

**TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 3, 2015**

**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, Wendy Sweppenheiser, Lisa Tesluk and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch.**

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner (WCPE) Reporter Tara Koval; citizens Michael DiStadio, Harold May, Patricia Mead, and Ben Barziloski.

**On motion by Ruth Vincenti, seconded by Scott Douthett, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 2, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.**

**On motion by Scott Douthett, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Administration Remarks:**

President Huber announced that he does not anticipate that there would be an executive session during tonight's meeting.

**Public Privilege of the Floor:**

Harold May requested to know: a) when the retaining wall would be completed; and b) why doesn't he see any police on the Borough streets.

President Huber reported that the Retaining Wall Project should be started in September. Note: see the Building and Property Committee Section (below) for additional information.

With regard to Item b above), President Huber asked Chief Hardy if he wished to address the concerns expressed by Mr. May, to which the Chief responded by offering to "pick him up and take him for a walk around the borough".

**Finance and Administration Committee:**

Robert Robinson, Civil Service Commission (CSC) Chairman, stated that the Commission is in the process of setting up a meeting regarding the position of Sergeant in our Police Department.

### **Transportation & Streets Committee (TSC):**

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the Committee had met on July 22nd. He added that: a) the TSC will be meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the possible purchase of a replacement dump truck; and b) our Spring and Fall Clean-Up Projects net a total of sixty tons of materials per year, while Tunkhannock Township's one (annual) clean-up nets only seven tons, and, consequently, the Committee is looking into alternative approaches, e.g., the possibility of only one pick-up per year, limitations on quantities/types of materials eligible for collection, etc.

### **Building and Property Committee:**

President Huber reported that the Retaining Wall Project was formally advertised for bids. This project entails, among other things: a) removal of the existing concrete wall; b) replacement of same with a segmented block-type structure; and c) multiple miscellaneous construction-related actions. To be considered, all bids must be received at the Borough Office not later than 10:00 a.m., August 27, 2015, at which time the bids will be publicly opened, read aloud, and documented.

President Huber reported that all "hands-on" work for the roof project has been completed. The only remaining item is the final inspection, which will be conducted on August 6th.

As stated last month, mold was discovered in a small ceiling area upstairs (in the former Triton Hose Company Dining Area of our building). It was stated that, prior to initiating remediation actions, the contractor that was brought in recommended that, in accordance with accepted practices, air sampling (by a separate contractor) be done. This has been completed; and the presence of two small mold areas was confirmed. The next step, is for corrective actions. We received a proposal from Disaster Blaster (Avoca, PA) in the amount of approximately \$4,300.00 to complete the work. We have not had time to review-consider this matter in depth; but in view of the situational urgency involved, President Huber requested a motion to approve the proposal, subject to review by the Building and Property Committee.

**On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to approve the proposal, subject to review by the Building and Property Committee. Motion carries unanimously.**

President Huber reported that, late last week, it was brought to our attention that, in the main floor, rear office of the tenant's portion of the building, the floor appeared to have dropped. A follow-up inspection revealed that the flooring, which is situated above the garage facility utilized by the Police Department, was indeed sagging and required shoring up on an urgent basis. (Note: 10 filing cabinets were on one side of the room and five on the other, along with two office desks and a refrigerator.) Interim safety and stability measures were quickly completed by our Department of Public Works crew; and arrangements were then made with a contractor, who has since completed the requisite shoring and related actions. (Note: The contractor's (TRF Construction, Inc.) estimate for completing the repairs was to be within \$700-\$1,000.)

### **Riverside Park Commission:**

Mayor Ball reported that the Park Commission would be meeting next week, due to the Triton Hose Company Carnival being held this week.

### **Police Committee:**

Mayor Ball reported that there was one incident that did not have police coverage. (Note: according to the roster, an officer had been scheduled for duty.)

Chief Hardy presented a summary of the Police Report for the month of July, 2015. Note: a copy of the report will be placed on file in the Police Department.

Police Committee Chairman Marshall Davis announced that a tentative date for the arbitration hearing (regarding Police Department manning) has been scheduled for February 18, 2016.

### **Planning and Zoning:**

A zoning hearing (to consider a request for a variance regarding a setback on the property at 56 West Harrison Street) is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Council of Governments (COG):**

Copies of a draft Joint Municipal Agreement and accompanying ordinance for the COG have been distributed. Council Members were asked to review the documents and provide any questions, comments, etc., to the Manager to be forwarded for inclusion in the final draft, which will be brought back to Council for a vote at a later date.

### **Other Business:**

President Huber stated that there have been no real changes regarding the FEMA property reclamation work at 22 McCord Street. Wyoming County Emergency Management Agency Director Gene Dziak is working the matter and has promised to advise of any changes and/or updates. Among the remaining Borough items are: a) an access easement (Borough-TBMA) depiction, which is reportedly being worked on; b) additional fill, grading, and clean-up actions; and c) pictures of capped sewer lines at affected properties, to be provided to the TBMA.

As for the Walnut Hill Project, Council recently received a copy of the developer's response to the Borough Planning Commission's extensive comments. These have been referred to the Borough Engineer for additional review and comment.

The draft "Quality of Life Ordinance" was previously distributed to Council for review. The Environmental Committee will be meeting to review the document and provide comments and recommendations, thereto.

In regard the UGI Corporation's Get Gas Project (initiative to assess the feasibility of bringing natural gas service into the Borough), the Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce (in conjunction with representatives of UGI) will be meeting with key players from the area, on August 19th, to discuss/determine next steps, costs, project layout, feasibility, timelines, etc.

**Council Privilege of the Floor:**

President Huber asked everyone to support and enjoy the Triton Hose Company's Carnival; and he also thanked the Tree Association and Diane Secor, in particular, for the outstanding work in maintaining the Borough's designated Beautification Areas.

**On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Scott Douthett, move to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.. Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,  
Borough Manager