

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
April 16, 2007 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled April Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag the April 16, 2007 meeting of Council convened.

**PRESENT:** President Pile, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Solicitor: Dan Lovette, West Hills Police Chief: Andy Havas, Deputy Chief: Mike Leckey, Zoning Officer: Ryan Adams, Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley and Borough Manager: Loretta Spak.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town, Engineer: Dave Duray

**VISITORS:** Mr. Bob Morgan, 345 Diamond Blvd., dumping grass clippings; Mr. John Lovette, observer.

Mr. Kory asked for a moment of silence for the deaths of the young students murdered at Virginia Tech. President Pile asked council to rise and a moment of silence was observed.

President Pile asked for approval of March 19, 2007 Council Minutes and Committee Meeting Notes of April 11, 2007. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes and Notes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town.

President Pile called upon Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan's dilemma concerns clippings, twigs, etc. He realizes these items can be put out with garbage but he is opposed to filling garbage landfills with clippings. He is looking for an alternative solution. One suggestion would be designating an area and assigning permits so who dumps there can be regulated, discussion followed. President Pile stated Mr. Morgan's concern will be placed on May 8<sup>th</sup> committee meeting agenda.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

West Hills Police report for February shows revenue in the amount of \$212.46 (ordinance violations \$152.72 and vehicle violations \$59.74). Police Chief Havas updated council on child safety program for kindergarten to fifth graders, which was received well by schools, and four (4) officers are receiving special training on how to handle people with mental health issues.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**

Mr. Adams' report shows activity as of 4/13/07 of one (1) permit at a total construction cost of \$20,000. Activity log will be increasing now that weather is breaking. Mr. Adams updated council on Attorney Shahade's findings in regards to Grandview ZP2005-21 (not considered a pond). President Pile mentioned standing water at Otis Street and Southmont Boulevard; discussion followed, Mr. Bosley and Ms. Spak will

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send letter to owner of property (Mr. Kaplaniak) to open up drainage pipelines or fence in the pond. Mr. Adams would like to discuss an issue with council not related to zoning. He would like to purchase a portion of Potato Alley, he has spoken to Mr. Bosley and alley has never been accepted. Southmont would need easement for sewer access. Discussion followed, Mr. Adams request will be placed on May 8<sup>th</sup> committee meeting agenda. Mr. Adams will check on moving permits for 205 & 207 Orchard Street and seek a permit for possible deck work at 205 Orchard Street.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT**

Deputy Chief Leckey's written report records eleven (11) responses during the month of March. There were two calls between the hours of 10 PM to 7 AM. Southmont had eight (8) assists in March; five (5) to Upper Yoder, one (1) to Westwood, and two (2) to West Hills. Deputy Chief Leckey stated the fire company agrees with the 2007 Hilltop Ambulance Fund Drive during July and August. Mr. Ewald made a motion to grant permission to Hilltop Ambulance to solicit residents of Southmont during July and August. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Deputy Chief Leckey informed council due to an incident of March 23<sup>rd</sup> they will be reassessing policy for handling accidents on Menoher Boulevard, may need to close road until incident is cleared. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion for Ms. Spak to send letter to PennDot and to Grandview to clean/clear hillside along Menoher Boulevard. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve fire company usage of Borough trucks starting May 23<sup>rd</sup> and to pay one half (1/2) cost of police security during the Jubilee. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Southmont Volunteer Fire Company will keep council updated concerning cost of state fire service professional certification (goal 75%) and communications equipment needed due to frequency change which must be completed by August 31, 2007. Estimated cost for communications equipment without radios approximately fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) with radios twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The written Engineer's report for April was received. Ms. Spak mentioned that Quaker Sales is agreeable to removing the Elim Street work from the 2007 paving award.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Mr. Bosley's written report was received and reviewed. Mr. Bosley updated council with lateral/push camera base price quotes he received (\$6,231 & \$14,158 options not included in price), will continue getting quotes. Mr. Bosley will speak with Mr. Duray for usage of camera and will check if more cost effective to subcontract out work. Mr. Bosley contacted Lower Yoder concerning street sweeper scheduling, when finalized will advertise. Discussion followed concerning driveway at

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270 Langhorne which is sinking, Mr. Bosley informed owner old mine was in that area. Mr. Bosley mentioned the assigning of address by 9-1-1 using 405 Olive Street based on Borough plot plan and frontage footage address should be 327 Orchard Street. Ms. Spak will send letter to Mr. Spangler with copy to County Commissioners and Solicitor Lovette. President Pile mentioned Mr. Goldblatt, 210 Orchard Street, having problem with garbage truck hitting his shrubs on Court Alley. Mr. Bosley will locate survey markings and will investigate if shrubs are on Borough right-of-way.

STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

Nothing new to report, Mr. Danyluk out of town.

SAFETY, ADMNS. & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

An executive session will be held at end of meeting. Mr. Krupa mentioned meeting with road crew personnel (Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 a.m.) and personnel committee meeting (April 11<sup>th</sup>). A number of items were discussed such as: four (4) blocked catch basins and other items noted by Mr. Ewald on his tour of the Borough roads, Mr. Bosley will use a street map to record areas of Borough worked to insure complete coverage, complaints in writing and forwarded to Ms. Spak, adding safety boots for part time employees to policy & procedures, jury duty, etc.

