

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
December 8, 2003 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled December Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the December 8, 2003 meeting of Council convened.

PRESENT: President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Engineer: Dave Duray, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley, Fire Chief: Chet Borosky, Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Czyrnik, Borough Manager: Loretta Spak, Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms

ABSENT: Mr. Graham - death in family, Mr. Krupa - previous meeting, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas

VISITORS: Charles Lowes, resident of 420 State Street.

President Pile asked for approval of the November 17, 2003 Minutes and Committee Meeting Notes of December 2, 2003. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to accept the Minutes and Committee Meeting Notes, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent.

At this time President Pile called upon Mr. Charles Lowes who had concerns about his neighbors' property flooding (Mr. Letzo, 414 State Street) during the past rain storm, wonder what caused the basement to flood? Mr. Danyluk and Mr. Bosley will call and make an appointment with Mr. Letzo for this week to see if they can determine what might have caused the flooding.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

West Hill Police Chief Andy Havas absent, no report.

ZONING OFFICERS REPORT

Mr. Orms' report records that there was one sign permit approved. November did not have much activity. Construction total year to date is \$540,206.00. Year to date there were 51 permits issued, 5 BOCA letters written and 3 Hearing Board Hearings. Mr. Orms and Mr. Strittmatter inspected the house at 570 Harshberger. Siding near the foundation on the downhill side (Harshberger) is blown completely off. The siding on the second floor is loose and flapping. The house is in bad shape. No one is residing there, owner David Wilkinson is in Florida, property is in Bankruptcy Court in Baltimore. Letters were sent to owner in Florida; with no response. Solicitor Lovette stated that we can not do any repairs to the home without owner's permission. Mr. Orms is to check the winterization notice posted on door for phone number or contact name and forward to Solicitor Lovette for possible later use. The debris over hill will be picked up by Borough road crew after snow melts. The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC) has been approved by the Regulatory Commission and will be published as a final regulation in January, 2004.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Chief Borosky's written report records that there were 11 calls during the month. There were 6 calls during the hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. There was smoke in a structure at West Hills Square. Wires burning on pole at 147 Wonder St. During rain storm of November 19th there were 3 calls for flooded basements: 307 Langhorne Ave., 220 Leila St., 414 State St. One new member from Borough applied to Basic Fire Fighting class. The tank invoice will be ready soon, the tank has been tested. Last month was a busy month for the siren, no complaint calls received. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers that the Borough will write a thank you letter to Menoher Heights Volunteer Fire Company for use of Fire Engine while the Borough's engine was being repaired. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Duray of P.C. Rizzo & Associates reported that the 2004 paving report is being reviewed by Penn-Dot and should be ready for council review and approve advertising for bid opening. Mr. Duray is working on a quote of \$3,000 or less for the milling material and seal coating for Potato Alley/Princeton Court. Mr. Duray is working on the MS4; deadline of March 9, 2004. Mr. Duray is waiting to hear back from America Signa to verify the price of the rain gauge repair, also looking into other comparable rain gauge amounts. Mr. Rodgers moved to participate in the Cambria County GIS program, our first year (maybe a 3 year program). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. President Pile will contact Mr. Soulcheck for generic water line locations in the GIS format. Mr. Rodger requested that the GIS County meeting and CCAC class be added to the February Tickler List. President Pile suggests that Mr. Bosley and Ms. Spak should attend this training. We should be notified by letter of when this class is. Mr. Duray reported that the flow meter blew the bands out during heavy rains. Meter on Wonder St. shows the problem is still coming from Upper Yoder; Mr. Duray will check the meter download. Mr. Duray will let us know if this is an Upper Yoder problem that is costing us to repair the meter. Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Bosley and Mr. Duray are scheduled to look at Leek Alley on Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 2:00 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Bosley's written report records that employees spent most of the month picking up leaves with both machines. Mr. Kory commented he had heard 5 or 6 "super job on leaves" from residents. Cleaned off catch basins and picked up debris after heavy rains, worked a little on sewer maps for GIS, checked flows in designated sanitary sewer manholes. Had light installed for handicap ramp. Had very strong winds a few days, we had to block off a couple of streets due to downed trees and spent 3 days cleaning up limbs and other debris. Plowed and salted streets, Nov. 29th, first snow of the year.

