

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
January 2, 2007 at 7:00 PM

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Councilman Jonathan Rees offered an Invocation.

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, Frank Wetzel, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Dave Noon, acting solicitor; Tom Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Mayor Gretchen Brosius was absent due to illness; Solicitor Richard Shoch was absent due to another commitment.

The three visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No comments were offered at this time.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m. for an Executive Session. The meeting was reconvened at 7:14 p.m. Ongoing contract issues were discussed.

Based on that discussion, Mr. Wolfe made a motion that the council rejects a letter dated December 29, 2006 from the Teamsters Local Union 764 informing the Borough that they are extending the contract on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council does not accept the Teamster's premise that they can unilaterally extend the contract on a day-to-day basis. He added that the Borough's attorney would contact the Teamsters Union regarding this issue in the immediate future. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

**Code Enforcement Officer's Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported that the council should adopt a Zoning Permit for commercial permits. The COG does all the inspections and collects fees and will not collect the borough's building permit fee. A representative from the COG has stated the Borough should have a Zoning permit fee.

Mrs. Noelle Long arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Ruane requested that Mr. Shoch attend a hearing with District Justice Bolton regarding the brick sidewalks at the 101. Mr. Noon replied that he would relay the information to Mr. Shoch so the Borough has legal representation at the hearing.

Mr. Ruane has passed the state test for handicapped accessibility.

### **Public Works Supervisor's Report**

- Mr. Thomas Slodysko thanked the Sewer Authority for the work that Dan has done to reset the lids.
- The Christmas tree pick-up has begun.
- Mr. Slodysko plans to attend a meeting on Friday in Bloomsburg on making street signs.
- Mr. Slodysko informed the council that he has located a place in Danville to obtain cinders. The crew will be able to stockpile cinders for use on icy roads.
- Mr. Wolfe asked if there is enough work for the three employees since the weather is nice. Mr. Slodysko replied that there is. They are working on the Rescue Building, picking up Christmas trees, and patching potholes, in addition to the regular work.
- Mr. Straub suggested that Mr. Slodysko get someone to demonstrate a chipper while they are picking up Christmas trees. The Christmas tree pickup will run for about 2 weeks. The crew does not pick up trees with tinsel or in bags.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark informed the council that the Sewer Authority has purchased rings that are installed around the manhole covers that taper from the top of the cover to the street level. This should help to save on the covers and the plows during snowstorms.

The first portion of the sewer donation to the Borough will be made this month.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

No report

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Resolution A-2007, the Schedule of Fees and Penalties for 2007. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe said that the changes from 2006 are the addition of a \$15.00 fee for a Fire Report and the removal of the Garbage Haulers' fee. Mrs. Groninger questioned the purpose of charging for the Fire Report. She feels that the fee is excessive in that the report must be completed. If there is to be a charge, she feels that a charge for copying the report would be adequate. Mr. Wolfe replied that the Borough charges \$15.00 for accident reports but had not charged for fire reports. He feels that the Borough should either charge for both, or not for either. Mr. Wolfe added that the Fire Chief had suggested that the fee be added. Mr. Ditton said that he agrees with Mrs. Groninger; however, he decided not to make the Fire Report fee an exception to his motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. Long, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Rees, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 4-3.

#### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger stated that she has nothing to report.

#### Property

Mr. Rees stated that he has nothing to report and the committee would meet this 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23rd.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Ditton asked Mr. Ruane if he has had the opportunity to check the code for provisions for house numbers. Mr. Ruane replied that he has not.

#### Recreation

Mrs. Long reported that \$82,150 has been received thus far for the Playground Fund. The committee will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month.

#### Streets

Mr. Straub announced that the committee would meet next Tuesday at 7:00 pm to discuss the street paving and curbing to be done this year.

#### Second Street

The asbestos inspection is scheduled for tomorrow.

#### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Wetzel moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-1, which changes the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax to \$40 from \$21. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger questioned the line that stipulates that the "income from all sources" must be more \$12,000 because an employer would not know the employee's income from all sources. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe tabled the motion until the next meeting.

#### **New Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt the minutes of December 5, 2006. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
2. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt the minutes of December 19, 2006. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote 6 ayes and 1 abstention. Mrs. Groninger abstained because she was not present at the December 19th meeting. Motion passed.
3. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve payment of bills. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote to pay the bills passed unanimously. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$18,050.17; bills to be paid from the Liberty Splashland account total \$21.41.
4. Mr. Wolfe announced that the newsletter articles are due next Friday.

5. Mrs. Groninger asked if everyone read the article provided by Chief Fink regarding drugs in the Borough.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
January 16, 2007 at 7:00 PM

President Bryan 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 Bryan Wolfe, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Darvin Straub, and Noelle Long. Other present were Mayor Brosius; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Jonathan Rees and Frank Wetzel were absent.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment was offered.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane submitted his monthly report to the council.

- Paul Ruane informed the council that the District Justice ruled in favor of the 101 at the hearing this morning. The Code Office had cited the property owner for not complying with the Borough Ordinance relating to sidewalk installation.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to appeal the District Justice’s decision regarding the sidewalks at the 101 to the next level. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted no. Motion passed 4-1.

- Mr. Ruane also reported that a hearing for an inoperable vehicle at a property on Permastone Drive was conducted last week. The District Justice ruled in the favor of the property owner. Mr. Ruane stated that he learned that the next time the Code Office argues a case regarding an inoperable or unlicensed vehicle, he will obtain paperwork from the police department to provide proof that the license has expired.

**Public Works Supervisor’s Report**

- Tom Slodysko informed the council that the Christmas decorations have been removed from the downtown. Tomorrow will be the last day for Christmas tree pickup in the Borough.
- Schick’s Garage now has the panels to repair the bucket truck. Arrangements are being made to have them welded to the truck.
- Mr. Slodysko explained that the bill from Shumaker Industries is for steel that was used to put a new box liner in the GMC truck.
- The Street Crew placed stone in the sidewalk area at the property on Duke Street.

- Mr. Slodysko and Mr. Straub have been looking at chippers and windrow turners. A chipper and windrow turner are to be purchased through the Recycling Grant.
- A Carlisle-based company will demonstrate a rubberized crack filling machine for road maintenance. Mr. Slodysko will have them make repairs to Buchanan Street for the demonstration. This machine is a wand unit with a heated compressor.
- Damaged was sustained to the red trailer from a hit and run accident. An estimate will be obtained for the police department. The person responsible has been apprehended.
- Mr. Straub reported that a resident told members of the street crew that a Christmas tree was in an alley and had been told that the crew doesn't pick up trees in alleys. Mr. Slodysko said that they cannot take the truck and chipper through the alleys, but he will see that the tree is picked up.

### **Emergency Services Board**

Judyann Schmidt stated that the Board would like the Mayor to swear in the Fire Chief at the February Council Meeting. The Board has also requested that Mr. Rees attend their next meeting.

Mayor Brosius informed the council that she will be swearing in the Fire Police on Sunday at their meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Finance – No report

#### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger reported that the attorney for the Borough's insurance company has scheduled appointments for examinations for all current and former members of the labor unit.

Mrs. Groninger read the following letter received from Nathan Fisher:

“January 5, 2007  
 Janice Bowman  
 Northumberland Borough Council  
 219 Second Street  
 Northumberland, PA 17857  
 Janice Bowman and Northumberland Borough Council,

I am writing this letter to inform all of you that I am no longer wish to be involved in the case dealing with the asbestos at the Second Street School. I have decided not to pursue the issue at this time. I spoke to the insurance lady that I have no ill effects at this time. I have informed Attorney Casey that I no longer wish to be involved in the case. If you have any question regarding this matter feel free to contact me.

I am also sending a copy of this letter to Attorney Casey for his records.

Cordially,  
 Nathan W. Fisher”

Mr. Wolfe reported that the negotiating committee has scheduled a meeting with the Teamster Union and the mediator for Monday, January 22, 2007.

Property – No report

#### Public Safety

Mr. Ditton announced that the committee would not meet this month. He requested that someone else be appointed to chair the committee.

#### Recreation

Mrs. Long reported that \$82,650 has been received toward the playground fund. The committee will meet next Wednesday, January 24, 2007, at 6:00 p.m.

#### Streets

Mr. Straub told council that the committee met to discuss streets to be paved this year. The Borough's PennDOT representative will be consulted for estimates.

The committee also decided to order street name signs from the Keystone COG. Mr. Slodysko has seen a demonstration for a sign machine and is getting more information on the machine and other possibilities for obtaining street signs. If the Borough decides to purchase a sign machine, the order with the COG may be cancelled.

Mayor Brosius asked if the committee is planning to replace the bricks in the crosswalks downtown. Mr. Straub stated that he plans to obtain an estimate when estimates are obtained for the curbing at Second and Queen Streets. Mayor Brosius suggested that it would be nice to have the crosswalks repaired before the activities this spring and summer in the downtown area.

#### Second Street

Mr. Straub reported that samples have been taken from the building for asbestos testing. The results have not yet been returned.

The committee will meet next Tuesday with the Property Committee at 7:30 p.m.

#### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-1. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. This ordinance increases the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax to \$40.00 and the income limit to anyone earning more than \$12,000. Discussion. Because of the wording in the ordinance that states "total income from all sources", the ordinance was tabled until the February meeting. Mrs. Groninger noted that an employer has no way to determine if the employee's total income from all sources is more than \$12,000.
2. Mr. Ditton asked if anyone had given more thought to requesting that all properties in the Borough have house numbers posted on the property. He added that the International Property Maintenance Code section 304.3 requires that all properties have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road in front of the property. The numbers are to be a color in contrast to the background and shall be Arabic numbers or alpha letters and a minimum of 4 inches high and a width of ½ inch. He asked if council wished to take any action on the requirements. Mrs. Groninger agreed that all residences should have address numbers. It was noted that the county 9-1-1 office is currently readdressing townships in the county and will be

readdressing borough and city properties once the townships are completed. Mrs. Groninger commented that another reason to house numbers visible is that with the next census, it is important that all residences be counted.

Mrs. Groninger moved to request that, for 9-1-1 purposes and to comply with existing codes, all home owners put address numbers on their houses. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

3. Mr. Wolfe announced that the Winter Newsletter is at the printer's. It is also posted online at [www.northumberlandborough.com](http://www.northumberlandborough.com).

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved to approve payment of the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$11,646.23.
2. Mr. Straub moved and Mr. Ditton seconded the motion to reappoint Larson Design Group as the Borough Engineer for 2007. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Northumberland Planning Commission has turned down the Borough's request for community development block grant funding for handicapped accessibility at the Second Street building.
4. A thank you letter was received from SUN Home Health Services for the assistance the Borough Crew provided with decorating the Tree of Love. The organization raised \$17,000 for their program.
5. Mrs. Groninger noted that the Fire Police have volunteered 855.75 hours of service during 2006. She thanked them for their work for the Borough.
6. The Borough has received a check for \$29.46 as a refund for administrative fees from the Lycoming Landfill.
7. Mayor Brosius asked if any information has been received regarding the Community Trust merger. The Borough Secretary spoke with the attorney for the Trust and informed him that several Borough residents are interested in sitting on the Board. He will contact the Borough Office when they are ready to appoint Board members.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
February 6, 2007 at 7:00 PM

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, Frank Wetzel, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

**Presentations**

- Mr. Donald Steele, President of the Northumberland National Bank, presented two checks totaling \$8,000 to Mayor Brosius for the Norry Playground Fund. Mr. Steele stated that the bank is happy to contribute toward the benefit of the children of Northumberland.
- Mayor Brosius presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Tom Cropf for his 41 years of service with the Northumberland Fire Police:  
    “A Lifetime Achievement presented to Tom Cropf for your loyalty and diligence to community volunteer work with the Northumberland Fire Police from 1965 to 2006.”

The visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Tom Cropf commented that he would like to offer his services to the new EMS Board and the EMA Coordinator.

**Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss arbitration and personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 7:39 p.m.

Mr. Ditton moved to proceed with current issues with regards to the Teamsters, specifically to submit the issue of the grievances and the Teamsters’ right to arbitration to an arbitrator. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

**Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Brosius reported that the monthly report from Chief Tim Fink is in Council's box. Chief Fink has returned from training and each police officer is now doing their yearly training. The police department has received a request from Jared Auman to do an

internship with the department this coming summer. Jared is a criminal justice student at Elizabethtown University.

- Mayor Brosius attended the Fire Police meeting on Jan. 21 and swore in the members. At that meeting the resignation of Thomas Cropf was submitted and accepted. Mr. Cropf has been a Fire Policeman in Northumberland since 1965. We extend our thanks and congratulations on this milestone volunteer work.
- The Revitalization Committee has placed four new benches in the King Street Park. The new plaques are to be placed on them as soon as weather permits. The memorial benches were bought and presented to the Revitalization Committee from the following:
  - In memory of John & Ruth Attig by their family;
  - In memory of Mary Crebs by Barbara and Jerry Marks;
  - In memory of "Fritz" Wert by his wife;
  - In memory of Sgt. Brett Swank by the Northumberland/ Point Township Kiwanis

Club

Some other plaques were replaced because of vandalism.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane reported that zoning hearing was held the last month for Dr. Gessner. He wants to put a doctors office at the corned of 8th and Duke Street at the former Blett property. The zoning hearing board approved the special exception. There will be a new structure built on the property. The office will employ approximately 4 people.

Mr. Ruane explained that starting April 9th, anyone wishing to conduct inspections on residential buildings must be certified. Mr. Ruane is certified for all residential inspections except electrical and energy. He is in the process of attending classes for the energy certification.

The Planning Commission has approved a subdivision on Washington Avenue for Joe West. Mr. Ruane presented the plans to council for approval. Mr. Rees made a motion to accept the Joe West subdivision. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote to approve was unanimous.

### **Public Works Supervisor's Report**

Glicks has repaired the garage door at the Rescue Building.

Mr. Slodysko has ordered 32 street signs from the Keystone COG and 12 new stop signs to replace some that are faded.

The Sewer Authority has filled in the cuts around the manholes, improving the street which is helpful when plowing.

The tar buggy demonstration is being rescheduled.

Mr. Slodysko has looked at several chippers and is waiting for a representative to get back to him.

Mrs. Groninger asked if any of the borough trucks are able to get through the alleys to plow snow. Mr. Slodysko replied that during the recent snow storm, if cars were parked in the

alleys and the crew was concerned about driving through the narrow lane, they did not plow the alley.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Eben Gibbs reported that the Board did not meet last night because they did not have a quorum. Brian Crebs was to be sworn in as Fire Chief this evening. However, he was unable to attend due to a family member being hospitalized. Mr. Gibbs added that the Board would meet on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Dress uniforms have been in hall for a few weeks and the firemen have been notified that they are here.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

1. Ms. Cindy Lark reported that the Sewer Authority received a letter from DEP last month, placing them on a connection moratorium because the plant had two bypasses, one in November and one in December. This is due to sudden increase in flow. The Borough is currently working on the corrective action plan. Point Township will be working on their plan. They must determine where the Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) is coming from. The Northumberland Sewer Authority has determined that the Kapp Heights area and out along Route 11 are two areas that are potential problems. If the township wants additional connections, they must comply and correct the problems. Mrs. Groninger asked if Upper Augusta has posed a problem. Ms. Lark replied that they do not. When Upper Augusta installed their system, they separated the storm water from the sewer system. Several years ago, the Sewer Authority canvassed the Borough and residents corrected their systems; removing any storm water drains from the sanitary sewer system. The corrective action plan is due to DEP by the beginning of April. New connections are currently prohibited. Once the corrective action plan is submitted, DEP may consider modifying the prohibition. The first connections released will be to borough properties. Mr. Ruane stated that he anticipates an application for building permit for a spec house. Ms. Lark replied that DEP can be contacted for a single request. She also stated that the plans for a doctor's office on Duke Street should be able to proceed since there is already a sewer hookup at that property. Mrs. Groninger asked if the lines in Kapp Heights have been examined. Ms. Lark replied that the Northumberland Sewer Authority has recommended that the Point Township Sewer Authority televise the lines to determine where the problem lies. This should be a high priority for the township since there are several housing developments proposed for the township. They have an ongoing program of checking for downspouts in the township, according to Gene Brosius. However, this appears to be a larger problem. Mr. Straub asked how close to capacity the sewer plant is. Ms. Lark responded that the sewer plant holds 1.125 million gallons and on a dry day the plant is at ½ capacity or less. During a heavy storm, the flow can go to 2 million gallons.
2. Ms. Lark explained to the council that Mid State Paving has requested permission to repair a 20 foot section of pipe on Third Street, between King Street and Sheetz Avenue that they had installed last year. They would like to replace the pipe and restore the trench. Ms. Lark said that the pipe was not installed at the correct slope. The Sewer Authority planned to withhold \$10,000 from the final payment to cover the costs of maintenance for the next ten years. Mid State would like to correct the problem and receive the remainder of their payment. Ms. Lark explained that the pipe can be maintained with a regular flushing maintenance program. The pipe would be

flushed on a quarterly basis. Mr. Ditton recommended that the Sewer Authority put the \$10,000 in escrow for 10 years to use for maintenance, or have Mid State replace the pipe and repave the Third Street, curb to curb, between King and Sheetz. Mr. Straub moved to require the company to repair the pipe, and pave Third Street from King Street to Sheetz Avenue, curb to curb. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Straub added that if the company is not willing to do the work, the Sewer Authority should keep the bond and hire someone else to repair the pipe and pave the street. Mr. Slodysko agreed that the street should be repaved. Roll call vote was unanimously approved. A letter will be addressed to the Sewer Authority informing them of the council's decision.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

Mr. Wolfe stated that he has no report. The committee will meet in March.

### **Personnel**

- Mrs. Groninger reported that arbitration is scheduled for February 23 for the police contract.
- The street laborers are currently working without a contract. The council and laborers are meeting with a mediator concerning grievances.
- One former laborer is not coming back to the state for his physical for asbestos testing. One current laborer has gone to Philadelphia for the testing and the other one will be going this Friday. Their transportation is provided.
- Mrs. Groninger said that she would like to set the record straight about one issue. The Borough Secretary, Jan Bowman, never sent any laborers to remove asbestos. She requested that the correction be made because it is a libelous statement. Unless someone can prove otherwise, Mrs. Groninger requested that her statement be included in the minutes. She added that all the personnel is working very well and the at-will employees provide the residents with a fine town to live in, play in and work in. We appreciate them very much.
- The Personnel committee will meet with the mayor and police chief after tonight's meeting.

### **Property**

Mr. Rees stated that he was unable to attend last month's property committee meeting. Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Straub reported that the committee and the Second Street Committee met and reviewed the preliminary asbestos study from Volz Environmental Services, Inc.

### **Public Safety**

Mr. Wetzel has agreed to be Chairman of the committee. The other members on the committee are Mr. Ditton and Mr. Straub. He announced that the committee would meet on February 27 at 6:30 p.m. [Note: The meeting was cancelled at the February 20, 2007 work session.] One topic to be discussed is the house numbers for 911. Mr. Rees questioned the numbering of the addresses on Madison Avenue. He was told that the county 911 office has contracted with a firm in Lewisburg to review addresses in the Borough and they were the ones who provided the number for the residence at the end of Madison Avenue.

## Recreation

Mrs. Long reported that \$85,655.00 has been collected for the Norry Playground Fund.

The committee will meet on February 28 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the preliminary plans with a representative from Play World.

## Streets

Mr. Straub announced that the committee will meet next Tuesday to discuss the equipment to be purchased with the Recycling Grant money.

The Committee will meet with the PennDOT representative to measure the streets to be paved and prepare the bid specs.

Mr. Ruane stated that the Central Susquehanna Valley COG is putting out bids for LED lights. The low bid for the units was approximately \$39.00 per light. The reduction in the electric bill is estimated to be approximately 90%. Mr. Ruane has estimated that the cost to the Borough to replace the red and green light bulbs in all the traffic lights would be between \$1,500 and \$1,600.

