

TUNKHANNOCK BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
May 5, 2016

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 Ben Barziloski, Marshall Davis, Stacy Huber, Joseph Myers, Robert Robinson, Lisa Tesluk, and Ruth Vincenti; and Borough Manager Dawn Welch. Absent: Council Member Scott Douthett.

Others present: Wyoming County Press Examiner Reporter C.J. Marshall; Police Chief Roger Hardy; and Citizens Patti Mead, Susan DiStadio, Ned Slocum, Michael DiStadio, Mike Irish, and John Greenly.

Agenda Items:

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 7, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Warren Hotel:

In conjunction with Founders' Day activities on June 25th, the Warren Hotel is seeking approval through the State Liquor Control Board (LCB) to allow the outdoor sale of alcoholic beverages at their facility, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The LCB requires municipality concurrence before they consider granting approval. The Borough requested a copy of LCB's determination.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Ben Barziloski, move to grant permission to the Warren Hotel for the outdoor sale of alcoholic beverages, between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on June 25, 2016, contingent upon approval by the LCB. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Privilege of the Floor:

There were no comments from the Public.

Finance and Administration Committee:

Health Insurance: The President and the Manager recently participated in a conference call with representatives of the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative (through Benecon

Benefit Administrators and Consultants), whom the Manager had contacted to request possible proposals for our Borough employees' health coverage. (Note: this group serves many municipalities, authorities, etc., throughout the state.) Specifically, we are looking to see if we can obtain coverage comparable to that which we had through Blue Cross of NEPA in 2015, prior to Highmark's taking over. It appears that this coverage, i.e., at (or close to) the 2015 level and its provisions, would be available at roughly the same cost as we are paying now. We have tentatively scheduled an informational presentation/meeting with them at our scheduled mid-month meeting on May 18th, at 2:00 p.m. We would like the Mayor, Council, and the Chief and/or the Police Bargaining Unit (schedules permitting) to attend/provide a representative. This timing is important, as we will have to proceed quickly to enable enrollment by July 1, to allow us to get "locked in" on costs, for an 18 month participation.

At the request of our Pension Advisor (the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs), a Pension Committee Meeting is scheduled on May 11th.

Transportation & Streets Committee:

Robert Robinson reported that the Committee had met with Eaton Township Supervisors Paul Rowker and Randy Enrenzeller concerning the light poles on the Susquehanna River Bridge, i.e., possible: a) repairs to the existing (damaged) poles; b) installation of LED lighting; and c) replacement of said poles. After considerable discussion, it was decided just to repair the light poles we have, and then, in conjunction with Eaton Township, apply for grant(s) for upgrading the light poles at a later date.

The Manager received three phone quotes for pavement crack-sealing: Black and Green Landscaping, LLC: \$7,960; Mayo Striping: \$8,790; and Vestal Asphalt: \$49,842.

On motion by Marshall Davis, seconded by Robert Robinson, move to accept the lowest bid, Black and Green Landscaping, LLC, for \$7,960. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Joseph Myers, seconded by Lisa Tesluk, move to advertise the Road Construction & Dedication Ordinance (2016-2) to be adopted at our June 2, 2016 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Storm-water Issues: Via recent correspondence, the Municipal Authority advised that storm-water from two catch-basins on Slocum Avenue is entering the Sanitary Sewer Collection System, which, as a result, has caused problems in the collection system and at the sewage treatment plant. This, in turn, has resulted in possible problems and issues with the Authority's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the goal of which is to separate, to the extent possible, storm-water from the sanitary sewers. The Committee met with the Borough Engineer last Friday for a preliminary, informal review of the situation, which concluded with asking Milnes Engineering to prepare an

overview of the situation, with possible courses of action/options, along with baseline cost estimates, to be available for our June meeting.

Building and Property Committee: No Report

Riverside Park Commission: No Report

Police Committee:

Mayor Ball reported that the Police Department (PD) would like the Borough to apply for a 2016 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Program Grant. He then turned the floor over to Chief Hardy.

Chief Hardy presented a summary of the Police Report for the month of April, 2016. Note: a copy of the report will be placed on file in the Police Department.

Chief Hardy stated that he had three items to discuss: 1) a “burglary in progress” incident on April 26, during which we had no coverage, due to scheduling/training requirements; 2) the aforementioned "COPS Grant", and 3) the lack of payment for equipment calibration services for YIS-Cowden. A copy of his letter, dated April, 5, 2016, will be placed on file in the PD.

President Huber said the Police Committee would review the "COPS Grant" and make their recommendation to the Council.

Planning and Zoning:

The Planning Commission (PC) met again with Zoning Consultant Carson Helfrich on May 3, 2016. The primary purpose was to review/discuss Carson's proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance, as requested by Council/PC. All areas were covered, with emphasis on whether or not to make changes to allow or add a Professional-Commercial Development Use in certain areas currently listed as Residential. The PC: a) asked Carson to update his draft for final review by the Planning Commission; and b) voted three to one (3-1) against recommending the inclusion of the aforementioned Professional-Commercial change.

Two zoning hearings were held on April 20, 2016: a) Triton Hose Company was granted a variance to allow the installation of an electrical sign at the Fire House; and b) The appeal by Grace Fellowship Church, 155 Bridge Street, to allow a Pre-School at their location, was approved as a customary accessory use.

Council of Governments (COG):

On motion by Ben Barziloski, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adopt Ordinance 2016-1 authorizing the Borough to enter a joint municipal agreement confirming the

establishment of and participation in a COG under the terms and conditions of said joint municipal agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

The Tree Association conducted its annual Arbor Day Tree Planting on April 28th. The Mayor, President, and Manager attended.

Council Privilege of the Floor:

President Huber expressed his thanks and appreciation for all the work that Diane Secor has done and continues to do for the Tree Association and the Park.

On motion by Robert Robinson, seconded by Joseph Myers, move to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Welch,
Borough Manager