

FERNDALE BOROUGH

Regular Meeting

October 9, 2017

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

President Scott Miles called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

ROLL CALL

The Roll Call showed the following present: President – Scott Miles, Connie Hobbs, Robert Gray, Owen Hofecker, Ken Dom, Trisha Corle, and Mayor – Ralph Boyle, Chief of Police – James Rigby, Solicitor – Joe Green, Street Foreman – Brian McAteer and Secretary – Anita Smith.

VISITORS

The visitors for the Oct. 9 2017 meeting are as follows: Student – Ashley Boyle, Dawn Boyle, Zac Neal, Wes Neal and Cindy Dom. All were just observing, except Ashley Boyle who was attending for her Civics' class at Ferndale Area High School.

MINUTES

A motion by Trisha Corle was made to accept of minutes of the September 11, 2017 meeting. It was seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

ENGINEER/SEWER/SEWER PROJECT REPORT

No official report was given. However, Mark Muir did say in a phone conversation with the Borough Secretary, that the MS4 form has been filed. He could be reached by phone if any questions would come up.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ken Dom had provided the Council with the job description for the Secretary/Treasurer's position.

Connie Hobbs made a motion to accept the description for the Secretary/Treasure's position and seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

A motion to accept the personnel report was made by Trish Corle and seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Joe Green talked to Dave Duray and will meet with Scott Miles in his office at CJL.

The Solicitor has asked the secretary to call CJL and set up a time to meet with them. Mr. Duray thinks that he can help us out. President Miles stated that when he met with Bill Patrick, he told him about all the things that went on and the Council was not fully aware of this. Mr. Miles informed him that this was done without the consent of the Council. Mr. Patrick was thankful and said that there is no ill will towards Ferndale Borough.

One of the persons involved had to be removed from different Council Meetings, because of his outbursts and a restraining order was put in place by CJL that this gentleman is not allowed on the property.

Because of this incident – Mr. Duray almost lost his engineering licenses. Mr. Miles apologized to CJL for this and stated that the Council is truly sorry for any problems may have caused. The state was called in and reviewed all the documents and was found that it was done correctly.

Dave Duray said he would look at the maps and he feels that it could be something is wrong with the crossovers, but he would have to have a look, before commenting on the problem.

Councilwoman Hobbs said that we are now headed in the right direction and hopefully will have a solution to the peak flow problem.

One other problem is that a draft has been submitted to PennVest, but has not been changed to a change order request. Bill Patrick has to change that before DEP will look at that and approve or disapprove it for payment.

Councilwoman Corle asked about the progress with Dan Mikesic and PennVest. The secretary said that she talked to him on 9-11-17 and he would put the order in for the audit, but that it would take 4 to 6 weeks to get it scheduled. The secretary would check on the statics of this before the November meeting. CJL has to be involved in this to get it resolved.

The Council also questioned why the peak flow meters have not been replaced. We will ask Mark Muir about this; because how can they get an accurate reading if the meters are not in place.

Trish Corle would like to see this proceed, mainly because of the interest that the Borough has to continually pay to Somerset Trust for the line-of-credit. This needs to be a priority of this Council. She asked the Solicitor if we have any recourse to recoup this money. The cost is \$6,700.00 a quarter.

President Miles would like the Council to think about any questions they might have for Dave Duray, so he can look into the answers.

A motion by Ken Dom was made to accept the Solicitor's Report and seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

MAYOR AND POLICE REPORTS

Chief Rigby had e-mailed all the Councilmembers his September Police Report. There were no questions on the report.

Chief Rigby has offered to move his shift around to accommodate other officers to help keep the cost down. Chief Rigby said that he will need to hire 3 more officers, because he might be losing 3 officers to other full-time jobs. He was given permission to look for other officers and he told the Council that he is also looking for new officers to fill the shifts, so he won't have to.

A motion by Owen Hofecker to give Chief Rigby permission to start interviewing officers for the Police Department, it was seconded by Connie Hobbs. A roll call vote was taken and all Councilmembers voted "yes". The motion carried.

The Chief will look into the academies at UPJ and IUP. The only drawback is that is an expensive procedure.

Chief Rigby will give all the necessary information to the Secretary and it will be advertised in the newspaper.

The Mayor has all the bids on the Heating/AC unit for the Police Office.

Along with the unit, the mold issue has been addressed. The Council feels that the mold in the Police Office is part of an ongoing problem with the neighboring property. Gutters and downspout should be put on the garage next door and all the vegetation should be cleared out, so the moisture will not be trapped causing the mold. The gutters should be at least 8 ft. long to correct the problem.

Norman Krumanacher sent a letter to the Chief of Police on consolidation of the local police forces. The letter stated that Ferndale was not willing to enter into negotiations to become part of the regional police force. Chief Rigby started to ask questions on the cost (which would almost double our police budge), if Ferndale would have a representative on the board and would the cost be determined by mileage or call volume, because West Hills is spending a lot of time in the Lower Yoder Township. He felt that this was a consolidation of police forces and not a regionalization of police forces.

Chief Rigby said that West Hills Regional would benefit more from Ferndale entering into the agreement and not the other way around.

Ken Dom made a motion to accept the Mayor and Police Report it was seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

EMERGENCY MGT. + FIRE CO. + WEST HILLS REPORT

West Hills Fire Company e-mailed their report to the Borough Office, if anyone needs a copy of the report, please contact the Borough Secretary. A copy will be provided to you.

FERNDALE FIRE ASSOCIATION

Mayor Boyle reported that the Ferndale Jubilee had another successful year. All the bills are paid and he presented at check to the Borough in the amount of \$11,000.00 for their obligation to the Borough. The Jubilee made a profit of \$22,000.00.

Plans are already in the works for the 2018 Jubilee. It has been decided that next year the Ferndale Fire Association will be giving a Ford Mustang away. When they did this in the past, it was their best response in ticket sales.

Ralph Boyle has asked for help for next year and new members have stepped forward.

Solicitor Joe Green commented on how in all his years as a solicitor, he has never seen anything like this, the co-operations between the Council and the Fire Association is commendable.

The Police and Fire Association will be out in force for this year's Trick or Treat Night. It will be the same as Johnstown. However, the time has changed. It will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

A motion by Connie Hobbs to accept the Fire Association Co. Report was made and seconded by Trisha Corle. The motion carried.

STREETS AND PROPERTY REPORT

Street Foreman Brian McAteer distributed his report for the month of September 2017. There were no questions on the report.

Brian McAteer reported that the pump on the Street Sweeper will cost around \$2,800.00. They hope to get it up and running this week. The leaf box has been installed on the one dump truck and they will start collecting leaves next week

The State Snow Removal Agreement was signed by Scott Miles and will be filed tomorrow at the PennDOT office in Hollidaysburg. The State has changed the mileage, but later corrected their mistake.

No more has been mentioned on the purposed bike lane on Ferndale Avenue. This is tabled till more information is available.

Ken Hershberger has requested 2 parking signs for a new business located in his building on Ferndale Avenue. One sign will be places on Ferndale Avenue for the customers and the other sign will be located on Station Street besides the building as a loading zone parking space. Mr. Hershberger has already paid the Borough for the signs.

Daisytown Borough is in the process of building a salt bin, as soon as it is finish their will get the salt that was ordered for them.

A motion was made by Owen Hofecker to accept the Street and Property Report. The motion was seconded by Robert Gray. The motion carried.

TREES

Councilmen Owen Hofecker had nothing to report for the month of September.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Anita Smith reported that a total of \$739.73 was collected in the month of September.

Also, as Pension Officer, it was reported that the State has direct deposited monies for the Foreign Fire Tax in the amount of \$6,374.12. The tax will be paid to West Hills Regional Fire Company by October 31, 2017.

The amount for the Police and Non-uniform Pension Plans was also received in the amount of \$9,176.50 this amount will be paid by October 31, 2017 with the Borough's portion being paid in December. The Non-uniform Pension is fully funded and will not receive any state funding.

The Council voted on the Flood Insurance, going with Option A in the amount of \$3,552. This is a yearly premium.

A motion by Ken Dom to accept the Tax Collector's Report was made and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Councilwomen Corle reported that she will meet with Herbert's on the 2018 budget, if anyone has any input to the budget give this information to Ms. Corle to incorporate it into the budget.

A letter was received from Beverly Roth notifying the Council that her last day of employment will be December 29, 2017. She thanked the Borough for her many years of work, but felt it was time to step down. President Miles accepted for resignation with regrets and thanked her for the many years of dedication.

A motion to accept the Finance Report and to pay all the Accounts Payable bills was made by Ken Dom and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

No report was given.

RECREATION REPORT

Mark Wissinger was unable to attend the meeting and no official report was given. However, Owen Hofecker did report that 3rd. and 4th. Grade boys and girls basketball program has started and the 5th. and 6th. Grade boys and girls basketball program will begin next week.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

The Cambria County Borough's Association Dinner will be held at the Cresson VFW on Ashcroft St. in Cresson on Oct. 24, 2017. All interest parties are to let the Borough Secretary by October 16, 2017.

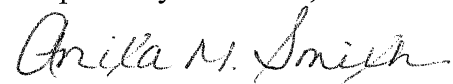
Trick or Treat will be held the same time as the city of Johnstown. But the time will be from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Chief Rigby said that most of the lights are out by 7:00 pm and it's not worth having the officers or fire company out beyond 7:30 pm. All Councilmembers were in agreement.

A motion to accept Old and New Business was made by Trish Corle and seconded by Connie Hobbs. The motion carried.

The regular meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

The meeting then went into an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anita M. Smith".

Anita M. Smith

Borough Secretary