## Second Street

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Borough has received the final asbestos report. Asbestos is found to be in pipe insulation, tile flooring and associated adhesives. Volz Environmental Services, Inc. recommends removing all asbestos materials. Mr. Wolfe added that there is no surprise that a building of this age contains asbestos. The disposal of the asbestos must be done safely. A representative from Volz informed the office that if the floor tiles are removed intact, it is not considered asbestos abatement. Mr. Wolfe requested that the committee meet and review the report in detail and recommendations at the March meeting. Mrs. Groninger noted that school children were in the building for many years. Volz had inspected the property for the Shikellamy School District and they had complied with the recommendations at that time.

## Old Business

1. Mr. Shoch stated that the verbiage for Ordinance 2007-1, the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax is directly from the act and must be included in the ordinance. A new act had been passed by the Congress in 2006 that specified that the tax would be collected \$1.00 per week. But this bill was vetoed by the Governor. Currently, there is no mandate for how the deductions must be made. In other years, the Borough tax was due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The employer could withhold the tax from the employees in one paycheck or over several weeks. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax has been included in the adopted budget. Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-1. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, and Mr. Rees voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 5-2.

## New Business

1. Mr. Ditton moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

2. Mr. Straub moved to approve Steve Beattie and Michele Vayda as Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officers. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe announced that he would be on the radio next week and if anyone had any topics that they would like him to discuss, they should let him know.
4. Mr. Straub moved to approve purchasing a chipper through the recycling grant under the state purchasing program. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Point Township is interested in purchasing the borough's current chipper. Council discussed the parameters of selling equipment that had been purchased with grant money. The cost of the new chipper is \$35,000. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe stated that he thinks the volunteers have improved and better organized the Recycling Center. Mr. Straub agreed. He added that the next problem to solve is to dig out 8 to 12 inches of macadam. The docks were originally built for trailers; when a decision was made to go to roll-backs, the macadam was filled in. Now that they are going back to trailers, they must remove the macadam in order to back the trailers up to the dock. Mr. Slodysko said that the Recycling Building is very well kept. He has seen a big improvement in the past year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
March 6, 2007 at 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 Frank Wetzels, Bryan Wolfe, Judith Groninger and Darvin Straub. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, Borough Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Charles “Bud” Ditton, Noelle Long, and Jonathan Rees were absent.

The 7 visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Jason VanKirk addressed the council with a request for support to celebrate Earth Day in 2008. He had originally hoped to plan an event for this year, but feels it would be too large an undertaking in a short time. He requested that WKOK assist with the advertising next year. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next year, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is a Monday, so April 20<sup>th</sup> was the date discussed for the observance. Mayor Brosius and Mr. Wolfe both voiced support for the plan. Mr. Straub suggested that Mr. VanKirk provide a list of activities that he would include at the event. Mr. VanKirk replied that he would like to have activities for elementary and middle school-age children and include volunteer groups such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The Northumberland Conservation District has offered support. Some local vendors have offered to make prize donations and Norry Bank will donate a savings bond. The activities would include recycling and energy –saving ideas. Mr. Pat McPherson offered to donate flowers for the event. Mr. VanKirk stated that he would like to hold the event at the Pineknott Park. He feels that King Street Park may become too crowded.
  
- Mr. Jack Snyder registered a complaint about a parked vehicle on Elliott Drive. He explained that four houses are located on a private driveway with access to Elliott Drive. The resident who lives at the house before the private drive parks a vehicle on Elliott Drive, blocking the view to the driveway. It is safety issue to not be able to see oncoming cars when pulling out of the driveway and oncoming motorists cannot see a vehicle exiting the driveway as they come around the curve. Mr. Snyder provided pictures of the driveway and the parked vehicle. Mr. Snyder stated he has discussed the situation with the person who parks his vehicle in the way of the driveway and has had no success. Mr. Shoch advised that an ordinance would be required to prohibit parking at the driveway for safety purposes. Mrs. Groninger has made comment that whenever one vehicle is parked on a street in the hill section, the street is reduced to one lane. She had been informed that when the developments were planned, sidewalks were not required

because the residents all had to have driveways. Mr. Shoch advised that if the deeds have restrictions regarding parking, the Borough would not have the ability to enforce them; it would be the responsibility of the residents. Mr. Wolfe stated that other areas on the hill section should also be examined, one being Jefferson Street, at the intersection with Strawbridge Road. Mr. Wolfe requested that the Street Committee review areas to be included in the ordinance at their meeting next Tuesday. Mr. Straub agreed to do so. Mr. Shoch suggested that Don Free, at PennDOT, be contacted for advice regarding a traffic study.

Mr. Wolfe moved to have the Street Committee review the streets and provide the list to Mr. Shoch. Mr. Shoch will have a draft ordinance prepared for the meeting on March 20th. Final approval would be voted upon in April. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: all ayes.

Mrs. Groninger asked if there would be a temporary solution, since the council has been made aware of the problem. Mr. Shoch advised that the fact that the council is acting expeditiously would be viewed favorably. An ordinance is required in order to enforce a no parking designation.

- Jonathan Bosserman requested a handicapped parking space be designated at 669 Wheatley Avenue. Judith Groninger said she was at the location earlier in the day and said parking on Wheatley Avenue is bumper to bumper. Mr. Groninger asked if Mr. Bosserman was aware of the parking situation when he moved into the property. Mr. Bosserman stated that there is off-street parking behind his house, but he did not realize that it is not on level ground and it is difficult for him to access his house. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve the handicapped parking space at 669 Wheatley Avenue. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Mrs. Groninger suggested that the council develop guidelines for approving handicapped parking spaces. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 3-1.
- Mr. Wetzel thanked the Borough Council and residents of Northumberland for the prayers, cards and flowers that the family received following the recent death of his father, Wendell Wetzel, the former mayor.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session from 7:33 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Mr. Wolfe announced that personnel and litigation issues were discussed.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the union workers in the Borough have filed grievances about volunteer work that was done in the Borough. The Union feels that work done by volunteers was work that they should have been permitted to do. They have proposed that the Borough pay each laborer \$150 and guarantee the two senior laborers 40 hours each week. In exchange, they will no longer submit grievances about volunteers working in the Borough. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept their proposal. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe asked for comments. Mayor Brosius read the following:

“I sit here looking at two letters. One is from the United Way Days of Caring and one from the Susquehanna University Students. Both letters offer our community volunteers on the weekend of April 20 and 21. This is not unusual because they have come and helped in our

community for many years now. At least seven years that I remember. These two groups have worked at the King Street Park, at Pineknotted Park, at the Second Street School, the underpass, the Recycling Center, the Girl Scout Little House, and the Swimming Pool. And probably some other places that I have forgotten. They have come and worked and gone. And we have sent them letters expressing our gratitude. Now after at least seven years, our two laborers on the Northumberland Borough Crew have asked to be paid for the work that these two groups have done in 2006 in Northumberland. They want paid as well as for a building project done by the Little League volunteers at Pineknotted Park in 2006.

These two laborers need to know that this community could not be run or even exist, without volunteers. I list the groups that have volunteered in this community: the many businesses representing the United Way Days of Caring project, the students from Susquehanna University, our Firemen, our Fire Police, our Borough Council, the Little League, the Girl and Boy Scouts, and the AYSO volunteers. Continuing with our volunteer organizations, past and present, there is the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, the JC's, and the Civic Club, the Recycling Center workers and the volunteers who built the Liberty Pool and those who have repaired and now maintain it. Various events are held in our community, none of which would happen without volunteers. These include the History Day Committee, the Soap Box Committee, the Pineknotted Day Committee, the Police Department Toy Collection in Memory of Martin Concini, the Revitalization Committee, the Lemonade Day Committee, the Improvement Committee, the Halloween Parade Committee, and Santa in the Park Committee. Then there are those who plant and maintain the underpass and the flower pots downtown and the plants at the gazebo in King Street Park. There are those who serve as volunteers on the Sewer Authority, the Zoning and Planning Boards, the Emergency Service Board, our Borough Council, the Second Street Committee, the Playground Committee and the Cemetery Board. I am sure I am missing many who have given freely of their time in many areas. Santa himself is a volunteer! These folks give of their Saturdays and after work hours to do all this volunteering. And I thank them all.

I have some questions for these two laborers who have worked in the borough for a few years now. Why are they selective for these groups they want paid? Why is the work of the volunteers in 2006 different from any other year? Would they want all the jobs that the above groups do? Do these laborers get paid a weekly wage for a week's work? I think it is documented that they do. Do they want overtime? Are they unhappy with their pay? Our community can not exist without our volunteers. I am sure there are many who would be happy with a 40 hour a week job at a rate of \$14.15 an hour with benefits. Do we want to pay them for work that they did not do? Could someone explain this absurdity?"

Mr. Wolfe rephrased his motion to pay the two borough laborers for work done by volunteers, as requested. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All nays. The motion was defeated unanimously.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Brosius extended the sincere condolences and sympathy of the Council and Borough to the family of our past mayor, the late Wendell Wetzel. She noted that Mayor Wetzel was instrumental in the community as a volunteer and as a mayor.

### **Police**

- Chief Fink has provided council with the monthly police report.

- One officer is on administrative leave and part time officers are filling in the scheduled hours.

#### Revitalization

The Northumberland Pt. Township Revitalization Committee recently honored the following home owners for keeping their properties in good repair and for doing renovations as well as beautifying their part of town. Those recognized for summer and fall 2006 are: Doris and Lloyd Reed, Jeffrey Johnstonbaugh and Terry Miller, Jodi and John Bailor, Rachael and Rick Savidge, Barbara and Luigi Spaventa, Lisa and Matt Eister and the business and home of Mike and Peg Daddario. The other business recognized was SUNCOM Industries. We thank them for all their hard work.

Mr. Wolfe requested a motion to continue the pay for the administrative leave for the one police officer until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shoch advised that the officer's name need not be included in the motion. Mr. Straub made a motion to pay administrative leave to one of the officers until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

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

Mr. Ruane requested that the council consider an ordinance that provides for a mandatory inspection for rental properties. A written proposal was presented to the council. It recommends that properties be inspected at least once every three years. The ordinance should provide for more frequent inspections depending on the condition of the property. Mr. Shoch added that he would draft an ordinance that includes the items in this proposal from the Code Office. Mr. Shoch is also corresponding with Millersburg and obtaining information on their ordinance pertaining to a renters' tax. He anticipates having a draft ordinance for the next council meeting. Mr. Ruane also suggested that a fee be assessed if an appointment has been scheduled for an inspection and the landlord does not show up and does not cancel.

#### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Slodysko stated that the crew has been busy with snow and ice removal and cleaning out storm drains. He plans to fill potholes within the next few days.

#### **Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Lark reported that the Sewer Authority has informed Mid State about the council's wishes for the Third Street repair. They have not had a response as yet. Mrs. Groninger asked if Mid State was informed in writing. Ms. Lark explained that she sent them a copy of the letter from the Borough informing the Sewer Authority of the council's wishes along with a letter from the Sewer Authority.

#### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Gibbs reported that Jonathan Rees was present at last evening's meeting to review the apparatus replacement schedule. The two companies are to present the proposal to their members and the Board hopes to have a response by their April meeting.

Mr. Gibbs added that the two companies are beginning to work closely together. Plans are to hold a monthly line officers' meeting and to have a meeting after every fire to review procedures.

## **Committee Reports**

### Finance

The committee will meet on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### Personnel

No report

### Property

No report

### Public Safety

The committee will meet on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

### Recreation

The committee will hold a special meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The committee met last week to review plans for the playground at the Second Street property. A mini skatepark may be added if additional funds, over the \$100,000, are secured. Mr. Wolfe commended Noelle Long and Mayor Brosius for their work toward this project.

Mayor Brosius informed the council that Tom Ross has offered to remove the old playground apparatus at no cost to the Borough. Mr. Wolfe suggested tabling the issue until the council meeting in 2 weeks.

### Streets

The committee will meet March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### Second Street

Mr. Straub announced that the committee would meet with the Property Committee on March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The bid specifications are out for the asbestos abatement. Motion to approve the abatement specifications was made by Mr. Wolfe and was seconded by Mr. Wetzel. The bids will be opened at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> council meeting. Roll call vote - All ayes.

## **Old Business**

1. Mayor Brosius asked if the volunteers from the United Way and Susquehanna University could perform work in the Borough. Mr. Shoch said that they could as has been past practice.
2. Mayor Brosius requested that the council open the restrooms at Pineknott Park during the day, not just during ball games. Residents who frequent the Point during the daytime have made the request. Mayor Brosius added that she realizes that the council had discontinued the practice of opening the restrooms, due to vandalism, except during ball games and when the pavilion is rented. She requested that council reconsider. In past years, the street department opened the restrooms in the mornings; and the police closed them in the evenings. Ms. Lark added that an employee from the Sewer Authority used to open the restrooms on weekends. Mr. Wetzel moved to have the restrooms opened by the street department during the week and by the police or Sewer Authority on the

weekends and closed by the police. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

3. Mr. Ruane stated that there are a few abandoned properties in the borough. According to the property maintenance code, if the property is not being maintained for a two year time period, the structures are to be fixed up or torn down. Mr. Shoch agreed to provide a letter to be sent to the property owners.

### **New Business**

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the minutes of January 2<sup>nd</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Straub moved to approve payment of bills. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. An additional bill for \$561.80 from Mayan's Auto Body for painting the police vehicle was included in the motion and second. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Cargill Salt bill was for salt or overtime. It was for salt. Mrs. Groninger asked if the \$1675.50 for the Central PA Teamsters Health and Welfare Fund was for health insurance. The payment is for two laborers' health insurance for one month. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total 29,714.25; bills to be paid from the Liberty Splashland account total \$12.82.
3. Mr. Straub moved to approve closing the downtown streets for the Spring Fling Craft Show on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The craft show is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Straub invited anyone interested in volunteering to contact him.
4. Mrs. Groninger asked about the March 1<sup>st</sup> letter from DEP concerning the Chapter 94 connection prohibition imposed on the Sewer Authority. Ms. Lark explained that the Sewer Authority is going to break out the pump station improvement project from the Act 537 Plan, as recommended in DEP's letter. Mrs. Groninger asked if Northumberland Borough is guaranteed the first connections when they are released. Ms. Lark replied yes. She stated that Ann Roll (Branchview) has already requested a connection and that one is the first to be approved. She added that Point Township must provide the Sewer Authority with a corrective action plan. They must also prove that they are meeting their goals. The permits for connections will be released on a case by case basis. The Northumberland Sewer Authority will make the decision on who will be issued the permits. Permits are issued with a stipulation that they be connected within 6 months. Mayor Brosius asked if sewer runs out to the former Haddon farm. She was told that it does not.

Mr. Wetzel moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
March 20, 2007

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 Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Jenifer Flory, Borough Clerk.

The visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Ronnie Echols and his wife, owners of the Sunrise Deli, attended the meeting with some concerns. According to the owners, when the business was being set up, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer, told them two times that a permit was not needed. Lee Shaffer, Health Officer, inspected the business and told them everything looked okay. The business was open for 51 days and the neighbors filed suit in regards to the location of the exhaust fan, stating it was a nuisance. The Echols went to court and the fan was not proven to be a nuisance and they won the case in District Justice Bolton's office. Code Enforcement has now proceeded to instruct them to move the fan because of a code violation. The restaurant will have to be closed and the cost is approximately \$4,000.00 to have the problem fixed. The owners feel as though they should not be held responsible for making the repairs because if the permit had been given in the beginning, the fan would have been placed properly. The Echols were not aware of a code violation until it was too late. Mr. Ruane spoke regarding the issue and said it was a mistake on his part and he overlooked it. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to give a 60 day cooling off period. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe said that nothing needs to be done by the owners during that time. He added that he feels as though the Borough should incur the cost if it was the Borough's mistake. Mrs. Groninger feels as though we should not give it 60 days and that we should talk with Mr. Ruane and Attorney Shoch before making any decisions. Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees and Mr. Straub voted aye and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.
  
- Mr. Echols also voiced some concern about the storm water run off. This past summer during a storm, there was approximately six inches of water throughout the Sunrise Deli. This was caused by back flow from a storm drain on Duke Street. Mr. Rees stated that during the years that the building was used by the Norry Christian School, they never had water in it. He wondered if the gas company may have disturbed something when they were digging. Mrs. Groninger noted where the drains are located on Duke Street. Mr. Slodysko wants to find where the line goes to see if it is open.

**Executive Session**

The council adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Wolfe announced that litigation issues were discussed and no action is required.

A personnel issue that was discussed does require action. Mr. Straub moved to take a police officer off of administrative leave. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Wolfe voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.

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

Mr. Ruane gave his monthly report for February at the meeting. He stated that Code Enforcement attended two council meetings and two miscellaneous meetings, issued one permit for \$39.00, responded to three complaints, and traveled 80 miles in the code car. One street cut permit was issued for \$500.00 and two rental inspections were done for \$100.00.

### **Public Works Supervisor's Report**

- Pothole repairs still need to be done on the hillside. The recent weather has caused a setback in getting the work done. Orange Street is cracking all the way down through and was just paved two years ago. Fifth Street, between Hanover and Prince Streets, is also cracking. Orange Street was paved with Superpave and Fifth Street was not. G & R Charles was the paving contractor. There were complaints made last fall about Orange Street. Mr. Wolfe feels as though the work should not crack that fast and thinks G & R Charles should be ask to come out and inspect the paving.
- Bernie Dincher of Totally Trees, Inc. went to the Second Street School to inspect the Green Ash tree on the playground. Mr. Dincher will send a letter recommending that the tree be removed due to storm damage and the fact that the top of the tree is rotting. Mr. Slodysko spoke with Best Line Equipment and they will donate a lift since the crew cannot get up high enough with the bucket truck. Mr. Slodysko said the crew will remove the tree and that the new chipper will be here on Friday. Mrs. Groninger made a motion to remove the tree at the Second Street School. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

### **Emergency Services Board**

- Eben Gibbs would like to be able to use Quickbooks rather than go to a public accountant for the audit. The audit cost them \$10,100.00 in 2005. Mr. Wolfe informed him that Quickbooks is about \$200.00 and is not an auditing tool. Quickbooks only creates financial reports and does not replace an audit. The Borough was presented with the Hookie's 2005 Financial Report in December of 2006 by Paul Ruane Jr. Mr. Wolfe also thinks we need to hear from the Hookie's. Mrs. Groninger stated that there is a form 990 the fire companies must submit to the government. The Borough has never received a copy and she thinks the subject should wait until the full council is present.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance**

The next meeting will be held April 19th.

#### **Personnel**

No report.

#### **Property**

The next meeting will be March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The committee met with Gary Wolfe. Asbestos contractors were at the school today for a pre-bid inspection. In the test results provided by Volz, the upstairs tile showed mixed results for the samples. The first sample tested positive for asbestos while the second tested negative. A motion to take samples and have them sent to be retested for asbestos was made by Mr. Straub and was seconded by Mr. Wolfe. Roll call vote - All ayes.

## **Public Safety**

The next meeting will be held March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

## **Recreation**

There was a meeting last week. Final decisions for a recommendation to council for playground equipment, surfacing, and color of the equipment have been discussed. The committee will also begin soliciting donations from the public. There have been some public service announcements on the radio. Articles will be in the newspaper and in the newsletter to help reach the \$100,000 goal. The next meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Brosius asked the council to approve the removal of the old playground equipment by Tom Ross at no cost to the Borough. Mrs. Long expressed a concern regarding the holes left on the playground by the removed equipment and asked if we could have the holes filled in to avoid injury. A motion to have the equipment removed was made by Mr. Straub and was seconded by Mrs. Long. Roll call vote - All ayes.

## **Streets**

The committee is waiting to hear from the COG. PennDOT requires a traffic study in order to paint yellow lines on Elliott Drive and Jefferson Street. A motion to have a traffic study done by police was made by Mr. Wolfe and was seconded by Mr. Straub. Roll call vote - Mr. Rees, Mr, Straub, Mr. Wolfe, and Mrs. Long voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.

## **Old Business**

1. Mayor Brosius asked for approval to buy a bigger shredder for the office. The price found in catalogs was discussed and Mr. Wolfe asked that we provide the council with some printouts of different shredders for the next meeting.
2. A motion to approve the minutes from the February 6th council meeting was made by Mrs. Groninger and was seconded by Mrs. Long. Roll call vote - All ayes.
3. A motion to approve payment of the bills was made by Mrs. Groninger and was seconded by Mrs. Long. Roll call vote - all ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$12,430.30.

## **New Business**

1. Mr. Straub asked for permission to purchase a scale for the recycling center. It would be purchased through the borough and we would be reimbursed \$2,125.00 when the bill comes; either through recycling funds or through a recycling grant that reimburses 90% of the cost. A motion to purchase the scale was made by Mr. Straub and seconded by Mr. Rees. Roll call vote -All ayes.
2. Mrs. Groninger expressed her gratitude to Mr. Straub for the grants obtained by the recycling volunteers and to Mr. Ruane for the money he brings into the Borough. She noted that the recycling grants and the code office provide benefits to the borough.

Mr. Wolfe moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Flory

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
April 3, 2007 at 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, Jonathan Rees, Frank Wetzel and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, Borough Solicitor; Tim Fink; Chief of Police, Paul Ruane; Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Slodysko; Street Supervisor, and Janice Bowman; Borough Secretary. Council member Noelle Long was out of town and Council member Darvin Straub was ill.

The eleven visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Lana Gulden, a member of the Central Pennsylvania Rowing Association stated that the Rowing Association, the Susquehanna Greenway, and SEDA-COG would like to conduct a feasibility study on constructing a larger boathouse, launches, hiking trails, and park area somewhere along the river. Mrs. Groninger asked if the groups have the funds for the feasibility study. Ms. Gulden replied that they do not; but are seeking funding from the various agencies. Mrs. Groninger asked who had approached the Borough for a contribution for a river study. Ryan Unger, an employee at SEDA-COG had asked for a contribution for an Appalachia’s Regional Commission (ARC) grant application. The program is to revitalize river towns and SEDA-COG was making this request of various municipalities along the river. It was suggested that Ms. Gulden contact Mr. Unger for more information. Mrs. Groninger moved to endorse the Susquehanna Community River Sports Center feasibility study. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Joel Wiest, the attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Young, informed the council that the Young's live next to a restaurant that has opened on Route 147. The Young's have been to court were told to go through the Borough. The problem is that the exhaust fan at the restaurant is approximately a foot from the Young's property. The mechanical codes require that exhaust fans be situated at least 10 feet away from the adjacent property. He requested that the Borough take some action on behalf of his clients. Mr. Shoch informed him that the Code Office has sent a letter to the owners of the restaurant, informing them that they must comply with the code. The owners of the restaurant had attended the March 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting and indicated that they thought that the Borough should bear some of

the costs since they were not aware of the code and that they were out of compliance. Discussion ensued. Mr. Shoch suggested that he and Paul meet at the site with the owners of the Sunrise Deli to determine what must be done to bring it into compliance and to break down the costs. Mrs. Groninger asked what the court ruling had been. Mr. Shoch explained that the court ruled that the Young's do not have a private right to enforce the placement of the fan according to the code. Enforcement is up to the municipality. Mr. Wiest stated that his clients do not feel that the Borough is liable for the cost to move the fan. He stated that the contractor and the deli owners should have followed the codes and that Mr. Ruane may not have been aware of the problems. Mr. Wiest added that in the hearing, the owners of the restaurant agreed that the fan was illegally placed. The other point that Mr. Wiest noted is that extending the pipe would not solve the problem. He added that apparatus itself is illegally placed and poses a fire hazard. Mr. Wolfe said that when the cafe owners came to a previous council meeting, they indicated that they had won in front of the judge. Mr. Shoch explained that the judge determined that the Young's did not have a right to enforce the code; that the municipality would be the one to enforce it. Mr. Shoch stated that he feels that more information is needed to resolve the problem. Mr. Wolfe determined that the council would hold a regular meeting on April 17 instead of a work session so action could be taken at that meeting if all the information is obtained. He would like to resolve the problem as quickly as possible. Mrs. Young stated that her husband informed the restaurant owner before the fan was installed.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. to discuss contract and personnel issues. The meeting was reconvened at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Wolfe stated that no action is required.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Brosius reported that the monthly police report has been provided for their review.
- Jared Auman has requested to be an intern for the Northumberland Police Department. His background check has been completed. Mr. Ditton made a motion to allow Jared Auman to do his internship with the borough police. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
- Mayor Brosius commented on a letter received from the VFW. The veteran group is disbanding. Mayor Brosius thanked the group for their many years of volunteer work.
- The Seventh Day Adventist Church contacted Mayor Brosius this week. They would like to know if the Borough is interested in purchasing the building. Mr. Wolfe will contact Mr. Mertz.
- The Borough has received information from the Census Bureau. Meetings will be held in May at SEDA-COG.

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

Mr. Ruane requested that the council approve \$2000 for the purchase of LED lights for the traffic signals. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to purchase the lights. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Ruane requested \$150 for the Borough's dues for the COG.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Slodysko informed the council that the flagpole on the Second Street playground must be removed. He said that the pole is in good shape, but the base is deteriorating.

Mr. Slodysko has met with G & R Charles about the cracks in Orange Street. The paving was done two years ago and the company will repair the street.

The street sweeper is in the garage for repair. The coupler inside the transmission must be replaced. This is the fourth time for this repair. The company engineer will talk to the mechanic to determine what can be done to correct the problem.

New valves have been received for the plumbing in the restrooms at the VFW. The repairs are scheduled to be made.

Mr. Slodysko has plotted the playground and basketball court for the Second Street property. An 8-inch corrugated pipe runs from the playground area to the alley.

Mrs. Groninger moved to replace the pipe. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius stated that a time capsule is buried under one of the trees at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street end of the building.

Chief Fink stated that the traffic study will be done on Elliott Drive tomorrow. Mr. Wolfe questioned why the Borough must do a study in order to paint the lines. State law requires a traffic study to be done in order to cite someone for a violation.

Mr. Ditton has requested that the street department do some work at Pineknott Park.

### **Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark stated that the corrective action plan study has been submitted to DEP. Point Township is also submitting a corrective action plan. She said that they have been working with DEP to include all necessary information in the plan and feels that it should meet their requirements. The Sewer Authority would like the Borough to adopt an ordinance which establishes a compliance program and would give the Sewer Authority the right to enter homes to check for illegal connections upon the sale of the property. Ms. Lark stated that she would provide a copy of the ordinance for Mr. Shoch to review before presenting it to council.

### **Emergency Services Report**

Mr. Eben Gibbs informed the council that the Board met last night and added a section to their standard of operations. They discussed the need to have the traffic stopped because there have been incidences where firefighters have almost been hit by automobiles.

The group will meet in two weeks with the Executive Officers from both companies to discuss the apparatus replacement program. Both companies have been asked to provide financial plan.

The Emergency Services Board passed a resolution allowing the companies to use QuickBooks as their financial statements to the Board. He feels that since it is good enough for grants and the federal government, it is good enough for the Board.

The fire chief position has been tabled. Josh Newbury has been acting chief.

Mr. Wolfe asked if we would be supplied with an official audit from either company and was told evidently not. Mr. Wolfe explained the difference between an audit and a financial statement.

## **Committee Reports**

### Finance

Mr. Wolfe reported that the committee would meet on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The audit has been received. The vote to accept it will be held at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger provided an update on the workers compensation claims and grievances that had been received from the street department regarding the asbestos claim. Nate Fisher and Don Keeley, both former employees, have withdrawn their claims. Steve Haas, a former employee, and Steve Carr, a current employee, have been denied. A determination has not been received for Todd Snyder's claim. Another grievance has been received regarding the street supervisor working. Mr. Ditton questioned if the grievance can be filed since the workers do not have a current contract. Mr. Shoch stated that this is an issue, whether or not the union workers have the right to grieve after the expiration of the old contract, which would be determined by the arbitrator.

### Property

The committee met last month with the Second Street Committee to discuss the plans for the building. One group that is interested in renting the building would like to rent the entire building. The committee is not in favor of this since the building was purchased for the purpose of establishing a community center.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Borough purchased the building over five years ago and he feels it would behoove the council to open the building up, invite residents to come in and voice their opinions. Mayor Brosius stated that people have voiced their opinions at the yard sales that are held in the building in June.

### Public Safety

- The committee met on March 27<sup>th</sup> and discussed an ordinance regarding Megan's Law.
- Mr. Ditton asked if anything was done about house numbers. Mr. Wetzel stated that the topic would be discussed at the April committee meeting.

- Mr. Wolfe stated that he receives comments about a community cleanup. He feels that if the Borough conducts a cleanup, tickets should be sold to those who wish to have items picked up in order to avoid the problems that were faced in the past.
- Mr. Wetzel asked if the code office could speed up the process on citing property owners for not cutting their grass and taking care of their property. Sidewalks and stone

#### Recreation

Mr. Wolfe stated that the plans that have been endorsed by the Recreation Committee will be presented to the council for their approval in two weeks. The goal is that the playground will be completed in June.

#### Second Street Community Center

The bids for the Asbestos Abatement project were opened. The bid results for the total project were: Power Component Systems, Inc. - 19,795.00; First Capital Insulation, Inc. - 21,458.00; Sargent Enterprises - 14,600.00; Penoco - 24,107.00; American Abatement Group, Inc. - 16,100.00; and Alicon Environmental - 24,449.00.

The lowest bidder was Sargent Enterprises, Inc. with a bid amount of \$14,600.00. A motion to hire Sargent pending a reference check was made by Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mr. Rees voted aye and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.

#### Old Business

Mr. Wolfe announced that the newsletter articles are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### New Business

1. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the minutes of March 6, 2007. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton and Mr. Rees abstained because they did not attend the meeting. Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger and Mr. Wetzel voted aye. Motion passed 3-0-2.
2. Mr. Ditton made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Mrs. Bowman noted an additional bill for \$20 to DCED for state building permit fees. The check to Mr. Wolfe, for clarification, is for a reimbursement for the purchase of software for the website. Mr. Ditton asked if the Borough would be reimbursed for the sign that was damaged in a vehicle accident. It was explained that the insured's insurance has already made payment for the sign. Roll call vote - All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$64,806.03 and Liberty Splashland bills total \$33.24.
3. The Shikellamy Baseball coach sent a letter requesting the use of the Pineknotted Park ballfield. Mr. Ditton stated that he feels that the school district should pay a stipend for the use of the field since volunteers maintain the field and the Borough purchases the supplies. Mr. Ditton added that the money could be used to refurbish the field, reapplying the lines, etc. Mrs. Groninger asked if the schedules would

conflict with the other teams that play at the field. It was explained that Mr. Luden schedules the field and that the other teams would have preference for the playing times. Mr. Ditton suggested that the stipend be \$50 per game, adding that this is a school-sponsored activity. Mr. Wetzel so moved, adding that the Borough teams should have priority for use of the field. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion. Mr. Ditton added that if the team plays night games, they should also pay for the lights. Ms. Lark stated that many of the sports do not obtain funding through the school district, but from the Booster Clubs. Mr. Wetzel withdrew his motion. Mr. Ditton made a motion to approve the use of the field and to charge a stipend of \$50.00 for using the field. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Rees, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Wetzel voted nay. Motion passed 3-2.

4. PSAB Regional Water Resource Committee sent a correspondence to the Borough seeking applications for committee membership. No one expressed an interest in applying for nomination to the committee.
5. The VFW has submitted a letter to the Borough stating that the group is disbanding in July. The Borough has ownership of the building which is in the flood plain and has flooded. Mr. Wolfe suggested that a time should be arranged when the council can go down to view the building as a group.
6. Mr. Ditton noted that council received a notice from Resilite Sports Products, Inc. of their application for a change in their permit. [Note: The application to DEP is for a “minor modification to the Title V operating permit for the Northumberland, PA facility. Specifically the permit will be modified to include a facility-wide limit for hazardous air pollutant (HAP) emissions from the facility.”]
7. Mr. Ditton feels that the Borough should submit the DCNR application for funding for Second Street, the ballfield, or anything else that is going on. It was explained that the Borough is currently working on a Joint Comprehensive Plan with Point Township and that once this is completed, funding from DCNR would be
8. Mr. Ditton stated that King Street has become the “hot spot” to play. He requested that signs be installed in the block of 4th and 5th streets on King Street warning motorists to watch for children at play. Mr. Ditton made a motion to have signs installed for the safety of the children. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye. Mr. Rees voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.
9. Mr. Ditton asked about the status of the revised Rental Ordinance. Mr. Wolfe would like to begin the process of amending the Borough’s rental ordinance to require that the code office inspects all rental properties on a yearly basis, or every two to three years, per the code office recommendation. Mr. Wolfe made the motion. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

10. Mr. Slodysko stated that he and Greg Carl are going to an auction for water park equipment. They would like to have \$4000 available to use to purchase pool supplies such as a slide or new pumps. A motion to provide the \$4000 was made by Mr. Ditton. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
11. Greg Carl would like to have directional signs for the pool installed by PennDOT. Photographs of signs for the ASA Softball Hall of Fame in Sunbury were displayed. The cost is approximately \$600 each which would be paid from the pool's advertising budget. Mrs. Groninger moved to purchase signs for Liberty Splashland to be erected near Duke and Second Streets and Front and Prince Streets. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
12. Mr. Wolfe stated that he does not know what the past practice was, but he feels it is a shame that U.S. Representative Christopher Carney will have office hours for a total of just two hours per month for the entire central Susquehanna Valley. According to a correspondence from Rep. Carney, his office hours are at the Sunbury City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
April 17, 2007 at 7:00 PM

President Bryan 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, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Frank Wetzel was absent.

The six visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Joel Wiest requested an update on the status of the vent at the Sunrise Deli. Mr. Ruane replied that he and Attorney Shoch visited the restaurant last Monday and requested that the owner obtain an estimate to replace the vent. The estimate has not yet been received. Mr. Wiest asked whether there is an occupancy permit for the Sunrise Deli. Mr. Ruane responded that one had not been issued. Mr. Wiest stated that it is not legal for a business to operate in the state of Pennsylvania without an occupancy permit. Mrs. Groninger stated that the Code Officer and Solicitor were both on the roof and the relocation of the vent is moving forward. She asked if the occupancy permit is going to be an issue so the council can expedite it. Mr. Wiest replied that it is an issue. Mr. Wolfe asked if a Health Permit was issued and Mr. Ruane responded that one was issued. An Occupancy Permit was not in question before. The solicitor will be consulted.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the second meeting of the month is normally a work session and the solicitor is not present. Because there are some issues that require a vote this evening, the meeting was advertised as a regular council meeting.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane provided the Code Office report for the month of March. He stated that Code Enforcement attended two council meetings and two miscellaneous meetings, issued three permits for \$2,234.00, responded to five complaints, and traveled 75 miles in the code car. Five street cuts permits were issued for \$1,900.00 plus a \$75.00 backfilling fee

and three rental inspections were done for \$150.00. Mr. Ruane also noted that to date, thirty plus abandoned vehicles have been removed from the Borough.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

The department is working on various projects.

Mr. Tom Slodysko stated that the 2004 truck has been repaired. An internal spring in the transmission broke and sent metal through the rest of the transmission. The warranty had run out; but Ford has an extended warranty which will cover some of the expense in repairing the truck.

Mr. Slodysko informed the ballfield volunteers that anything the crew did at the park was part of the Pineknott Park budget.

### **Emergency Services Report**

Ms. Judyann Schmidt reported that the Board has devised an apparatus replacement schedule. The plan is to purchase a pumper truck in 2013, a rescue truck in 2017, and a ladder truck in 2023.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee will meet this Thursday and review the budget numbers.

A motion to approve the 2006 Audit was made by Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. The motion was tabled by Mr. Wolfe due to questions on some of the items in the audit report. Patricia Young, the auditor, will be asked to attend the Finance Committee meeting.

Personnel - No report.

#### Property

The committee will meet next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

#### Public Safety

The committee will meet next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Rees commented on the location of the Children Safety signs. He said there are two signs within fifty feet of each other on Woodrow and Madison. Mr. Wolfe replied that once a sign is installed, it is there forever. He suggested that the Street Committee review the signs in the Borough to determine which signs are still needed.

#### Recreation

##### 2nd Street Playground

Mrs. Long reported that over \$92,000 has been received for the playground. She displayed a brick that will be offered for contributions of \$100. The donor may have something engraved on the brick. The bricks will be exhibited at the Second Street Playground. More information will be available in the newsletter.

Mrs. Long requested approval to place an order with Playworld for the structures on the prints, excluding the picnic tables and trash receptacles, and to order the surfacing tiles. These items will cost about \$78,000.00 and will be covered by the donations. The regulation-sized basketball court is being donated by Bob Long of W. & L. Subaru. It will be installed at the rear of the lot where the old playground equipment was located. She also explained that the playground will be positioned at the corner of Second Street and Sheetz Avenue where the old basketball court was and will be L-shaped. Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, will be the community build day. Tom and the borough crew will prepare the surface ahead of time. Mrs. Long moved to approve the playground plans. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Long learned that seedlings are available through the Forestry Program. Mrs. Groninger suggested that if the Borough obtained seedlings, they could be planted at the recycling building and replanted around the borough at a later date. Mayor Brosius commented that one of the trees that were planted near Pineknott Park has died and that since it is not a year old, the landscaper should be contacted.

#### Streets

Mr. Straub stated that the committee is looking at new materials from two sources for repairing the downtown crosswalks.

The price quote for the curbing scheduled as part of this year's street construction has not yet been received.

#### Second Street

The Asbestos Abatement will begin on April 24<sup>th</sup> and be completed around May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe thanked everyone for contributing articles to the Spring Newsletter. It is twenty pages long and was fully paid for by advertisements. Mr. Ditton noted an error in the Recycling article which stated that recyclables may be dropped off at any time. They may only be dropped off when the center is opened, Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the March 20, 2007 minutes. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Corrections to the minutes were suggested. Mr. Rees stated that his comment on the stormwater issue at the Sunrise Deli was that when the building was a school, there had not been any flooding there in the past five years. Mr. Wolfe and Mrs. Long amended their motion and second to include this addition. Another correction was to the motion about a sixty day cooling off period. The motion did not include the comment that the Roll call vote - All ayes.
2. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the payment of bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mrs. Bowman stated there is another bill to add in the amount of \$150.00 for membership to the Central Susquehanna COG. Council discussed bills relating

to the backhoe control handle; the brackets on bleachers were custom-made; and split on cell phone bill being for the Mayor and Code Officer. Roll call vote to pay the bills - All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe made note of an email that he received from Chuck Donnechy. Mr. Donnechy's father is George Donnechy whose comments about "What Is a Pineknotter?" are on the Borough's website. Mr. Donnechy said that he, too, was a graduate of Northumberland High School and a Pineknotter.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn at 7:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
May 1, 2007 at 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, Frank Wetzel, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Richard Shoch, Borough Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Noelle Long and Jonathan Rees were absent.

The twelve visitors introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Mr. Len Zboray, President of the Riverview Cemetery Board, introduced himself and his wife, Dee, the secretary/ treasurer of the board. He requested that the council wave the \$500 excavation fee for opening the street to install a new waterline at the cemetery. The opening will be on Seventh Street, near Hanover Street. The water company will restore the street.

Mr. Wolfe moved to wave the \$500 fee for the Riverview Cemetery, adding the stipulation that the street be restored by the water company. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mrs. Groninger noted that the members of the Riverview Cemetery Board volunteer their services. She added that the improvement to the cemetery in recent years is evident and that she appreciates their work.

- Ms. Tamara Runyan, a resident of Second Street, voiced a complaint about a dumpster that has been on the street for several weeks. Mr. Ruane informed her that he has spoken to the property owner and that the dumpster should be removed next week. The property owner has obtained a dumpster permit. Ms. Runyan added that the backyard of this residence contains two burn barrels, broken cement, and piles of rubbish. Ms. Runyan stated that two years ago, the same resident had a dumpster sitting on the street for weeks with garbage in it. It was removed just before Pineknoller Days and Ms. Runyan and other neighbors cleaned the street

before the Craft Show because liquids from the garbage had leaked out of the dumpster. Attorney Shoch advised that obtaining a dumpster permit does not permit the resident to maintain a nuisance. He added that the resident may be cited under the nuisance ordinance. Mr. Wolfe stated that burn barrels must be removed as well. Mr. Ruane stated that he would contact the property owner on Thursday. Mr. Wolfe added that if the dumpster is not removed by next Thursday, Ms. Runyan should contact the Borough office.

- Mr. Joel Wiest, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Young, addressed the council about the problem with the location of fan at the Sunrise Deli. He questioned if this problem could come under the nuisance ordinance, due to the odor emanating from the deli. Mr. Wiest also informed the council that the Young's do not blame the Borough for the problem. In fact, they believe the Borough has been hoodwinked because they don't believe the owners of the restaurant informed the code officer of the extent of the renovations that were going to take place. In addition, it's been stated by the owners of the deli that they did not know about the regulations, but Mrs. Young has evidence to the contrary. The Young's do not wish to cause anyone trouble and are trying to avoid contacting Labor and Industry to question permit requirements because a complaint must be made against a Borough official, not the restaurant. Mr. Wiest added that the issue is a health issue; grease can be seen on the window next to the fan and the odor is a problem. Mr. Shoch explained that Mr. Ruane has requested that the owners supply plans to submit to Tom Sauers of the Central Keystone COG in order to obtain an Occupancy Permit. Part of this process will require that the fan be moved. Mr. Shoch had tried to contact the owner today and will call again tomorrow. Mr. Wiest asked if the council could commit to a date for a deadline of when the fan must be moved or the restaurant would be closed down. Mr. Wolfe asked why the business could be opened without an occupancy permit. Mr. Shoch replied that had a permit been required, it would have been obtained. In order to correct the issue, the plans have been requested for Mr. Sauers of the COG to approve. Mr. Wetzel questioned how long the owners have to produce drawings. Mr. Shoch replied that moving the fan is a separate issue from obtaining the plans and that the council could set a deadline for the fan to be moved. He added that the occupancy permit issue is for the Department of Labor and Industry to address; but an occupancy permit would not be issued until the fan is moved and all requirements are met. Mr. Wiest requested that he be permitted to speak to the council in an Executive Session due to possible litigation. Mr. Shoch agreed to the request. Mrs. Young asked who would be required to pay for the fan. Mr. Shoch replied that the owners of the restaurant feel that the Borough should pay for the fan to be moved since they were not required to obtain a permit. Mrs. Young replied that the owners of the restaurant did know that the fan should not be placed that close to the adjacent property before the fan was installed. Mr. Young added that he spoke to the contractor who told him that he told them that the fan should not be placed in that location and the owner of the deli replied that he could place it where he wanted. Mr. Shoch stated that the Borough has told them that the fan must be moved; a request for compensation from the Borough would be their decision.

## **Executive Session**

Mr. Wolfe announced that the council would go into an Executive Session at 7:25 to discuss this issue due to possible litigation and to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Wiest was invited to discuss the issue with council in the Executive Session.

Council member Noelle Long arrived during the Executive Session at 7:26 p.m.

The council meeting was reconvened at 7:46 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe requested a motion that the owners of the Sunrise Deli provide evidence of a signed contract with a contractor to move the exhaust fan by noon on May 14<sup>th</sup>, and that the fan be moved by May 25, 2007. Mr. Ditton so moved; Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. Long, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted aye. The motion was passed by a vote of 5-0. Mrs. Groninger was absent for the vote. She returned at 7:50 p.m.

## **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Brosius read the following letter of commendation:

“Dear Chief Fink,

I commend you and the entire Northumberland Police Department for all the hard work in the investigation of the murder of little Marlee Rose Reed that took place on December 7, 2004 in Northumberland. All of you working as a team provided excellent police work and your assistance in court helped in the prosecution and conviction of this murderer.

Again I express my sincere appreciation to all involved.”

Chief Fink introduced Officer Edward Cope and recognized his efforts in investigating the case. Officer Cope stated that the jury went into deliberations at 5:00 p.m. and came back at 6:30 with a vote for the death penalty. Mayor Brosius thanked Officer Cope for his and the department's work on the case.

- Mayor Brosius stated that the police department held a successful DUI Check Point on April 28, 2007. The state will reimburse the Borough for the officers' pay for their time to conduct the check point. Chief Fink reported that 4 DUI arrests were made in addition to 11 traffic citations and one non-traffic citation.
- The National Day of Prayer Proclamation by President Bush has been established for Thursday, May 3, 2007. A time is set aside each first Thursday in May to pray for our nation and leaders. The Northumberland/ Point Township Ministerium is sponsoring the event at noon in front of the Borough Building.
- History Day will be on May 12, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the King Street Park. Dave Ramsey and Mike McWilliams are the co-chairmen.
- Mayor Brosius sent letters of appreciation to volunteers from the United Way Days of Caring, employees of the Northumberland Conservation District, who painted

the Santa House and to Susquehanna students who helped weed along the Route 11 underpass.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

- Tom Slodysko reported a problem with the water line in the pit outside the VFW building. This is where they test the backflow device each year. By replacing the bad valve with a standard double-check flow valve, the test will no longer be required. Mr. Slodysko requested that the bill for the test not be paid until he speaks to the company.
- A tar buggy was demonstrated last week. Several council members were present to view the test.
- The asbestos abatement at the Second Street School should be completed by next week. Mr. Slodysko reported that two men from Sargent Enterprises, Inc. are working in the building to remove the asbestos.
- Mr. Slodysko and Greg Carl are working at the pool to repair the pool floor. He requested permission to use the borough truck on Friday to pick up a 40,000 psi pressure washer to use to remove the coating on the pool floor.

Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the use of the borough truck as requested. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The machine rents for \$1,200 a day and they expect to complete the work on Saturday and return the machine on Monday. Mrs. Groninger stated that she felt the Borough should be paying Mr. Slodysko for work at the pool, and added that the issue would be discussed at a Personnel meeting. Roll call vote – All ayes.

- Mr. Slodysko informed council that there is a storm drain sinkage on Front Street at Prince Street. Mr. Slodysko will work with Mr. Ruane and PennDOT to determine what must be done. Ms. Lark stated that the work that PennDOT scheduled for this summer in the area where the oil spill had occurred years ago is being delayed. Mr. Slodysko stated that he would work with Mr. Ruane and PennDOT to check under the street to determine the cause of the problem.

### **The Sewer Authority Report**

Cindy Lark reported that she has provided Mr. Shoch with a proposed ordinance for his review. Mr. Shoch asked if this is the final draft. Ms. Lark replied that she would check with their solicitor, but believes it is. Mr. Shoch plans to review the ordinance to present to council at the next regular council meeting.

### **Emergency Services Report**

Judyann Schmidt informed the council that the Board met on Monday night to review the spreadsheet that Jonathan Rees prepared for them. Mr. Rees has provided instructions so Ms. Schmidt can continue to update the spreadsheet for the Board.

The Fire Protection Evaluation conducted by the Department of Community and Economic Development was received today. The Emergency Services Board has not reviewed it yet.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

- Mr. Wolfe reported that the Finance Committee met with Pat Young, the Borough Auditor to review the 2006 Audit. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the revised 2006 Audit. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger, and Mrs. Long voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 5-1.
- Mr. Wolfe explained that based on the Finance meeting, the projected balance at the end of December 2006 had been \$5,000. It was actually over \$50,000. The committee is recommending that \$48,714 be transferred to the General Contingency Account. Mrs. Groninger moved to transfer \$48,714 from the General Fund to the General Contingency Fund. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
- The committee also reviewed other accounts and recommends closing the HAZ-MAT and Building Fund bank accounts and transferring the money to the General Contingency Fund. Mr. Ditton and Mr. Wetzel moved and seconded closing these two accounts and transferring the funds to General Contingency. The amounts to be transferred, as of March 31, are \$3,861.78 from HAZ-MAT and \$405 from the Building Fund. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee would meet again in July, unless something comes up before then.

### **Personnel**

Mr. Wolfe reported that three current (at the time of filing) and two former employees had filed claims with the Borough's insurance carrier for asbestos exposure. The company determined that the employees should be tested. The Borough just received word that Todd Snyder's claim was denied. This was the final result from the claims. All claims were either denied or withdrawn.

### **Property**

Mr. Wetzel reported that the committee received a request from the Northumberland Fire Police for permission to use the former VFW building on Water Street for meetings. They would also like to erect some sort of shelter for their vehicle. Mr. Wolfe asked if the Property Committee has determined what the overall use of the building would be. Mr. Wetzel explained that the Property Committee is in favor of permitting the Fire Police to use the building. Mayor Brosius added that the Fire Police would like to store their equipment there; adding that in the event of a flood, the equipment would be removed from the building for use. Mrs. Groninger asked who would be responsible to maintain the building. Mr. Wetzel replied that the committee discussed the cost of utilities, suggesting that if the bills are higher than in the past that the Fire Police contribute toward them. Mayor Brosius stated that the police department could have utilized the building during the check point the other week. Mr. Wolfe stated that he has no problem

with the Fire Police using the building; however, he feels it would be beneficial if other interest groups would be allowed to use it. Mrs. Long stated that the Recreation Committee used it last year during Halloween. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Fire Police have money from their Fund Drive. Mr. Wetzel thought that they raised around \$3,000. Mrs. Long asked if anyone had spoken to Herb Gottshall since the Property Committee meeting. Since no one had, Mrs. Long suggested that the topic be tabled until the committee could speak with Mr. Gottshall. Mr. Wolfe tabled the issue.

Mayor Brosius stated that the committee is recommending that the bathrooms in the Borough Building be designated as one for the women and one for men.

Mr. Shoch advised that the council need not vote on the issue.

Mr. Wetzel noted that the committee discussed the handicapped ramp at the Girl Scout Little House. The Borough Office provided information to the troop leader on portable handicapped ramps. The ramp could be stored in the closet on the back porch. Mayor Brosius noted that a modern wheel chair can fit through the back door. Mr. Straub commented on the fact that this is a polling place. Mayor Brosius stated that the voter may vote at one of the other polls in the Borough that are handicapped accessible.

### **Public Safety**

Mr. Wetzel reported that the committee discussed requirements for house numbers. Mr. Ruane asked if homeowners would be contacted if they have no house numbers visible from the street. Mayor Brosius suggested that the police intern could help with this task.

Mr. Wolfe asked if Mr. Wetzel would contact the Shade Tree Commission about recommendations for trees that could be planted in the curb space.

### **Recreation**

Mrs. Long announced that the playground equipment has been ordered for the Second Street Playground at a total cost of \$72,035 for the equipment, surfacing, and a supervisor for the volunteers. The construction date is set for June 16; with a rain date of June 23. Bricks are available for purchase at a minimum \$100 donation. Ms. Long stated that the bricks would be placed around town at various businesses. Mr. Wolfe added that donations are being accepted online at [www.northumberlandborough.com](http://www.northumberlandborough.com).

Mrs. Long requested council's approval to purchase a tent. She explained that the budget includes \$1,000 for special events. She would like to use this money to purchase a 20 x 30 foot tent to be used for special events throughout the year. Mr. Joe Epler has offered to cover the additional cost of the tent, up to \$1,000. Mr. Shoch advised that a motion is not required since it is a budget item.

Mr. Straub moved to continue to use Wolfe Associates as the architects at the Second Street building. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

### **Streets**

Mrs. Groninger moved to accept the Curbing Proposal from Lytle's Concrete at a cost of \$2,950. This includes removal and disposal of the curbing on Queen Street at Second Street at two driveways at 315 King Street. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Mr. Ditton questioned why the curbing was to be replaced on King Street. Mr. Ruane explained that when the street was paved, the slope created a water runoff problem at the driveways. The Borough will purchase the concrete to save on the sales tax. Roll call vote - All ayes.

### **Second Street**

Mr. Wolfe read the proposed unit costs from the Volz Air Monitoring & Inspection Services Proposal. Industrial Hygiene Technician (up to 8 hours per day) \$35.00 per hour and \$40 per hour overtime (over 8 hours per day); Project Manager is \$65 per hour; an Analysis of the Air Sample is \$15 per sample; and mileage is \$.45 per mile. Direct reimbursement of expenses is the cost plus 10%. Mr. Straub explained that by having the air testing and inspection done, the public could be assured that all asbestos has been removed from the building and they are totally safe. Mr. Wolfe moved to contract with Volz Services at a cost of up to \$2,000. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Shoch provided the council with a copy of the Residential Rental Tax ordinance draft. The second component is a separate ordinance that defines the residential rental inspections and fines that he will complete for the council work session. This ordinance would replace the current rental-landlord ordinance by addressing inspections. Mr. Shoch stated that since the Residential Rental Tax ordinance is being enacted under the Local Tax Enabling Act, which allows the Borough to tax lease arrangements for residential leases within the Borough. It must be advertised three times and would become in effect for 2008. Mr. Shoch tailored the ordinances for the Borough from ordinances that are in effect in Millersville.
2. Mr. Wolfe conducted the bid opening for the sale of the Bandit Chipper. The Borough received two bids. The first is from Point Township in the amount of \$7,000. The second bid, from the Hazleton Equipment Company, was for \$6,791. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the bid of \$7,000 from Point Township. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe noted that the Code Enforcement has identified four properties in the Borough that are deemed uninhabitable. One is the former Abrana Marie's on Queen Street; one is the property at 387-389 Priestley Avenue; the third is at 352 Fifth Street and the fourth is on Priestley Avenue. Mr. Wolfe asked what action may be taken on abandoned properties. Mr. Shoch advised that the Borough may

bring action against the owner. He will explore the actions available to municipalities. He also noted that if the buildings aren't boarded up, the Code Office may cite the owners. He added that every day is a violation under the Borough's nuisance ordinance.

4. The Borough has received a correspondence from the Pennsylvania American Water Company concerning a rate increase. Mrs. Groninger asked if any information has been received about the construction of a water tower in Point Township. The company had informed the council several years ago that once the new tower was constructed, the problem of lack of water pressure in the Borough during power outages would be resolved. No new information has been received. Mr. Wetzel stated that a generator has been located at the Prince Street water tower since February as agreed upon in 2006.
5. Several ordinances are pending. They are the truck parking ordinance and the streets where truck traffic is permitted.
6. Mr. Ruane informed council that letters have been sent to property owners who have not complied with the sidewalk ordinance. They have thirty days to install or repair their sidewalks or a citation will be issued.

#### **New Business**

1. Mr. Wolfe made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Groninger, to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Slodysko requested that the bill for the backflow preventor testing from Penn Fire Protection, Inc. not be paid at this time. The motion was amended to exclude payment of this bill. Roll call vote to pay the bills was unanimously approved. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$37,700.34 and Liberty Splashland bills total \$68.12.
2. The Red Cross requested the use of Liberty Splashland for swimming classes. Mrs. Long moved to approve the request. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. The fee will remain the same as last year at \$600. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council work session would be held on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. instead of Tuesday due to the primary election.
4. History Day is planned for May 12 in the King Street Park. Representatives of the History Day Committee will be on WKOK's Round Table on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
June 5, 2007 at 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, Darvin Straub, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, solicitor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Councilman Frank Wetzel was absent.

Eight members of the public introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

- Ms. Judyann Schmidt voiced a complaint about the trenches on Third Street. Mr. Ruane stated that the company would be back to top the street cuts.
  
- Mr. Andrew Dalto, a resident at Seventh and Orange Streets, said that he received a notice about installing sidewalks on his second lot, next to his residence. He explained that he has had financial difficulties and cannot install sidewalks at this time. He hopes to begin installing the sidewalks this summer. He stated that the Borough property on Orange Street at Jolly Hollow has no sidewalks and he feels that other sidewalks in the Borough are in worse condition than his. He requested additional time to install his sidewalks.
  
- Mr. Joel Wiest, attorney for Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Young, asked what is being done at the property next to the Young’s. Mr. Ruane explained that the contractor is fabricating the pipe and that it will be installed as soon as possible. Mr. Wiest asked if the Borough will take action since the deadline of May 25<sup>th</sup> was not met. Mr. Shoch explained that when the deadline was set, the council did not know what was involved in resolving the problem. Mr. Shoch explained that the process to have the restaurant closed by Labor and Industry would take longer than the repairs by the contractor. Mr. Shoch has spoken to the engineer and has learned that the other plans are 90% complete. Mr. Wiest stated that he thinks the Borough could begin an injunction tomorrow. Mr. Ronnie Eckles stated that he did not receive the notification from the Borough until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shoch stated that he spoke with Mr. Eckles on May 2nd and informed him of the council’s requirements. Mrs. Young asked if the vent had been inspected by the Health Officer. Mr. Ruane

stated that the Health Officer inspects the kitchen. Mrs. Young replied that she gave Mr. Wolfe information from a state inspector stating that a health inspection includes inspection of the vent. Mr. Eckles stated that the vent would be completed next week. Discussion ensued. Mr. Wolfe stated that he would like to discuss the issue in Executive Session.

### **Executive Session**

The council adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:00 p.m. Legal issues and personnel issues were discussed.

Actions taken as a result of the Executive Session:

1. Mr. Straub moved and Mr. Ditton seconded the motion to initiate a complaint with Labor and Industry against the Sunrise Deli. If the vent work is completed within thirty days, the complaint could be pulled. Roll call vote: Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Shoch and Mr. Ruane are to contact the COG to file the complaint.
2. Mrs. Groninger moved to offer the part-time office position to the person whose name was discussed in the Executive Session at a wage that complies within the parameters of the Borough's budget. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. The individual was not identified, pending acceptance of the offer.

### **Mayor's Report**

- The police will be taking First Aid classes. Mayor Brosius said that the evening classes would be opened for any other Borough employee who would be interested.
- Council was provided with the police report for May.
- Mayor Brosius thanked the volunteers who worked on History Day; the Second Street Yard Sale and Chinese Auction; the veterans and veteran groups who organized the Memorial Day Parade; the Riverview Cemetery Board for the new archway at the cemetery and the dedication ceremony on Memorial Day; and the Susquehanna students who worked at the underpass. She also thanked those who donated items for the various events. Mayor Brosius received a letter from Susquehanna University concerning another volunteer day on August 25<sup>th</sup>. She requested that council members consider how the volunteers could be utilized.
- "Seasoned Sounds" will be performing in the King Street Park gazebo on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. In case of rain, the venue will be changed to the Second Street gymnasium.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Slodysko informed the council that three college students are working with the crew through the PHEAA summer work program.

Mr. Slodysko is coordinating the opening of the restrooms at the VFW building. An inspection of the “pit” is scheduled. The schedule for the pavilion rentals will be placed at the pavilion.

