

**BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2012**

President Robert Hague called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Susan Aleshire, Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll, Carole Ford, Robert Glenn and James Morrill. Councilman Stan Ference was absent due to work. Others in attendance were Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia of Village Green, Doug Florey of the Sewickley Valley Chamber of Commerce, Richard Meyer and Henry Beukema of Guyasuta, Kirstina Serafini of the Sewickley Herald, Larissa Dudkiewicz of the Sewickley Patch, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jennifer Markus, of Village Green Partners, addressed Council and provided an update on activities in the Borough. Ms. Markus reviewed the new Sewickley banners suggested to be placed on Route 65 to provide direction to the Sewickley Business District. Ms. Markus also reviewed the Flash Mob which was shot on the main street of Sewickley, and now has over 224,000 views and has been seen on several European and Asian television stations. Jennifer updated Council on various upcoming events, including Oktoberfest and Yuletide in the Village.

Ms. Markus introduced Doug Florey, the Director of the Laughlin Children Center and a Member of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Florey advised Council that the Chamber of Commerce has reorganized and that the Chamber is mostly concentrating on professional development for merchants and all of the other items have, basically, been delegated to Village Green Partners. Members of the Chamber of Commerce are volunteering for many of the programs sponsored by Village Green in conjunction with the Borough of Sewickley.

On motion of Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the Henry Avenue Block party request for Saturday, September 8, 2012.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR**

Council President Bob Hague introduced Richard Meyer and Henry Beukema of Guyasuta, Inc. who reviewed the Borough of Sewickley Employees' Pension Fund the Borough of Sewickley Police Pension Fund. Total funds in the pension plans are \$6,018,541.00. The review indicated that there has been a 6.7% return on investments so far this year. Mr. Meyer indicated that the pension funds have purchased approximately \$250,000.00 in stocks, no purchases in bonds, and have sold approximately \$270,000.00 in stocks and \$135,000.00 in bonds.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR (CONTINUED)**

Mr. Beukema reviewed the economics on a worldwide trend and the effect on the current U.S. Market. He also reviewed some of the stocks in the Borough of Sewickley Pension Funds.

There were several questions asked by President Hague, and Council thanked Mr. Meyer and Mr. Beukema for providing the update for Council.

Mr. Hague announced that an Executive Session would take place at the conclusion of the COW Meeting tonight for a personnel matter.

**REPORT ON BUILDING INSPECTION. ZONING. PUBLIC WORKS AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that nine (9) permits were issued in July, with permit fees of \$18,526.00 on \$1,732,600.00 worth of construction. Twenty-Eight (28) building inspections were performed and five (5) property maintenance inspections were performed.

On motion of Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mrs. Ford, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission, to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 424 Frederick Avenue, Block and Lot No. 506-D-374, to replace the existing ground sign with a new sign, as submitted.

On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission, to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 306 Henry Avenue, Block and Lot No. 506-D-263, to erect a rear, one-story addition and replace the existing aluminum siding, as submitted.

On motion of Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted, 8-0, to approve the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission, to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 334 Little Street, Block and Lot No. 507-S-326, to replace the existing fence with the plans submitted on August 6, 2012.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for July, highlighting the removal of foliage and weeds throughout the Borough, the repair of a sink hole on Bradley Lane, placing new grates in the fireplaces in War Memorial Park, and continuing to cut back branches near stop signs.

Council also reviewed the Vehicle Information Report and expressed their appreciation for the new report.

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**REPORT ON BUILDING INSPECTION. ZONING. PUBLIC WORKS AND  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (CONTINUED)**

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for July, indicating that 16.827 million gallons of sewage were treated, the natural gas valve has been replaced on the heat exchanger, the valves for the making of Digester gas have been installed and plant personnel assisted the contractors with work for the Boundary Street Pump Station.

Council also reviewed Pittsburgh Post Gazette articles, dated Sunday, July 29 and Wednesday, August 1, regarding a 200% to 300% rate increase for Alcosan.

The Building Inspector's Report, Public Works Report, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Report were received and filed.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for July, highlighting the continuing work on the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project, a proposed agreement on additional work requested by Glen Osborne, Wastewater Treatment Plant lawsuits and tax assessments.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$7,468.68.

Solicitor Tucker advised that the condemnation of property in Haysville for the sewer easement has been posted in accordance with the law, and that the court order was granted.

Council reviewed the Jordan Tax Service Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report for July, 2012, indicating that \$9,242.89 was collected in delinquent taxes.

