

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

August 4, 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, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Ruth Vincenti, and Wendy Sweppenheiser; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Members Scott Douthett and Ruby Sands.

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner (WCPE) Reporter Jeff Horvath; Citizens Patti Mead, Harold May, Kathy Saunders, and Ned Slocum.

Reading of Minutes and Bills:

On a motion by Wendy Sweppenheiser seconded by Ruth Vincenti, the minutes of the meeting on July 3, 2014, were approved. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded Joseph Myers, move to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Triton Hose Company Bid Openings:

1991 Pick-up Truck, minimum bid of \$1,000.00: Joseph Sick \$951.03 and DeNaples Auto Parts: 1,200.00.

1994 Ford Ambulance, minimum bid of \$2,500.00, DeNaples Auto Parts Inc: \$1,600.00.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to accept the higher bid, (DeNaples: 1,200.00) for the 1991 Pickup Truck. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Privilege of the Floor:

Kathy Saunders, 23 Pine Street, was the pedestrian who, while in the crosswalk by Van Duzer's Service Station, was struck by a vehicle and seriously injured on September 12, 2013. She was very upset about how she had allegedly been treated by our Police Department following the incident. Mayor Ball stated that he would check into the situation and get back to Ms. Saunders.

Harold May does not like the higher grass on Harding Street, near the Bypass. He also stated that the police are never around.

Finance and Administration Committee:

Manager Welch reported that she recently attended a Basic Budgeting Workshop and added that, until our Police Arbitration issue is resolved, it will be very difficult to complete the budget process.

Department of Public Works (DPW) Committee:

Committee Chairman Robert Robinson reported that: a) the DPW Crew has been scraping and painting the obelisk streetmarkers and how nice they look, and b) he would like to see the streepstweeper out more.

President Huber reported that a directional street sign (in the area of 68 Bridge Street) is missing.

Storm Water Committee: The federal Clean Water Act, its updates and amendments, along with our own state regulations delineate storm water management requirements and practices. Among its goals is the reduction of pollutants into streams, waterways, and (ultimately) Chesapeake Bay. The Act's initial phase applied primarily to larger construction/industrial sites and larger metropolitan areas. Under Phase II, the scope of the effort includes smaller urbanized areas, classified as municipal separate storm sewer systems (or MS4s). Factoryville Borough, which is included in the Scranton Area MS4, was required to initiate an extensive and costly storm water management project. Many believe that it is just a matter of time before we are similarly required to start such a program. In addition, our Borough continues to have storm water issues; and it is anticipated that these may increase in the future. He believes that it would be in our best interest to look forward and appoint an *ad hoc* committee to begin such work. He named Wendy, Bob, and Marshall to serve on the committee, along with the mayor, manager, and himself as *ex officio* participants. Based on their findings and recommendations, he would be prepared to name additional participants, as may be required.

Building and Property Committee:

Chairman Robert Robinson reported that the committee had met July 22, 2014. He also noted that: (a) Scranton Electric is doing a great job with the the Furnace-Boiler Replacement Project; and (b) they are still waiting for the propane tank to be delivered.

Riverside Park Commission:

Mayor Ball reported that River Day was last week and many people had stated that the Park looks great. Omar, one of the Park volunteers, is doing a great job in mowing the grass.

Police:

Mayor Ball presented a summary of the Police Report for the Month of July, 2014. Note: a copy of the report is on file in the Police Department.

Committee Chairman Marshall Davis reported that once again this year the Triton Hose Company requested that the Police Department provide "special" coverage at the annual carnival. Triton would like security each night from 1:00 a.m. To 5:00 a.m. and would reimburse the Borough for the cost incurred. Meetings were held with Chief Hardy last week and in his absence (while on vacation), Acting Sergeant Roberts. As of this time, the police are only prepared to provide two hours of the coverage that was requested. This would be provided by Chief Hardy, who will alter his schedule to accommodate. Acting Sergeant Roberts indicated that the remaining full time officer's personal obligations and their present work schedule did not allow them to be available for coverage during these hours. There was also an indication that the Borough's policy of not allowing part time officers to work in an overtime capacity hindered using them to fulfill this request. It should be noted that fulltime officers, as per their collective bargaining agreement, cannot be scheduled to work overtime. The officer in this situation must volunteer.

Planning and Zoning:

President Huber reported there are no hearings scheduled this month.

Council of Governments (COG):

The next meeting will be August 11, 2014.

New Business:

Rehabilitation Agreement: President Huber reported that Solicitor Litwin had prepared a draft rehabilitation agreement, pursuant to our Property Maintenance Ordinance, for Council's consideration. The agreement would be signed by property owners (cited under the provisions of the ordinance) to acknowledge and document the intention bring said property into compliance with applicable directives. The solicitor also recommended that Council authorize the Borough Manager to enter into such agreements on behalf of the Borough.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to approve the Rehabilitation Agreement, and to allow the Borough Manager to enter such agreements, up to a 120 day limit. Motion carried unanimously.

Triton Hose Company President Chuck Sands asked the Borough to re-advertise the 1978 American LaFrance snorkel truck, with a minimum bid of \$5,000.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Ruth Vincenti, move to re-advertise the Snorkel truck, with a minimum bid of \$5,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

FEMA Demolition Project/(Former) B & R Property: President Huber reported that the Borough continues to monitor the status of the properties that were taken down by Smart Recycling under the FEMA Demolition Project, most notably the former B&R Distributors building and grounds. Wyoming County EMA Director Gene Dziak, acting as the Borough's agent, has assured us that the deficiencies noted will be corrected. President Huber was asked by Council to check to see if: (a) they could spray some type of herbicide to kill the mosquitos; and (b) to have the grass mowed.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

President Huber has again received comments from members of the community regarding how attractive and well maintained the Beautification Areas near entrances to the Borough are; and, he expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Tunkhannock Tree Association.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, to go into executive session at 7:47 p.m. for contractual matters, property, and personnel. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers seconded by Ruth Vincenti move to go into regular session at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Marshall Davis seconded by Robert Robinson, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch
Borough Manager