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Mr. Danyluk commented "good job" on snow Dec. 5th and 6th. New truck was received Dec. 3rd ready for the first big snow fall. Old truck picked up Dec. 5th. The part-time street crew employees were done as of Friday, Dec. 5th. Matt McGlyn is now trained on snow plowing, will be able to help when needed. Roto Rooter looked at Leak Alley (behind Riley's) no debris in line the middle catch basin has an invert which had cement he chipped out, line not bad. Liquid calcium is used with salt when below 20 degrees it does well it melts the snow/ice and keeps it melted. Mr. Strittmatter commented on a concern of Mr. Galardi, Leila Street, on underground piping stream through his property. Mr. Bosley and Mr. Danyluk will speak with Mr. Galardi. Mr. Lowes commented on a large offset, pavement sinking, looks like sanitary sewer caved in at 410 State St. which will be inspected by Mr. Bosley and Mr. Danyluk. Mr. Lowes made note that Mr. Bosley is doing a good job.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

At this time Mr. Danyluk had nothing further to report. President Pile and Mr. Lovette went to Upper Yoder Township meeting to request change on Upper Yoder stop sign at Keppler Drive to remove "right turn keep moving". Upper Yoder agreed to take sign down, which they did the next day. Upper Yoder Police were there watching. Borough's only complaint is people not knowing it was changed. President Pile will be writing a letter from Council thanking Upper Yoder for taking sign down, and we will ask if it would be okay to paint the bar stop line in the spring.

ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter reported that there is no Union agreement as of Nov. 20th meeting. Waiting to hear from Union when next meeting is to be scheduled. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to accept the salary and hourly increases for 2004, as follows: Borough manager-\$22,000, Advisory Clerk-\$10.00ph, Clerk-\$7.00ph, and part-time clerk-\$5.15ph, Solicitor-\$3,500.00 retainer, Street Commissioner-\$31,100.00, Union wages-no change (unless changed by Union Contract negotiations/signing), labor experience/snow plowing-\$6.50 and seasonal part time-\$5.50. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Motion carried, Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa absent. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to pay for Mr. Bosley and Mrs. Czyrnik accumulated sick leave at current rates, balance to be paid at last pay period for the year. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Council is working on a new Sick Leave policy, getting quotes for Long and Short Term Disability and regulations on Part-Time Retirement. This will be discussed at January meeting. Mrs. Czyrnik reported that the seasonal employees are not included in the P/T Retirement through PMRS, and is retro back to original date of employment yearly gross. Employee to pay their share then Borough to pay their portion.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Nothing further to report. There will be a meeting December 16, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westmont Borough building.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to accept the approved tentative 2004 budget of \$653,400.00. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the approved Ordinance on Real Estate taxes at 22 mills. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Rodgers moved to lower the Cable Franchise fees from 5% to 2% at earliest billing cycle in 2004. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Rodgers moved to accept the approved Ordinance of garbage fees at \$90.00 per dwelling, sewer maintenance at \$24.00 per dwelling. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the Cheney Run Fund in the amount of \$10,000 and the Liquid Fuels Highway Aid Fund in the amount of \$3,251.61 (plus December's interest). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Rodgers moved to keep the same depositories for 2004; General Funds - Portage National Bank & PLIGIT, Cheney Run - PLIGIT, Motor License Fund - PLIGIT, Garbage and Sewer Fund - Portage National Bank and Capital Improvement Fund - Portage National Bank. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent.

SHADE TREE REPORT

Nothing to report Mr. Krupa absent.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The minutes from Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission dated Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2003 were submitted.

BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Kory stated again "Great Job on Leaves". Nothing further to report.

COG REPORT

Nothing to report Mr. Graham absent.

GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE

No Report.

GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY

Mr. Danyiuk stated we will need to get names for appointment to at-large and regular Borough appointments. Mr. Strittmatter has a concern on the new GASB accounting system, and keeping track of assets we own/rent, such as Ridge and Greater Johnstown Water Authority. This concern will be addressed with auditor, Kris Cramer, when she is here early January.

Lower State Street Committee

New committee members will be Mr. Duray, Chief Havas, Mr. Graham, President Pile and Mr. Bosley. First meeting is scheduled in January, 2004.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sloat reported on EMC training meeting in Ebensburg where he received a dosimeter for Fire Department. Through terrorism funding after 9/11 every Fire Department in State should have a dosimeter. A dosimeter checks for radiation. Mayor Sloat reported that Cambria County was the first County in Pennsylvania to receive a dosimeter. Mayor Sloat commented that the leaf collection looked good.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve Ordinance 444 for placement of stop signs on State Street at Leon. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Kevin Nagey of PennDot suggested that flashing red lights be used for 30 days. Mr. Bosley is to get the flashing lights and put on the signs. Solicitor Lovette discussed with Council the Wren Street property sale. Ameriserv Bank agreed to satisfy the mortgage problem (found date but no assignment). Solicitor Lovette is checking to see if the Title Company will accept; this should be done by next Council meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czyrnik's written report was submitted. Mr. Rodgers would like to discuss the PA Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) at January's meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Kory to update the Community map for Newsletter. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Kory made a motion to accept the Secretary's report. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the November's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$265,495.67. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rodgers made a motion noting that we received the November Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues at \$2,174.86. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Graham and Mr. Kory, absent. Council is requesting a year to date summary report from Tax Collector.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$38,107.69. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mr. Bosley and Mrs. Czyrnik will check on cost savings information on the 12th Congressional Region Equip. Center compared to the membership dues for the January meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

President Pile asked to add regular P/T employee retirement, Borough Manager Ordinance and Long Term Disability to the "Tickler List" for January's Committee Meeting. Mrs. Czyrnik stated there were 12 street lights out in two months span, which was noted to Penelec verbally, a letter will be sent. Mr. Kory, Police Commission, will make sure Chief Andy Havas will let Borough Office know when they see street lights that are out or in need of repair. Minutes from the Cable Coalition meeting at Homestead Inn were submitted also letter asking Council to pass resolution for Cable to new company. Mr. Danyluk made a motion to sign the resolution and leave them transfer the business from one company to the other. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Roll Call: Mr. Rodgers - nay, Mr. Kory - yea, Mr. Danyluk - yea, Mr. Strittmatter - nay, and Mr. Pile - nay. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Motion denied 2 in favor, 3 opposed. We received a thank you letter from the Library for donation. President Pile suggests that we put thank you letters, lowering franchise fee, etc. into our Newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes from the Intergovernmental meeting that was held November 11th was submitted. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th at Southmont Council room. Mr. Bob Griffith resigned from Zoning Hearing Board, Mr. Ralph Lovette as possible replacement, will be discussed in January. President Pile stated that this is Mrs. Czyrnik's official last meeting. Council wants to say we appreciate her for being here for the last 16 years. She did a good job for the Borough and for the Council. Council greatly appreciates all her efforts and wishes her well on her retirement. Mr. Rodgers made a motion for a resolution for Mrs. Czyrnik's dedication to the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Kory. Motion was carried, all in favor. Mr. Graham and Mr. Krupa, absent. Mrs. Czyrnik received a round of applause.

There being no further business, Mr. Pile adjourned the December 8, 2003 meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Czyrnik, Borough Secretary

Loretta Spak, Borough Manager