POLICE COMMITTEE

Mayor Sloat mentioned a new police vehicle was received last month; will be opening bids for vehicle being sold at tomorrow's meeting.

RECYCLING COMMITTEE

The plastic recycling trailer was taken to Pandya and emptied on April 3, 2007.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Nothing new to report, Mr. Rodgers out of town. Ms. Spak and Mr. Rodgers will be scheduling a meeting to review insurance policies.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter mentioned to Ms. Spak to check account where real estate taxes should be going (should be placed in acct #301.10 current not #301.20 prior).

SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa mentioned the Schrey's sidewalk on Lucetta Street is not completed. Slabs have been pulled up but weather is not cooperating, will extend completion date to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Krupa mentioned Ms. Spak did a good job on spring newsletter. Arbor Day is Saturday, April 28, 2007 at 10 a.m. where four trees will be planted along Hershberger Road; one designated for John Khuri who passed away December 27, 2006. Five trees have been planted along 496-510 Edward Street. Future planting plans include trees at 210 State Street and tree hit by vehicle along the 700 block of Diamond Boulevard, insurance check has been received.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Krupa attended meeting. Mr. Krupa asked council to be consistent and fair with employees there and here regarding increases, cost savings, and daily work efforts.

**BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT**

Mr. Kory will be scheduling inspection tour of Borough.

**COG REPORT**

Mr. Ewald stated election was held and new ideas were discussed, overall was a good meeting. Mr. Ewald mentioned the city of Johnstown will rent their sweeper for five hundred fifty dollars (\$550) per day also East Conemaugh (Mr. Steve Coy) has a portable type sweeper available, Ms. Spak and Mr. Bosley will contact for more information.

**GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kory had nothing new to report.

**GREATER JOHNSTOWN WATER AUTHORITY**

The March minutes were received. Mr. Pile updated council i.e. the Conemaugh Township interconnection is sixty percent (60%) completed and going well, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony when loan from RUS (Rural Utility Service) is finalized, Jackson Township is having problems with Ebensburg line going north, and North Fork Dam needs to be brought up to standard. Mr. Pile recommends reading both inside and outside meters, they are having problems with the initial outside meters. The reading on the inside meter is accurate.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Sloat mentioned he received two phone calls concerning Diamond playground, unhappy with wood chips. Westmont Hilltop Recreation did rake wood chips but there are bare spots and/or mud holes under swings. He believes more wood chips are needed; Mr. Ewald will contact Mr. Dave Roman.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Lovette updated council on Professional Family Care Services, Inc. tax appeal. Solicitor Lovette plans on getting an accountant (expert witness) to review their books, discussion followed. Mr. Krupa made a motion to approve payment for accountant by prorated share of taxes Borough would be 1/11 (County 2/11 and School 8/11). Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Ms. Spak will contact Centax to investigate history of Mercantile Tax paid by Professional Family Care Services, Inc.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Spak's written report was submitted and reviewed. Mr. Kory made a motion to approve Ms. Spak's recommendation to purchase an internal hard drive and an external enclosure for upgrade to current

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backup of office computer systems. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Discussion followed concerning Dr. Walker's request for making two (2) family dwelling into single home, 210 State Street. Letter dated April 11<sup>th</sup> from Cambria County Department of Emergency Services stated deletion of 98 Diamond Boulevard address. Mr. Kory made a motion to approve 210 State Street as a single home effective July 1, 2007 garbage/sewage billing. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Kory made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2007-01 disposition of records. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Ms. Spak and Mayor Sloat will get together to review the FY07 National Incident Management System Compliance Metric and the Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement. Mr. Krupa made a motion to donate one hundred dollars (\$100) to the Humane Society for the six (6) cats we have trapped and taken to Humane Society. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. Mr. Kory moved to accept the Manager's report. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve March's Treasurer Report in the amount of \$218,052.96. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Kory noted we received the March Tax Collector's report with Real Estate revenues at \$50,315.01. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. Strittmatter made a motion to approve payment of bills voiding police check #8868 in the amount of \$39,969.96 and reissuing in the amount of \$13,323.32 changing total to the amount of \$71,995.16. Seconded by Mr. Krupa; roll call: Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile all in favor, opposed none. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town.

**OLD BUSINESS**

President Pile discussed the "Tickler List" and we will remove "fence around pond" at cemetery. President Pile reminded all council to take care of "to do" items; he will be following up.

**NEW BUSINESS**

At 8:45 p.m. Mr. Krupa made a motion for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Seconded by Mr. Kory, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town. At 9:05 p.m. Council reconvened.

Page 6 -Minutes- April 16, 2007

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kory for adjournment of the April 16, 2007 meeting at 9:06 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Krupa, all in favor motion carried, Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Danyluk out of town.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Loretta Spak*, Borough Manager  
5/2/2007 1:51 PM