The lock on the gate at the Recycling Center was cut. Mrs. Groninger asked if anything was missing. Mr. Slodysko replied that the door of the police trailer was removed.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Lark reported that DEP has approved the Sewer Authority’s corrective action plan to address the Inflow and Infiltration issue. DEP has given permission to the Sewer Authority to issue five connections, with more to be issued as progress is made to the system. The schedule is to release five more connections in July and August, with more to be released when the Point Township Sewer Authority completes its diagnostic work in July. Ms. Lark stated that the Queen Street pump station must be upgraded due to the potential growth in Point Township. As part of the agreement, whatever percentage of flow the municipalities put into the plant, their share of the cost is based upon this percentage. Point Township’s cost for the sewer is based on the flow coming into the Borough. Mayor Brosius asked if the Point Township residents are paying the same amount as Borough residents. Ms. Lark replied that they pay more because they are also paying for the township’s sewer system. In order to pay for the upgrade to the sewer plant, some money has been put aside. The Sewer Authority is also seeking funds through Representative Phillips.

Ms. Lark has provided the council with a draft of an ordinance that would permit the Sewer Authority to conduct a door to door survey in order to get downspouts and sump pumps out of the system. It also requires a Certificate of Compliance to sell a property. Mr. Ditton stated that he is not in favor of the ordinance as written. Mrs. Groninger added that she would like for the council and the Northumberland Sewer Authority to schedule a joint meeting.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Ms. Judyann Schmidt stated that the Board is reviewing the current guidelines. They will rewrite a section since the fire companies now have uniforms.

The Fire Department will conduct a training session about hybrid cars. She explained that they will be taught how to disconnect the wires in case of an emergency. The police are invited to attend.

Mr. Wolfe asked if the Board has completed the revisions to ordinance for the Fire Department. Ms. Schmidt stated that the Board plans to review the ordinance at their next meeting, before bringing it to council.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Finance**

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Committee would meet in August, September, October, and November to set the 2008 budget. It would then be presented to the full council at the first December council meeting.

Personnel – No report

#### Property

Mr. Straub stated that the committee had discussed the VFW building and permitting the Fire Police to use the building. Mr. Gottshall, captain of the Fire Police, had stated that the building could be used for other purposes, as well. The Fire Police will use the funds that have been collected to power wash and paint the building and to install a carport to house their vehicle.

#### Public Safety

The committee did not meet last month.

Mr. Wolfe requested that the council address concerns on the renter ordinance to the solicitor. Mr. Shoch explained that the tax on rental units cannot be implemented until 2008; however, the ordinance addressing inspections can be adopted for the current year. Mr. Wolfe requested that the ordinance regarding inspections be made available for the July council meeting. Mayor Brosius asked if the Code Office inspects properties rented through HUD. Mr. Ruane replied that he does not since HUD inspects the properties.

#### Recreation

- 2nd Street Playground

Ms. Long reported that the basketball court base layer and poles have been installed.

The build dated for the playground equipment has been rescheduled for June 23, 2007.

The donations are currently at \$95,600. A cut-off dated for the brick orders has not been set yet. It has been recommended that the committee wait until spring to install the brick wall. All donations will be recognized in the newsletter and the Daily Item, not just those who purchase bricks.

- Liberty Splashland

Ms. Long commended Greg Carl and Tom Slodysko for the work that was done in order to have the pool ready to open today.

- The Recreation committee will meet on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Streets

Mr. Straub moved to accept the bid of \$107,990 from Eastern Industries for the paving. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. The bid was part of the bid prepared for the Central Susquehanna COG. The contract includes an escalator clause in the event of an increase in the price of oil. Roll call vote – All ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

An ordinance is pending for no parking on a section of Elliott Drive and Jefferson Street. A traffic study is being conducted.

Mayor Brosius asked about the status of the ordinance that designates the routes for trucks in the Borough. Mr. Shoch requested a draft of the ordinance and the result of the traffic study to review.

Mr. Straub stated that the committee would not meet this month.

#### Second Street

Mr. Straub announced that the committee would meet on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Several members of the committee met with Gary Wolfe and Ken Bobb to tour the building. They will provide recommendations for the council to review and vote on. Mr. Wolfe suggested that during the budget process, the council consider establishing a project manager position, perhaps a one-year position, so someone can oversee the project on a day to day basis.

Mrs. Long announced that the Second Street Community Yard Sale and Chinese Auction last Saturday was a success. She heard positive comments about the building and plans for a community center. Mayor Brosius thanked Noelle for her contribution as chairperson of the yard sale and Chinese Auction.

Ms. Long stated that the committee would be manning the BINGO stand at Pineknotters' Days.

#### Old Business

1. Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt Resolution B-2007. This resolution approves a \$1,500 contribution to the Revitalizing River Towns Project. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. The Borough Secretary attended the 2010 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Program at SEDA-COG. Several options were discussed that municipalities may choose to use when conducting the census. More information will be provided later this summer.
3. Mr. Ditton asked when the docks would be delivered and installed. Mr. Straub stated that the docks have been delivered, but additional work must be done at the point before that dock can be installed. Mr. Wolfe noted that the dam will only be up until sometime in August.
4. Mr. Ditton asked about the King Street Park gazebo. Bob Welby, a local contractor, has looked at the gazebo and will meet with Mr. Slodysko to discuss the repairs.
5. Mrs. Groninger asked if the VFW has removed all their belongings from the building. Mr. Ruane stated that he believes they have done so.

## **New Business**

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve payment of the bills. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. An additional bill of \$65 for Chief Fink's officer training program was noted. The motion and second were amended to include this bill. Roll call vote – All ayes. The accounts and bill totals are as follows: General Fund - \$49,181.13; Liberty Splashland - \$9582.50; Second Street Community Center Grant -\$14,600; Shade Tree - \$1,100; and Norry Playground Fund - \$31,335.
2. Mr. Rees moved to approve transferring \$14,000 from the General Fund to Liberty Splashland account, per the budget. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Straub moved and Mrs. Long seconded a motion to approve Pineknotters' Days request for Borough employees' assistance during the week-long event. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Wolfe requested that all articles for the newsletter be forwarded to the Borough Office by June 8<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Brosius requested that a correction about the recycling drop-off policy be noted. This newsletter will include Pineknotters' Days, Lemonade Day, the Corn Festival and possibly the playground.
5. Mrs. Groninger asked if the Borough receives a list of residents from the Income Tax Administration Office. She was informed that the Borough currently does not receive such a list; however, if the Borough sends a written request for the list, the office is to comply, according to the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Mrs. Groninger added that the purpose of this request is to be able to confirm that the Borough is receiving the local income tax from all residents, especially those living close to the borders of Point Township. Mrs. Groninger moved to send a letter to the Income Tax Administration Office requesting the list. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the council would hold a regular meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The July meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
June 19, 2007

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 Frank Wetzell, Bryan Wolfe, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, and Jonathan Rees. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Darwin Straub was absent. Solicitor Richard Shoch arrived later in the meeting.

Three visitors introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Ronnie Echols informed the council that the exhaust fan at the Sunrise Deli has been moved and is up to code. He also stated that he chose the least expensive way to make the repairs. The bill for the work totaled \$4,102. The Keystone COG now has the plans and will be conducting the inspections. Mr. Echols stated that he will do whatever is required to bring the restaurant up to code. Mr. Wolfe stated that the Borough’s insurance company would be contacted regarding the bill for the repairs.

Mrs. Echols invited everyone on council to visit the restaurant.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Ruane reported that the Code Office sent out twenty-seven code violation letters. He presented his report for May 2007.

Mr. Ruane will contact Eastern Industries to learn when the street paving will begin. He added that several sewer lids must be raised before the streets are paved. Ms. Lark requested that he provide her with the locations.

**Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Mrs. Cindy Lark asked if the council has any questions about the ordinance that the Sewer Authority is requesting council to adopt.

Mr. Wolfe moved to advertise the Sewer Ordinance in order to have a final discussion and vote at the July 17, 2007 council meeting. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ditton stated that he is not in favor of the ordinance because it would mean that someone could enter his house at any time without prior notice. Mrs. Lark stated that the ordinance was initiated so the Sewer Authority would have the right to enter a property

whenever it is transferred or sold to a new owner. Mr. Ditton stated that Section 9, paragraph provides for the Northumberland Sewer Authority to have the right to enter a property without prior notice. Mr. Ditton stated that he feels that the property owners should have the right to refuse entrance into their houses.

Mrs. Groninger added that a compliance certificate is required under Section 6. Mrs. Groninger also stated that she does not see what the advantage is to the Borough of Northumberland to have a joint sewer authority. Mr. Gene Brosius, solicitor for the Northumberland Sewer Authority, stated that this ordinance does not address a joint authority. Mrs. Groninger noted that problems not only exist in Northumberland; Point Township also has problems. Mr. Brosius replied that the Point Township Board of Supervisors has adopted this ordinance. Mrs. Groninger asked how many residences have been inspected in Point Township to determine if storm water is being run into the sewer system. Mrs. Groninger commented that since the Sewer Authority excavated on Queen Street, the stormwater does not flow properly into the storm drain at Fifth and Queen Streets. Mrs. Groninger agreed with Mr. Ditton that an inspector should not have the right to enter a home at any time. Mr. Ditton added that the property owner should have a right to refuse. Ms. Lark replied that the ordinance only pertains to properties that are transferred to another owner as mentioned in a prior section of the ordinance. Mr. Ditton stated that this section of the ordinance implies that all properties could be subject to inspections. Mr. Rees recommended that the section in question be clarified as to who is affected by the ordinance.

Ms. Lark stated that it is illegal to have a combined system per DEP and that the reason to enter properties is to check that the systems are separate. By inspecting properties when they are sold, the new owners will be made aware of the ordinance and that storm water may not be run into the sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Wolfe noted that the costs are not to be included in the ordinance; reference is to be made to the Borough's Schedule of Fees and Penalties. Mr. Wolfe withdrew the motion.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the committee would meet in July to review the current budget numbers. [Note: This meeting was later cancelled.]

#### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger read the letter of resignation from Officer Michael Vognetz. He has accepted a position with the Williamsport Police Department. She moved to accept his resignation, with regret. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### Property

No report

#### Public Safety

No report. The committee will not meet in June.

## Recreation

Ms. Long reported that work has begun on the playground. The basketball court has been installed. Mrs. Long commended Tom Slodysko and the Borough crew for the hard work they have done at the playground. Mrs. Long stated that the build is planned for June 23, rain or shine. The donations for the playground total \$98,767.

A basketball tournament is planned for August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

The large tent is on order and will be delivered shortly. Mrs. Long requested permission to purchase several smaller tents for Recreation with funds budgeted for Special Events. The tents will be used during the various events planned throughout the year. Since the funding was budgeted, no vote was required.

Councilman Darvin Straub arrived at 7:31 p.m.

## Streets

Mr. Straub stated that he and Tom Slodysko spoke about the slope of the bank at the intersection of Park and Sheetz Avenues behind the Second Street building. It will be tapered and grass will be planted.

A resident on Reagan Circle requested that curbing be installed at the corner of Madison Avenue and Reagan Circle to remedy the problem of stones washing across the street during heavy rains. Mrs. Groninger suggested that larger stones be placed around the area to help contain the smaller stone.

## Second Street

The committee will meet next week at 7:00 p.m.

## **Executive Session**

The council adjourned for an Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Wolfe announced that the council would refer the Sunrise Deli issue to the Borough's insurance carrier.

A personnel issue had been discussed in Executive Session with regards to Officer Mark Cassel. Based on that discussion, Mr. Wolfe moved to terminate the services of Mark Cassel as an Officer of the Borough of Northumberland. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Shoch explained that under Borough Code the Mayor has the ability to suspend an officer without pay up to the next Borough Council meeting. That had been done last week. At this point, the council then has the decision to uphold or negate the action under Section 46190 of the Borough Code. The officer would be notified of the specifics of the charges brought against him and would have the right to appeal to the Civil Service Commission. If either party wishes to appeal the decision of the Civil Service commission, the appeal would be made to the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Shoch stated that the motion should include sustaining the unpaid suspension. Mr. Wolfe and Mrs. Groninger amended the motion and second to include sustaining the unpaid suspension. Mr. Cassel had nothing to say to the

council at this time. Roll call vote: Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Wetzel abstained. Motion passed 6-0-1.

### **Old Business**

1. Mr. Ditton asked if the gazebo in King Street Park has been checked. Bob Welby has examined the gazebo and will provide a recommendation.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved to approve the minutes of April 3, 2007. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Mr. Wolfe stated that he spoke with Mr. Mertz, a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The building may be for sale. Mr. Mertz will contact the Borough once more information is available. Roll call vote to approve the minutes: Mrs. Groninger, Mr. Rees, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mrs. Long and Mr. Straub abstained because they were not present for the meeting. Motion passed 5-0-2.
  2. Mr. Ditton moved to approve the minutes of April 17, 2007. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Wetzel abstained because he was not present for the meeting. Motion passed 6-0-1.
  3. Mr. Ditton moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Groninger voted aye; Mr. Rees and Mrs. Long abstained because they were not present for the meeting. Motion passed 5-0-2.
  4. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve payment of the bills. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Mr. Rees asked about the bill for a clock at the pool. The bill is for a time clock. Mrs. Groninger questioned the gas bill for the Girl Scout House. The service is not turned off during the summer months because of the service charge to turn it off and on. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$49,116.13; Liberty Splashland bills total \$9,582.50; Norry Playground bills total \$31,335.00; Shade Tree bills total \$1,100; and bills to be paid from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Grant Account total \$14,600.00.
1. Mr. Straub presented the 2007 Pineknott Train car to Mr. Wolfe for the Borough. The Keystone Forge sponsored this year's train car. Mr. Straub announced that next year Tulpehocken Water Company would be the sponsor of the train car.
  2. Mr. Rees asked Mr. Ruane about the property at Second and Duke Streets. Mr. Ruane explained that the property is owned by a mortgage company and that they have been contacted about the high grass and weeds.
  3. Mr. Wetzel asked about a broken pipe at Pineknott Park. Mr. Ditton stated that the crew has repaired it.
  4. Mr. Ditton asked where the flag for Pineknott Park ballfield was obtained last year. No one could answer where it had been obtained. Mr. Rees suggested obtaining one

that had been flown at the State Capital. Mrs. Groninger asked if the flag had been up all year and if there is a light for it. Mr. Ditton replied that it had been up for the summer.

5. Mayor Brosius asked if the Borough need a mercantile tax. She noted the problems that existed at Mo Betta.
6. Mayor Brosius asked if the Borough has an ordinance regulating satellite dishes. Currently there is none. Mr. Straub said that Camp Hill's ordinance requires that the dish is placed in the rear of the house.
7. Mayor Brosius has been asked if the Borough would like any picnic tables from the Ponderosa. Mr. Straub suggested that the Property Committee check out the tables.
8. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council meeting on August 7, 2007 will be at Liberty Splashland. The next council meeting will be July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Borough Building.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
July 17, 2007 at 7:00 PM

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order. He requested that PennDOT present their information regarding the Route 11 bridge project and road detours.

PENNDOT – Ben McBryan, Project Manager explained the scope of work to replace the deck joints on State Route 11 located in Northumberland and Union Township. PennDOT has determined to use a northbound detour for this project. The proposed detour is 3 7/8 mile long will involve two 5-day periods. The anticipated start date is September 9<sup>th</sup>. The detours will run from 6 a.m. Sunday to 6 a.m. Friday, barring any delays. Traffic northbound on Route 11 will be detoured to Route 51, over the Veterans Memorial Bridge to Route 147 north through Sunbury, returning to Route 11 North in Northumberland. Construction work will not be planned for the week of the Bloomsburg Fair.

PennDOT will place a message sign on Route 11/15 northbound in advance of the Veterans Memorial Bridge informing motorists “US 11 Bridge Closed” and “Trucks to I-80 use RT 15”. Mr. Ditton suggested that the trucks going to the Industrial park be sent through Lewisburg. PennDOT will contact Weis Markets and request that their trucks detour to Route 15 instead of coming through the Borough.

Mayor Brosius noted that two large Christian schools are located in the Borough and Point Township. Contact information was provided to PennDOT. SUNCOM will also be contacted since they bus their employees to their facility on Route 11.

PennDOT also plans to patch the concrete under the railroad bridge will the detour is in effect. Mayor Brosius noted that the railings along the sidewalk at the underpass are not safe. PennDOT stated that the maintenance responsibility for the railings at the underpass is the Borough’s. They suggested that the Borough could repair the railings at the time of the detours.

Cindy Lark noted that the Sewer Authority may need to respond to an emergency in the Borough and requested that their equipment be permitted to enter the Borough if necessary. It was determined that in case of an emergency, the Borough police or crew would stop traffic at the intersection of Duke and Water Streets for the Sewer Authority’s vehicles to access the Borough.

Mr. Straub asked when the light poles would be replaced on the bridge. He requested that the Kiwanis Club be permitted to redo the ropes for the flags before the poles are installed.

One of the PennDOT employees stated that members of the Kiwanis Club have already contacted him and they are coordinating the work. The light poles will probably be put back up on the bridge during the second phase of the construction.

PennDOT will contact the borough once the construction dates are set.

In addition, the council was informed that major repairs will be made on Route 147 from King Street to Duke Street and from Water Street to Route 405 in 2009.

Mr. Wolfe announced the start of the regular council meeting.

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, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, Solicitor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Tom Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Frank Wetzell was absent.

The four visitors present introduced themselves.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Fran Bogovich asked if the Borough has plans to repair asphalt that was damaged on Buchanan Avenue over the winter. A large piece of curbing was torn up by the plow. Mr. Slodysko will check on it.

Mrs. Bogovich asked whose responsibility it is to remove the weeds from around the fire hydrants. When asked for specific locations, she suggested that the Code Officers should walk around town and see the locations.

Mr. Steve Whitman, a resident of 603 Queen Street, requested a handicapped parking space at his residence. He was told to provide the council with a copy of his handicapped placard and a letter from his physician.

### **Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Brosius reported that the police civil service test will take place on July 25.

Mayor Brosius requested that two surveillance systems be purchased to aid the police department.

Mr. Wolfe moved and Mrs. Long seconded the motion to approve the purchase of two surveillance systems at a total cost of up to \$2,500. Discussion. Mr. Wolfe will research the systems. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Patrolman Ed Hennessey attended a seminar for “A Child is Missing Alert”. This program enables the police department to get information to other agencies quickly in case of a missing child.

Herbert Gottshall III has resigned his positions as assistant to the EMA Director and with the Fire Police because he has moved from the area.

Daniel Kline has been sworn in as a member of the Fire Police.

Mayor Brosius thanked the volunteers who worked at Pineknotters’ Days and the Soapbox Race.

Mayor Brosius noted her thanks to those who helped in the construction of the playground and those who donated materials and provided food and drink.

Mayor Brosius extended her congratulations to Geraldine Mertz in being named “Pineknotted of the Year”.

### **Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the activity of the Code Enforcement Office for the past month. He stated that property owners who are cited for violating property maintenance codes are being given higher penalties by the District Justice.

Paving is scheduled to begin the end of July. Base repair and storm work is scheduled. Mr. Wolfe noted that the parking lot behind the Borough Building is in need of paving. Discussion took place about where the funding may come from to pave this area. Mr. Ruane will obtain a cost estimate to have the lot paved.

Mr. Shoch researched the process to obtain a judgment against a property owner who is not taking care of his property. There is a process where the Borough may file a complaint against the property owner, obtain a judgment and then place a lien on the property. The Borough could then execute the lien, take over ownership and sell the property. Mr. Shoch will obtain an estimate of the costs to take this action. Mr. Ruane stated that one “nuisance” property has been sold to a new owner who is remodeling.

### **Street Supervisor’s Report**

Mr. Thomas Slodysko reported that the playground is in good shape. They will be securing the area so the equipment cannot be played on until the padding is installed on the concrete.

The pipe going to the bathrooms at the VFW building has broken. One solution would be to re-plumb the building and install new toilets in the restrooms.

The Sewer Authority has been filming the storm drains. There are some issues with the custom-made boxes on Queen Street. The pipes are generally good; except for the pipe on Wheatley Avenue between Priestley and Depot Avenues.

The crew will be painting curbs in the near future. Mr. Slodysko noted that the weeds in the curb area are excessive. It is the property owners' responsibility to take care of this area between the curbing and the sidewalk.

The street signs are on order. The employees of the Keystone COG are going to make the signs when they are not conducting inspections.

Mr. Straub asked why the drain at Wheatley and Depot Avenues appears to be six inches lower than the street. Mr. Ruane explained that the bank is going to pave the intersection in each direction, correcting the dip. The contractor has installed a new box.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark stated that the Sewer Authority has made the changes to the ordinance, as requested.

Mr. Straub moved to advertise the ordinance. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ditton stated that he does not agree with section 13 of the ordinance because it still authorizes the NSA to enter a private property. Section 9 was changed. Ms. Lark stated that the changes to Section 13 must have inadvertently been missed. Mrs. Long removed her second. Motion died due to a lack of a second. It was noted that anywhere that there is an authorization to enter private property, the wording should be changed.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Eben Gibbs stated that the Board did not meet this month. He added that he is also concerned about the weeds growing around the fire hydrants. It was recommended that the Code Office send letters to the property owners to trim the weeds. The crew can cut weeds when painting the curbing.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the committee would meet on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. On September 20<sup>th</sup> the committee will meet with all departments to discuss departmental budgets. [Note: This date has since been changed to September 27 at 6:30 p.m. The October meeting will be on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and the November meeting will be on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.] In October the committee will discuss income. The November Finance Committee meeting will be to finalize the 2008 budget for the council vote at the December 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> meetings.

#### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger announced that Ann August began employment as a part-time office assistant on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Property

The Property and Second Street committees met. Second Street was the only topic discussed.

## Public Safety

There was no report because the committee did not meet in June.

## Recreation

Mrs. Long reported that the playground equipment is installed. The Softiles are on order and delivery is anticipated for next week. Each 24" x 24" tiles is 3 ¼ inches thick and weighs 29 pounds.

The committee will meet next Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Long spoke to Lowe's and has received approval for \$1,200 that will probably be used for fencing.

The current tally is \$93,900 (not including the \$7,500 coming from the Anselmo Trust in 2008); approximately \$88,000 has been spent to date. This total includes the equipment, surfacing, equipment rentals and site preparation.

The vandalism at the playground has been taken care of with the graffiti wipes that came with the equipment.

## Streets

The discussion was on the street paving this summer and if there is any other paving that could be added to the contract. Mrs. Groninger noted that the stormwater projects must be completed before the paving.

## Second Street

The preliminary plans for the renovation of the building were discussed. Recommendations include changes to the police department layout. A ramp to the police department, located to the left of the building, will be wide enough for 3 people. A vestibule will be added at the entrance to the police department. The final plan will presented to the council at the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mrs. Long asked if all municipal offices should be moved to the building. Mr. Rees asked about renting the classroom space to an outside party. Mrs. Long replied that if the municipal offices all moved to the Second Street building, this building could be rented.

A cost estimate will be provided by the architect when the plans are finalized.

## Executive Session

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation issues. The meeting was reconvened at 9:20 p.m. No action was required.

## Old Business

1. Mr. Wolfe moved to advertise the Residential Rental Property Regulations Ordinance. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote: Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, and Mrs. Long voted aye. Mrs. Groninger was not present for the vote. She returned at 9:24 p.m.

2. The question was asked about illegal fireworks in the borough and if anyone had been cited. The response was that no tickets were issued; however warnings were given. A complaint about noise created by motorcycles with no mufflers was also voiced.
3. Mr. Wolfe asked if a letter has been sent to the Tax Administration Office as requested at a prior meeting. The letter had been sent and the office has received a listing of borough residents on the Shikellamy tax rolls to compare with our tax duplicate.

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Rees moved to accept the minutes of June 5, 2007. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Ditton moved to pay the bills. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. An additional bill for \$1,500 plus expenses for the police agility test was included in the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$25,527.38; Liberty Splashland bills total \$13,632.27; Norry Playground bills total \$15,143.39; Park and Recreation Fund bills total \$255.82; and bills to be paid from the Second Street Community Center Grant account total \$1,500.
3. Mr. Ditton moved to accept Herb Gottshall III's resignation as Deputy EMA Coordinator, with regret. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Mr. Gottshall has resigned because he has moved from the area. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Rees moved to accept the Progressive Insurance offer of \$2,352.50 for the school crossing sign that was damaged by a motorist. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mrs. Long announced that Lemonade Day is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200 block of Front Street. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact her.
6. A basketball tournament is slated for August 18<sup>th</sup> at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street playground. The plans for the event include the dedication of basketball court in Ed Pfeiffer's memory.
7. Mayor Brosius requested that the council approve installing new railing at the underpass.
8. A complaint has been received about the condition of the property on Queen Street. The Code Office and Solicitor are considering what action should be taken.
9. The Borough Office and the Solicitor have received complaints about the tax collector's new policy on accepting tax payments from escrow companies. Mr. Shoch stated that he has talked to the Mahoning Township tax collector and has learned that that office charges additional fees for the extra work that is done for escrow agents. Mr. Wolfe stated that as an elected official, the tax collector's policies are not controlled by the Borough Council.

10. The Corn Festival Committee has requested that a portion of King Street be closed on Friday, August 10 and Saturday, August 11. Kiddie rides are going to be set up in this area. Mr. Rees moved to close King Street from Church Street to Second Street for the two days. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Barricades will be set up at various intersections to divert traffic.

11. Mr. Wolfe announced that the August 7<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting would be held at Liberty Splashland.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
August 7, 2007 at 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, Darvin Straub, Frank Wetzel, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Richard Shoch, Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The five visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Don Frye addressed a problem with noise at the 101. He stated that there is loud music, profanity, loud cars and motorcycles. Music sometimes begins at 6:00 p.m. and lasts until midnight. He also stated that a property adjacent to his mother's property has high grass and weeds. The property at the corner of Queen and Front Streets is also an eyesore. It is owned by Nancy Paige, a realtor. With the 101 and Daddy McFatty's in the downtown area, Mr. Frye has found beer bottles, etc. on his properties. He feels that the police should be patrolling the area; residents should not have to call to complain. He noted the progress and good things that are going on in the town: King Street Park and the Second Street building. Council discussed the fines and penalties for citations under the Borough code. Mr. Ruane stated that when he cites a property owner repetitively, the District Justice increases the fines for citations.

**Second Street Community Center Design**

The design plan was presented for the council to review. Ken Bobb, an architect with Wolfe Associates was present to answer any questions. Mr. Slodysko has arranged for someone to remove the radiators and the boiler from the building.

Questions that were asked at the Emergency Services Board meeting were if a sprinkler system is included and if a lock box could be installed at the building for the fire department. The response was that no sprinkler system is planned for the building and a lock box may be installed.

Mr. Rees moved to approve the plans for the Second Street building. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. The motion included opening the bids the week before the September 18<sup>th</sup> work session and changing the work session to a regular meeting so the bids could be awarded at that time. Roll call vote: Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, and Mr. Straub voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

**Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss contract and litigation issues. Mr. Wolfe reconvened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

One topic discussed in the Executive Session was the contract with the Teamsters Local Union No. 764. Mr. Wolfe noted that the new contract will run for four years. The salary increases are retroactive to 45 working days before the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and will run to December 31, 2010. As part of the agreement, the Teamsters withdraw any and all grievances that were pending as of June 5, 2007. The grievances include those against the volunteers and the working supervisor. Mayor Brosius noted that the Borough has always had volunteers and we have never had grievances about them before.

Mr. Rees moved to approve the contract; Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Brosius reported that the July police report was prepared by Chief Fink.

She noted that the unmarked police car was damaged. An individual purposely hit it and drove it backward. The officer was not in the vehicle at the time. Mr. Straub stated that there could be drive train problems. He recommended that the vehicle be inspected for any mechanical problems in addition to the body work.

The traffic study for Sheetz Avenue has been completed. The police department has suggested that whenever anyone petitions the council for a change in parking status or traffic operational improvements, the petitioner should show that there is general support for the change. No action was taken.

Mayor Brosius thanked Noelle Long and her crew for their work at Lemonade Day. She thanked Tom Slodysko and the other volunteers for their work at the playground. The Corn Festival will be held this Saturday in the King Street Park.

Susquehanna students will be in the Borough on August 25<sup>th</sup> to volunteer their services.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane addressed the issues that Mr. Frye presented regarding a property on Duke Street. He asked Mr. Shoch how to proceed. Mr. Shoch will review the issue. Mr. Ruane asked what to do about property owners that have dead trees in the borough right of way. Mr. Shoch replied that letters should be sent to the property owners and if they do not comply and cut down the trees, the Borough may remove the tree and bill the property owner. Mr. Ruane stated that Ann Roll has contacted Nancy Paige regarding her apartment building on Front Street. Ann August, the new office employee has been working on establishing a database of all the properties in the Borough to assist the code office in their work. Mr. Ruane explained that it will help keep track of inspections, citations and any contact the code officers have with a property owner. Mr. Straub thanked Mr. Ruane for having the three unlicensed cars removed from a property near the Kiwanis Building.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Tom Slodysko stated that the crew is currently painting the curbs at the intersections. The summer employees' last day of work will be this Friday. Mr. Slodysko has begun installing the LED lights in the traffic signals. The installation should be completed by Friday. Mr. Wolfe asked if the crosswalks will be painted. Mr. Slodysko stated that he plans to paint them.

Mr. Ditton asked when the street paving would be done. Mr. Ruane replied that the paving should begin the end of August. Mr. Ruane added that the storm work was completed on the hill section of the Borough. Mr. Ruane has obtained a price to pave the Borough parking lot.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark asked if council has any questions regarding the proposed sewer ordinance. Ms. Lark stated that DEP does not allow for storm water to be put in the sewer system.

Mr. Wolfe moved to advertise the ordinance. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked if Upper Augusta has adopted this ordinance. Ms. Lark stated that they have not because they do not have inflow and infiltration (I & I) problems. Mrs. Groninger replied that she feels that all municipalities should adopt the same ordinance. Ms. Lark stated that the sewer authority is able to monitor the inflow daily. Upper Augusta does not have problems after a storm. Point Township and the Borough do have I & I after a storm. It is illegal to pump storm water into the sewer system. Ms. Lark stated this is part of the agreement Upper Augusta has with the Northumberland Sewer Authority. When Upper Augusta installed the new lines on the Island, it was part of their bylaws and their agreement with their residents. The Sewer Authority would penalize Upper Augusta Township if I & I would enter the sewer system. The Upper Augusta Sewer Authority would then penalize their residents. Ms. Lark also stated that there is a shutoff valve coming from the island. If there should ever be a problem, the sewer authority could close the valve.

It was explained that each municipality has their own authority to deal with their residents. The Northumberland Sewer Authority deals with the other two authorities, not the residents in those municipalities.

Point Township is currently undergoing an extensive program to locate problems in their system.

Mr. Rees stated that he is not in favor of the wording in Sections 9-14. Mr. Shoch explained that the NSA must demonstrate probable cause to gain access to a property. Section 14 states that there must be immediate public health risk or danger. Ms. Lark stated that when there is flooding, sewer can come out on the ground. This would be an immediate danger.

Roll call vote to advertise the ordinance: Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mrs. Groninger voted nay. Motion passed 6-1.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Eben Gibbs stated that the Board appointed Josh Newbury as Fire Chief until December 31, 2008. Jim Troup was appointed Deputy Chief.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the committee will meet Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. He asked Jack Snyder if he could attend that meeting. Mr. Snyder agreed to attend. Mr. Wolfe requested that the committee meet Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, instead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of those months. Mr. Rees said that he would check his schedule before confirming those dates. [Note: the committee members have since agreed to those dates in addition to Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> for their meetings.]

#### Personnel

No report

#### Property

Mr. Rees stated that the committee met to review the Second Street plans.

The Storage Building at 174 Prince Street is shifting. The police and street department are currently moving the property that is stored there to other locations.

The committee will meet on August 28 at 7:00 pm with the Second Street Committee.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Wetzel stated that the committee would meet on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Prince Street building.

#### Recreation

Ms. Long stated that the playground is progressing, thanks to Tom Slodysko and the volunteers.

Ms. Long is requesting a price break from the company since the tiles were backordered. She is sending pictures to the company of the tiles because of the various shades in the sand color.

The Ed Pfeiffer Memorial Basketball Tournament is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wolfe asked about the plans to complete the playground because of safety issues. He noted that the work is being done as fast as possible with the help of the Borough crew and volunteers.

Anyone willing to help at the playground should call the Borough Office.

#### Streets

Mr. Straub stated that paving is expected to begin in a few weeks.

He also noted that the new yellow lines painted on at the corners are 25 feet long.

#### Comprehensive Plan Committee

The committee will be meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup>. A public meeting for review of the Comprehensive Plan will be held on October 1, 2007 at the Kiwanis building.

#### Old Business

1. Ordinance 2007-2: Residential Rental Property Regulations Ordinance  
Mr. Shoch explained that this ordinance addresses rental units in the Borough and provides for inspections on a regular basis. The former ordinance is repealed with the adoption of this ordinance. The property owner will be awarded for having safe units. Inspections will be based on a cycle of one to three years, depending upon the conditions of the properties.

Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-2. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted aye; Mr. Wetzel voted nay. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Wolfe tabled the resolution to adopt the new fees and penalties.

2. Mrs. Groninger asked if there is a generator at the water tower. Mr. Wolfe replied that a generator is there.
3. Mayor Brosius asked if the Property Committee has looked at the picnic tables at the Ponderosa. Mr. Wetzel stated that he would look at them.

#### New Business

1. Mr. Rees moved and Mrs. Long seconded to approve the minutes of June 19, 2007. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Wetzel moved and Mr. Rees seconded approval for payment of the bills, including a bill for \$1,163.75 payable to the Guardian Fire Equipment Company. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Mr. Straub moved and Mr. Rees seconded a motion to approve Northumberland County's request to use the Recycling Center and the forklift on October 20, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will collect computers and electronics. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Wetzel moved to appoint Judyann Schmidt to a five-year term on the Planning Commission. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Mr. Wetzel asked Chief Fink if the council could be provided with a breakdown of each officer's arrests, citations, DUI's, mileage on the vehicles, etc. for a specific time period. Mayor Brosius asked what the purpose would be for this information. Mr. Wetzel replied that it is for accountability. Mr. Shoch stated that the council would have a right to that information. Chief Fink stated that he would not mind providing that information and explained that the police maintain daily logs. Mrs. Groninger stated that Chief Fink has suggested that the council may wish to sit

down and discuss matters with the police department. Mrs. Groninger said that the council has also been invited to go out with an officer on duty. Mr. Ditton noted that the format of the police report is different. He stated that it used to include the officer's name and the time of an incident.

6. Mayor Brosius addressed the need for an ordinance that addresses satellite dishes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
September 4, 2007

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, Darvin Straub, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council members Jonathan Rees and Frank Wetzel were absent.

The six visitors from the public introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Melissa Shipman introduced herself. She told council that she is a resident of Lewisburg, and that she and her husband own the 101. Blue Walrus is the corporation name. Their goal for the business was to bring a different venue to the area. They host an annual art show, and offer independent art shows for individual artists. They also provide a place for local musicians to play. She stated that the staff is conscientious of security and providing a good atmosphere. They originally believed that the borough’s ordinance had a deadline for music of 11:00 p.m. Since they have learned that the ordinance prohibits music after 10:00 p.m., they have changed their entertainment schedule. Ms. Shipman stated that there is a no tolerance policy toward fighting. Fundraisers are held to benefit various charities such as the Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and Lemonade Day. Ms. Shipman stated that they wish to work with the council. One way they hope to reduce the noise volume is to insulate the walls.

Mayor Brosius noted that the noise ordinance not only provides a time, it provides a distance of how far away noise may be heard. If the noise is heard well beyond the distance from the 101, the music is too loud.

The Front Street Station had a hearing with the Borough and the Liquor Control Board to obtain permission to have outside music. Mr. Ruane stated that the music may not be amplified. Mayor Brosius noted that music that was put on after the band left was louder than the band. One person who complained stated that he was awakened at midnight by the noise from the bar. In addition to the music, the noise of glass bottles being dumped into the dumpster was also disturbing.

Mrs. Groninger stated that she appreciates the fact that Ms. Shipman came to the council meeting. She noted that the ordinance had been hand-delivered to them and recommended

that they should learn about the Borough ordinances before making their plans. Mrs. Groninger added that the same thing had happened when they replaced sidewalks; they did not check with the Borough to see what types of walks were permitted.

Mr. Wolfe stated that one of the dilemmas the council faces is to satisfy residents of a variety of ages and backgrounds. He noted the improvements that have been made at the 101 and that the bar is located in the commercial district of the Borough. Mr. Wolfe stated that he would review the current ordinances to see if any changes should be made. In the meantime, the Borough will see that the current ordinances are followed.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Wolfe adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m. for an Executive Session to discuss litigation. The council meeting was reconvened at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Wolfe announced that litigation was discussed and no action is required.

### **Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Brosius stated that she is waiting for the Civil Service list so council may choose a new officer. Mr. Fink stated that the background checks are ongoing. She requested that the Personnel Committee set a meeting to interview the candidates once the clearances are completed. A tentative date of Monday, September 17, was set. Mayor Brosius recommended that the council fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Mr. Wolfe suggested that the Mayor contact Mrs. Groninger once the background checks are completed. Mr. Ditton requested that he be given copies of the clearances for the applicants. Three applicants have passed the physical agility test.
- The new cameras have arrived. They will be utilized in different areas of the Borough.
- The evidence lab is being emptied so it can be demolished due to its deteriorating condition.
- Fourteen Susquehanna students volunteered their time in the Borough. The group weeded and mulched in King Street Park, at the railroad underpass and around the sewer plant and planted 40 mums in the underpass area. Mayor Brosius thanked them and Gene Brosius for their service. She also thanked the Revitalization Committee for donating the mums.
- Mayor Brosius swore in Josh Newbury and Jim Troup as Fire chief and Assistant Fire Chief, respectively, on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The 9-11 service is set for next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the King Street Park.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane provided the monthly reports for July and August. He informed the council that he has been citing the property owner at 267 Second Street for the condition of his property. He also reported that the property at 15 Elliott Drive will be sold at the tax sale at the end of the month and described the condition of this house.

Mrs. Fran Bogovich asked about the amount of income the Borough receives for the code violation fines. Mr. Ruane explained that the fines are received from the District Justice's office and are included with fines for citations from the police as well as the code office. Citations for local ordinance violations may be issued by the police and the code office.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Tom Slodysko reported that there is a water leak on Orange Street, close to Priestley Avenue. The water company has not been able to locate the leak. Mrs. Groninger asked if the company had been notified that the street was scheduled to be paved this summer. The company had been notified early this year of the paving schedule.

Mr. Slodysko plans to videotape Sixth Street to determine the condition of the storm sewers.

A street light unit is missing. Mr. Slodysko will contact PPL for a new light.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark noted that Ordinance 2007-3 is presented for council's approval. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve Ordinance 2007-3; Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger asked if the revisions have been made, as requested. Ms. Lark stated that the all the articles should have been corrected. Mr. Wolfe noted that the only portion of the ordinance that approves entering a property without permission is in the event of an emergency. Mr. Ditton stated that he would not approve any ordinance that permits the Sewer Authority to enter a property without the owner's permission or a court order. Ms. Lark gave an example of a situation where the Sewer Authority was unable to contact the property owner a sewage leak in their basement. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub voted aye; Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Wolfe, and Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion failed 1-4. Ms. Lark will request that Mr. Brosius be present for the next council meeting. Mr. Wolfe stated that there are four words in section 46-14 that council does not agree with, "without giving prior notice".

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

No report. The Borough Secretary reported that the Board is meeting tonight since yesterday was a holiday.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

The committee will meet to hear committees' budget requests on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Wolfe has received budget requests from some committees and boards.

#### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger reported that all is well.

#### Property

No report.

#### Public Safety

Mr. Straub reported that the committee met and discussed the building on Prince Street that is falling down. The committee requested that the engineer be contacted and asked if the building could be repaired or if it should be torn down. An email has been sent to the engineer, but no response has been received yet.

## Recreation

The committee will meet on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss fencing. The Anselmo Trust has committed \$7,500 toward fencing for 2008. Mrs. Long asked if the committee could borrow from the contingency fund until the check comes, if necessary. Council agreed.

## Streets

Mr. Straub stated that the committee meeting for September is canceled. Mr. Ruane stated that the actual costs for the paving will be more than the contracted price because additional work was required on Vista Avenue and Sunset Lane. The Borough will be given credit for work that was part of the contract but not necessary in the alleys.

Leftover paving material is being placed at the railroad track on Fourth Street at CVS.

Mr. Slodysko reported that he has contacted G & R Charles about the problem with the paving on Orange Street.

## Second Street

Mrs. Long requested council's approval to rent the C.W. Rice gymnasium for a "family-fun" professional wrestling event. The potential dates are November 10 or 17. Council approved her request. [Note: The "Rumble at the Rice" event is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup>.]

## Old Business

1. A Public Meeting for input in the Northumberland/ Point Township Joint Comprehensive Plan is set for October 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kiwanis Building.
2. Mr. Wolfe tabled the vote for Resolution C-2007 (Schedule of Fees and Penalties) until council has more time to review the resolution.
3. Mayor Brosius asked if the Borough has an ordinance to prohibit truck parking on Borough streets. There is a truck that is parked on Pond and King Streets. Another ordinance that had been proposed was to keep trucks from traveling in town, unless they are doing business. Mr. Wolfe questioned if traffic studies were completed for these ordinances. One ordinance had been adopted several years ago to designate routes for truck traffic. That ordinance did not address truck traffic that enters the Borough from Strawbridge Road. Mayor Brosius noted that a jeep is parked on the grass at Water and Orange Streets. The jeep is parked in the right-of-way. Another truck is parked on Borough property behind the Second Street building along Park Avenue. Mr. Slodysko stated that he has spoken with the owner of this vehicle.

## New Business

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion includes a bill of \$1,353 from By-Crete for inlets. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$59,639.84; the Norry Playground Fund bills total \$1175.20; bills to be paid from the Second Street Grant Account total \$6,000; Liberty Splashland bills total \$18,018.99
2. Mrs. Long moved and Mr. Straub seconded the re-appointment of Russell “Buzz” Meachum to the Zoning Board. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Meachum’s term will last until August 31, 2010.
3. Mr. Ditton moved and Mrs. Long seconded approval of a User Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regarding the use of computer equipment by the Health Officer. Since Lee Shaffer is also Health Officer for the City of Sunbury, he will be given one computer from the Health Department to be used for both municipalities. The state supplies the computer and software for the Health Officer to use for his reports. There is no cost to the Borough for this service. Roll call vote to approve the agreement was unanimous.
4. The Pineknotted Park Committee requested that the council approve an Anselmo Grant request for funds for a new scoreboard at the Pineknotted Park ballfield. Discussion. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the request. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
5. Chief Fink received a request for a “Watch Children” sign to be erected in the 600 block of Susquehanna Road. Mrs. Long moved to approve the sign; Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mr. Wolfe announced that the newsletter articles are due by September 28<sup>th</sup>. The newsletter will cover activities from October through early January.
7. Mr. Wolfe asked if the pool made or lost money this summer. The final numbers are not yet available.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
September 18, 2007 at 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 Reese, Darvin Straub, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Timothy Fink, Chief of Police; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; Thomas Slodysko, Street Department Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Frank Wetzel was absent.

The four visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Chris Skelly asked what the Borough is doing about the tax collector and the problem with the escrow accounts. Mr. Wolfe replied that as an elected official, the tax collector may do what he is doing and the Borough Council has no authority over him. Mr. Skelly stated that he feels that it will be detrimental to the Borough if the taxes are not paid. Mr. Skelly added that if the tax collector would write to the escrow companies and tell them what must be submitted, it would solve the problem. When asked, Mr. Snyder stated that he has written numerous letters to escrow agents explaining what should be submitted to him. Mr. Skelly stated that his escrow agent has sent his taxes to the tax collector. He does not know if the tax collector has accepted the payment or returned it or thrown it away. Mr. Wolfe stated that he also has an escrow agent. Mr. Wolfe added that Mr. Skelly is doing what every citizen has a right to do – attending a public meeting and voicing his opinion. Mr. Wolfe thinks that the tax collector is wrong in what he is doing; however, he has the right to do it and Mr. Wolfe understands his frustration.

**Code Enforcement Officer’s Report**

Mr. Paul Ruane presented a letter to the council about two property owners on Duke Street whose houses are in poor condition. He is requesting suggestions on what can be done about the properties. Other property owners have complained about the condition of the property and the rodents in the neighborhood due to the declining condition. Mayor Brosius noted that there is low income housing and if residents cannot afford to maintain their properties, they may take advantage of the alternative housing. The Borough Secretary noted that she has contacted the Department of Agricultural – Rural Housing office in Williamsport to see if any aid was available through that agency and was informed that Northumberland Borough is not considered “rural” due to its proximity to Sunbury. Point Township, however, is rural. Since the Borough is not “rural”, the residents do not qualify for any funding. The representative in Williamsport agrees that the Borough should be considered rural; however, it is not his decision to make. Mayor Brosius added that if the property poses a danger for other citizens, the code office must take action. Mr. Wolfe told Mr. Ruane that if the property is not up to code, it’s not up to code and he is doing the right thing by requiring the owners to comply with the code.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Tom Slodysko reported on the street department's activities. The crew is replacing the traffic lights with the new LED lights. Curb painting is ongoing. They have a small project to complete at Pineknott Park. The crew is getting ready for the fall season and leaf pick-up.

Mr. Straub requested that the council approve the purchase of a leaf picker through the recycling grant program. One machine is available at this time. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve up to \$20,000 for the purchase of a leaf picker. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. The Borough's share of the cost will be 10%; the recycling grant will cover 90% of the cost. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 for an Executive Session. Mr. Wolfe announced that the topics to be discussed are litigation and personnel. Josh Newbury, Fire Chief and Judyann Schmidt, Emergency Services Board member, were invited to take part in the Executive Session. The council meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m. Mr. Wolfe announced that the litigation issue does not require action. The personnel issue does require action.

Mr. Ditton moved to hire an individual who was discussed in the Executive Session for the police officer position. This is a conditional offer, dependent upon his passing a physical and a psychological examination. The individual's name was not made public because the council would like to notify the other candidates before announcing the name publicly. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton moved to hire the police officer position to the second man on the list if the first man does not accept the Borough's offer. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Emergency Services Board - No report**

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe stated that the committee would meet next Thursday at 6:30 to discuss departmental budgets. He requested that all proposed budgets be submitted to him by Monday.

#### Personnel

Mrs. Groninger explained that on occasion, Mr. Slodysko could use part-time, casual help for the Street Department. She moved to advertise for a temporary, as needed, employee to work with the Street Department. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

#### Property

Mr. Rees informed the council that the committee has determined that the police lab should be torn down. The building is located on Prince Street. Chief Fink stated that the police equipment should be removed by early next week.

## Public Safety

Since Mr. Wetzel was not in attendance, Mr. Wolfe requested that the Borough Secretary contact him to see if a meeting is to be held this month.

Mr. Rees noted that there are two signs on Madison Avenue to caution motorists of children playing. He feels that they are no longer needed at these locations.

## Recreation

Mrs. Long stated that the committee would meet next Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Long has heard from the SofTile Company about the bill. Mrs. Long had requested that as part of the reconciliation the company provide a clear urethane coating on the tile. They don't recommend coating the tile for the first four to six years after the tile has been installed. Ely Associates is willing to deduct \$1,500 from the bill. This amount is in addition to the \$1240 for the returned tiles and the \$600 from SofTile. The total discount for the loss of time is \$2,100. Mrs. Long stated that the bill could now be paid, minus the \$3,340 credit. She noted that the Canadian company incurred expense to send the crew down to complete the installation of the tiles.

The committee will discuss the edging at their meeting next week. They will also discuss the fencing. Mrs. Long announced that the Mayor has secured a \$10,000 grant for the fencing from the Sunbury/Northumberland Foundation.

## Streets

Mr. Straub announced that the streets are being paved.

## Second Street

Mr. Wolfe stated that the bids were opened last week. Council was provided with the bid sheets for the General Contractor, the Electrical Contractor, and the Mechanical Contractor. The total of the three lowest bids, excluding the alternatives is \$461,315. The remaining grant funding is approximately \$370,000. Mr. Wolfe stated that he feels that the Finance Committee should be able to locate the additional funding required to accept the three bids. Mr. Wolfe moved to accept the lowest bids for the General Contractor, the Electrical Contractor, and the Mechanical Contractor. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. If the mechanical bid were not awarded at this time, the bid would be valid for sixty days. After that time, the bidding process would have to be repeated. The council voted unanimously to accept the lowest bid for the three contracts. They are Hepco Construction, Inc., Selinsgrove, as the General Contractor with a bid of \$325,025; SRS Electric, Hummels Wharf, as the Electrical Contractor with a bid of \$53,720; and Spencer Mechanical, Williamsport, as the Mechanical with a bid of \$81,670.

## Old Business

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to adopt Resolution C-2007, the Schedule of Fees and Penalties. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. This resolution amends Resolution A-2007 and reflects the new fees and penalties for Ordinance 2007-2, the Residential Rental Property Regulations Ordinance that was adopted at the August 7, 2007 council meeting. Roll call vote – All ayes.

2. Mr. Wolfe announced that the newsletter articles are due by next Friday.
3. Mayor Brosius stated that the Susquehanna students who volunteered their services sent the Borough a thank you letter. They also requested that the Borough provide some ideas for other ways to volunteer their services throughout the year. Various activities were suggested, such as the Fall Festival, Santa in the Park, and checking property addresses throughout the Borough.

#### **New Business**

1. Mr. Rees moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2007 and August 7, 2007. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$24,318.03; Liberty Splashland bills total \$6,268.42; and bills to be paid from the Second Street Grant total \$1,997.37.
3. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve and Mrs. Long seconded the motion to distribute the donations to the Priestley-Forsyth Memorial Library and the Halloween Parade Committee. Roll call vote – All ayes. Mr. Wolfe added that the Halloween Committee requested permission to use the gazebo the evening of the parade. Permission was granted; no vote was required.
4. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the 2008 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Northumberland Borough and Northumberland Borough Police pension plans. The Borough's obligation is \$8,165 for the non-uniform plan and \$35,131 for the uniform plan. The non-uniform plan includes a member contribution rate of 3%. The arbitration ruling states that there is to be no member contribution for the police plan, unless the Borough must pay in more than the state aid that it receives. This year, the state aid does not cover the Borough's obligation for the police pension plan. The amount to be paid by the Borough is \$8,378.09. Mr. Wolfe moved to submit the MMO with the 1.5% contribution rate for the Northumberland Borough Police Pension Plan. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
October 2, 2007 at 7:00 PM

President Bryan M. Wolfe called the meeting to order. 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, Darvin Straub, Frank Wetzel, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Richard Shoch, solicitor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Jonathan Rees was absent.

**Public Comment**

Six members of the public were present.

Mr. Mark Walberg informed the council that he has purchased the log cabin that is currently located on Queen Street. He wishes to move it to his lot at 80 King Street and restore the structure. He stated that 80 King Street is deeded as one lot, but includes 3 lots. The log cabin is estimated to date from 1790 to 1800. The timbers will be moved this week and he plans to begin disassembling the structure, and reassemble it on the King Street lot. He currently does not have plans for its use but will keep the look of it original. The original flooring is underneath the flooring that is there now. Mr. Walberg will obtain permits and inspections for the restoration.

**Executive Session**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. for an Executive Session. Mr. Wolfe reconvened the meeting at 7:31 p.m. and announced that litigation issues were discussed and no action is required at this time.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Brosius announced that a new police officer, Scott Boyd, has been hired and will be sworn in soon.

All police vehicles are now in operation.

Mayor Brosius requested that the council approve the hiring of part-time officers. Mrs. Groninger moved to permit the police chief to hire part-time police officers, as needed. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius noted the residents who were awarded Beautification Awards by the Northumberland Revitalization Committee. They are Gary and Deborah Scholvin, Linda

Baker, Karen Shaffer and David Rudy, Raymond and Tracy Fessler, David and Shelly Ramer, Dawn Hubbard and Rochelle Blue, Jenica and Alex Blackstone, Harry and Joy Wynn, and Chad and Lisa Bingaman. The awards are presented to recognize the home owners for their efforts in making or keeping their properties a source of pride for the community.

Mayor Brosius sent congratulations to Kenneth Robert Kipple, Jr. for becoming an Eagle Scout.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane has informed the council that the plans for the Second Street renovation have been delivered to the Keystone COG for review and a building permit.

Mr. Ruane stated that a resident on Second Street has paid \$838 in fines for violating the property maintenance code. Mr. Ruane requested permission to have the property cleaned and charge the owner. Mr. Shoch advised that the borough could also fine the owner for each day the property is in violation. The citation would state that the property has been in of violation for x number of days and the violation would include a fine for each day. If the Borough has the property cleaned up, a lien may be placed on the property if the property owner does not pay for the clean-up. Mrs. Groninger stated that the neighbors have been had to live with this for quite a while. Mr. Wolfe advised that the Code Office should go to the District Justice and submit additional citations. Mr. Ruane requested that he be able to go in and clean out the property if the time frame for the citations is too long. Mr. Wolfe stated that the code office would have latitude to take care of the matter.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark requested that the council approve the revised ordinance provided by the Sewer Authority. She stated that the changes have been made, as the council requested. Mr. Wolfe moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-3. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The ordinance had been advertised before the vote at the September 4, 2007 meeting. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Eben Gibbs announced that Fire Prevention week in next week. The Fire Department is going to the Priestley Elementary School on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Board has formed a committee to review the report from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. They plan to begin next Tuesday evening.

Mr. Gibbs presented the council with the Hookies' Financial Statement for 2006.

The Fire Chief has informed Mr. Gibbs that the #1's will be meeting on Thursday evening. He feels that the department will be back into service following that meeting.

Mr. Gibbs announced his resignation from the Emergency Services Board, effective December 31.

## **Committee Reports**

### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the Finance Committee met last Thursday. He will provide the committee with the new numbers next week. The committee discussed funding the additional money required to pay for the renovations at the Second Street building. The committee was able to identify areas where money is available to cover the additional expenses. Mr. Wolfe requested that the property or Second Street committee provide estimates for the utility costs of the building for the 2008 budget. He suggested that they consult Wolfe Associates.

Mr. Shoch suggested that Ordinance 2007-3 be re-advertised and re-voted upon to avoid having it challenged. He explained that although the change to the ordinance was relatively minor, he feels that due to the time delay and the fact that one of the council members who had concerns about the ordinance is absent this evening, the vote should be rescinded. Council agreed and the ordinance will be advertised for adoption at the November 5, 2007 council meeting.

### Personnel

Mr. Ditton informed the council that when Ann August was hired, she was told that her job performance would be reviewed in 3 months with the possibility of a \$1.00 per hour raise. Since Ann is doing an excellent job, the increase will be implemented.

The other topic the Personnel Committee had discussed was the part-time police officers and that vote has been taken.

The committee will meet in the near future to discuss salaries for 2008.

### Property

No report

### Public Safety

No report

### Recreation

Mrs. Long announced that the commemorative bricks would be used to build brick pillars between the fencing sections along Second Street. This work will be accomplished in the spring.

The cameras are being installed at the Second Street building.

Official rules and regulations will be posted at the playground.

Second Street

Once the building permits and bonds from the contractors are received, the notices to proceed will be sent out.

**New Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved and Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion to approve payment of the bills. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$41,724.34; Liberty Splashland bills total \$392.77.
2. Resolution C-2007 was tabled because it corresponds to the Sewer Authority ordinance that will be voted upon on November 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. Resolution D-2007 approves the Borough's participation in the PAAC (PA Capital City) Automotive and Equipment Contract. The Commonwealth Procurement Code permits local municipalities to participate in a cooperative purchasing agreement for the procurement of any goods and eliminates the need for the Borough to obtain bids. The borough would like to purchase a Leaf Collector through PAAC Automotive and Equipment Contract. Mrs. Groninger so moved. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Ninety percent of the cost of the Leaf Collector will be funded through the Recycling Grant. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mrs. Groninger explained that the code office is having problems obtaining rural route addresses from the post office. If the property owner does not have a listed telephone number, there is no way to obtain the updated address. Ms. Lark stated that the Northumberland Postmaster provided her with some of the new rural route addresses. The Borough Office will contact Ms. Lark to see if she may have the addresses.
5. Mrs. Groninger moved to permit Trick or Treating in the Borough on October 31, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
November 5, 2007

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

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Darvin Straub, Frank Wetzal, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Richard Shoch, Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief, Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Jonathan Rees was absent due to another commitment.

The five visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Harold Metzger asked the council if there is any place to dispose of yard waste, tree trimming, etc. Sunbury used to accept yard waste from anyone; however they no longer accept it. He stated that he has placed his leaves at the curb and they have not been picked up yet. Mr. Straub stated that the Borough has received a grant and has purchased a new chipper and a new leaf vacuum. The intention is to be able to accept the material by next spring. The Borough is also working on a plan to take the leaves to a specific location approved by DEP and make mulch. Mr. Straub added that he is also working on a plan to take leaves to a designated location in Point Township. A windrow turner has been purchased. However, the piece of equipment to attach it to has not yet been purchased. Mr. Slodysko stated that the crew would be picking up leaves throughout the Borough this week.

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Brosius reported that the October police report is in the council’s packet.

Four police traffic studies have been distributed to the council. Mr. Shoch asked about the recommendation for two of the traffic studies. He stated that on two of the studies, recommendations were included. However, no recommendation was made for the other two studies. Mr. Wolfe requested that the council review the studies for the stop signs to act on them in January.

Mrs. Groninger asked that the council act on the request for the yellow line on Elliott Drive. The people who live on the private driveway cannot see oncoming traffic when a vehicle is parked close to the driveway. Mrs. Groninger moved that the yellow line be painted on the curbing from the corner at Elliott Drive past the private driveway. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mr. Straub noted that parking is not permitted within twenty-five feet of an intersection. He asked if that would include parking within twenty-five feet from the private driveway. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius informed the council that the cameras have been installed at the Second Street building. It is recommended that a pole be erected to attach a camera in a location that would be closer to the playground.

Mayor Brosius thanked Noelle Long, her family, and other volunteers for the successful Fall Festival that was held in the King Street Park in October.

Mayor Brosius announced that decorating in the King Street Park would take place on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Santa in the Park is scheduled for Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The Sunbury City Band will begin playing at 6:30 p.m. and Santa will arrive at 7:00 p.m.

Rumble at the Rice is planned for November 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a professional wrestling show that is being held as a fundraiser for the Second Street Community Center. The doors open at 6:30.

Mayor Brosius asked if council would consider covering the parking meters for the holidays. Mr. Wolfe moved to cover the meters from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote - All ayes.

Mr. Fink is exploring the possibility of starting a Crime Watch committee.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Tom Slodysko informed the council that the leaf picker is in operation. The crew will be continuing to pick up leaves.

Grass is growing at the location of the former evidence lab.

Mr. Slodysko announced that the LED lights that were installed in the traffic signals have reduced the electric bills by approximately \$165 per month. He estimated that the Borough should be able to recoup the cost of the lights in about twenty months.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

The Board has requested that the Borough release the tax money for the Truck Payment. \$30,000 was budgeted for this contribution. The money will be deposited into the truck fund bank account for the Northumberland Hook and Ladder Company. Mr. Straub and Mr. Wetzel moved and seconded a motion to approve the contribution. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Finance

Mr. Wolfe announced that the committee is in the process of preparing the 2008 budget. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m.

