

## **FERNDALE BOROUGH**

Regular Meeting

April 11, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, April 11, 2016 in the Fire Company's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

President Scott Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

### **ROLL CALL**

The roll call showed the following present: Pres. Scott Miles, Trisha Corle, Ken Dom, Connie Hobbs, Tim Leighty, V.P. Mark Wissinger, Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Atty, Joe Green, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita Smith.

### **VISITORS**

Mr. Leonard Facciani was first to speak. He handed the Secretary 3 Right-to-Know documents and was instructed to call the office to make an appointment to see the said documents. He voiced his concerns over the paving of Vickroy Avenue since the sewer project was completed on that street. He felt that it was substandard. He was ashore that it met all requirements with PennDot. It was also stated, that Vickroy Avenue (the 500 and 600 blocks) are on the paving list for the 2016 paving. Mike Bowser of PennDOT will be in on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 to look over the situation. Mr. Facciani pressed the issue, but was asked to move on, that this question was asked and answered.

Next, Mr. Facciani addressed the slag problem on his street. Nothing further was discussed on this issue. Mr. Facciani acknowledge the good job that the street department in the borough, especially the Street Foreman Brian McAteer.

Sue and Bill Lease, realtors, representing a client at 518 Hystone Avenue, they would like to know if they could get documentation on the sewer project for the backside of Hystone Avenue. Those residents did not have to tie into our sewer system, but will in the future have to tie into Upper Yoder Township when they start their sewer project. Atty Green will be sending them a letter this week stating that they are in compliance at this point. However, a viewport will be the responsibility of the homeowners when work begins in the township.

Carol Fuge was in attendance for this reason as well.

Heidi Wallace and Jenny Wallace were observing.

### **SOLICITORS/PERSONNEL REPORT**

At this time the meeting went into executive session.

Motion to accept the settlement and separation was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Tim Leighty.

### **MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes for the March 14, 2016 was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Trisha Corle.

## **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Mark Muir of the EADS group would like to meet with the sewer committee and the solicitor to discuss the remaining sewer projects.

All vacant properties in the borough have had their water shut-off.

All occupied properties are tied-in and have been pressure tested.

The residents of the backside of Hystone Avenue are not required at this time.

Motion to accept the report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

## **SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT**

Up-dated letters will be given to the council as to where we stand in collecting back sewer bills. Notices will be given to homeowners that are 30 days delinquent in paying their quarterly sewer bills.

Trisha Corle questioned if the 2015 and 2014 sewer bills are being collected. The secretary will check on any outstanding bills and report back to the council at the next meeting. Tim Leighty asked if Tracy Rhodes and the Secretary could check on all delinquent properties, because we can start shutting off the water to these residents.

According to the ordinance, we send a certificated letter that your bill must be paid in 10 days. Once the house has been posted we then notify the water company and after 10 days, at their convenience, they will shut-off the water. The borough will absorb the cost of revenue lost by the water authority, but the homeowner will have to pay us the fee to turn their water back on and any outstanding balance.

The borough will not lose any money in this transaction.

A standard letter is sent first in order to give the homeowners a chance to pay any outstanding balance, if no response, then the certificated letter is sent.

The sewer bills are sent out twice a year, with two payments on each billing.

The properties on the backside of Hystone Avenue and one house on Melander St. owned by Brad Horne are excluded.

Motion to accept the Sewer Report was made by Owen Hofecker and seconded by Connie Hobbs.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Trisha Corle brought up some personnel issues on holidays, personal time and wages. Part-time police get a shift differential for working holidays and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift, but do not receive time and a half. The personnel committee would like to take a look at some of the things in the policy and will get back to the council on their recommendations. Somethings were changed and they want to get it right the first time, so they are not coming back to the council with additions to the personnel policy. The mayor would like to be a part of anything pertaining to the police department.

Tim Leighty brought up some concerns by the office staff, that they cannot get everything done, mainly because they are not in the office together. They suggested that maybe Tracy Rhoades could be in the office on Wednesday, when needed. This would be when garbage and sewer project bills are being paid and when getting the new invoices out on a timely basis and working with the auditors. Trisha Corle will look into this and come back to the council.

Motion to accept the report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

## **MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS**

Pres. Scott Miles took the time to officially welcome the new mayor, Ralph Boyle on his new position.

Chief Rigby e-mailed the March Police Report to all councilmen and had two schedules made up for April 2016, depending on the outcome of the settlement.

In the report monies collected so far this year is running above the previous years. This is a result of citations, tickets, fingerprinting and moving permits.

The Chief attended a seminar in Richland on Wednesday on traffic violations to make it easier and faster on each traffic stops.

