

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting
October 12, 2015

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, October 12, 2015, in the Fire Company's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

President Mary Rose Shaffer called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following present: Mary Rose Shaffer, Scott Miles, Al Lushko, Mark Wissinger, Tim Leighty, Trisha Corle. Also, present was Mayor – Ed Dallape, Secretary – Anita Smith, Police Chief – James Rigby, Solicitor – Wayne Langerholc and Roger Bock from the street department (Brian McAteer was on vacation).

VISITORS

The only visitor present was Jody Ingram who was observing.

POLICE

Dominic Bernardi has turned in his resignation effective after his last shift in October, 2015. There were two new police officers hired; they are Joe Stopko and James Kistler, both candidates had excellent resumes. The police committee was impressed by both officers. Chief Rigby also informed the council that Chief Dunkleberger of Stoneycreek Township has made inquiries about Chris Matcho, that there is a possibility of Officer Matcho leaving the force as well.

A motion to hire and pay the new police officers \$10.00 an hour was made by Scott Miles and seconded by Tim Leighty. The motion carried.

The two officers were then sworn in by Mayor Ed Dallape.

MINUTES

The minutes were approved, except that the name of Councilwoman Trisha Corle's name was misspelled. Those corrections were made to the September 14, 2015 minutes. The motion to accept the minutes were made by Scott Milles and seconded by Mark Wissinger.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mark Muir was not in attendance, but sent his report.

The Pressure Test Updates were as follows: 622 inspections completed (54 since the last meeting). Entire system tested – 265, Tested to inside foundation – 123, Outside only tested – 225, Storm verification only – 9, approximately 60-70 structures remain (83 addresses).

Ferndale Avenue – letters were resent, because there no response to the first letter, Jim Rigby and Mark Muir met with homeowners regarding storm water verification. Homeowners were informed they still have to install viewport and/or pressure test depending on flows. 2 or 4 structures have passed the storm verification.

Jim Rigby questioned Mark Muir’s account of homes that still have to comply with the sewer laterals. This number of homes will be reviewed. Chief Jim Rigby has different numbers on the homes that still have to be done.

Mark Muir stated that DEP should be in around the 20th. of October.. They will first shut-off the water to the vacancies and renters, (where the landlords have not complied).

About 2 dozen needs to be done and about 1 dozen are under contract. Some need visual and others need to be daylighted. Miller’s line will be relocated. Viewports on Franklin St. will be daylighted and the downspouts will come out of the lines.

Jim Rigby will get with Tracy Rhodes on the shut-offs to the water company.

We will then shut-off water to any resident that is 30 days delinquent, according to the ORD.#480, as long as the temperature is not below 32 degrees. The Solicitor contacted the water authority on the water shut-offs. And we are in compliance by ordinance and the water company.

Since Cindy Dom has turned in her letter of resignation, President Mary Rose Shaffer stated that the sewer chair is now Tim Leighty.

The Solicitor and Mary Rose Shaffer will meet with Upper Yoder Township to discuss payment of the sewer project money to Ferndale Borough. Upper Yoder Township contract was also discuss on the payment of 16% to Ferndale Borough for the transportation of the solid waste thorough Ferndale’s sewer lines.

Upper Yoder Township will have a contract with Ferndale and the Solicitor and President are working on this process.

Motion to accept the Engineers report was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Scott Miles.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORTS

No report was received by the Borough Council. – No report given.

EQUIPMENT/STREETS & BORO PROPERTY

Roger Bock was filling in for the Street Foreman, Brian McAteer who was on vacation.

All manholes that were blocked were fixed.

The street department is requesting the purchase of a new generator, since the generator we have is broken and cannot be fixed. The estimate from U-Rent is around \$2,400.00.

A motion by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Trisha Corle to purchase the generation was made and carried.

The leaf machine has been in service and all the trucks are fixed and really to go.

We are still with Laural Municipal as our codes enforcement agency, because of some extenuating circumstances.

Motion was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Scott Miles.

TREES

Scott Miles would like to contact someone on lumbering out some trees by the boy's scout camp (Harlan and Midway) and Mendall Ave. They would take down some of the trees so that others would have a chance to grow and hold the hillside so slides don't occur as often.

The company would come in and look at the trees, lumber them and pay the borough.

Tim Leighty made a motion and seconded by Mark Wissinger to give permission for Scott to look into this proposal and to accept the Tree report.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief Jim Rigby has contacted Laural Municipal Inspection Agency of Kathleen Condo's house at 409 Ferndale Avenue. There is high grass and debris and is in disrepair. The agency has sent her a letter to clean up the property.

Also, a question was raised about the Speicher property on Summit Avenue, because of its condition.

It was suggested to discontinuing with Laural Municipal, but Solicitor Langerholc sent them a letter to our terminating our contract with them, however; we have no one that is qualified in all areas of construction. Solicitor Langerholc then withdrew the letter.

Chief Jim Rigby will continue with the fence inspections for safety reasons. It was suggested to take a look at the fence ordinance to come up with a more defined detail on the fence issues in the borough.

The police committee chair Scott Miles brought up the issue of the pay rate for part-time police. The problem of getting and keeping police officers is because the pay is so low. Police were hired at other municipality for more money.

The council was given a schedule of pay rates to look at and make comments.

Since Cindy Dom was finance chair, that position has now been given to Trisha Corle.

Trisha Corle could not make a comment on this proposal since just assuming this position.

President Mary Rose Shaffer was questioned as to where we are with the expenses. At this point she stated that last year we were over the budget.

The part-time police were hired at \$10.00, no motion was made on this rate.