The Borough has received notice from Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System that both the municipal and the police retirement plans have been awarded Excess Interest. The council must determine how to allocate the money. The Finance

Committee is recommending that the excess interest for the police retirement plan be divided 50% into the municipal account, 25% into the active members' account and 25% into the retired members' account. They also recommend that the excess interest for the municipal (non-uniform) retirement plan be divided equally between the municipal account, the active members' account, and the retired members' account. An equal percentage increase for all active and vested members would be credited to the individual accounts for both the uniform and non-uniform plans. Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger moved and seconded the motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendations. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Personnel – No report.

#### Property

Mayor Brosius stated that the refrigerator at the Girl Scout House no longer works.

Public Safety – No report.

#### Recreation

Mrs. Long informed the council that the fence will be installed along the Sheetz Avenue side of the playground in a few weeks. The committee will meet on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The Anselmo Trust sent a reply to the request for a scoreboard at Pineknoller Park. They have offered to match 50% of the cost for the scoreboard. In their letter, they questioned if the larger scoreboard was needed or if the smaller style could be purchased instead. The Anselmo Trust will match 50% of the cost of whichever scoreboard they decide to purchase providing the group's 50% match is raised by December 2008.

Ms. Cindy Lark thanked the council and those responsible for completing the playground. She noted that many families are utilizing it.

#### Streets

Mr. Slodysko checked on the progress of the new street signs. The signs were to be made in a style similar to the Borough's current street signs. The COG is having a problem installing the border on the signs. Mr. Slodysko will look for another place to purchase the signs. Sunbury has recently purchased a sign-making machine so he will see if they can make them.

Mrs. Groninger left the room at 7:30 p.m.

#### Second Street

Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the first payment request from Spencer Mechanical for \$2,988.00. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Wolfe Associates has approved the bill for payment. Mr. Wetzel, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Long, and Mr. Straub voted to approve the payment. Mrs. Groninger was absent for the vote.

Mrs. Groninger returned to the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

## **Old Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved to approve Ordinance 2007-3, Illegal Storm/Surface/Ground Water Connections. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
2. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Resolution E-2007. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. This resolution addresses the violations and fines for Ordinance 2007-3 and will be incorporated into the Borough's resolution for fees and fines. Roll call vote – All ayes.
3. Council was provided with comparisons of vision and dental insurance plans for the police department. Mr. Straub moved to contract with United Concordia Enhancement Option 2 for the dental plan. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton moved to contract with the PA Municipal Plan, Davis Option F plan, for the vision insurance. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

4. The U.S. Census Bureau has provided three options from which to select one in order to participate in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program. The options are:
  1. Title 13 Full Address List Review. This option involves reviewing the Census Bureau address list for the Borough and providing updates and corrections to the Census Bureau list and to challenge counts on the address count list.
  2. Title 13 Local Address List Submission. This option allows the municipality to submit its local address file in a Census Bureau Predefined computer-readable format.
  3. Non-Title 13 Local Address List Submission. This option allows the municipality to submit its local address file in a Census Bureau predefined computer-readable format.

Options 1 and 2 require participants to sign a confidentiality agreement. Option 3 does not.

Mr. Ditton moved to approve Option 1. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

5. Mr. Wolfe moved to transfer \$6,000 from the Parking Meter account to General Fund. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. The money is to reimburse the General Fund for a portion of the payment for the new police vehicle. Roll call vote – All ayes.

## **New Business**

1. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the minutes of September 4, 2007. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, and Mr. Straub voted to approve; Mr. Wetzel abstained because he was not present at the meeting. Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

2. Mrs. Groninger moved to approve the minutes of September 18, 2007. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long and Mr. Straub voted to approve; Mr. Wetzel abstained because he was not present at the meeting. Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.
3. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve the minutes of October 2, 2007. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
4. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve payment of the bills. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Discussion. Roll call vote – All ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$68,465.21; Liberty Splashland bills total \$448.48; and Norry Playground bills total \$600.
5. Mr. Wolfe moved to pay the 2008 Solvency Fee for Relief from Charges of \$561.69. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.
6. Mrs. Long announced that the Rumble at the Rice is set for 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at the C. W. Rice building.

#### **Executive Session**

Mr. Wolfe announced that the council would adjourn for an Executive Session for personnel issues. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 9:24 p.m. Action is required for grievances that were received. Mr. Ditton moved to decline the grievances. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Straub, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Mrs. Long voted aye; Mr. Wetzel voted nay. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Ditton noted that a letter to this effect would be sent within the next ten days.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
December 4, 2007 at 7:00 PM

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

**Roll Call**

Council members present were Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Noelle Long, Jonathan Rees, Darvin Straub, Frank Wetzel, and Bryan Wolfe. Others present were Mayor Brosius; Richard Shoch, Solicitor; Timothy Fink, Police Chief, Thomas Slodysko, Street Supervisor; Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary.

The three visitors present introduced themselves.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

**Mayor’s Report**

Chief Fink asked council to approve an internship for Jason Raynes, a student at Bloomsburg University. He will start the internship in January. Mrs. Groninger asked if interns require more of the police chief’s time or if they are a benefit to the department. Chief Fink replied that the department benefits since the interns help with parking tickets and office work. Thus far, they do not answer telephone calls. Mr. Ditton suggested that the intern be trained to answer the telephone. Mr. Ditton moved and Mrs. Groninger seconded a motion to approve the internship for Jason Raynes. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mayor Brosius announced that the December 2007 police report was distributed to the council members.

The Martin Concini Toy Drive is underway. Mayor Brosius commended Sergeant Clifford Kriner for heading up the annual toy drive. Toys may be dropped off at various locations around town and at the Borough Office until December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Brosius noted a letter that had been received from a citizen commending Officer Hennessey and the police department. She read excerpts of the letter.

Mayor Brosius thanked everyone who helped make Santa in the Park successful – the Revitalization Committee, Kiwanis Club, the Anselmo Trust, the Episcopal Church, the Priestley PTA, Barbara Kistner for painting signs, Thomas Slodysko and his family, Sara Barrett, Ann Roll, Noelle and Bob Long, Gene and Eric Brosius, and Linda Williard. She

also thanked Santa and the Northumberland fire Department for transporting Santa to the park. Santa will be in the park for the next 3 weeks on Fridays and Saturdays.

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

Mr. Paul Ruane informed the council that the rental unit licensing is ongoing. Next week the code office will begin inspections. Mr. Shoch advised that if a property owner does not comply with the ordinance and inspection, a license should not be issued to that owner. Mr. Shoch stated that he was contacted by Greg Stuck who informed him that his invoice included properties that he does not own. The Code Office will review the listing with the assessment bureau's property list.

PPL is digging out the material at a former site on Priestley Avenue.

Mr. Ruane reported that the Northumberland, Point Township, and Sunbury police departments worked together to apprehend a hit and run driver at 2:15 on Sunday morning. The driver hit a parked car belonging to Mr. Ruane's neighbor. Mr. Ruane called in license number of the vehicle involved in the accident and the police stopped the vehicle within 10 minutes of his call.

Mrs. Groninger commended the police department. She noticed that an officer had a vehicle stopped below Duke Street this afternoon. Chief Fink replied that it is part of the "aggressive driver" program.

### **Street Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Tom Slodysko reported that this is the last week for the leaf pickup. The crew has canvassed the town for leaves and will finish the pickup on Friday. The street sweeper will be run for the final time of the year next week. The street department will then be getting the vehicles ready for winter weather.

The curb on Elliott Drive has not been painted yet because of the cold weather.

Christmas decorations have been erected. Mr. Slodysko noted that the three additional wreaths will be put up near the bridge.

Mr. Straub reported that a street light is out. PPL will be contacted.

### **Northumberland Sewer Authority Report**

Ms. Cindy Lark requested that the council reappoint George Gavason to NSA. Mrs. Groninger moved to reappoint Mr. Gavason to the Northumberland Sewer Authority. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

### **Emergency Services Board Report**

Mr. Eben Gibbs reported that the board met last evening. The No. 1's has not appointed a representative to the board. A letter was sent to the fire company encouraging them to participate on the board. Mr. Gibbs also spoke to the company president to inform him that the board will meet on January 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hookies, since the Borough Council will be

meeting on that date in the Borough Building. The No. 1's hopes to have a representative present at that meeting.

Mr. Gibbs commended the firemen who reported to a fire from midnight to 4:00 a.m. and a second fire at 6:30 a.m. for a job well done.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

Mr. Wolfe reported that the Finance Committee approved the 2008 budget totaling \$1,245,368. The final budget contains no tax increases. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the budget. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Groninger questioned the \$5,000 that was moved from recreation to Second Street. Mr. Wolfe replied that the money may be used for the playground. Mrs. Groninger noted that the Pineknott Park budget was increased by \$1,000. The Special Events budget was decreased by \$1,000 and Liberty Splashland budget was decreased by close to \$2,000. Mr. Wolfe replied that the committee is hoping that the township would contribute to the pool next year. Mrs. Groninger noted that the pool did not make a profit this year. The 2008 budget was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Mr. Ditton moved to transfer \$50,000 from the General Contingency Fund to the General Fund. This money will be reimbursed when the Borough receives income in 2008. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote- All ayes.

### **Personnel**

Mr. Shoch reported on an update in the Gemberling matter. A pre-trial conference is scheduled for Thursday with the judge. Mr. Shoch has submitted the Borough's defenses. He will apprise the council of the outcome.

Mrs. Groninger stated that the Personnel Committee met and requested that the council approve a one-time bonus for Mr. Slodysko for 2007 of \$2,000. She noted that the bonus is for Mr. Slodysko's extra work for the Borough and the money that he has saved the borough this year. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Wolfe read the following correspondence that was received from Ms. Margaret Weirick, a former council member, for the record:

“To the members of the Northumberland Borough Council:

As a concerned citizen of the Borough, I am writing first of all to commend our Borough Foreman, Tom Slodysko, for the outstanding job he is doing to make this town a desirable and attractive place to live. This past weekend, he was in the King Street Park all of Saturday and all of Sunday, along with his wife and son, blowing leaves over to the curb for pickup, fixing up the snowflake lights, and doing whatever needed to be done so that the park would be in perfect condition for the Carol Sing on Monday night. When the Carol Sing was postponed until Friday night, he was back in the park on Friday at 5 getting everything set up for the festivities. I know from my past experience on Borough Council that he is not

getting paid for all the hours he has put in. On weekends when he is not working in the park, he is up at the Second Street playground, helping to put things together there. He is always cheerful, pleasant, and respectful whenever you talk with him. The Borough of Northumberland is more than fortunate to have him for an employee.

I contrast Tom's efforts with those of Steve and Todd, our borough "workers." Several weeks ago, while I was out raking my leaves, I had to flag them down to get them to stop and pick up what I had spent an hour raking. They drove by all the pies from the Library to my house and only stopped for me because I forced them to. They were surly and reluctant, but they finally stopped and picked up the leaves, although certainly not doing a neat or complete job. I reported this to Jan. Last Wednesday morning, while Steve and Todd were examining the circuit box, I went over and asked if they would rehang a string of lights that had fallen off one of the hooks on the gazebo. They point blank refused. They said they had not hung them so they should not have to be the ones who put them back. Later in the day, when I had changed my clothes, I went over and did it myself. It took about five seconds.

I do not understand why we have one worker in this borough who gives 110% and two workers who can barely manage to do anything. I think we need to reexamine just what is expected of our borough employees. Since the taxpayers of Northumberland provide the salaries for all the Borough employees, I do not think it is too much to ask that each citizen be treated with courtesy, respect, and helpfulness. Yet obviously, this is not happening. Steve and Todd obviously do not feel they have to be courteous, respectful, or helpful. Why is that? The answer seems to be that they belong to the union!

I have negotiated a number of union contracts, so I have a clear idea of the purpose and function of that contract. Being a member of the Teamsters union does not mean that you get paid for doing nothing or as close to it as you can get and then have the right to complain you are overworked. It means that you get an honest wage for an honest day's work. We are at a sorry crossroads in this town if being courteous, respectful, and helpful are issues that have to be spelled out in a union contract. If Steve and Todd are unable to comprehend these basic fundamentals of employment, perhaps they should look for a job where the requirements of providing an honest day's work for an honest day's pay and being pleasant about it are not so stringent.

I love this town. I was born and raised in this town. I want it to be all it can be. To be the best, we have to have a commitment from all our employees. Those who can't or won't give 100% do not deserve to work here. I do hope some action will be taken on the matter I have discussed above.

Sincerely,  
Margaret C. Weirick"

**Property** – No report.

**Public Safety** – No report.

**Recreation**

Mrs. Long reported that the fence has been installed along Sheetz Avenue at the Second Street playground. The remainder of the fencing and the brickwork will be completed in the spring.

**Streets** – No report.

**Second Street Community Center**

Mr. Ruane recommended to the architect that the drainpipes in the classrooms be changed, if warranted, before they are enclosed in the new walls. The pipes will be checked to see determine their wear. Mr. Ruane stated that one pipe has leaked. Mr. Straub stated that the walls will be made thicker due to the insulation.

**Old Business**

1. Mr. Ditton moved to adopt Ordinance 2007-4, authorizing the Borough to join the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative. Mr. Straub seconded the motion. As a member of the cooperative, the Borough may obtain health insurance, as well as dental and vision insurance, through the cooperative. The dental and vision insurance for the police department is obtained through PMHIC. Representatives of the company will present their health insurance plan to the Borough Secretary on Thursday morning. Council members are welcomed to attend. Council unanimously approved by roll call vote to joint the PMHIC.
2. Mr. Gibbs informed the council that the Emergency Services Board has asked him to remain on the board until a new member is appointed by the council. He is willing to continue on the board for 90 days. Mr. Wolfe replied that the Borough would publicize the opening in the January newsletter.
3. Mr. Ditton asked about a letter from Point Township requesting the Borough approve a stop sign at 8<sup>th</sup> and King Street. He asked if a traffic study had been completed. Mr. Jimmy Neitz, a township supervisor, had delivered the letter and was expected to attend this evening's meeting. The issue was tabled until more information is forthcoming.
4. Mr. Ditton stated that the Northumberland Housing Corporation has requested that the Borough not charge them for the rental fee. He expected that someone from their board would attend tonight's council meeting. Mr. Rees had attended their meeting and requested that the Housing Corporation contribute \$10,000 for the 2008 budget. The board had denied his request, stating that they do not have a profit. Mr. Wolfe explained that several years ago, the council had determined that if monies could be obtained through the Sewer Authority or Housing

### **New Business**

1. Mr. Wetzel moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2007. Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Rees abstained.
2. Mr. Ditton moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Rees seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Roll call vote – All Ayes. Bills to be paid from the General Fund total \$64,518.78; bills to be paid through the Second Street Grant total \$42,181.03; bills to be paid from the Second Street Donation Account total \$1,030.30; bills to be paid from the Girl Scout Donation Account total \$38.55; Liberty Splashland bills total \$31.93; and Norry Playground bills total \$3,825.33.
3. The council received a correspondence from Comcast concerning their application for approval of alteration of the Lower Orange Street crossing. The company plans to extend a cable across the railroad tracks.
4. Mr. Wolfe announced that the council will meet in two weeks on December 18. This will be a regular meeting to vote on the budget. The re-organizational meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008. Mr. Ditton, Mrs. Groninger, and Ms. Lark will be sworn in at that meeting.
5. Mayor Brosius suggested that a party be held for Mrs. Long to thank her for her service on council. Possible dates were discussed.
6. Mr. Straub commented on the status of the tax millage for 2008. Mr. Ditton replied that there would be no change in the tax millage.
7. Mrs. Long noted an error of the bill amount for Stop ‘n’ Go Signs. The amount on the bill sheet was \$268. The actual amount of the bill is \$474. Mr. Rees moved to approve the revised amount; Mrs. Long seconded the motion. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary

**Borough of Northumberland**  
**221 Second Street, Northumberland, PA 17857**  
**Borough Council Meeting**  
December 18, 2007 at 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 Frank Wetzel, Bryan M. Wolfe, Charles “Bud” Ditton, Judith Groninger, Jonathan Rees and Darvin Straub. Others present were Mayor Brosius, Paul Ruane, Code Enforcement Officer; and Janice Bowman, Borough Secretary. Council member Noelle Long arrived at 7:09 p.m.

One visitor was present.

**Public Comment**

No Public Comment was offered.

**Mayor’s Report**

The mayor received a letter from the Joseph Priestley House. Prints of the Priestley House are being sold.

The Pennsylvania Municipal Pension Plan Audit has been received. Each council member has been provided with a copy.

Mayor Brosius thanked Sergeant Kriner for heading up the Martin Concini Toy Drive. She added that toys are still being collected and will be distributed the end of the week.

A letter from Ed Troxell, Director of Government Affairs with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, promotes the approval of Senate Bill 777. This bill is expected to improve the system of collecting delinquent property taxes and municipal claims.

**Emergency Services Board**

Mr. Sam Wolfe has been approved as the No. 1’s representative to the Emergency Services Board.

The council is still looking for a representative-at-large to replace Eben Gibbs.

**Code Enforcement Officer**

Mr. Paul Ruane reported on the activity of the Code Office for the past month. His report is on file in the Borough Office.

Mr. Ruane reported on citations that have been issued for code violations. All additional costs are added to the fine.

Eight rental inspections have been conducted under the new ordinance. Mr. Ruane described some of the issues the code office encounters when conducting inspections.

Councilmember Noelle Long arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Mr. Straub asked if residents have been cited for neglecting to shovel their sidewalks. Mr. Ruane replied that the police cite residents for this violation and he does not know if citations have been issued.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Finance**

Mr. Rees moved to adopt the 2008 budget. Mrs. Groninger seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Wolfe, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, and Mr. Wetzel voted aye; Mr. Ditton and Mrs. Groninger voted nay. The motion passed 5-2. This is the final vote on the 2008 budget.

**Personnel** – No report.

**Property** – No report.

**Public Safety** – No report.

**Recreation** – No report.

**Streets** – No report.

### **Second Street**

Mr. Wetzel moved to approve a change order to replace one roof drain at a cost of \$726.00. Mr. Ditton seconded the motion. Mr. Ruane stated that the three other pipes do not need to be replaced. Roll call vote – All ayes.

Council discussed a change order to replace the windows in two wooden classroom doors at a cost of \$493.00. Mr. Ruane recommended that Mr. Slodysko obtains the price to replace the windows. The windows would have to be replaced before the final inspection on the building. Mr. Wolfe tabled the change order vote.

Mr. Ruane recommended that the council have the crew or temporary workers remove the ceiling tiles instead of the contractor. The cost per change order to remove ceiling tiles is \$2,192.00. Mr. Straub noted that the final inspection of the building confirmed that there is no asbestos in the ceiling.

Mr. Ruane has spoken to Mr. Slodysko about obtaining a cap to cover the chimney.

**Old Business**

No "Old Business" was presented.

**New Business**

1. Mr. Rees asked about the plan for the Second Street building once the renovations of the classrooms are completed. Mr. Wolfe stated that the council will advertise for tenants for the building. Mr. Straub stated that the two classrooms at the Second Street end of the building should be completed first. The new council will be determining how the building is to be utilized.
2. Mrs. Long moved to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Wetzel seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Roll call: Mrs. Groninger, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rees, Mr. Straub, Mr. Wetzel, and Mr. Wolfe voted aye; Mr. Ditton voted nay. Motion passed 6-1. Bills to be paid from the General fund total \$15,615.66; Liquid Fuels bills total \$1,016.00; and bills to be paid from the Second Street Donation Account total \$186.00.

Mr. Ditton moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Bowman  
Borough Secretary