

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
February 6, 2014

Council President Stacy Huber called the Monthly Meeting of the Tunkhannock Borough Council to order in the Borough Building, 126 Warren Street, Tunkhannock, PA at 7:00 p.m. He led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Norman Ball; Council Members Marshall Davis, Scott Douthett, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Ruby Sands, Wendy Sweppenheiser, and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch.

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter Michael Wintermute; Citizens Susan DiStadio, Michael DiStadio, Patricia Mead, Ned Slocum, Carl Penedos, Susann Barziloski, Laura & Randy Wiernusz, William Hampton, Ty Dodge, H. Newell, Kenni Parr, Shawn Muntz, Rebecca Peterson and Police Chief Roger Hardy.

Furnace/Boiler Bid Opening:

Borough Building

The meeting began with the opening of bids for the (Borough Building) Furnace-Boiler Project and for which a total of six (6) sealed bids had been received. Manager Welch opened the bids, which were then read and recorded by President Huber, as follows:

Bognet, Inc.....	\$168,778.00
Scranton Electric Heating & Cooling.....	\$149,154.00
Master Mechanical Corporation.....	\$244,984.00
Don Cooper Plumbing & Heating.....	\$209,700.00
Demam Associates.....	\$235,430.00
L.H. Reed & Sons, Inc.....	\$161,396.00

The bids will be submitted to Milnes Engineering for review/recommendations.

Wiernusz Land Development:

Annie Bonczek, Tioga Environmental Consulting, LLC, discussed, for information purposes, a possible land development project (on 4.8 acres), off Turnpike Road, in both Tunkhannock Borough and Township) proposed by Randy Wiernusz. A road would be constructed in such a way that the developer plans to request that ownership be dedicated to the Tunkhannock Borough and/or Township via a developer's agreement. President Huber thanked her for the presentation and then briefly discussed other matters related to the project, e.g., permits, sidewalks, water/sewer, etc., that will have to be addressed.

Public Privilege of the Floor:

Susann Barziloski reported that she had recently called the Borough Manager to report an inoperative street light; and, the next day, Penelec was there to fix it. She also thanked the Department of Public Works for the wonderful job they have done with their snowplowing.

Carl Penedos requested to know if there was a policy to ticket and/or remove cars when it snows, because there were, once again, three vehicles that were not moved following a recent snow event. Chief Hardy stated that there is a procedure in place, which was followed.

Tax Collector Appointment:

On motion by Ruby Sands, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to appoint Kenni Parr for a two year term of office to end December 31, 2015 as Borough Tax Collector. Motion carried unanimously.

Tunkhannock Borough Municipal Authority Appointment:

On motion by Scott Douthett, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to re-appoint Janet Shoemaker to the Tunkhannock Borough Municipal Authority, with a term of office through December 31, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance and Administration Committee:

President Huber reported that a Pension Meeting will be held on February 12th for information purposes as to why the Borough had to pay \$12,260.42 for the (2013) Police Pension Fund. This was unanticipated, as we had met in August and were told that the fund was “actuarially sound”. In the past, this had meant that no contribution from the Borough would be required. Unfortunately, the State Aid portion, approved in September, resulted in the above listed differential, which then had to be made up by the Borough. The consultant advised that we will likely be facing a similar shortfall this year.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee:

Chairman Robinson reported that: 1) Our Solicitor had sent a letter in regard to the retaining wall in the parking lot behind the Prince Hotel, which the Committee will review at its next meeting; and 2) Tunkhannock Township is upgrading the lights on the Tunkhannock Creek Bridge (SR3008) to Light Emitting Diode (LED) type, two of which belong to the Borough and requested to know if we would upgrade our two lights at a cost of \$1,593.52.

On Motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Scott Douthett, move to approve the upgrading of the lights on the Tunkhannock Creek Bridge. Motion carried unanimously.

Ruth Vincenti reported that she had received a phone call from Hatsy Eberhardt, 95 West Street, who stated that the one of our plow trucks had knocked over her mailbox. The Manager advised that the truck did not hit the box; but, the force of the plowed snow may have knocked the mailbox over. President Huber suggested that Ms. Eberhardt call the police to file/obtain a report to be submitted to her insurance company.

Building and Property Committee:

Chairman Robinson reported that the DPW workers, during the recent very cold days, have been cleaning the rooms upstairs, in preparation for possible rental purposes.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that: a) he now has a permit to replace the bandstand; and b) the Wyoming County Parks and Trails Association has been approved for 501[C]3 (non-profit) status.

Police:

Mayor Ball reported that the recent adverse weather had precluded the completion of (part-time officer) Steve Williams' firearms qualification.

Chief Hardy presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of January 2014. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Planning and Zoning:

No hearings are scheduled this month.

Council of Governments (COG):

There was no meeting in January. The next meeting is February 11, 2014.

New Business:

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Wendy Sweppenheiser, move to add the Police Committee Chairman to the Pension Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the CSC had met, but would be meeting again to make two minor changes to the Civil Service Regulations.

President Huber distributed the revised (draft 2014) Council Committee List for review.

CVS is scheduled to open its new facility on March 3, 2014.

At 7:45 p.m., on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Scott Douthett, move to go into executive session for contractual and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Scott Douthett, move to return to regular session at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

At 9:02 p.m., on motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager