

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
May 17, 1999, 7:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled May Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the May 17, 1999 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry, Mayor Lary Koval, Engineer: Dave Duray, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Secretary: Judith Czyrnik, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen, and Fire Department: Michael Butler

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: Chief Daniel Zakraysek, Dr. Earl J. Hunt

President Pile asked for approval of the April 19, 1999 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Leventry to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

President Pile called for a motion to open the Paving Bids for the 1999 Street Paving Project. Motion was made by Mr. Leventry and seconded by Mr. Kory.

Bids were opened as follows:

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|------------------------|--------------|
| 1.) Quaker Sales | \$ 96,327.00 |
| 2.) Whitaker Roads | \$100,859.90 |
| 3.) Derry Construction | \$ 88,657.75 |

After bids were opened and discussion was held, Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept Derry Construction with the low bid of \$88,657.75, based on the Engineers and Solicitor's approval. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Motion carried.

At this time President Pile called on Chief Daniel Zakraysek of Upper Yoder Township Police department. Chief Zakraysek began with some background on the reasons for a traffic light at the intersections of Goucher Street Harshberger Street and Sunray Drive. Upper Yoder had sent a letter to PennDot on April 23, 1999. In their request they explained the development growth in this area with the opening of the Crichton Center, the PACEO Credit Union, Red Cross Center, District Magistrate Barron's office, the Cambria County Area Community College, Geneva College and the Hiram G. Andrews Center. In addition, there is a manufacturing firm (GKI), the Presbyterian Home and the Westmont Elementary School on the west side of the HGA Center and across Sunray Drive. In addition to all this activity, Harshberger Street is a "short cut" from the City of Johnstown. Southmont Borough has also requested PennDot to do a traffic study at this intersection.

A meeting was held at Upper Yoder Township Municipal Building with PennDot representatives and Chief Zakraysek will take the information back to his Supervisors, who will meet on May 20, 1999. He is asking that we as Municipalities work together. There would be no PennDot support for costs. Funding could possibly be available thru Cambria County Planning Commission, or possibly thru grants. Council agreed that the Street Committee and other members of Council would look at this joint effort project, along with Upper Yoder Township Supervisors. A ballpark figure for the traffic light would be \$42,000.00. After the Township meeting on May 20, 1999 Chief Zakraysek will be in touch with the Borough Secretary to set up a meeting. Dr. Earl J. Hunt requested that Borough Council allow a Golden Tiger Award Plaque to be displayed in the Council Chambers. The "Golden Tigers" was the nickname for the former Southmont High School sports teams. Every four years Southmont High School alumni hold a reunion and a new name is added to the plaque. Since the former high school has been converted into a condo complex the alumni felt the Municipal Building which was the former Southmont Grade School would be a better place to display the award plaque. Dr. Hunt also requested some storage space area for alumni history records. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to display the Golden Tiger Award Plaque in Council chambers and find space for the Alumni history records. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Council will get back to Dr. Hunt about the space for a file cabinet.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Havas's written report records revenues for the month of March at \$673.47. Chief Havas reported that all Officers will attend a four hour class on the handling of animals. The class will be presented by the Department of Agriculture. Southmont had 30 dog calls and 5 animal calls in 1998. Officer Mulkey presented a Drug and Paraphernalia program to seventh grade classes at Westmont Middle School and to several different Scout groups. Officer Lose will be attending a seminar on Identification of Prescription Drugs which is being sponsored by the Office of the District Attorney, Cambria County. Chief Havas reported on a meeting with School Officials in reference to the recent bomb threats in the area. The meeting was with Upper Yoder Police, EMS Service, School Officials, and Fire Departments. They are trying to prepare a Policy and Procedure Manual to follow during these acts. Chief Havas and Solicitor Lovette inspected the property of George Haidar at 1070 Luzerne Street. Chief Havas feels that he cannot file any charges against Mr. Haidar according to our Ordinances. He and Solicitor Lovette recommend that a letter be written to the property owner and give him 30/60 days to complete filling the area that he has dumped and cover with topsoil and grass. It was further recommended that the Zoning Administrator talk with the Zoning Solicitor and look at neighboring municipalities that have "no dumping" ordinances. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the research and preparation of such an ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried. Chief Havas reported on the burglary attempts in the recent weeks. Phone lines are being cut and the residents alarm systems fail when there is no phone service. Residents should be aware of how their alarm system operates.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Pullen's written report records five (5) permits have been issued during the month. The estimated year to date construction cost is \$197,058.00.

Mr. Pullen remarked that after reviewing Solicitor Lovette's report on the Haidar inspection at 1070 Luzerne Street, he is in complete agreement with action as stated in the letter of April 30, 1999, if they are carried out as described.

Mr. Pullen submitted an additional picture to Solicitor Lovette of newly dumped material on May 17, 1999. Solicitor Lovette will speak with Haidar's attorney.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Butler reported on the written report submitted for April. There were 19 emergency runs and/or assists during the month. It was noted that on April 11, 1999 the Department responded to a structure fire at 266 Southmont Blvd. A neighbor used a portable fire extinguisher to keep the fire from spreading. The loss was set at \$350.00. The Jubilee preparations have begun. Police schedules have been worked up and use of the Borough truck and field preparations have been set up. Chief Butler extended an invitation to all Council members to help at any of the Fire Company booths any time. Chief Butler and Mayor Koval will continue to review and update the Emergency Management Manual.

Mr. Chet Borosky reported on the Hilltop Ambulance Association meeting. The Association is having some personnel problems. This was the first meeting since Mr. Borosky was appointed to the Committee. They will be advertising to recruit new EMT's and Paramedics. The next meeting will be May 3, 1999.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dave Duray of Hinks & Locher Engineers reported that the Waters property (Bird Sanctuary) has been surveyed. The drawings will be submitted within the week to the Borough Secretary. The Wren Street property has also been surveyed and will be finalized within the next week. Mr. Duray reviewed the paving and inspection of Cheney Oak Drive in the PineGrove Development area. The correct compaction was not met however, Mr. Duray felt it was fine and that the roadway can be accepted. Mr. Chiodo has a Consultant working on the slide condition at the holding pond. It appears that there are 2 or 3 springs above the pond causing the pond to slide. The Consultant has a plan to dig above the area to run the water around the top of the pond and channel the spring water back into the pond. Mr. Duray felt this would be a good solution. Mr. Duray will recommend crownvetch be planted inside the fence area. The Engineers are working with Burgo Construction on ways to possibly decrease the Recreation Restroom/Storage Shed bids. Also, Mr. Duray has been in touch with Alex Tatanish of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources about the grant requirements and possible changes. Bids were forwarded to Harrisburg. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the low bid with Burgo Construction Inc., of \$24,400.00 for the Restroom/Storage Shed at the Soccer/Ballfield, pending possible changes to the bid, after the review of DCNR. Seconded by Mr. Leventry.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to re-bid if necessary at the Engineers discretion. Seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Duray has made the minor changes to the Chapin Arch drawings and submitted them to PennDot., as per their request. The project is to be bid next month. Mr. Kory stated that the Southwestern Conservancy is anxious to take over the Arch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONER

Mr. Bosley's written April report records basic cleaning on the Building. Performed routine maintenance on all vehicles and equipment. Raked gravel and debris along Borough property prior to grass cutting the first time. Picked up gravel piles before street sweeper cleaned the streets. Did some work on the garage area remodeling project. Sealed cracks on various streets during the weeks of April 12 and 19, 1999. Chipped Christmas trees and accumulated limbs and brush the week of April 26. Mr. Carbaugh still has a Doctor's appointment early in June. He still has not had a work release. Mr. Bosley recommended that Phil Buchan return for summer employment. A motion by Mr. Leventry to re-hire Phil Buchan for summer employment at \$5.15 per hour. Motion seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

STREET COMMITTEE

Mr. Leventry had no other report. Council discussed the possibility of continuing the Diamond Blvd. paving section. Council will further discuss this with the Engineer and Solicitor. Council had agreed to spend approximately \$125,000.00 in paving for 1999.

ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter prepared the Policy and Procedure for the disposition of excess Borough equipment, and or personal property. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to approve Resolution 9803a, in accordance with Resolution 9803-Policy and Procedure Manual, dated October 17, 1998. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried.

Ordinance No 416 has been advertised to establish compensation for Borough forces to perform work other than their normal duties for residents benefit and to provide for a yearly Resolution to set the hourly rate for each new year. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 416, seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovanssek, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to approve Resolution No. 9907, setting the 1999 hourly wage fee and equipment fees in accordance with Ordinance No.416. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Some discussion was held on the sign inventory along Menoher Blvd. Mr. Strittmatter stated that some of the signs along Menoher are in the PennDot right of way, while others are on private property. Borough sign permits have been issued for those on private property. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to send courtesy letters to businesses in the right of way.

POLICE COMMISSION

Mayor Koval reported there is a Police Commission meeting on May 19, 1999 at Southmont Borough Municipal Building. The meeting will be held on Wednesday this month, because May 18, 1999 is Election Day. The West Hills Police Commission contract appears to be in the final stages and it looks like a five year contract will be approved.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Monthly recycling chart is on file.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported that Mr. David Dorn with AFLAC Insurance attended the Committee meeting on May 11, 1999 to explain a payroll deduction Supplemental Insurance Program that he would like to talk to the employees about. This would strictly be a payroll deduction plan. President Pile call for a motion on the program. There being no motion. No action was taken.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers had nothing new to report.

SHADE TREE

Mr. Krupa reported on the Arbor Day Celebration which was held on be May 8, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in the area of 7 Gardner Street. Three Shumard Oak trees were planted in memory of Ellen Hoffman, a longtime member of the Shade Tree Committee. There were two Shade Tree meetings this past period and only one resident other than Mr. Krupa attended. There was some discussion on some residents in the Borough with overhanging limbs and trees.

RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Mayor Koval reported that Westmont Borough wants to send an Ad Hoc Committee to meet with each entity to discuss properties and responsibilities of the Commission. Southmont Borough Council felt that the way the procedure is being followed now is satisfactory. Mr. Harry Bennett has been appointed as representative of Westmont Borough. Election of Officers was held, all officers remain.

BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory had no report.

C.O.G. COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory attended the monthly meeting of COG this month. The main topic was Y2K and what role Government and Municipalities have. Mr. Rovansek stated that there will be another meeting with the City in reference to the Dog Officer/Animal Control Office program. Mr. Rovansek recommended that Secretary Czynnik attend this meeting and report to Council.

CHAPIN ARCH

No further report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Koval reported that Council has been provided with the UPMC costs and procedures for the Return to Work physicals when an employee has been on Compensation. This has been turned over to the Administration Committee. The Coca Cola machine bid will be reviewed after the Restroom/Storage Facility is completed. Mayor Koval was asked to check on ashtray containers for the Diamond Playground. They would be very costly, about \$170.00 per receptacle. Possibly they can be built by the Street Department. No Smoking could not be enforced.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Lovette informed Council that the Merlo sidewalk is complete and looks good.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czzyrnik's report records that the codification data has been forwarded to Penns Valley for finalization. Mr. Rodgers approved Resolution 9906, with corrections, celebrating May 20, 1999 as Chelsea Warsing's Centenarian Day in Southmont Borough. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Mayor Koval will present her with the citation and flowers. Motion carried. Council approved Resolution 9908 designating the Street Commissioner, Jan Bosley to sign agreements and amendments upon entering the Agility Program between PennDot and Municipalities. Motion moved by Mr. Rodgers and seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Resolution 9909, declaring the Borough of Southmont's intend to enter into the Agility Program with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. A meeting was set by the Committee to discuss the water consumption of the Upper Yoder Twp. residents who are District #1 or live where the lines flow through Southmont Borough's sanitary lines. Later a date will be set to meet with Upper Yoder township Sewer Authority. BOCA Code books have been purchased to update and comply with the Ordinances.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of April, as submitted in the amount of \$221,085.50 in the General Fund balance. Seconded by Mr. Rovanseck. All in favor, motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to record that we received the March Tax Collector's report with no collections and for April, in the amount of Real Estate \$36,896.68 and Per Capita \$2085.00. Seconded by Mr. Rovanseck. All in favor, motion carried. The 1998 Audit on the elected Tax Collector has been received from Cambria County.

APPROVAL TO PAY THE BILLS

After review, a motion was made by Mr. Krupa to approve the Payment of the Bills in the amount of \$24,284.99. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Kory, Mr. Leventry and Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

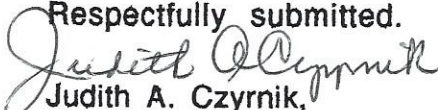
President Pile asked for review of items on the "Tickler List" . Items were reviewed, removed or re-listed. Now that the Wren Street property has been surveyed Mr. Rodgers made a motion to have the property appraised by a qualified Appraiser. Motion seconded by Mr. Rovansek. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rodgers suggested calling two qualified appraiser and use the best price from the calls. The appraisers can get specifics from the Engineers.

NEW BUSINESS

The 88 th Annual State Association of Borough's conference will be held in Philadelphia at the Adam's Mark Hotel on June 20 thru June 23. A motion was made to approve any Council members, Mayor, Secretary, Solicitor and Street Commissioner to attend, by Mr. Rodgers. Motion was seconded by Mr. Leventry. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further questions, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to adjourn the April meeting, motion was seconded by all. Council adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.


Judith A. Czynnik,
Borough Secretary

