

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

January 9, 2017

The Ferndale Borough Council met on Monday, January 9, 2017 in the Fireman's Recreation Hall at 618 Westinghouse Avenue, Johnstown, PA.

Vice President Mark Wissinger, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call showed the following present: Vice President Mark Wissinger, Jr., Trisha Corle, Ken Dom, Connie Hobbs, Robert Gray, Owen Hofecker, Mayor Ralph Boyle, Chief of Police James Rigby, Street Foreman Brian McAteer and Sec. Anita M. Smith.

VISITORS

Wes Neal and Zach Neal were just observing.

Francis Lux had a few questions on the Storm Sewer Overflow basins. He stated that there were only two Storm Sewer overflow outlets. That because of the water flow to the sewer plant; the residents will never see their monthly charge lowed to the \$17.00 instead of the \$27.00 that most residents are paying. However; Chief Rigby responded to his question (James Rigby was on the sewer committee when the sewer project was started) that there are 5 basins from the Storm Sewer System Overflow. He can show him where they are: Clay, Atlee, Station, Harlan and Ogle Streets. Mr. Rigby explained why we had to put in a new sewer line, because we had a combine system and during heavy rains, we sometimes discharged raw sewage into the Stonycreek River. That is why we had to separate the systems. Mr. Lux questioned why the Borough had to put in so many manholes on each block and the size of the pipe that was installed by the contractors. He was questioning the extra \$10.00 that Johnstown Regional Sewer Company is charging the residents. It was explained to him, that in order to pay \$10.00 less on your city sewer bill, you had to have your complete basement done and pressure tested to qualify to get the reduce rate. The Council assured them that they are doing everything in their power to get all residents the reduced rate. Trisha Corle reassured Mr. Lux that we are working towards that end. Mr. Lux accused the Borough Council that they had 4 years to find out why the peak flows were high, Mr. Rigby corrected him, stating that " the project was not completed 4 years ago" and some of the homes that had their water shut-off because they were not in compliance has just been connected. Mr. Dom stated that all residents that had their complete basement done, only pays the \$17.00 a month. It was the decision of each homeowner to choose what option to go with 1. To do the complete system, 2. To do just inside the foundation or 3. To go just to the outside of the foundation.

MINUTES

There were a few corrections to the December 12, 2016 minutes, when those changes are made and sent to all Councilmembers for their approval, the minutes will be posted on the website. A motion was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No report given.

SEWER/SEWER PROJECT

Mark Muir distributed the December 2016 report. There are 657 inspections completed – 284 Entire System Tested, 127 - tested to inside Foundation, 237 - Outside only tested, 9 – Storm Verification, 14 – Vacant and not connected, 1 – Sale transfers in January 2017.

There were two area of discussion. The first is Field Investigation and Wet Weather Inspections. In order to do this we will have to provide traffic control at Franklin St., Summit Ave. and Ferndale Avenue. The Storm interconnected with the sanitary system. Storm System from Goucher St. shows up in the Storm System and Sanitary through the intersection of Goucher and Franklin Street. Mr. Muir got one quote to televise the intersection – approximately 1,000 LF. The Gap Services, can record inspections, no traffic control, camera \$120.00 (4 hrs. min.), Jet/Vac Truck – (\$150.00 hr. – 4 hrs. min). He will talk to Randy Johnson and try to schedule this work during decent weather.

The 3 reports that needed to be done have been finished. The Semi-Annual Progress Report (DEP consent order). The Semi-Annual Progress Report to JRA and the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System). Waiver was submitted by January 1, 2017. Mr. Muir asked if the Council would review the reports and get back to him, if they had any questions.

Mr. Muir reported that there is still not enough flow on Margaret Avenue from Upper Yoder Township. JRA may revamp the meter policy before installing it at the Ferndale Avenue pumping station. They like to do the testing every 6 months, but because of the meters, Mr. Muir asked the council if they want to hold off for a little while longer? The Council would like to hold off, until we find out what is going at Goucher and Franklin Street. Brian McAteer reported that they have dye tested that area and they even were in a boat in the Stonycreek River to try and find out where the dye is coming out. But to no avail. Mr. Dom received a call from a lady that said, “Her neighbor was elderly and had been living in a home with no running water and was there anything that we could do.” It was determined that this property is not in Ferndale Borough.

Mr. Muir will work on getting quote’s in the next month for the work to be done on the properties on the 600 block of Ferndale Avenue.

A motion was made by Trisha Corle to accept the Sewer/Sewer Project Report and with the changes to be made by Mark Muir and seconded by Ken Dom. The motion carried.

PERSONNAL

Ken Dom would like to see a tracking system for the PTO of all full-time employees. This is now being kept by the Chief of Police and the Street Foreman. Only three full-time employees receive PTO time. All the other employees are part-time and do not qualify. Trisha Corle will check with Herbert’s payroll department to see if this can be done through the payroll system.

A motion was made by Trisha Corle to accept the Personnel Report; it was seconded by Connie Hobbs.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORT

Chief Rigby e-mailed his December 2016 report to all Councilmembers, no questions on the report. Chief Rigby reported that the Police Department brought in \$3,000.00 more in fines and miscellaneous fees than the previous year. There is still an ongoing discussion with Southmont Borough on Ferndale Police Department providing services to the Borough. Chief Rigby said that Southmont would have to give the current police department (that is providing the service) a 12 month notice to pull out of the police protection agreement.

The Police will be attending classes at the Upper Yoder Township Fire Hall. There are 4 courses, 3 hours each for a total of 12 hours, all Officers will attend. This is mandatory for all police officers in Pennsylvania.

The topic of vests for the Officers was brought up again, because of the continuing problems in sections of the city of Johnstown and our Officers are backing up the city, the Council thought it would be in our best interest to look into vests for the officers. Chief Rigby is looking into grants to buy the vest. The problem in getting the vests is the size of the Borough. Five vests would be needed, because 5 officers already have them. The cost is about \$700.00 with a life expectancy of 5 years. The reason for this is because of the wear and tear on the vest. If the officer is unable to pay for the vest out right, we could do it through payroll deduction. The Council could make it mandatory to wear the vest while on duty for their protection. Each vest is fitted for that individual that will be wearing the vest. Trisha Corle asked the Chief to look into what it would cost the Borough to purchase the vest. About \$400.00 if you go with the small, medium or large. It would cost more for the fitted vest. It would be mandatory to wear the vest, because of the SOP.

The brackets for the light bar have come in from Team Motors and will be installed soon.

A motion by Trisha Corle was made to accept the Mayor and Police Report; seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Because of a family emergency, Mr. Green was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

EMERGENCY MGT. +FIRE CO. +WEST HILLS REPORT

The December Report was forwarded to the Borough, if anyone wants to read the report, the secretary will make them a copy. In the future the Secretary will just forward the e-mail to the Councilmembers for them to read the report.

A motion was made by Robert Gray to accept the Emergency Mgt. Report; it was seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

EQUIPMENT/STREETS/BOROUGH PROPERTY

Street Foreman Brian McAteer gave his report to all Councilmembers. No questions on the report. He reported that because the water table is up, they have been salting Harlan Avenue more than normal. The reason is the run-off from Midway Drive. Also, on the 600 block of Vickroy Avenue is a problem with the ice, because a house has been torn down and the water runs off the vacant lot. There is the same problem on the back side of Hystone Avenue, because the hillside has been logged out.

A question on whether to sell Daisytown salt was brought up. We have in the past helped other municipalities, just as Upper Yoder Township has helped us. They have bought 12 ton and have been billed for the salt at last year's invoice price. Owen Hofecker gave permission to Roger Bock to sell the salt to Daisytown, because they do not have a place to store the salt and the means to load the salt into the spreaders. We have in the past helped out municipals, because Upper Yoder Township has helped Ferndale when we ran into problems with storing our salt, because our new salt bin had not been

completed. The municipalities help each other out, but it also in understood that we cannot run ourselves short on salt for the winter.

Since we paid for the salt out of our Highway Aid account, the money paid back to us from Daisytown must go back into the Highway Aid Account.

We have about 175 ton in the salt bin with another 100 ton to still come in. The Council put a cap at 20 tons more to Daisytown. Each truck load is about 3 tons. If they need salt, then they will have to let us know before March 15th. so we can add this to our order of salt. In the past Daisytown had been buying their salt from Conemaugh Township, but the Township would not sell to them this year. The reason might be, because someone else has taken over at Conemaugh Township. Robert Gray opposed the selling of the salt to Daisytown, but withdrew it when all the facts were brought to light. Trisha Corle made a motion to sell Daisytown only 20 more tons of salt and Ken Dom seconded that motion.

The roof over the kitchen and the upstairs hall is leaking again. Trisha Corle has talk to the Commissioner's on trying to obtain a grant for the work, but has not heard back from them as yet. Now that the holidays are over she will call them again.

A motion to accept the Equipment/Streets/Borough Property report was made by Connie Hobbs and seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

TREES

A tree on the corner of Ogle Street and Vickroy Avenue came down of Robert Rucosky's property. Bob Jordan cut the tree down and the Fire Co. cut up the wood and Brian McAteer and the road crew picked it up and stacked it by the salt bin. Borough residents then can go down and pick up the wood they need. Owen Hofecker reported that there is another tree that needs to be cut down along Plainfield Avenue.

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

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Total collections for the month of December 2016 were \$6,157.31.

Ordinance # 490 was adopted. This ordinance is to lower the millage by ½ a mill.

PennVest needs new signers to access the account. Trisha Corle suggested that all Council should be able to access the account. The secretary will look into it, but only two people need to be on the list.

Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 were presented, but were tabled until Atty. Joe Green had a chance to review them. We will make a decision at the March meeting.

The county needs a list of all offices that are up for re-election. There are 6 seats on the Council, the Mayor and the Tax Collector.

Anita Smith said that she will not run again for Tax Collector.

Laurel Municipal reported that no building permits were issued in December.

Trisha Corle made a motion to accept Ord. # 490 with Connie Hobbs seconded it. A roll call vote was taken and all voted "yes".

A motion by Trisha Corle was made to accept the Tax Collector's Report; it was seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Financial statements were distributed to the Council. PennVest is still in question and is being worked on. They were asked to review all the documents and if they had any questions contact Trisha. Ms. Corle will ask Debbie Herbert to attend the February council meeting to go over the final reports for 2016. Ken Dom had a question on the bill from Jordan's Tree Service. Owen Hofecker said that they took down 4 trees in the Borough.

A motion was made by Trisha Corle to accept the Financial Report and to pay the bills. It was seconded by Owen Hofecker. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Trisha Corle will compose a press release on the budget and e-mail it to the secretary. The secretary will then e-mail it to all Councilmembers before going to the newspaper.

A motion to accept the Public Relations Report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

RECREATION REPORT

Owen Hofecker reported that the 3rd. and 4th. Grade girls' basketball will be playing in a tournament at the East Hills Recreation Center. The Elementary Wrestling Program is doing well this year.

A discussion on the pay rate for the police officers providing security for the athletic events will be address at the next meeting. Ms. Corle will talk to the Superintendent Carol Kakabar on this matter.

A motion to accept the Recreation Report was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ken Dom brought up about the sofa that has been in the front yard on the 600 block of Summit Avenue. Chief Rigby has been in contact with the owner and it will be removed, along with a TV that has been on the 500 block of Summit Avenue for some time. Both will be taken care of this week.

Motion to adjourn was made by Trisha Corle and seconded Connie Hobbs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Anita M. Smith
Borough Secretary