It was mentioned that a few properties have asked to reduce the tax assessment. This reduces our tax base, and makes it hard to meet rising expenses. Trisha Corle told the mayor that she will meet with Debbie Herbert and go over the revenue and expenses and will get back to him with the information.

The mayor thanked her for her effort.

Tim Leighty questioned the salary of Chief Art Boring, who retired in July, that there would be a savings on his salary. However, a new Chief was hired and the question still remains on the savings to the borough. Trisha Corle stated that she still cannot give any accurate answer, until she meets with Debbie Herbert.

Tim Leighty made a motion to bring the part-time police officers that are under \$10.00 an hour up to \$10.00 an hour and to table the remaining part-time officer's wages until a later date. Scott Miles seconded the motion.

Trisha Corle would like to further look at the pay scale and made on motion to cover all police officers.

Tim Leighty then rescinded his motion,

Scott Miles has suggested that we start to look for a new cruiser, because the Dodge Charger has been costing the borough money and needs more work on it. Mr. Miles feels that it really is not safe to drive.

The borough owns 3 vehicles, the Dodge Charger, the Ford Explorer and a motorcycle.

Chief Rigby said he was putting the Charger in the garage for the winter and will use the Ford Explorer.

Scott Miles would like to put a new cruiser in the budget for next year. Mary Rose Shaffer said that she has already put a line item for capital purchase in the budget for next year.

Mark Wissinger made a motion to accept the Police report, seconded by Tim Leighty.

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT

Anita Smith reported that \$1,202.68 in Real Estate tax was collected for the month of September. Motion was made by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Al Lushko to accept Tax Collectors report.

After the motion to accept the report a matter was brought to the attention of the council.

Mayor Ed Dallape brought up about Hard Rock LLC had bought the Almar Corp. building on the corner of Ogle and Westinghouse Avenues and promptly went to the county to get their Real Estate taxes reduced. He further stated that this is going to become a problem.

FINANCE REPORT

Moving permit list was distributed to the council. Additional bill list was given to the council totaling \$1,106.55. The borough's flood insurance bill was also added to the bill list. The council went with Option A at a cost of \$2,624 a year to bring the additional bill list to \$3,730.55.

A motion on the Selective Insurance to go with Option A was made by Scott Miles and seconded by Tim Leighty.

The moving permits are needed for 407 Vickroy Ave., 547 Summit Ave., It was suggested that the police have moving permits in the cruiser to give to residents moving into or out of the borough.

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Motion to accept the bills for payment was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Trisha Corle the motion carried.

SEWERS/SEWER PROJECT

Tim Leighty said that all residents that are delinquent with their sewer project payment will have their water shut-off, but Mr. Leighty said that will probably happen the spring, because the water cannot be turned off when the temperature falls below freezing.

Tim Leighty will keep track of all the shut-off. We have to give a 10 day notice before water can be turned off.

The Solicitor said that even the "Hold-outs will have to comply."

This procedure will be on hold until after the November 2015 elections.

Motion to accept Sewer report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Scott Miles.

PERSONNEL REPORT

President Mary Rose Shaffer read the resignation letter from Councilwoman Cynthia Dom.

Motion to accept her resignation was made by Tim Leighty and seconded by Trisha Corle.

Motion carried.

There are two letters of interest for this vacancy.

There was some confusion as to a new appointee and the length of the term.

Solicitor Langerholc will look into this matter and have answers at the next council meeting.

RECREATION REPORT

Mark Wissinger reported that Nate Davidson has resigned as Recreation Director. Nate will get paid his \$300.00 a quarter, less the \$25.00 for his moving permit.

Mark Wissinger has asked Tom Riffle of Ferndale to be the new Recreation Director and he has accepted the position.

Al Lushko has inquired about the rubber matting for playground equipment, but has found that it could cause health problems in children. Al Lushko will continue to research for suitable materials to put down at the playground.

Motion by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Trisha Corle

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

No report was given.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The Solicitor has an ordinance before you, but the council did not approve of the contact of Rhodes and Sinon.

President Shaffer said that she never authorized anyone to contact them.

She was working with Kyle Shaffer of Somerset Trust to extend the line-of-credit.

Mr. Kyle Shaffer will be sending Mary Rose Shaffer papers to sign to extend that line-of-credit.

The Solicitor stated that we did not have to sign anything tonight.

But, he was under the impression that he was to go forward with the agreement to work with Rhodes and Sinon on the line-of-credit.

The secretary stated that Benjamin Ried of Rhodes and Sinon had contact her on Friday about the ordinance. He said that this is what had to be done for the extension.

But, Kyle Shaffer will send the necessary papers for Mrs. Shaffer to sign. This will go into effect on January 1, 2016.

The Solicitor recommended that we table this until we receive the papers from Kyle Shaffer.

Mary Rose Shaffer commented that the reason for all this is because of the change orders that have not been approved by DEP.

A motion was made by Mark Wissinger to accept the report, seconded by Al Lushko.

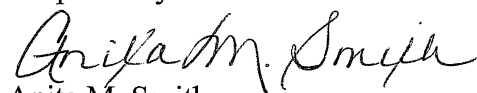
OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Our share of the county liquid fuels is \$4,200.00, we need to request this amount or encumber it. Mary Rose Shaffer has asked for a motion to encumber it, since this is what we usually do with these funds.

A motion by Scott Miles to encumber the \$4,200.00 was made and seconded by Trisha Corle.

Mary Rose Shaffer submitted her letter of resignation and adjourns the meeting at 8:45 p.m. No action was taken on her resignation.

Respectfully submitted



Anita M. Smith

Secretary