Borough Solicitor advised that two lawsuits were filed regarding the accident at the Wastewater Treatment Plant which took place two years ago. Both lawsuits were filed by Sarah Hogan. One lawsuit is versus the Borough of Sewickley in Federal Court regarding age discrimination. The other case is versus KLH Engineers et al and also named the superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Plant as one of the defendants. Both cases have been forwarded to our insurance company for defense.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

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**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Borough Manager advised that the new crosswalks are being installed this week. The project is expected to be completed by August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Trees and stumps were removed on the Nevin Avenue portion of the 2012 Road Project. The contractor is now going to work on the installation of the curbs, sidewalks and actual road repairs. In addition, the Sewickley Water Authority and Columbia Gas have requested that our contractor, T.A. Robinson, do the overlay portion of Nevin Avenue, resulting in a change order in the amount of \$26,604.50, which will be paid by the Sewickley Water Authority and Columbia Gas.

Borough Manager provided a copy of a memo sent to all Boards and Commissions, asking for their ratification of their 2013 meeting schedules. In addition, the proposed 2013 meeting dates for Council were also reviewed. Borough Manager advised that the finalization of all meeting dates for 2013 will be at the September 17<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Borough Manager also commented that the Historic Review Commission has requested that their meetings now start at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

Borough Manager advised that the re-bid of the Railroad Avenue Pump Station has been advertised and bids will be on opened on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, with presentation to Council for possible approval of the Railroad Avenue Pump Station contract at the Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

In addition, Borough Manager reviewed a letter sent to Glen Osborne Borough regarding the project and a request for confirmation from Glen Osborne to perform the additional sewer work previously requested by Glen Osborne. Borough Manager advised that Mayor Boswell has confirmed that Glen Osborne will be forwarding a revised Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, agreeing to the extra costs.

Borough Manager advised that letters have been forwarded to Maurice Strul of the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development, the Quaker Valley School District, and Jan Rhea of Allegheny County Council, indicating that the Borough of Sewickley is requesting to establish a Tax Increment Financing District.

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**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)**

Borough Manager reviewed Municipal Risk Management Loss Run Activity Reports for June of 2012. In addition, Borough Manager advised that Municipal Risk Management (MRM) has provided notice of discontinuance of the Class 994 coverage for volunteer fire departments through the MRM Compensation Trust. Act 46 of 2011, the Firefighters Cancer Presumption Act, adopted in October 2011, expands on the types of cancers covered and establishes that the municipality or the insurer has to disprove that the presumption of cancer is work related. This will cause an increase in rates and will be rated against the other Workers' Compensation packages provided to the police and Borough workers. Municipal Risk Management has recommended moving the Workers' Compensation insurance for firefighters to the State Workers' Insurance Fund, effective on the renewal date of October 1, 2012.

On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 8-0, to move the Workers' Compensation Insurance for the volunteer fire department to the State Workers' Insurance Fund. The cost of the insurance will be \$15,174.00 for October 1, 2012 to October 1, 2013.

Borough Manager advised that the Borough of Sewickley has paid its 2012 assessment of \$238.40 to the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee.

Borough Manager provided letters that have been forwarded to Allegheny County and the adjacent communities in compliance with the Municipalities Planning Code. The Planning Commission has recommended to Council the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, commonly known as SALDO. The Planning Commission Public Hearing is scheduled for October 3, 2012, with the Council Public Hearing recommended for October 15, 2012. If Council is in agreement, a motion will be placed on the August Council Meeting Agenda to schedule the hearing for October 15, 2012. This will conform to the forty-five (45) day requirement needed by Allegheny County Economic Development for their review and comment.

Borough Manager advised that the 2012 rebate from the PA One Call was \$78.26.

Borough Manager reviewed a copy of the memo sent to the Boards, Commissions and Department Heads regarding their budget submissions for 2013. It is recommended that the Budget Meeting with the Department Heads take place on Monday, September 24, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.; and that the Budget Meeting occur on Saturday, October 20, 2012, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Council reviewed a donation from Ference Associates LLC, of \$1,000, to assist with the cost of the 2012 Memorial Day Fireworks.

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**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)**

Council reviewed a listing of the millage rates for all school districts in Allegheny County.

Council reviewed a letter concerning an insurance claim denial regarding a limb falling from a Borough Tree.

Council reviewed a notice and letter from the U.S. Postal Inspection Office regarding certain vendors, indicating that the Borough of Sewickley has not done any work with these vendors.

Borough Manager reviewed an Assessed Valuation Report for Years 2012 and 2013. The Borough has experienced a forty-five percent (45%) increase in assessed valuation between 2012 and 2013. Borough Manager is monitoring all properties during the preliminary appeal review process and final reviews. The purpose of this project is to get a better handle on the actual assessed valuation, enabling Borough staff to assist Council in determining the correct millage rate for enactment in 2013. Borough Manager also advised that there are a significant number of appeals that will be going to a formal process, which may not render decisions until October, November or December.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council went into Executive Session for personnel matters at 8:58 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 9:32 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Mr. Driscoll, seconded by Mr. Cornman, Council voted, 8-0, to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery  
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf