. Until clarification is received, the fees will be charged for both. The inspection fees will be at the rate charged by Light-Heigle & Associates.

2. Grant Writing

Mr. Straub stated that a meeting was held with a representative from the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. The association now has a grant writing service at the cost of \$2,000 per month or \$100 per hour. Approximately 30 grant writers around the state are available through this service. Mr. Straub explained that the Borough could prepare grants and one of these people could review the grants and make recommendations. Mr. Straub added that by contracting for this service, the Borough would receive a booklet with a list of available grants. Another service that this group would provide is they would meet with government officials to encourage their support in obtaining funding for specific projects.

Mr. Straub stated that money received for the 904 recycling grant could be used to pay for grant writing services.

Mr. Straub moved to join the grant writing program with a budget of \$2,000 for the

balance of 2004. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Straub amended his motion to include a provision that the Borough is provided with the booklet listing the various grants available at no additional cost. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Straub is also working with Katie Bluhm of SEDA-Cog. She will be reviewing a grant proposal that Mr. Straub is writing to obtain equipment for recycling for next year.

3. The Point Township supervisors attended a prior council meeting and requested the council's approval for the state to turn over the maintenance of Eighth Street to the Township or the Borough. Point Township wants PennDOT to turnback Cannery Road to the Township and PennDOT will only do so if Eighth Street is included. Since the eastern half of Eighth Street lies in the Borough, the council must approve the turnback and determine if the Borough wishes to maintain the street or relinquish the turnback money to the Township for maintaining the street. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the turnback with Point Township maintaining the road, stipulating that this would be for maintenance only. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mr. Ditton, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.
4. Mr. Martin researched how to prohibit large trucks from parking on borough streets. He advised that the Borough must post signs on each street where parking is to be prohibited. However, traffic citations may be issued for vehicles that are obstructing traffic. This is a violation under the vehicle code.

Mr. Wolfe asked if the money budgeted for Streets could be used to purchase signs. The response was yes. It was also suggested that grant money might be obtained to purchase signs.

5. The Borough Secretary contacted Michael Balducci's office to invite him to the council meeting. Mr. Balducci is away this week.
6. Mr. Wolfe asked about the progress of the water company's review of the Sewer Authority. Ms. Lark replied that she has been working with the water company and that Mr. Reed had been away.
7. Mr. Wolfe asked when the street name from Penn Street to Westway Street would be changed. Mr. Martin will write the ordinance for this name change as well as any other streets that have been changed due to the 911 system. Mr. Ruane will be asked to check if any other street names require changing and the one ordinance will address all the changes.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the minutes of June 1, 2004. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. A new page seven was provided because the results of a roll call vote had been omitted on the original copy. Roll call vote to approve the minutes as amended: Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mrs. Long and Mr. Rees abstained.
2. Mrs. Groninger moved to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr.

Ditton questioned the bill for repairs to the bucket truck. The reason for the repairs was not available. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$23,855.78; Liberty Pool bills total \$4,942.60.

3. Mr. Rees moved to approve the transfer funds from the Liberty Pool account to the General Fund for the pool's payroll expenses. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. The amount to be transferred includes the actual amount of the pool's payroll plus the costs for Social Security and Medicare. Roll call vote – all ayes.
4. The Walker Bros. Circus is seeking an outdoor location to perform for one day. Council determined that the Borough has no location of adequate size. The company will be informed.
5. Mr. Troxell moved to accept Mr. Rees's resignation from the Planning Commission. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Wolfe moved to advertise for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
7. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council is working the hotdog stand at Pineknotters' Days on Tuesday, July 6th. Mayor Brosius added that volunteers are also needed at the Pineknotters stand.
8. Mr. Straub commented that he is please with the support that the police department provided to the recycling center. Someone had dropped off recyclables at the recycling center when the center was closed. Mr. Straub found the person's name and address on one of the items and the police sent a letter informing the party of the center's hours and that if they should do it again, they would be charged with littering. Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wolfe questioned why the party wasn't arrested. Mr. Straub explained that the materials were all recyclable.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the next council work session would be on July 20th and the next regular council meeting is scheduled for August 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
August 3, 2004**

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Clifford “Butch” Kriner, Sergeant; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, Nathan Fisher, Street Supervisor; Cindy Lark, Sewer Authority and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary

The five visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Ms. Shirley McCloskey asked about the status of the private alleys in the Borough. Mr. Ruane said that a private alley is behind his property. The adjacent property owners had each provided five feet for the alley. He is not sure how the other private alleys came into existence.

Mr. Ditton stated that the unopened alleys were the old fire lanes to access the rear of properties.

Mr. Martin stated that the unopened alleys could have been in existence since the town was laid out, but might not have been formally accepted and deeded to the Borough. He offered to research the ownership of the property at the courthouse. Mr. Ditton stated that the unopened alleys are on the assessment maps and no tax is charged. Mr. Martin replied that the maps may or may not be accurate and that he would check at the courthouse for the deeds to the property.

Ms. McCloskey asked how long a car with no license plate or inspection may be parked on a property. Mr. Ruane stated that he would take care of the problem.

Ms. McCloskey stated that a neighbor has brush extending over the sidewalk. Mr. Ruane will check into this complaint also.

Mayor Brosius thanked Ms. McCloskey for donating a booklet dated 1856 to the Borough. It is a treasurer's book containing an accounting of donations for the purchase of a clock. Ms. McCloskey informed the council that the clock was purchased for the

Methodist Church.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius reported on a successful Kids Krafty Korner with 47 children registered and an average of 28 children in attendance each week. The Recreation Commission, the Anselmo Fund and the Degenstein Foundation funded the program.

Mayor Brosius thanked the Pineknotted Days Committee and the volunteers who help to make Pineknotted Days a success, especially the following Middle School students who manned the booth for the Second Street Community Center: Kelsey Ginck, Paige Welby, Kayla Winans, Brandy Weaver, Alison Dalto, Erin Veronick, Kaitlyn Hauck, Michelle Furr, Lauren Redington, and Jen Engle.

Several residents in the downtown area have requested parking permits and she is asking that the council take it under advisement. Mr. Wolfe stated that it is a Streets issue and requested that the Streets Committee review the matter.

Mayor Brosius stated that the monthly report has been received from the Police Department. She thanked the police for sponsoring the Soap Box Race and a Bicycle Rodeo. The Mayor also informed the council that a grant has been awarded from the Degenstein Foundation for the purchase of a stun gun.

The Mayor's Report is on file in the Borough Office.

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Cindy Lark reported that the projects on Orange Street and Eighth Street have begun.

The contractor discovered a marker for the boundary between Northumberland and Point Township at the corner of Eighth and King Streets.

Ms. Lark will have the rest of the information relating to the Sewer Authority sent to the American Water Company within the next two weeks. In April, the water company requested this information as part of a process to determine if the company would be interested in acquiring the Sewer Authority from the Borough.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he understands the Sewer Authority is interested in talking to the Finance Committee about monetary issues. He invited them to attend the Finance Committee meeting on August 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Groninger asked when the Northumberland Sewer Authority meets. Ms. Lark replied that the meetings are the fourth Monday of every month. Mrs. Groninger asked if all members of the Northumberland Sewer Authority are residents of the borough. Ms. Lark stated that all the members are either residents or own property in the Borough. Mrs. Groninger asked if any of the members serve in two capacities. Ms. Lark replied that Jack Fasold is also a member of the Point Township Sewer Authority. Mr. Wolfe asked if Packer Island also has a Sewer Authority. Ms. Lark replied that they have no Sewer Authority; the Upper Augusta Township supervisors are in charge of their sewer.

The Northumberland Sewer Authority is contracting with Upper Augusta Township to treat the sewage from Packer Island. The line will be metered to determine the cost to the township.

Election of Chairman Pro Tem

Mr. Wolfe requested nominations for the Chairman Pro Tem. He explained that the Chairman Pro Tem is in charge of a meeting in the event that both the President and Vice President of Council are absent.

Mrs. Groninger nominated Mr. Straub for the position of Chairman Pro Tem. Mr. Rees seconded the nomination.

Mr. Straub nominated Mr. Troxell to the position. Mr. Ditton nominated Mrs. Groninger. Mrs. Groninger declined.

Mr. Wolfe announced that Mr. Straub and Mr. Troxell were nominated and asked if Mr. Rees seconded the nominations. He did so.

Mr. Wolfe asked for a roll call vote to close the nominations. The vote was unanimous to close the nominations.

Mr. Wolfe moved that council answer either Darvin or Donnie to vote for the Chairman Pro Tem. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Ditton voted for Donnie; Mr. Troxell and Mrs. Groninger voted for Darvin. Chairman Pro Tem is Donnie Troxell.

New Committee Assignments

Mr. Wolfe announced the changes and additions to the committees. He also established a new Ordinance Committee. A list of the committees is at the end of the minutes.

Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Ditton to serve as the Borough's representative to the Emergency Services Task Force. He explained that the task force would decide over the course of a few months or a year the best way to oversee the Fire Protection in the Borough, specifically the Fire Board. Mr. Ditton questioned if the council could tell volunteer fire companies what to do in that they fall under the private, non-profit laws. Mr. Martin will review the article that Mr. Ditton was referencing. Mr. Ditton added that he is also a member of the #1's Fire Department. Mr. Crebs stated that that does matter so Mr. Wolfe stated that he would name himself as the council's representative to the task force.

Mr. Straub moved to accept the new committee assignments, including Mr. Wolfe's appointment to the Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe announced the times of the committee meetings. Finance meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Personnel meets as needed; Property meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.; Public Safety meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; Streets meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Mr.

Wolfe requested that Mr. Rees determine when the Ordinance Committee would meet.

If the meetings are changed or cancelled, Mr. Wolfe requested that the chairmen inform the office so a notice may be posted.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee would be preparing the budget at the finance meetings scheduled for August, September, October and November.

The full council will vote on the budget at two meetings in December. Mr. Wolfe added that the December work session would be changed to the second regular council meeting for December.

Mr. Wolfe welcomed everyone in the community to be present for the meetings to ask questions and voice opinions. In past years, the committee has met monthly to discuss the budget and no one shows up to ask questions until the November council meeting. He added that the newspaper is present at the meetings and the committee welcomes everyone in the community to the meetings.

Mr. Wolfe stated that Sunday's newspaper contained an article about real estate taxes. The Borough was listed as one of the communities with the highest rate. What was not included in the article is that other municipalities in the area also have an occupation tax while Northumberland does not.

Mrs. Groninger added that the article also fails to show what one mill of tax means in dollars to the municipality. One mill of tax in Northumberland is less than one mill of tax in other municipalities. Mr. Troxell added that one mill of tax in Northumberland is \$13,000 while one mill of tax in Sunbury is \$60,000, roughly.

2003 Audit Report

Mr. Troxell moved to approve the 2003 audit. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long and Mr. Rees voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Personnel

Mrs. Groninger announced that Bud Feaster has accepted employment with the Borough as part-time code enforcement officer. She welcomes him aboard, adding that he brings a lot of expertise, having been a contractor.

Mrs. Groninger requested that action on Reed Smith's representation be tabled at this time. Mr. Wolfe agreed to do so.

The committee plans to meet after tonight's council meeting to discuss the Police Chief position.

Property

Mr. Straub reviewed the proposed land for the Fire Police with a contractor. He does not

feel it would be cost effective to accept this proposal. Mr. Straub added that the Recycling property was purchased with UDAG funds. He feels that this would be a good location for the Fire Police to erect a building. The Fire Police would like a building with several stalls for their equipment, a meeting room and a small kitchenette. Mrs. Groninger stated that she feels the council should determine what they are willing to give for the building. She asked how many people are involved with the Fire Police. She was told that approximately five people are Fire Police. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the Property Committee meet with the Fire Police to discuss the possibilities.

Mr. Wolfe described a section of borough-owned land on Lincoln Street that is adjacent to his property. The property owner on the other side of this land had requested that the Borough clean up the area because she is concerned about snakes and other animals living there. Mr. Wolfe stated that he had someone look at the trees on the property and has been told that some of them are dead and may fall at some point. Mr. Wolfe is concerned that it is a safety issue. He requested that someone from the Borough look at the trees before the next meeting.

Public Safety

Emergency Services Task Force Appointments

The Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company has requested that Steve Cimino be appointed as their representative to the Emergency Services Task Force. Mr. Troxell so moved. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger moved to appoint Judyann Schmidt to the Emergency Services Task Force, as the #1's citizen-at-large representative. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company also requested that Paul J. Ruane be appointed as their alternate to the Emergency Services Task Force. It was stated that Mr. Ruane lives in Kreamer and therefore is not eligible to be appointed to the task force. Mr. Jim Troup stated that he would serve as the alternate from the Hookies. Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint Jim Troup as the alternate from the Hookies. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that letters would be sent out to the representatives once a meeting date is determined. The initial meeting will be an organizational meeting and the group will elect a chairman. The meetings are open to the public.

Streets

Mr. Troxell stated that the street work has begun. Progress is being made on the storm drains at Third and King Streets.

Mr. Wolfe asked when Fifth Street would be paved. Mr. Ruane stated that G & R Charles was the low bidder and that they plan to pave Fifth Street and Sheetz Avenue and come back in the Borough to pave King and Fourth Streets once the curbing is installed.

Mr. Wolfe asked if the money that was budgeted for new sidewalks in the park would be

spent this year. The money that was budgeted for this year is not enough to replace the rest of the sidewalks in the park. Mayor Brosius stated that several trees must be removed before the sidewalks can be installed. Mr. Ditton stated that a portion of the sidewalks could be installed. Mr. Wolfe asked if the money could be used toward sidewalks at Second Street if it is not being used for the park. Mr. Straub and Mr. Rees attended a seminar presented by Penn DOT to learn about a grant program - Safe Streets and Walkways. Grant money may be available for the sidewalks and to replace the walkways in the downtown streets. Mr. Straub has sent an email to Penn DOT asking if these projects, along with replacing the lights in King Street Park, may be combined under one grant application. But this money will not be available this year.

Mr. Wolfe checked the budget and determined that \$4,712 was budgeted for sidewalk repairs and handicapped curbing. He suggested that this money could be used to pay for the handicapped curbing that is being installed on Third Street. Mrs. Groninger added that the Liquid Fuels money may be used for handicapped curbing, but she feels Liquid Fuels funds should be used for paving streets.

Mr. Wolfe moved to obtain quotes to replace sidewalks on the Second Street side of the Second Street School. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mayor Brosius stated that she does not understand why they would install sidewalks before the renovations are done on the building. She is concerned that construction could damage the sidewalks. Mr. Wolfe explained that the money in the budget is not carried over from one year to the next. Mrs. Groninger stated that other communities have funds available as contingency funds.

Mr. Wolfe withdrew that motion and moved to transfer \$4,712 from the General Fund to the General Contingency Fund to be earmarked for sidewalks or handicapped curbing in the future. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote - all ayes.

[Note: During the Finance Meeting on August 18th, it was determined that the \$4,712 was the amount budgeted for handicapped curbing and that \$8,014 of the \$8,778 budgeted for King Street Park, \$8,014 remains in the General Fund.]

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the Code Office's activity for the past month.

Mr. Ruane stated that since they are just now inspecting the sidewalks in the First Ward, he and Mr. Feaster are extending the deadline to October 31, 2005 for all property owners in the First Ward to repair or replace their sidewalks.

Mr. Ruane explained that there was a break in a sewer line at one of his properties. The line had been broken when a contractor was replacing a line for the water company. The contractor asked that the excavation permit fee be waived since he will be opening the same hole as before. Council approved waiving the permit fee.

Mr. Ruane told the council that Dr. Cianflone has erected a monument in memory of September 11 at his car wash on Duke Street.

Mr. Ruane asked if the Borough crew could be sent to clean out the drain at Café

Belissimo if the property owner or realtor will not take care of the problem. If needed, they may do the work and a lien will be placed on the property. Mrs. Groninger asked if a lien is on the property at Fourth and Queen Streets. One has been placed on that property.

Mr. Straub asked who is responsible for an exposed wall on a property that is adjacent to one that was torn down. Mr. Martin stated that if it was done after Act 45, Act 45 would cover how this should be handled. If it was demolished prior to Act 45, the borough's construction code that was in effect at that time would apply.

Mr. Ruane stated that the charge for permit fees may need to be changed.

Mr. Troxell stated that he has seen sidewalks marked at the intersection of King and Water Streets and Water and Duke Streets where the trucks have run over them. He noted that the state had installed these sidewalks but with the truck traffic at these intersections, new sidewalks would be cracked again. Mr. Troxell stated that although cracked, the sidewalks did not appear to be uneven.

Mrs. Groninger left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe asked if Mr. Ruane determined if the Borough could provide a fix for the driveway owned by Mary Haas. Mr. Ruane met with Ms. Haas and will have the crew install some hot mix when it's available.

Mr. Straub asked if the Code Officers have had a chance to review the sidewalks in the 2nd and 3rd wards. Mr. Ruane stated that they are currently notifying the property owners in the 1st ward and when this is completed, they will begin inspecting the sidewalks in the 2nd ward.

Old Business

1. Grant Writing

Mr. Straub stated that a grant writer from the Borough's Association will be here tomorrow at 10:00. Anyone who is free is welcome to attend the meeting.

2. Ordinance pertaining to cartways in new developments

Mr. Martin has a draft ordinance completed but would like to know exactly what construction specifications should be included. Mr. Troxell stated that currently, a new street must have a 20-foot cartway and 8-foot gravel berm on each side. Mr. Troxell recommended that the new ordinance should require a 32-foot cartway, including the berm, with a 6-inch high, 8-inch wide rolled amiesite curb.

3. Ordinance renaming streets

Council must adopt an ordinance to rename three streets in the Borough. They are West Way, Cannery Road, and Point Township Drive. Mr. Ditton questioned why Route 11 was named Point Township Drive when it has been known as Northumberland Road. Point Township named this road. Mr. Martin will have an ordinance prepared for the September council meeting.

Mrs. Groninger returned at 8:15 p.m.

4. Mrs. Groninger asked if the street sweeper is running. Mr. Ditton stated that it was run today. Mr. Troxell added that he believes it is being run every week.
5. Mr. Troxell asked if a bill has been sent to the gas company for repairs to the stormwater pipe at Sixth and Duke Streets. An invoice is being prepared.
6. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Borough has received money from the insurance company or the party responsible for damaging a street sign and a light pole in an accident on Duke Street. The answer was not known.
7. Mr. Ditton stated that the 320-foot handicapped walkway must be installed at Pineknoller Park in order to satisfy the grant requirements from DCNR. Mrs. Groninger added that the council has been aware of this. Mr. Ditton wanted the council to know that he will see that the work is done as inexpensively as possible. Mr. Ditton also explained that DEP had inspected the park and stipulated that ground covering be installed and the bank behind the backstop be rehabilitated by August 1st. This work has been completed.
8. Mr. Wolfe stated that a streetlight on Front Street was missing and a light on Queen Street was damaged in an accident. He asked if these have been replaced. To date, they have not. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Street Department be informed.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Ditton moved to approve the minutes of June 15 and June 29, 2004. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion.

Mr. Wolfe asked if the light bars were sold or advertised. Sgt. Kriner stated that he was unaware that council wished that they be advertised.

Mr. Troxell moved to sell the light bars for \$300. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked how the council knows what their values are. Sgt. Kriner replied that the light bars are old and most police departments are purchasing new ones. Another police force is interested in purchasing them. Roll call vote: Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Long voted to sell the light bars for \$300; Mrs. Groninger voted nay.

Roll call vote to approve the minutes – All ayes.

2. Mrs. Groninger moved to pay the bills. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote - All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$58,733.69; the Liberty Splashland bills total \$3,806.38; and the bills to be paid

from the Parks and Recreation account total \$50.00.

3. Mrs. Groninger moved to transfer funds from the Liberty Pool account to the General Fund to reimburse the General Fund for the pool's payroll expenses. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
4. A vacancy exists on the Planning Commission due to Mr. Rees' resignation from the commission upon his appointment to Borough Council. Two residents have applied for the position, Judyann Schmidt and Arlene Hollenbach.

Mr. Wolfe requested a nomination to appoint both residents to the Planning Commission. Mrs. Groninger moved to appoint Judyann Schmidt and Arlene Hollenbach to the Planning Commission. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Long and Mr. Straub voted for Judyann Schmidt; Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Rees, and Mr. Troxell voted for Arlene Hollenbach. Ms. Schmidt was appointed to the Planning Commission with a 4-3 vote.

5. Renewal of Insurance for Volunteers
Mr. Ditton voted to renew the Insurance Policy covering volunteers in the Borough. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
6. Mr. Straub moved to purchase new tires for the skidster at the recycling center at a cost of \$380 per tire. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
7. Mrs. Groninger moved to apply to the state for a grant to evaluate all the parks in the Borough. The state will provide \$6,000 to \$7,000 for a professional to perform the evaluation. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Straub stated that by having the evaluation done, the Borough may be able to obtain additional grant funding to improve the parks. Roll call vote - All ayes.
8. Mr. Straub requested permission to apply for a DCED grant as suggested by State Representative Merle Phillips for the Second Street building. Mr. Ditton moved to do so; Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
9. Mayor Brosius stated that the volunteers who worked at the park during Pineknott Days raised \$367.00. A group of middle school students manned the spin art stand. The Second Street Committee would like to purchase dehumidifiers with the funds. Mr. Wolfe moved to purchase two dehumidifiers for the Second Street building. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
10. A group of Susquehanna University student will be volunteering their services for a few hours on August 28th. Mayor Brosius will supervise their work at the Second Street building.
11. Mr. Straub voiced his appreciation for the borough crew's work in cleaning up the

Second Street building.

12. Mr. Straub requested that the Borough apply for a Hometown Streets and Safe Routes Grant to replace the sidewalks in King Street Park and at the Second Street building, and to replace the brick walkways in the downtown streets. Mrs. Groninger so moved. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
13. Mr. Straub asked if the two old welcome signs to the Borough and shutters from the Borough building could be donated or sold. Council approved.
14. Mr. Straub requested that the water line to the Recycling Building be repaired. Mrs. Groninger stated that the line was to be repaired months ago. Council approved the request.
15. Mr. Straub would like permission to get bids to patch or replace the roofs on the two sections of the Second Street building at either end of the gymnasium. Mr. Wolfe moved to obtain estimates for patching or replacing the roofs. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe requested that if any of the grants that have been approved require matching funds, the Finance Committee be apprised of the amounts as soon as possible.

16. Mrs. Groninger discussed private signs being erected for yard sales, etc. The Borough currently has no sign ordinance. Penn DOT has informed the Borough Office that any signs placed on state right-of-ways may be removed. Penn DOT does not grant permission for them to be erected.
17. Mrs. Groninger noted that the Northumberland Borough is featured on the cover of this month's Borough News.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland Council Meeting
221 Second Street,
Northumberland, PA 17857
September 7, 2004

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, Donald Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Clifford “Butch” Kriner, Sergeant, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nathan Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

There were 16 visitors present who introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- Ms. Gayle Schlesinger, Head Start representative from the C.S.I.U., explained that the Head Start program has leases for classrooms that will expire within a year or two. Ms. Schlesinger asked if the council would consider renting space at the Second Street School to the Head Start program. Approximately 6 classrooms and restrooms would be required. The area would need to be handicapped accessible. Another room could be utilized for parental classes. Ms. Schlesinger advised that the Council could contact either herself or Mr. Marty Snella. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Second Street Committee contact Ms. Schlesinger to learn more about the proposal and whether it would be possible.
- Susan Nicholas is requesting permission to hang sign along Water Street at Duke Street from September 25 to October 3rd to promote a car show. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve her request. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Shirley McCloskey stated that one of her neighbors has not cut the grass or trimmed the weeds at his property. Mr. Ruane stated that he saw weeds in the bushes on the bank but the grass in front between the street and the sidewalk is trimmed. Ms. McCloskey replied that the neighbors cut the grass between the street and sidewalk.

Ms. McCloskey requested that the council have a clean-up each year. She suggested that the residents should pay for the service.

Executive Session

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal issues.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:38 p.m.

Presentation by Mr. Greg Patryna

Mr. Greg Patryna, a Vice-President with the Susquehanna Valley Development Group, Inc., informed the council that his company is interested in developing elderly housing in the Borough at 645 Priestley Avenue.

He is requesting that the council provide guidance and support for the application that he plans to present to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency in November of this year. The projected cost estimate is \$1,007,000. Mr. Wolfe added that he has received a letter from Randall Yoxheimer, Chairman of the Point Township Board of Supervisors, stating that the supervisors are pleased with their interactions with the company and that they support the project.

Mrs. Groninger asked if the housing is strictly for elderly housing. Mr. Patryna replied that the company plans to rent the units for \$350 to \$400 per month, including utilities, and that the financing stipulates that the residents must be 62 years old or older.

Mr. Martin stated that the request would require a hearing with the Zoning Hearing Board since the property is zoned R-2. He added that it might be possible for this project to be permitted by special exception. Mr. Ruane stated that he would be available tomorrow to provide the forms to apply to the Zoning Hearing Board for a special exception.

Mr. Patryna is also looking for a letter of support from the council for the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Mr. Martin stated that the council could vote to support the project, pending the Zoning Board's approval.

Mr. Troxell moved to provide a letter of support, pending the Zoning Board's approval. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Ms. Julie Watts, secretary at The Pines, stated that about 50 people are on the waiting list for the Borough's two midrise apartment buildings.

The question was asked if the apartments could be rented by anyone other than the elderly. Mr. Patryna stated that the financing is 30 year financing with no conditions. After the mortgage is paid off, the company could do whatever they may want to.

Roll call vote to approve a letter of support, pending the Zoning Board's approval: Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius sends the Council and Borough's condolences to Mrs. Emma Gessner. Mr. Ernie Gessner, a former Mayor and Borough Council President, passed away recently. Mayor Brosius added that flowers were planted in front of the Borough Office in memory of Mr. Gessner.

Mayor Brosius presented a commemorative mug from the History Day and Revitalization Committees to the Borough for the council's support for History Day.

The Second Street Committee is holding a Community Yard Sale on Saturday, September 11, from 8:00 to 3:00.

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Cindy Lark reported that the work is progressing on Orange Street.

Ms. Lark has provided the water company with the requested information. The water company is now interested in obtaining copies of the authority's maps.

Code Officer's Report

Mr. Ruane reported on the activity of the Code Office for August. Inspections of the sidewalks in the second ward have been completed. Letters are being sent out to the property owners who have not complied with the ordinance.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe explained that the committee met on August 18th to review the current year's financials.

Mr. Wolfe moved that the borough transfer \$8,014 from General Fund to the General Contingency Fund for sidewalks in King Street Park. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the committee approved to disburse \$5,000 to the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library in September. Mr. Ditton moved to do so. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Troxell moved to disburse \$500 to the #1's; \$500 to the Hookies; and \$100 to the Fire Police. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Troxell moved to transfer \$18,483.13 from the General Fund to the Fire Fund. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council had required that in order for a fire company to obtain the funding, a certified audit must be provided. He asked if council wished to determine the limit for a company to obtain funding without a certified audit. Mrs. Groninger requested that the topic be tabled. Mr. Wolfe tabled the discussion for the next Finance Meeting.

Copies of the Borough's 2005 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the Borough's non-uniform and uniform pension plans were provided to council. These worksheets will be returned to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

Personnel

Mrs. Groninger moved to accept Donald Keeley's resignation from the Borough Street Department. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Chief Appointment

Mrs. Groninger moved to promote Timothy Fink to the position of Chief of Police at the salary and benefits as agreed. The term is to be determined by the Personnel Committee and Mr. Fink, pending an employment agreement. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Groninger added that the council is very fortunate to have the three candidates who applied. She thanked the police officers for their service to the Borough and stated that the council looks forward to working with them in the future.

Property

Second Street School

Mr. Straub stated that the committee would work with the Head Start group to determine if the building would be adequate for the their program.

Mr. Straub requested that the Borough obtain prices for roof repairs or new rubber roofs for the Second Street building. Donations and money from the insurance company could pay for the repairs. The Borough would reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

Lincoln Street property

Mr. Troxell moved that the Borough crew clean up the borough-owned property on Lincoln Street. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Rees, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Long voted aye; Mr. Straub and Mrs. Groninger voted nay; Mr. Wolfe abstained because the property is adjacent to his property. Motion passed 4-2, with one abstention.

Public Safety

Mr. Ditton stated that the committee would meet this month to discuss poor vision at intersections. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30 pm.

Emergency Services Task Force

Mr. Wolfe introduced Mr. Frank Wetzel, the committee chairman. Mr. Wetzel announced that the committee would meet on the last Monday of each month. In September, they plan to tour the fire companies and in October, a representative from DCED will meet with the task force.

Streets

Mr. Ruane stated that the curbing work is to begin next Monday.

Mr. Ruane will contact the paving company to begin the paving on Sheetz Avenue and Fifth Street.

Mr. Straub requested that the contractors put signs up for construction at intersections before the actual construction site to make it easier for those traveling the streets.

Mr. Troxell informed the council that the crew has removed the pump at the VFW building in order for it to be repaired. Council approved renting a Job Johnny to be placed close to the building for the people renting the pavilion this month at Pineknotted Park.

Ordinance Committee

The committee is reviewing the vehicle traffic section of the Borough Code.

Old Business

1. Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-2 pertaining to cartways in new developments. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. This was the first reading of Ordinance 2004-2.
2. Mr. Ditton moved to name or rename streets in the Borough. Penn Street is to become West Way, Cannery Road is to be the name of the street that extends from Orange at Eighth Street to the Borough line, and Point Township Drive is Route 11 from the north ends of Water and Front Streets to the Borough line. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton stated that Route 11 was known as Northumberland Road. Mr. Wolfe stated that Mr. Sulouff had been given the council's permission to determine street addresses for Route 11 as well as Cannery Road. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Troxell, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Rees voted nay. Motion failed 3-4.

It was noted that the post office has changed the addresses of the residents on these streets. Mr. Wolfe stated that another vote could be taken only if one of the councilmen who voted "nay" would choose to make a new motion.

Mr. Rees moved to approve Ordinance 2004-3, which renames the streets West Way, Cannery Road and Point Township Drive. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Troxell voted nay. Motion passed 4-3.

3. Mr. Wolfe announced that the ads for the autumn issue of the Pineknotted News are due by September 10th and the articles are due by September 17th.
4. Mr. Ditton announced that on September 23rd at 9:00 a.m., DCNR would be inspecting Pineknotted Park in order to close out the grant.
5. Mrs. Long informed the council that the items that the Borough was planning to apply for funding for, under the Hometown Streets and Safe Routes to School Grant, are no longer eligible under this grant.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Wolfe tabled the approval of the minutes of August 3, 2004.
2. Mr. Straub moved to pay the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. The balance in the Parking Meter account is not enough to cover the final payment for the police vehicle. An additional \$3,701.94 is needed. The motion includes transferring general funds to the Parking Meter account so this final payment may be paid. Two other bills are added to the list of bills to be paid from the General Fund. They are \$62.63 for boots for a street department employee and \$14,469 for K & T Excavating, Inc. Roll call vote to pay the bills – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$61,621.49; bills to be paid from the Liberty Pool account total \$4,779.40; and the bill to be paid from the Parking Meter fund is \$10,519.71.
3. Mr. Ditton moved to transfer \$8,811.73 from the Liberty Pool account to General Fund for payroll expenses. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Rees moved to grant a request for a handicapped parking space from Richard Ray of 355 Priestley Avenue. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Long asked what happens to the handicapped space when the resident moves. Mr. Ruane reviews the handicapped spaces to determine if they are still required. Roll call vote: Mrs. Long voted aye; Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion failed 1-6.
5. Mrs. Groninger moved to permit Greg Carl and Tom Slodysko the use of borough equipment for the work that is planned at Liberty Splashland. The Anselmo Trust has provided funding install a “sprayground” at the pool. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Carl and Mr. Slodysko are to inform Mr. Fisher whenever equipment is needed. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Wolfe moved to re-appoint Margaret Weirick to the Planning Commission and Russell “Buzz” Meachum to the Zoning Board. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Ms. Weirick’s 4-year term ends August 31, 2008, and Mr. Meachum’s 3-year term ends on August 31, 2007.
7. A Greenway meeting will be held on September 23rd at Tedd’s on the Hill.
8. Mr. Straub has received a list of photo equipment to sell. The equipment is from the Police Lab and is no longer being used. Mr. Straub moved to sell the equipment. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
9. Mr. Straub and Mr. Fisher visited Camp Hill to learn about their leaf recycling. By implementing a similar program, the Borough would be eligible for partial funding for vehicles. The crew could start the program this fall. A yard waste program

would increase the amount of potential funding. This program may be implemented next year. Mr. Straub moved to begin the leaf-mulching program. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius welcomed Mr. Fink as the new Chief of Police and stated that she is looking forward to working with him.

Mr. Wolfe wished Mr. Straub well with his upcoming surgery next week.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street
Northumberland, Pennsylvania 17857
October 5, 2004**

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Noelle Long, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor, Tim Fink, Chief of Police; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Judy Groninger arrived at 7:05 p.m. Council member Jonathan Rees was absent.

The eleven visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- Mr. Ray, a resident of 355 Priestley Avenue, had submitted a request for a handicapped parking space in front of his residence. The council did not approve the request by a vote taken at the September 7, 2004 council meeting. Mr. Ray stated that the Washington Tavern does not have adequate parking and the patrons park their vehicles in front of his house. Mr. Ray had submitted a copy of his handicap placard and a letter from his doctor. Mr. Troxell asked how long the Rays lived at the residence and if they owned the property. Mr. Ray’s response was that they’ve lived there for four years and are the property owners. Mr. Ditton stated that the council has had concerns about approving the handicapped spaces because residents do not relinquish them when they are no longer needed. Mr. Martin added that the Borough is not obligated to issue the handicapped spaces. It has been suggested that the council consider a policy before approving any handicapped spaces. The Street Committee was asked to review the number of handicapped spaces currently established in the Borough and determine how future requests should be handled.
- Mr. Brian Hayhurst informed the council that he has applied for the Public Works position that was recently advertised and that he is very interested in the position. Mr. Wolfe informed him that the Personnel Committee would meet to review the ninety-two applications and would be conducting interviews in the near future.
- Mr. Jim Troup requested that a stormwater problem on Empress Tree Lane be addressed. He lives at 323 Empress Tree Lane and his driveway washes out whenever there is a storm. Mr. Ruane will check on the problem.

Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe announced an Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue. The meeting was reconvened at 7:22 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that the personnel issue did not require any action at this time.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she attended Public Safety, Revitalization, Second Street School, and History Day meetings.

Revitalization will be coordinating the holiday decorating and are asking for volunteers to help check the lights on November 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Garage, and on November 20th at 9:00 a.m. in the King Street Park. Santa will arrive at the park on November 29th.

The History Day Committee will meet on October 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Building. May 7th is the scheduled date for History Day 2005.

The Mayor has sent letters to the EMA Director, Fire Police, Fire Department and Police thanking them for their response and service to the community during the recent flood. She reported that all went well during this emergency.

Bloomsburg University students are interviewing Borough officials and employees in order to compile a profile of the Borough with an emphasis on health issues.

The police have received grants to purchase a taser gun and supplies, and strips that are used to stop speeding vehicles.

Sewer Authority

Ms. Cindy Lark announced that the construction on Orange Street is progressing and will be completed in time for the Halloween Parade. A representative from the Sewer Authority will attend the Finance Committee meeting.

Code Office Report

Mr. Paul Ruane informed the council that he attends the Penn Block Region 4 meetings each month. This is a meeting of Code Officers from around the Lycoming County area. Mr. Ruane stated that the group discusses common problems and solutions, including the new state building code regulations. Mr. Ruane provided the council with a written report of his activity for the month of September.

Mr. Troxell asked if the trailer that was parked on King Street has been moved. Mr. Ruane replied that it will be moved next week. It had been parked there during the flood emergency.

Mr. Straub asked if the curb cuts on Orange Street had been corrected. Mr. Ruane stated that the curb cuts were ones that were done under an older ordinance. The property owner was installing new sidewalks and driveways.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe stated that the committee has worked on the department budgets. They will meet on October 20th to discuss the income side of the 2005 budget.

Mr. Straub asked about a letter that has been received from PennVest. Mr. Wolfe explained that the letter indicates that because the Borough had a net loss of \$19,000 in 2003, PennVest's auditors have noted a statement of adverse conditions and are concerned that the Borough will be unable to meet its payments for 2004 and 2005. They are requesting that the Borough provide a response, explaining the plans for making these payments. Mr. Wolfe explained that one reason the Borough had a problem balancing the budget is because the final payment from DCNR for the Pineknott Park grant has not yet been received. The Borough has always made the monthly payments to PennVest as scheduled. A letter will be submitted to PennVest as requested. Mr. Wolfe said that as of the end of September, the budget is on the "plus side" by approximately \$7,000. He added that it would be nice to have a contingency fund, but that would mean raising taxes.

Mr. Wolfe moved to donate \$250 to the Halloween Parade Committee, as budgeted. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the council should determine the amount the fire companies could request without providing a certified audit to the Borough. The money that was raised through the fire tax has been deposited in a separate bank account. The amount deposited was \$18,490.93.

Personnel

Until the Personnel Committee decides upon the new hire, council discussed hiring a temporary worker through a temp agency. Mrs. Groninger moved to hire a temporary worker as needed, up to 38 hours per week, for the street department. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Property

Mr. Wolfe moved to rebid the Second Street School roof. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Straub moved to sell the photo equipment from the police lab at the equipment auction the end of October. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Straub stated that the used trailer owned by the Borough should be sold. He understands that an offer of \$500 has been made. Mr. Martin advised that the trailer should be put out for bid. Mrs. Groninger moved to advertise the trailer for bid. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Public Safety

Mr. Ditton stated that he was pleased with the attendance at the September 28th meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting were:

1. Dangerous intersections throughout the Borough. The Code Office is to review the list and make recommendations.

2. Stop signs should be placed along Westway. Now that the road has been improved, more traffic has been traveling on it. Mrs. Groninger commented that the large trucks would ruin the street if they were permitted to use it. Mr. Ditton suggested that “no truck traffic” sign could be erected.
3. The suggestion was made to make Seventh Street, from Duke Street to Westway, a one-way street. Discussion. Chief Fink stated that this intersection has been the site of several accidents because motorists have difficulty seeing the traffic traveling south on Route 147 due to the curve in the road.

Mr. Ditton moved that Seventh Street be made a one-way street from Duke Street to West Way, north to south. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all ayes. Mr. Martin will prepare an ordinance to this effect.

Mr. Jim Troup stated that it is difficult to see traffic coming up Strawbridge Road at the intersection of Fifth and Strawbridge due to a large rock and shrubbery. Mr. Ditton requested that the code officer check the intersection.

Bucknell Traffic Study

The Safety Committee questioned the status of the Duke Street study. Mr. Wolfe stated that Chief Redington retired and Mr. Bowersox passed away. Steve Mertz was the third Borough representative on the committee. It was explained that the committee was to meet with an engineering professor from Bucknell to determine the best way to improve the safety on Duke Street. Ana Barlow volunteered to serve on the committee. Mr. Wolfe asked Chief Fink to represent the Borough on the committee.

Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint Tim Fink, Ana Barlow, and Steve Mertz to the committee. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Chief Fink is to contact the other members of the committee and schedule a meeting.

Mr. Ditton noted that the Number 1 Fire Department pumped out 13 basements during the flood. He commended the firemen for their service to the residents.

Mr. Ditton announced that the Number 1’s received a grant for a thermal imaging camera.

At the Public Safety Committee, Mr. Fisher requested that the Borough Crew members receive CPR training. The committee learned that the crew could receive training when the fire departments offer it for their members.

Mr. Ditton stated that the 2nd Assistant Fire Chief position is still vacant.

Mr. Ditton informed the council that there was a discussion among the firemen in attendance at the Public Safety meeting concerning an incident. It will be handled by the Fire Board, unless they request council involvement.

Mr. Ditton stated that “jake brakes” or retarder brakes are in the news. He would like to see the Borough adopt an ordinance restricting their use within the Borough limits. Mr. Wolfe recommended that the council begin the process.

Mr. Ditton moved to have an ordinance written that would eliminate the use of brake retarders in the Borough. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Martin will prepare an ordinance for the November 6th meeting.

Mr. Ditton announced that the next Public Safety meeting would be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

DCNR will conduct the final inspection of Pineknoller Park on November 18th at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Ditton invited the council to attend.

Fire Board

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to appoint Ted Koppen to the Fire Board as a representative from the Hookies. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Troup stated that Mr. Koppen lives in the Borough, is married, and works for a radio station. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Troup stated that the officers from the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company asked why Dave Bogovich wasn’t voted on for the Fire Board. Mr. Troup stated that if the reason was because he is not a resident of the Borough, another member of the Fire Board, Mike McPherson lives in the township. Mr. Wolfe stated that there was a discussion of a possible conflict of interest due to his business.

Road Signs

Jimmy Neitz, Point Township Supervisor, spoke to the Borough Secretary, and requested that the council give approval for the township to erect road signs at private roads that intersect with the Old Danville Highway. The signs would be posted in Borough; however, they are for roads that lead to homes in the township. One sign is for Fasold Road and the other is for a road located next to Gene Kistner’s residence on the Old Danville Highway. Mr. Neitz stated that the Township would like to erect the signs to help emergency vehicles locate these residences in case of an emergency and for the 911 system. Mr. Ditton asked if the signs meet Borough standards. Mr. Neitz had stated that the township had purchased green signs for township-owned roads and blue signs for privately owned roads.

Mr. Wolfe moved to allow Point Township to erect whatever signs are necessary that go into a Point Township road, whether the road is public or private. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton stated that the signs should meet the Borough’s standards for signs and if the Borough does not have a standard, then they must wait until one is adopted. Mr. Wolfe called for a roll call vote. Mr. Straub, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger, and Mrs. Long voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 5-1.

Streets

Mr. Troxell has received information about the pump that is located in the pit at the VFW building. The pump is necessary to pump sewage from the building to the Sewer Plant. Mr. Troxell stated that the old pump had been taken to Wagner's and the cost to repair it would be \$2,997. The cost for a new pump is \$1,895 plus \$200 for an additional part for a total cost of about \$2,095. Mr. Troxell stated that because of the cost difference he purchased the new pump. Mr. Wolfe explained that since the cost was less than \$4,000, the Borough is not required to obtain additional quotes. Mr. Troxell added that Wagner's had time involved evaluating the old pump so he did not feel it would be fair to take the business elsewhere. Mr. Ditton asked if the pump was damaged during the flood. Mr. Troxell stated that it was removed before the flood occurred.

Mr. Ditton stated that any resident with flood damage should report the damage to the Borough Office.

Mr. Troxell stated that the crew built a leaf box for the new truck. Mr. Straub added that by using the new truck for leaf pick-up, a portion of the cost of the new truck may be reimbursable through a recycling grant.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the situation in the Branchview development with PPL has been resolved.

Ms. Lark stated Orange Street is to be in usable order by October 27th for the Halloween Parade. If not, the parade will be re-routed. Ms. Lark will inform the Borough Office by October 22 if the street will not be completed in time.

The Street Committee will meet on October 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Brosius stated that several residents in the downtown area have requested parking permits. The Street Committee will discuss the topic.

Old Business

Mr. Wolfe tabled the reading of Ordinances 2004-2 and 2004-3 until the November meeting.

New Business

1. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2004 and September 7, 2004 council meetings. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton asked if Mr. Martin checked about unopened alleys, or fire lanes, in the Borough. Mr. Martin stated that many of the original maps are in poor condition in the courthouse basement. He added that the unopened lanes are not taxed because property owners have not claimed them. Property owners who filed quiet title would be paying tax on the land. Mr. Troxell stated that the unopened lanes enable property owners to access their backyards. Mr. Wolfe added that it would be best to let the issue go. Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Ruane if he had viewed the property that Mrs. McClosky had complained about. Mr. Ruane stated that he has not been there yet, but will do so. Roll call vote to approve the minutes – All ayes.

2. Mr. Troxell moved to pay the bills. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion.
 - Mr. Ditton asked if the water line at the recycling building has been repaired. Mr. Troxell stated that he heard from the water company yesterday that approval has been given to cut off the big line and cap it outside the building. He will then run a ¾ inch line from the cap into the building.
 - Mr. Straub stated that he did not believe the Borough was to be charged for the Grant Services through the Borough's Association. He requested that the office contact the PSAB to question the fee.Mr. Troxell amended his motion to exclude this bill. Mrs. Long amended her second. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$29,007.51; Liquid Fuels bills total \$2,160.00; and Liberty Pool bills total \$4,498.57.
3. Mr. Wolfe explained that a resolution is required to open a new bank account at SUN Bank (Omega Bank). Mr. Ditton moved to approve opening the account which is for the Fire Fund. Bryan Wolfe, Charles Ditton, Jane Sanders-Ressler, and Janice Bowman are the authorized signers for the account. Two signatures are required on all checks. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mrs. Long moved to set October 30, 2004 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. as Trick or Treat night in the Borough. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Wolfe stated that Mrs. Mabel Vanatta has requested a handicap parking space for in front of her residence at 319 Third Street. Mr. Wolfe provided some background on handicapped parking spaces. At one time, many handicapped spaces were created in the Borough. Quite often, residents did not contact the office when the handicapped space was no longer needed. Mrs. Groninger stated that in the past, the council has provided handicapped parking for people who truly have had a need. But now they seldom use the parking space. Mrs. Groninger also mentioned a u-haul trailer that has been parked for four weeks in a handicapped space on Queen Street. Mr. Ruane stated that the tenant is in the process of moving out of the area. The Borough is not required to provide handicapped parking spaces and currently does not have a policy concerning handicapped spaces. Mr. Troxell suggested that all the handicapped signs should be pulled or one sign should be erected in every half block. Mr. Wolfe asked if anyone wished to entertain a motion to create a handicapped parking space at 319 Third Street. No motion was offered.
6. A request has been received from the Trinity United Methodist Church for permission to post a banner along Duke Street, announcing the church's bazaar. Mrs. Long moved to approve the request. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
7. Correspondence was received from PennDOT concerning signs and banners across state highways. Permits to place banners across state highways will only be issued if the municipality passes a resolution. By adopting the resolution, the municipality would assume full responsibility for erecting, maintaining and removing the device and all liability for damages occurred due to any act of omission associated with the sign or banner. No motion was made to adopt the resolution.
8. Mr. Wolfe stated that with the death of Mr. Jim Groninger, the community has lost a good friend who served the Borough in many capacities over the years. Mr. Groninger was the

Borough's representative to the Penn Valley Airport Authority at the time of his death. Mr. Wolfe requested that anyone interested in becoming the Borough's representative should contact the Borough office.

9. Mr. Straub requested permission to attend a seminar at Country Cupboards on November 3rd. The cost for the seminar is \$35. Mr. Wolfe approved the request.
10. Until Liberty Splashland receives the reimbursement from the Degenstein Foundation for payroll expenses, the Borough Secretary requested permission to transfer \$4,800 from the Parks and Recreation account and also apply to the Joseph Anselmo Sr. Trust for funding toward operating expenses.

Mrs. Groninger moved to transfer the \$4,800 from the Parks and Recreation account to the Liberty Pool account and to apply for funding from the Joseph Anselmo Sr. Trust. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the next Borough Council meeting would be on Monday, November 1, 2004 due to November 2nd being Election Day.

Mr. Ditton made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Steve Cimino requested time to speak. He was not present at the beginning of the meeting so Mr. Wolfe agreed that he could speak. Mr. Cimino stated that he believes the council has a double standard for appointing members to the Fire Board. The council did not appoint Dave Bogovich to the Fire Board and Mr. Cimino stated that he doesn't think that it should matter what someone does for a living when he is a volunteer. Mayor Brosius stated that the Emergency Services Task Force is in the process of reviewing the current structure of the Fire Board. It was mentioned that the members to the Task Force from the Number 1's were not present at the last meeting. They were present at the Public Safety meeting the following night and explained that they had forgotten about the Task Force meeting. The Borough Secretary stated that, in the future, notices would be sent to each member of the Task Force to remind them of the meetings.

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street
Northumberland, Pennsylvania 17857
November 1, 2004

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darwin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor, Tim Fink, Chief of Police; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Judy Groninger was absent.

The twelve visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

- Mr. Adam Troxell requested that the council consider selling the Second Street School building. He thinks that the building will be too costly to maintain.
- A comment was offered about a street light that was reported to be out. The Borough office calls PPL about any lights that are reported out; but it takes up to three weeks for PPL to respond.
- Mr. Jim Troup explained that a culvert pipe is located on the vacant lot, next to Mr. Troup’s property. The lot is owned by Branchview Development. Mr. Troup stated that contractors are dumping fill over the pipe and that some of the fill is blocking the end of the pipe, causing the water to back up instead of going into a creek located at the back of the property. Mr. Troxell stated that he will check out the situation.
- Mrs. Shirley McCloskey stated that she and other residents received a letter regarding a zoning hearing for the Tamecki’s. She stated that the letter informed the residents that a 10-foot addition was to be constructed on the property. Atty. Eugene Brosius, solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board, stated that the letter indicated that the addition would exceed the lot coverage percentage as stipulated in the Borough Code. Mr. Wolfe informed Mrs. McCloskey that the council has no authority to overrule action taken by the Zoning Hearing Board. The Zoning Board meets the last Tuesday of the month.

Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe announced an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. The meeting was reconvened at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that the issue did not require any action at this time.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius thanked Mr. Rees and students from the Northumberland Christian School, and Judyann Schmidt for helping to fold and label the fall newsletters.

Mayor Brosius announced that volunteers are welcome to help check the Christmas lights on November 6th at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough garage.

Anyone interested in helping to plant bulbs should contact the Mayor.

The police report for October has been distributed to the council members. Chief Fink will be having surgery soon to repair a torn tendon. During his recovery, a part time officer will be covering the street duty.

During leaf pickup, cars will be ticketed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sewer Authority

Ms. Cindy Lark announced that the construction work on Orange Street has been completed. The authority is currently doing clean-up work on the residential properties along the street. The authority plans to work on Eighth Street next year.

Code Office Report

No report was given because Paul Ruane is on vacation.

Committee Reports

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet to finalize the budget on November 17th at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that he expects the budget to be balanced without a tax increase.

Personnel

The Personnel Committee will be conducting interviews on November 8th for the position with the street crew.

Mr. Wolfe moved to request that the Civil Service Commission start the process to obtain a new eligibility list for a part-time police officer. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Property

Mr. Straub announced that DCNR will be inspecting Pineknott Park on November 18th at 9:00 a.m. After that inspection, the DCNR representatives will tour the Second Street property to see if the Borough may qualify for grant money for Second Street.

Mr. Troxell read excerpts from the April council meeting minutes, the council had voted to move on the sale of the Second Street property if the funding is not received by September. In May, the council voted to overturn that vote. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council is going into the fifth year to decide what to do with the building and the building is still vacant. He questioned how long the council should be willing to wait to obtain funding and asked now the funding will be obtained. Mayor Brosius stated that an application for grant funding was recently delivered to Representative Phillips. Mr. Straub added that the amount

requested was approximately \$750,000. Mr. Troxell stated that according to the April minutes, Representative Phillips was optimistic that this grant funding is the same as the funding for the Sunbury Amphitheater. Sunbury is receiving that money, but the request for funding for Second Street was not included. Mayor Brosius replied that Sunbury is receiving an additional million dollars. Mr. Troxell stated that the taxpayers would not be in favor of raising taxes to pay for the building. Mayor Brosius stated that a questionnaire was included in one of the newsletters, and 16 responses were received, eight for and eight against the renovation of the building. Mr. Wolfe stated that the question was about what should be done with the building, not if the public was in favor of raising taxes for the building. The building was purchased in 2000.

Public Safety

Mr. Ditton stated that few people attended the last Public Safety meeting. No action was taken.

He added that he received the Fire Board's recommendations for Fire Chief Board this evening. He will take them to the next Public Safety Committee for action and will make a recommendation at the next council meeting.

Mayor Brosius asked if the Borough has received all the minutes from the Fire Board meetings. Mr. Wolfe stated that he has received a copy of the minutes from the last meeting. Mayor Brosius asked when the Fire Board will next meet. Mr. Troup stated that the meeting would be after the Fire Relief Association meeting next Wednesday.

Mr. Wolfe informed the council that the Emergency Services Task Force had a positive discussion last week with a representative from DCED. The committee toured the two fire departments and had an informative meeting. He feels that the committee will have some recommendations for the council next spring.

Mr. Troup stated that the letters of recommendation for chief are to be acted on by the Borough Council, not Public Safety. Mr. Ditton stated that he just received them this evening. Mr. Wolfe informed him that the council would act on the recommendations at the December 7th meeting. He also stated that the council would conduct two council meetings in November and December instead of having one meeting and one work session in each month.

Ordinance

Mr. Rees reviewed the minutes from the Ordinance Committee meeting which was held on October 28th.

The committee reviewed section 58 of the Borough Code, Vehicle and Traffic, and is recommending several changes:

1. The code does not restrict metered parking on Saturdays; the meters currently read that metered parking is in effect from Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday until 9 p.m. The times should be changed to Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2. Sections 58-5 and 58-8 should be revised because pennies and nickels are the only coins allowed to be deposited in a parking meter. The committee recommended

that the code states that only US Legal Tender is acceptable. Section 58-5 also has incorrect permitted parking times per coin. The correct times are thirty minutes of parking for one nickel, one hour of parking for one dime, and two hours of parking per one quarter.

3. Section 58-28A makes it illegal to park on certain streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. This section should be removed.
4. Section 58-27A establishes "Milton Road". This section should be revised from "Milton Road" to "Duke Street". This is the section of "Duke Street" between Seventh and Eighth Streets, behind W & S Distributors.

Mr. Rees moved to make the aforementioned changes. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

The committee discussed issuing parking permits. Suggestions mentioned were to provide a limited number of parking permits per block, on a first-come, first-serve basis. A \$30/ month fee was suggested. Two private lots are available for off-street parking. Mr. Wolfe suggested more information should be obtained before action is taken.

Mr. Rees explained that Mr. Straub obtained a copy of Camp Hill's ordinance relating to truck parking in the Borough. The Borough's current ordinance is unenforceable because signs must be posted on every street. The new ordinance would require posting 21 signs on the main streets, prohibiting trucks on Borough streets, except for Local Delivery.

Mr. Rees moved to direct Atty. Martin to draft an Ordinance. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. The gross weight of a vehicle is to be included on the sign. A gross weight limit of 10,000 pounds was discussed. This is to address commercial vehicles; school buses would be exempt. The suggestion was made to provide alternative locations for parking large vehicles. Mr. Rees will work with Atty. Martin to establish the terms. Roll call vote to initiate the ordinance – All ayes.

Mr. Rees moved to draft an ordinance regulating adult entertainment in the Borough. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The ordinance would not totally ban adult entertainment, but would prohibit businesses with over 50% of their business considered adult entertainment, to operate within 1,000 feet of churches, residences, and schools. Mr. Rees will provide Atty. Martin with a sample ordinance. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius mentioned that more people are parking on their front lawns. Mr. Martin stated that the ordinance is not well-defined. Mr. Rees stated that the committee would be meeting on November 18th.

Streets

Mr. Troxell stated that a request was made by Linda Dubendorf, owner of the Flower Basket, for a loading zone in front of their business. The meter at this location has been stolen. Mr. Martin advised that the council should establish some criteria before approving the request. Mr. Wolfe tabled the topic until the November 16th meeting.

Old Business

1. Mr. Wolfe conducted the second reading of Ordinance 2004-2 which establishes the minimum required width of newly constructed streets, including the cartway, berms, rolled curbing and establishes construction requirements for the same. Mr. Troxell moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-2. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wolfe conducted the second reading of Ordinance 2004-3. This ordinance renames streets formerly identified as Penn Street, Orange Street, and U.S. Route 11 to be known as Westway, Cannery Road, and Point Township Drive. Mr. Straub moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-3. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mr. Troxell voted nay. Motion passed 4-2.
3. Mr. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2004-4. This ordinance prohibits the use of brake retarders, “jake brakes” or similar devices by truck operators within the Borough limits. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2004-4. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Chief Fink stated that the police were concerned that a truck may require the brake retarders to slow down. However, a sign informing motorists that the speed limit is 25 miles per hour ahead, should give the truck drivers adequate notice to slow the vehicle before entering the Borough. Ana Barlow suggested a flashing light be installed at the speed limit signs. Mr. Wolfe replied that PennDOT would need to approve the addition of flashing lights and that the Street Committee should discuss that option. Emergency vehicles are to be exempt from this ordinance. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2004-5. This ordinance establishes Seventh Street from Duke Street to Westway as a one-way street, permitting traffic flow in a southerly direction only. Mr. Troxell so moved. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Penn Valley Airport Authority – Two residents have volunteered to serve as the Borough’s representative to the Authority, Richard Hoffman and Robert Stahl. The vacancy on the Authority exists because of the death of Mr. James Groninger. The Penn Valley Airport Authority has written a letter to the Borough recommending that Richard Hoffman be appointed. Mr. Wolfe moved to appoint Mr. Hoffman to the Penn Valley Airport Authority for the remainder of Mr. Groninger’s term which ends December 31, 2004 and a re-appointment for the next five-year term of office. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Ditton asked if any information has been received regarding the letter from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency concerning an application for Federal Low-Income Rental Housing Tax Credits for the Priestley Place project. The Borough Secretary informed him that she spoke with a representative of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency who stated that the application is for residents age 62 and older. He added that if the project is funded as an elderly development, they expect the occupancy to be as stated. Residents on Priestley Avenue will be informed of the proposed plans during the Zoning Hearing Board process.

New Business

1. Mr. Rees moved to pay the bills. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Long asked if information has been received from the Borough's Association regarding the bill for the grant writer. The Borough's Association has been contacted; however, they have not provided a response as of yet. Mr. Ditton asked about the bills for the solicitor of the Zoning Hearing Board. Each application for a Zoning Hearing is accompanied with a \$375 fee to help defray the costs of the hearing. In addition to the solicitor's fee, the Borough pays for the advertising, a court reporter, and the mailing costs for letters to the surrounding residents. Mr. Ditton asked about the cost for the detailing for the police vehicles. This was done before the Halloween Parade. Mr. Troxell suggested that the police check with the detail shop on 147. Mr. Ditton asked about the bill for concrete. It was for the curbing. Roll call vote to pay the bills – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$30,480.03; Liberty Pool bills total \$70.49; Parking Meter account bills total \$189.35; and Liquid Fuels bills total \$2,618.87.
2. Resolution C-2004 - The Borough Secretary explained that during a recent audit, the auditor informed her that the Borough Council should adopt a resolution each year that the member contribution to the police pension fund is different than the required member contribution of 5% stated in the ordinance establishing the fund. The police have been contributing 1.5% for a number of years because the fund was adequately funded. Mr. Troxell moved to adopt Resolution C-2004. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe reminded those present that Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Straub added that provisional ballots are available in Pennsylvania. The ballots are counted and then checked at the courthouse for legitimacy.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland
Council Meeting
221 Second Street
Northumberland, Pennsylvania 17857
November 16, 2004

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mr. Richard Ray asked if a committee has been set up to develop criteria for permitting handicapped parking spaces. Mr. Rees replied that the Ordinance Committee would be reviewing the issue at their meeting on Thursday, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Martin added that the Borough is not legally obligated to provide handicapped parking spaces.

Mr. Robin Bolig asked about the status of ordinance prohibiting retarder brakes. Mr. Wolfe replied that the second reading of that ordinance would be on December 6th.

Mr. Bolig also commented about a tractor trailer driver who destroyed a sign. He stated that the officer permitted him to leave. Mrs. Groninger stated that when a citizen goes to the trouble of reporting an incident such as this, the driver should be ticketed and required to pay restitution for the sign.

Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe announced an Executive Session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and personnel. The meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Gretchen Brosius reported that the Revitalization Committee is planning for Santa’s arrival in the park on November 29th. The Sunbury City Band will begin playing at 6:30, and Santa arrives at 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are being sought to help finish the decorating on November 27 at 9:00 a.m.

The committee would like to sell the old Christmas decorations and use the proceeds of the sale for repairing and adding new decorations.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to give the Revitalization Committee the authority to sell the unused decorations and to use the proceeds for repairs or to buy new ones. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius stated that the Revitalization Committee has begun to recognize area homes and businesses for their renovations and additions, thereby improving our community. For the month of October, the home of Michael and Elizabeth Boyer of 500 Orange Street and the Cadillac Car Wash, owned by Ralph and Kellie Cianflone at the corner of Fourth and Duke Streets were chosen. The Committee recognized the home of Melanie and Ray Rogers at 255 Fourth Street and Haubert Homes on Route 11 for the month of November. Certificates of appreciation will be awarded to each honoree.

Suggestions for Christmas presents were offered. The Revitalization Committee is selling Jeffrey Lynch's print of the Front Street Station to raise funds for community improvements. The Borough website, www.northumberlandborough.com, has items from the Pineknott Store for sale. Anyone interested in purchasing any of these items should contact the Borough Office.

Mayor Brosius thanked the Anselmo Trust for funds received for Santa in the Park and for children activities planned for History Day. A thank-you note has been forwarded to the Trust.

Bud Ditton, Gene and Eric Brosius were thanked by the Mayor for helping to replace the light bulbs in the Christmas decorations. She also thanked the Borough crew for their help with the decorating.

Students from the Northumberland Christian School volunteered their services to rake leaves in town for those who are unable to do so. Mayor Brosius thanked them for providing this service.

Sewer Authority

Ms. Cindy Lark informed the council that the Pennsylvania American Water Company will be visiting the Sewer Plant to review the plant's I & I report and other documentation that was too large to be copied, such as maps of the sewer lines.

Code Office Report

Mr. Paul Ruane provided the October report to the council. Mr. Ditton stated that the Borough ordinance requires that when constructing a driveway, the curb must be removed and replaced. Mr. Ruane stated that there is now a special machine that can make neat cuts to reduce the curb size. The Ordinance Committee will consider changing the ordinance to permit the use of this machine. The Code Enforcement Office report is on file in the Borough Office.

Street Supervisor's Report

Mr. Nate Fisher reported that the stop sign located at Duke Street and Church Avenue has been knocked over several times recently by tractor trailer trucks leaving the Keystone Forging Company. Each time the street crew must install a temporary sign until PennDOT

can replace the permanent one. Council suggested that the police complete a report and the driver be charged for the damage and crew's time.

The crew is continuing to pick up leaves throughout town.

Mr. Wolfe requested that the flag at Pineknoller Park be taken down because it does not have a light shining on it.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee would meet tomorrow, November 18th, to finalize the 2005 Budget.

Personnel

Mrs. Groninger informed the council that the Personnel Committee, Don Troxell, and Nate Fisher met on November 8th to interview applicants for the position with the street department. The committee is recommending that the council wait until January to hire a new employee. Letters are to be sent to the six applicants who were interviewed, informing them of this decision.

Property

Mr. Straub stated that the Second Street building will be inspected by a representative from DCNR after the inspection of the ball field at Pineknoller Park.

Mr. Ditton added that the Pineknoller Park inspection would be on Thursday, November 18, at 9:00 a.m. and invited anyone who is free to be present. Rep. Phillips has been invited, but will be unable to attend because the House is in session. Larson Design Group will be represented.

Public Safety

Mr. Ditton informed the council that a memo was received from the Fire Board concerning a Special Meeting that was held on November 1st by the Fire Board. Mr. Ditton asked if the meeting was advertised. It had not been advertised. According to Mr. Troup the meeting date is in the bylaws of the Fire Board. Mr. Ditton stated that the meeting needs to be advertised in order to make it an official meeting.

Mr. Ditton asked why the Hookies had not attended Fire Board meetings for six months prior to this meeting. Mr. Troup stated that it was not the Hookies who didn't attend. Mr. Ditton replied that the Number 1's had tried to get one of their members approved as an assistant fire chief, but weren't successful because there was not a quorum at the meetings.

Mr. Ditton read from the memo that the credentials for Mr. Stettler will be presented to the Fire Board at the next meeting. He asked if there had been another meeting since this memo. Mr. Ted Koppen replied that the Fire Board had requested that the credentials be presented, but they were willing to approve the appointment because the letter from the company stated that the credentials were met. Mr. Koppen added that the Fire Board Secretary now has a copy of Mr. Stettler's credentials.

Mr. Ditton asked how many members would be on the Fire Board from the Hookies if the recommendations are approved. Five members would be from the Hookies, and four would be from the Number 1's. Mr. Ditton stated that he cannot recommend the approval, but he would make a motion to put it up for a vote.

Mr. Ditton moved that Brian Crebs be appointed Fire Chief, Josh Newbury be appointed 1st Assistant Fire Chief, and Karl Stettler be appointed 2nd Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe added that the structure of the Fire Board has always been that one company has one more member than the other. Discussion. Mayor Brosius asked why a 2nd Assistant Fire Chief is needed now when throughout the year members from the Hookies had stated that a 2nd Assistant Fire Chief was not needed. Mr. Troup replied that the person the Number 1's wanted to put in as a 2nd Assistant did not want the position. Mr. Troup also stated that the problems with the Fire Board stem from the council.

Mr. Koppen, President of the Fire Board, informed the council that at the October meeting, the new members were presented to the Fire Board. An election of officers was held and Mr. Koppen was elected President. The credentials for the fire chiefs were discussed. The Fire Board unanimously agreed that Brian Crebs should be Fire Chief, Josh Newbury should be 1st Assistant, and Karl Stettler should be 2nd Assistant. Mr. Crebs and Mr. Newbury's credentials were already on file with the Fire Board. The Hookies had received the credentials for Mr. Stettler and the Fire Board accepted a letter from the company that the credentials were in order, with the request that the credentials be presented to the Fire Board at the next meeting. Mr. Koppen added that all in attendance at the meeting agreed with these appointments.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Emergency Services Task Force is reviewing the current organization and that everyone he has talked to is in favor of the Task Force conducting this study. Until the Task Force makes some recommendations, the Fire Board has been asked to continue under the current Borough Code. Mr. Wolfe feels that a vote should be taken on the nominations for the Fire Chief. Mrs. Groninger stated that the last minutes she has received are of the Fire Board's October meeting. The minutes for the November 1st meeting were just presented to Mr. Wolfe. Mrs. Groninger read from the minutes that the Fire Board voted unanimously for these nominees. Therefore, the only problem is that this meeting was unadvertised. Mr. Wolfe asked if the Fire Board meetings were advertised at the beginning of the year, with the rest of the Borough meetings. They had been advertised as the second Wednesday of each month. Mr. Wolfe explained that the special meetings must be advertised. Mr. Martin advised that the Fire Board could conduct a special meeting which must be advertised. Mr. Wolfe added that the Borough office would submit the ad to the newspaper if the Fire Board provides the information. The Fire Board could also vote at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 8th. This meeting was advertised at the beginning of the year. If the Fire Board does not have a quorum at that meeting, they could schedule a special meeting before the Borough Council meeting on December 21st. The vote for the fire chiefs was tabled.

Ordinance

Mr. Rees stated that the committee will meet on Thursday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Streets – no report

Old Business

1. Wolfe conducted the first reading of Ordinance 2004-6. This ordinance changes the hours for metered parking; revises the stipulation that pennies or nickels be deposited in a parking meter to state that only “U.S. Legal Tender” is acceptable; changes the time limits per coin. This ordinance also eliminates the section in the Borough Code that precludes parking on Front Street, Duke Street, King Street from Front Street to the bridge over the north branch of the Susquehanna River, and Water Street from King Street to the underpass at the Penn Central Railroad from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This section is no longer valid since parking is prohibited at all times on most of these streets, and parking on Front Street is addressed in another section of the Borough Code. The ordinance also eliminates reference to “Milton Road” and replaces it with Duke Street. This section of Duke Street extends from Seventh Street to Eighth Street and has been known as Duke Street. Mr. Rees moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-6. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. The first reading of Ordinance 2004-7 was tabled because not everyone had received a copy of the ordinance.
3. Mr. Troxell moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-8. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. This ordinance defines adult entertainment businesses and limits them to a specified zoning district. Mr. Martin advised that if adopted, a Zoning Hearing would be required in order to designate that adult entertainment establishments be located in the Highway Commercial District of the Borough. Other restrictions are also included in the ordinance which Mr. Martin stated was based upon an ordinance from Seattle. Roll call vote to adopt the first reading of Ordinance 2004-8 was conducted. All council members approved the ordinance. Mr. Wolfe suggested that a special meeting could be held at 6:00 p.m. before the January council meeting.
4. Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt Resolution D-2004. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Resolution D-2004 is to accept the turnback of Eighth Street, from Route 147 to Cannery Road, and the section of Cannery Road that is in the Borough, from PennDOT. Point Township has requested that the Borough approve this turnback with the offer to enter into an agreement with the Borough to provide road maintenance for these streets. Point Township is interested in having Cannery Road turned over to them because they need to construct storm sewers because of the developing that is occurring in the township. The agreement between Point Township and the Borough for yearly maintenance will be included at the next Borough Council meeting, after Point Township has approved it at their Supervisor’s meeting. Roll call vote to approve Resolution D-2004: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 5-2.
5. Mrs. Groninger stated that it has been brought to her attention that businesses are displaying banners in the triangle on Front and Water Streets advertising their specials. Mr. Wolfe stated that the crew should take the signs down. PennDOT does not approve of signs erected in the right-of-way.

6. Linda Dubendorf, owner of the Flower Basket, requested that a loading zone be established during normal business hours at her business on Queen Street. Mr. Troxell moved to approve the request; Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
7. Mr. Wolfe noted that the Northumberland Housing Corporation has provided \$10,000 to the Borough as a one-time contribution. The money has been deposited in the General Contingency Fund and will be transferred to the General Fund as part of the 2005 budget.

New Business

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to pay the bills. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Discussion. A grant has been received for the cost of the taser gun. Roll call vote to pay the bills – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$22,128.24; Liberty Pool bills total \$51.42; and Liquid Fuels bills total \$76,859.62.
2. Mrs. Groninger noted that a meter is missing close the Flower Basket. She suggested that until the Loading Zone sign is erected, a No Parking bag be placed on the post.
3. Mr. Wolfe moved that the parking meters be covered for the holidays, beginning November 29th to January 3, 2005. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the purchase of light bars for the assistant fire chiefs' vehicles. The money is to be withdrawn from the Fire Fund. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. The light bars are to be passed on to new chiefs in the future. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Wolfe moved that, until the Public Safety Committee has determined a permanent policy, up to \$1,000 maximum per year may be taken from the account without a certified audit. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Wolfe explained that a request has been received to use funding in the K-9 account for the medical bills for the retired police dog. Mrs. Long so moved. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland Council Meeting
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
December 7, 2004

Call to Order

President Bryan Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Gretchen Brosius, Mayor; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Nate Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The eight visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

Mrs. Ellie Shirk commented on the trees that are planted in the downtown area. She stated that berries stick to the car like sap and the trees have an odor. Because of the sticky berries, the residents must wash their cars often. The berries also lie on the sidewalks and get tracked into the homes.

Another complaint the residents have is with the parking meters. Ms. Shirk stated that they have asked for permits and would be willing to pay \$5.00. The meters must be plugged every 2 hours.

Mr. Ditton suggested that the tree problem be referred to the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Troxell agreed with Mrs. Shirk that the berries are a nuisance. Mrs. Groninger stated that she and the Mayor have checked the trees in other towns and they all have berries. Mr. Straub suggested asking the Shade Tree Commission to contact Penn State for advice. Mr. Wolfe asked that the Shade Tree commission be contacted to meet with the council. He also stated that the committee should be requested to determine exactly what is required to give them “clout”.

The permits for parking meters have been discussed by the Ordinance Committee. On the issue that needs to be determined is whether there is currently sufficient off-street parking available. The Ordinance Committee will meet the fourth Thursday in January. Mr. Wolfe explained that the council needs to determine how many permits should be issued and what the cost should be.

Ana Barlow asked if Mrs. Shirk and Mrs. Pepper were home owners. Both ladies own their homes. Ms. Barlow stated that they might have considered the fact that meters were present in the neighborhood when they purchased their houses.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the issue will be discussed at the January meeting of the Ordinance Committee and the residents are welcome to attend.

Ms. Judyann Schmidt stated that the Task Force has requested that Noelle Long attend their next meeting to discuss grants.

Executive Session

The council met in Executive Session from 7:15 p.m. to 7:25 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. No action was taken at this time.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Brosius reported that Chief Fink will be back on full duty the beginning of the year. He is in the process of compiling a book to be distributed to each residence in the borough regarding drug abuse.

Mayor Brosius thanked Sgt. Kriner and the police department for organizing the annual toy drive children, in memory of Chief Marty Concini.

Santa arrived in the King Street Park on November 29th. The Mayor reported that the event was a success.

Sewer Authority Report

Ms. Lark stated that Jack Snyder's term as a member of the Sewer Authority expires the end of the year. She presented a letter from the Authority requesting that Mr. Snyder be reappointed. Mrs. Groninger moved to reappoint Jack Snyder to the Northumberland Sewer Authority. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger asked about a letter from Merle Phillips regarding a request that he received from Montie Peters, a Point Township supervisor, inquiring about forming a joint sewer authority between the Borough and the Township. Mr. Wolfe explained that the letter was sent in February and was a courtesy provided by Mr. Phillips office.

Mrs. Groninger asked of the progress of the water company's request for information. Ms. Lark has provided them with the initial information. The company is now requesting additional information, as they review the initial reports provided. Ms. Lark has not billed the water company for her time, but has kept track of the amount of time spent.

Code Officer's Report

Mr. Paul Ruane informed the council that the U.S. Census Bureau is tracking new construction in the Borough.

Mr. Ruane's report for the month of November is on file in the Borough Office.

Public Works Supervisor's Report

Mr. Nate Fisher stated that the street crew will continue to pick up leaves. The crew borrowed Point Township's leaf picker when the Borough's leaf picker was inoperable.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe conducted the First Reading of 2005 Budget. He explained that the county has adjusted the assessed value ratio. This lowers the millage rate by half; the dollar amount received by the Borough per mill has doubled.

Mr. Wolfe moved to pass the 2005 Budget. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger noted that the budget does not include a contingency fund. It was stated that the council must vote the entire budget up or down. Roll call vote: Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Troxell voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

Personnel – no report

Property

Mr. Straub informed the council that the Borough has received an offer from a local business to supply materials for a pavilion to be located at Pineknott Park, close to the parking lot. The Borough crew would construct the pavilion. Mr. Straub has received approval from DCNR and is waiting to hear from DEP. Mr. Ditton stated that DCNR has suggested that the playground at the park be replaced. Money is available through DCNR for grants for playground equipment, with the next funding round to open in October of 2005. Mr. Straub stated that DCNR has suggested that the Borough and Point Township form a partnership for obtaining funding to improve the parks in the municipalities. It would also be advantageous to have the Northumberland County Recreation Board's support. Mrs. Groninger explained that at one time, the Northumberland/ Point Township Recreation Commission worked to fund the pool and the playgrounds. At some point, the commission was dissolved.

Mr. Straub stated that he will update the council once he receives information about the funding.

Public Safety

Mr. Ditton informed the council that the committee met on November 23rd.

Mr. Ruane has checked the intersections that were determined by the committee to be hazardous. He will send letters to property owners who may need to remove obstructions.

The EMA coordinator has asked about the procedure to appoint an EMA assistant. Research will be done.

The current Fire Police have volunteered to continue to serve. Their reappointments will be voted on in January.

The Fire Board meets tomorrow evening.

Ordinance

Mr. Rees stated that some typographical errors have been found in the Code Book. They will be corrected.
The committee's next meeting will be the fourth Thursday in January.

Streets

Mr. Troxell stated that the street sweeper is being repaired.
He also informed the council that there is an adequate supply of salt.
The Streets Committee will not meet tomorrow evening.

Old Business

1. Mr. Wolfe introduced Ordinance 2004-4. This is the second reading of the ordinance which precludes the use of engine retarders in the Borough limits. Mr. Troxell moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-4. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. PennDOT will be informed of the Borough's ordinance and permission will be requested to erect signs on Routes 147 and 11.
2. Mr. Troxell moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-5. This is the second reading of the ordinance which establishes Seventh Street from Duke Street to Westway as a one-way street. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. One-way signs and Do Not Enter signs will be erected.
3. Mr. Rees moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-6. This is the first reading of the ordinance which makes changes to Chapter 58 of the Borough Code relating to metered parking in the downtown district, omitting section 28A which prohibits parking on Front Street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., and renaming Milton Street in Section 58-27A. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-7. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. This is the first reading of an ordinance that addresses truck traffic on local streets. Mr. Josh Newbury asked why the 10,000 pound limit for trucks is being proposed, adding that he would be prohibited from parking his truck at his residence. He was informed that trucks would be permitted on Front Street, where he resides. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Wolfe tabled Ordinance 2004-8 in order to provide the council with time to review it. Mr. Rees stated that the ordinance addresses adult entertainment in the Borough.
6. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the Agreement with Point Township for Eighth Street and Cannery Road improvements and the annual turn-back as provided by PennDOT. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Point Township has requested that PennDOT turn the portion of Cannery Road and Eighth Street over to the township because the township would like make improvements above those approved by PennDOT. However, PennDOT will only agree to the Township's request if the Borough agrees to have its portions of Eighth Street and Cannery Road turned back to the Borough. Point Township has agreed to make

improvements to the Borough's portions of the two streets as well as their own. The streets will remain under Borough control, with the Township providing the maintenance. Roll call vote: Ms. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Troxell voted aye; Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mr. Wolfe voted nay. Motion passed 4-3.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, and November 1, 2004. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the payment of bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger amended her motion to include that the light bars are the property of the Borough and the serial numbers should be recorded. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$37,719.66 and the Liberty Pool bills total \$7.57.
3. Mr. Troxell moved to transfer \$1,000 from Fire Fund to General Fund to pay for the light bars, pending the Fire Chief appointments. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. - Roll call vote – All ayes
4. Resolution E-2004 designates Borough's agent for applying for Disaster Relief/ Emergency Assistance pertaining to "Ivan". Mr. Wolfe moved that the Borough Secretary be appointed the Borough's agent; Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mrs. Groninger requested that the council discuss the possibility of increasing the Occupational Privilege Tax, as recently approved by the state legislature. Mr. Wolfe replied that the 2005 budget has been passed without the additional tax money. Mrs. Groninger encouraged the council to think about changing the rates, adding that the Borough has no Contingency Fund.
6. Mayor Brosius received an email from Mr. Michael Erb requesting that the Borough remove the tree that is in front of his property on Queen Street. He feels that the tree roots are pushing up his sidewalk. Mr. Ruane stated that the sidewalks have passed inspection.

Mayor Brosius stated that it has been a joy to serve with this council.

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary

Borough of Northumberland Council Meeting
221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857
December 21, 2004, 7:00 PM

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mayor Gretchen H. Brosius offered an Invocation.

Roll Call

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Don Troxell, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Gretchen Brosius; Robin Martin, Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Tim Fink, Chief of Police; Nathan Fisher, Street Supervisor; and Jan Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Darvin Straub was absent due to a recent operation.

Seven visitors present introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No comments were offered.

Executive Session

The council held an Executive session from 7:02 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. to discuss three Personnel issues. Mr. Wolfe explained that the issues would be discussed under the Committee Reports.

Code Officer’s Report

No report

Public Works Supervisor's Report

No report

Mr. Ditton asked if the leaf picker has been fixed. Mr. Fisher replied that it has been. Mr. Ditton commented that he was happy to see the crew out on Sunday evening salting the streets.

Committee Reports

Finance

Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt the 2005 Budget. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. This is the second reading of the budget. Discussion. Mayor Brosius asked why the council is not including the Occupational Privilege Tax increase, as signed by the Governor. She noted that other communities are adopting the increase. Mr. Wolfe replied that the committee had completed the budget before the increase was approved. Mayor Brosius stated that the money could be used for police overtime or streets. Mrs. Groninger added that the money could free up other money so the Borough could

have a “rainy day fund”. Mr. Wolfe stated that the issue could be brought up in a committee meeting. Mr. Martin advised that the vote to adopt the 2005 budget is an up or down vote. Roll call vote. Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Troxell, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 5-1.

Personnel

Street Crew Position

Mr. Ditton made a motion to hire Steve Carr as a member of the Borough Street Crew effective January 3, 2005 at a salary of \$12.15 per hour, with a 90-day probationary period. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton stated that it is with regrets that the council has received Mr. Martin’s resignation as the Borough’s Solicitor. He moved to hire Richard Shoch as the Borough Solicitor for 2005. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Property

Mrs. Groninger moved to sell the Borough’s old Christmas decorations at a price not to exceed \$999. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Money received from the sale will be used by the Revitalization Committee to purchase new decorations. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that Brian Luden, from the Little League, contacted him. Northumberland Acorn Little League has changed their name to the Shikellamy Little League. Their charter has changed the name; however, they cannot change the name of the field. Mr. Wolfe stated that this change was made because Sunbury children are now playing in Northumberland. Mayor Brosius asked why the name was not changed to “Northumberland Area Little League”. Mr. Wolfe replied that Mr. Luden had explained that the Borough holds the rights to the field, which will remain “Northumberland”. But the organization, reflecting the inclusion of the Shikellamy School District, has decided to rename the charter Shikellamy. Mrs. Groninger stated that she feels the Borough will lose their identity. Mr. Martin agreed that if the organization is private, they may name themselves whatever they want. Mayor Brosius asked if the softball teams and teener league teams are included. Mr. Wolfe stated that he does not know what any of the teams are being called. He was told that the charter name has been changed and it was advertised in the newspaper. Mayor Brosius asked how many people voted on the decision. She stated that the Teener League plays at Pineknotted Park. Mrs. Groninger stated that the Borough has a great deal of time and effort in maintaining the fields. The Borough’s agreement for the fields is with the Northumberland Acorn League. Mr. Wolfe stated that he does not know what teams are included. Tim Fister had been contacted and he had stated that Mr. Luden could be present at the council meeting to answer any questions. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the group be contacted again and invited to attend the work session on January 18th. Mr. Wolfe does not know if the names of the teams are changing; he was told that Sunbury is now involved and the name of the charter is changing. Mayor Brosius added that students other schools are also involved.

Students from the Sunbury Christian School and Northumberland Christian School also play Little League.

Public Safety

Mr. Ditton stated that Public Safety Committee would like to recommend Josh Newbury, from the Number 1's, as 1st Assistant Fire Chief and Karl Stettler, from the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company, as 2nd Assistant Fire Chief, effective January 1, 2005. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton announced that there would be no committee meeting next week.

Ordinance

Mr. Rees stated that the committee would not meet next week.

Streets

No report.

Mr. Wolfe stated that everyone should have received a list of council meeting dates for 2005. He added that the committees would remain the same and that if any of the committee meeting dates is to change, the Borough Secretary should be notified so the meetings can be advertised.

Old Business

1. Ordinance 2004-6. This is the second reading of Ordinance 2004-6 which changes Chapter 58 of the Borough Code relating to metered parking in the downtown district, omits section 28A which prohibits parking on Front Street between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m., and renames Milton Street in Section 58-27A. Mr. Rees moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-6. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Ordinance 2004-7. This is the second reading of Ordinance 2004-7 which addresses truck traffic on local streets. Mr. Rees moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-7. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Troxell moved to adopt Ordinance 2004-8. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. This is the second reading of Ordinance 2005-8 which addresses adult entertainment in the Borough. Roll call vote – All ayes.

New Business

Requiring Council Approval

1. Mrs. Long moved to approve payment of the bills, including a bill for \$350 from Seth Cotner for an assault rifle for the police department. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$39,886.99 and bills to be paid from the Liberty Pool account total \$16.42.

2. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the Sunbury Community Hospital & Outpatient Center Consortium Agreement for random drug testing for the Street Department. Mr. Troxell seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council will miss Mr. Martin, but can understand his wish to spend more time with his family. Mr. Martin replied that he appreciated the opportunity to serve the Borough and “may be back” once his children are grown.
4. Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Ditton will attend PennDOT’s meeting about the bypass on January 20, 2005 at the Brynwood Room in Lewisburg. Ana Barlow, a member of the Duke Street Traffic Safety Committee, may be available to attend as well.

Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Brosius read an article from the Town Crier of Geneva. The article described a fight during a city council meeting between the mayor and a city chancellor.

Winter Newsletter

Mr. Wolfe announced that articles for the Winter Newsletter are due on January 7, 2004. Mrs. Groninger suggested increasing the price of the advertising. Letters with the advertising rates have already been sent to businesses.

Adjournment

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman
Borough Secretary