

## **FERNDALE BOROUGH**

Regular Meeting

October 10, 2016

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, October 10, 2016 in the Fireman'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, Vice Pres. Mark Wissinger (came in at a later time), Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Atty. Joe Green, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer, Ferndale Borough's EMT – William Cornell, and Sec. Anita Smith.

### **VISITORS**

Visitors included Chad Fetzer with Advanced Disposal, Michael Bellvia with Pro Disposal, and Dalton Wood with Burgmeier's Hauling. William Cornell came for the NIMS update; however, Al Cooper was just observing. E A D S' representatives Mark Muir and Tyler Gregorchik were attending regarding the Sewer Project. Jerry and Carol Rex were inquiring about the bait boxes in their backyard and asked when Ehrlichs will be removing them. Pres. Scott Miles reassured them that we would call Ehrlichs and have them removed this week.

William Cornell addressed the Council about the NIMS update. All councilmembers and police must comply with Levels 100 and 700.

Two letters of interest were received to fill the council vacancy. One was from Cynthia Dom and the other was from Robert Gray. Robert Gray received 4 votes, with Ken Dom abstaining. Mr. Gray will be contacted. All necessary paper work will be filled out and then he will have to be sworn in.

### **MINUTES**

A motion to accept the September 12, 2016, minutes was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

No report was given.

### **GARBAGE BIDS**

At this time Solicitor Joe Green reported on the Garbage Bids. All bids were for 3 years and included Spring Clean-up. They are as follows: Waste Management at \$378,583.60 – Pro Disposal at \$274,626.20 – Advanced Disposal at \$249,390.00 and Burgmeier's at \$278,730.00. All included Spring Clean-up and Bid Bond. A motion by Mark Wissinger and seconded by Ken Dom was made to accept Advanced Disposal. A roll call vote was taken and all councilmembers voted "yes". The motion carried.

## **SEWERS**

Mark Muir passed out his monthly report to the Council. It is as follows: 656 inspections complete. Entire system tested was 283, Tested to inside Foundations – 127, outside only tested – 237, Storm Verification only – 9, Vacant and not connected – 15 and 1 Sale transfers in September. On Ferndale Ave. – 2 of 4 not complete (601 and 609) and 1 downspout needed day lighted, and 1 was not tied into the system. Mr. Muir will follow up on this matter. He might send a certified letter to the resident. Mark Muir attached a flow chart with his report. It showed that the flows did not exceed design flow for this time period. The meter was removed on 10/06/2016 for line cleaning.

Mark Muir introduced the field engineer, Tyler Gregorchik, to the Council; and he will be working with Roger Bock on testing the lines. Mr. Muir will be checking on a line on Margaret Avenue, (down from Giant Eagle) however; there was not enough flow in 2008 and 2009 to monitor. They will revisit this line and try to get a reading. This could be because Upper Yoder Township has more flow coming into our lines. We could put a monitor in and check now because of the wet weather and snow melt. We can leave this in for a few months to see what is going on. There will be additional monitoring, because of the sanitary line on Hystone Avenue at the corner of Franklin Street. It is possible that a new line were tied into the storm sewer and not the sanitation line. But, there is not enough evidence to suggest that. If the line were only to the foundation, it is possible that a toilet in the basement was not tied in. We won't know that till we send out letters to the residents.

Mark Muir would like to permission to come out and check the lines, maybe 2 days a month, because of the rain events in the fall.

EADS will work with CJL about finding manholes and connecting all the dots. Mr. Muir will get a GIS program update on the main lines. This will take about 2 hours. The council has no problem going forward with EADS doing the GIS map.

A resident attended the Council Workshop meeting and said that there was no foundation for the peak flow monitoring, because it was on a disc and that no flow meters were in place in the borough.

Larry Gasparato has retired from PennVest. He was the contact person that was helping with our account at PennVest. Mark Muir has the new contact person's information, and he will forward this to the secretary.

Motion to accept the sewer report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Mike Chalick, the borough's cleaning man, has been off work for 1 month and is not sure when he will return to work. Scott Bennett, who is working with the street department has said he work clean the building on a temporary basis. Scott Miles will try to contact Mike and see what his intentions are.

A motion to accept the Personnel report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

## **MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT**

Chief Rigby e-mailed all councilmembers his September report and October's schedule. Officers Beth Edwards, Deanna Lehman and Chief James Rigby attended a SART Conference. This conference

emphasized Respond, React, and Recover. The Eventbrite has informed Chief Rigby that the borough will be receiving a refund in the amount of \$208.71. Mayor Ralph Boyle is asking if a bench can be installed in the police office to secure prisoners while they are in their custody and the council approved the request.

Security cameras – because of the increase in drug active in the area, Chief Rigby thought that this would be a good idea. Eight cameras can be purchased for \$1,600.00, and he and Ken Dom will install them. They would be placed on the exterior of the building, looking up and down Westinghouse Avenue in front of the street department; 2 other cameras would be installed in the borough office and hallway, and the remaining cameras would be placed in various rooms in the police department. This will help us if we are holding anyone; we can see who is coming into the police office.

Trisha Corle brought up an issue on watching the employees doing their job. This is to protect them and not to watch them. This may reduce our insurance on the building. Trisha Corle stated that this is for security only and with a limited access to view these cameras. The secretary would only have access to her cameras, as well as Brian McAteer's only having access to his cameras. However, the police would have access to all the cameras, as this is for security. These cameras are video only and not audio and it will be a wired system. Trisha Corle will look into this purchase, to determine the amount in the budget.