The conference in Dallas was very informative and Chief Rigby will try to incorporate some of the ideas he got from attending. Some of the topics were crime investigations and domestic violence. He stated that we don't have a lot of crime in the borough, but this will go a long way to insure that it stays that way.

He would like to look into a policy on domestic violence and have it as a part of our police policy.

The Women's Help Center paid for the entire seminar and there was no cost to the borough for Chief Rigby to attend. The secretaries are working on a grant to get vest for all police officers, we had Atty. Green look over the application for the grant and he approved it. The grant would cover 50% and the borough would pay the remaining balance. For any officer receiving a vest; but decides to leave Ferndale Borough within 12 months, can take the vest and he must pay back to Ferndale the balance on the vest. Atty. Green stated that the officers should wear the vest while doing field work. From the time they clock in until they leave. They do not have to wear the vest if undercover or office work.

Also, the secretaries are starting to work on another grant of police vehicles. This grant is for 2018 and the paperwork has to be in place soon. This grant is for 30% of the cost of the vehicle.

A motion to accept police report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Ken Dom.

## **EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORTS**

No report.

## **EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY**

Brian reported that they picked up the materials to fix the one pavilion at the Recreation Park.

The street department painted the police office.

On Plainfield Avenue the street department removed the tag from the concrete wall.

Roto-rooter ran a camera for us – no need to cut roots on the 500 block of Vickroy Avenue at this time.

But they did locate a broken line at the corner of Station St. and the 600 block of Vickroy Avenue.

We have started digging to repair the broken storm sewer and will install a new basin at this location and patch the asphalt.

On Equipment – The sweeper is fixed. The hydraulics had to be rebuilt, but we're still having problems with the hopper and steering.

Traffic light- Tel-power has worked up an estimate and Penn Machine may cover the expenses. This is the blinking light on Westinghouse Avenue by one of the entrances to the plant. There was an agreement with Penn Machine that they wanted to connect the two buildings, but there was an alley. They agreed to maintain that light on Westinghouse Ave.

Recreation – we removed the entire Gametime platform from the playground. We will try to get to the new sliding board this month, weather permitting.

Pres. Scott Miles suggested that there should be a Plexiglas window put in the borough office. We have had a few problems with residents coming into the office and becoming irate. A police officer was walking pass the office and heard shouting and had to remove the person from the office.

Chief Rigby will contact Lenny to get an estimate for this work.

Motion to accept street departments report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Trisha Corle.

## **TREES**

No report

## **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

The March 2016 tax report is as follows: Beginning balance to be collected is \$193,456.73; collections for March totaled \$35,822.00, with a balance remaining of \$ 156,903.64. The difference is \$731.09 this figure is the discount amount taken off the face.

Additional bills totaling \$17,718.01.

Copies of the moving permits were given to all councilmembers.

A motion to accept the tax collector's report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

## **FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Trisha Corle had talked to Herbert's CPA and they wanted to know if there were any changes or if we needed more information from them.

Motion to accept the report and pay the bills was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The problem still exists at Dollar General on Goucher St. There is garbage all over the hillside by Margaret Ave. The company has been notified about this problem, but nothing has been done. Atty. Green will drive pass a have a look at it.

Tim Leighty told the borough that the same thing happened at his store in Cresson and they had to install a fence so the garbage did not go on other people's property.

Motion to accept public relations report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

## **RECREATION**

Playground – Bob Jordan will donate wood chips to the playground area, because he is cutting down trees in the borough and it will help him out and us, as well.

FWF – The business manager at Ferndale Area School told FWF that we don't have sufficient coverage for our recreation programs. Rudi Hamer, our representative at FWF, will contact Mr. Kowal and get back to us.

Scott Miles, who is the elementary wrestling coach, will have a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser at the Ferndale United Methodist Church on April 23, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00

Motion to accept the recreation report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Owen Hofecker.

## **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

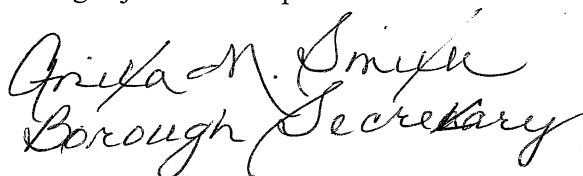
Atty. Joe Green will not be attending the May 9, 2016.

Right-to-know officer will be Trisha Corle

Making that motion was Ken Dom and seconded by Tim Leighty.

Motion to adjourn was made by Owen Hofecker and seconded by Trisha Corle

Meeting adjourn at 8:23 pm

  
Borough Secretary