Also, Milkies, and Bird Electric would like to have cameras installed at their businesses. They are working with Atlantic-Broadband to achieve this. CSX is requiring a fee of \$5,000.00 to go over their railroad tracks with an additional yearly fee. Others options are being looked into. If this project can be completed, George Milkie stated that he would assume the cost of the electricity. Zepka Harley Davidson was asked about a camera, but they declined, because they only use that building for storage.

Chief Rigby is talking with a corporate attorney from Chicago for Penn Machine. They are discussing a surveillance camera to be installed on the outside of their building at Station and Westinghouse Ave. This is because of drug activities in a building on Ferndale Avenue. He also mentioned a person on the 600 block of Ferndale Avenue that the city police and the drug task force has lost track of and is considered armed and dangerous. He is wanted for drug possession and may be responsible for a possible drug overdose.

William Cornell asked a question on the cameras – he wanted to know if the cameras could be expandable. Chief Rigby said, "Only by buying another entire set, like 16 or 20 cameras, but not just 2 or 3." Ken Dom stated that these cameras are only for 8 channels and won't pick-up the extra cameras.

Two new police officers have been hired by the borough. They are John Moser and Mark Krupa. Two officers have left the borough's police department and they are Joe Stopko and Eric Yackulich. Chief Rigby will call Bantley to come and clean and fix a crack in the heater in the Police department.

A motion to accept the Police report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

The solicitor had nothing to report, except about the decrease in the assessment value of a property in Ferndale Borough. He has asked the secretary to report this to him the next time there is an application for a reduction in the assessment of a property, and he will attend the assessment meeting at the courthouse. He said it probably will be reduced, but maybe not as much as requested.

No motion needed, because a report was not given.

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

West Hills Regional fire Department/Hilltop EMS e-mailed their September 2016 to the Council. William Cornell spoke during the visitor's section of the meeting. Allen Kline, EMA Specialist with Cambria County, has sent a resolution to be acted upon for the Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan. After the resolution is completed it will be sent back to Allen Kline and to William Cornell.

A motion to accept the Emergency Mgt. + Fire Co. + West Hills Report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Mark Wissinger. The motion carried.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:45 TO 8:10**

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

Street Foreman Brian McAteer submitted his monthly report to the Council. There were no questions on the report.

Brian McAteer informed the Council about an incident that happened in Stonycreek Twp., while sweeping the streets. A resident claimed that her car was damaged by stones that were thrown from the street sweeper. The police were called, but the borough has not received a copy of this report. This claim is now with the insurance company, and they are handling it. Roger Bock was running the street sweeper and a Stonycreek worker was with him at the time of the incident and stated that no stones hit the resident's car.

A motion to accept the Street department report was made by Trisha Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

### **TREES**

Owen Hofecker had nothing to report.

### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Anita Smith reported Real Estate Tax collection for September totaled \$794.87 with an outstanding balance to be collected at \$21,142.92.

A motion to accept the Tax Collector's report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

### **FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

On the additional bills were the MMO payment for the Police Pension Fund and the Foreign Fire Tax. The borough received money to cover these bills, however; the amount of money to pay for our MMO was not enough, so the borough will have to pay additional amount of \$2,700.00 to cover our obligation. This money will be taken out of the General Fund, since this is where it was deposited.

Trisha Corle reported that she is making arrangements to meet with Debbie Herbert, so they can start working on the 2017 budget.

The Ferndale Fire Assoc. reported that, because of the success of the 2016 Jubilee, they will be able to meet their commitment to the borough of \$11,000.00. It was suggested, that since the Fire Assoc. is

Paying their obligation to the borough, that the borough will not charge them for the police protection during the Jubilee. All councilmembers agreed. James Rigby now stated that the 1 mill that was put on for Fire Protection can now be removed because the Fire Assoc. will meet this obligation.

The Council made a ruling, that from this date forward; we will not pay for the trapping of skunks on private property in the borough. It will be the responsibility of the residents to take care of this matter. If there is a problem, the Council will take a look at it and go case by case.

The Council made a motion to pay option A of the Selective Flood Insurance. The amount of this insurance is \$2,914.00 per year.

A motion was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Trisha Corle to accept the Finance/Accounts payable report and to pay the bills. The motion carried.

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Trisha Corle had nothing to report.

### **RECREATION REPORT**

A discussion on the cost of the recreation programs provided by the Ferndale Borough has been brought to the attention of the Ferndale Area School District. A letter was sent to the Ferndale School Board detailing the cost of the basketball program for the girls and boys, the summer swimming program and the wrestling program. There is a mill put on the borough residents to pay for the programs, which are opened up to all children in the other 3 boroughs and 1 township that make up the school district. The borough now has to pay an additional \$1,220.00 annually for more insurance coverage. The Council feels that this cost should be shared, so we can continue these programs for all the children in the Ferndale Area School District. Over the last 5 years, the cost was estimated to be around \$10,500.00. Superintendent Carol Kakabar will address this at the next school board meeting.

A motion was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Trisha Corle to accept the Recreation report. The motion carried.

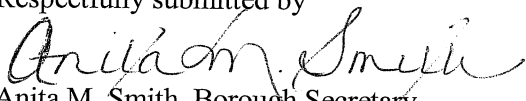
### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

The Fall Dinner of the Cambria County Borough's Association will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2016, in Lilly. Those planning to attend are Ken Dom, Scott Miles, Mark Wissinger and Anita Smith. The borough will pay for the councilpersons and employees to attend the dinner. If they choose to bring a guest, it will be their responsible to pay for their guest. Trick or Treat will be the same time as the city. Usually this is October 31, 2016; the secretary will call the city to confirm the date.

The shut-off notices will be posted by the police on October 12, 2016. These notices are for people who still have not paid the 2015 sewer project fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

  
Anita M. Smith, Borough Secretary