

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012

President Robert Hague called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Susan Aleshire (arrived at 7:33 p.m.), Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll, Stan Ference, Carole Ford, and Robert Glenn. Councilman James Morrill and Mayor Brian Jeffe were absent due to work. Others in attendance were Kirsten Stripay and Jennifer Markus of Village Green, Matt Galluzzo, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Kirsten Stripay and Jennifer Markus, of Village Green Partners, addressed Council and provided an update on activities in the Borough. The fourteenth ribbon cutting for a new business opening was held today with Mayor Jeffe and Borough Manager Kevin Flannery at B Gourmet, a market and eatery, at 428 Beaver Street. Ms. Stripay indicated that thirteen new stores have relocated to Sewickley within the last twenty-two months. In addition, they reviewed the events scheduled for the third annual Sewickley Unleashed event on Saturday, May 19th.

Council reviewed a Right-to-Know request from Paul Farkus regarding activities on Bank Street. Mr. Farkus was billed \$8.75 for the information.

Council reviewed a letter and response from Ms. Pat Lewis, of Orchard Terrace, regarding the railing between Hopkins Street and Orchard Terrace. The response letter indicated that the repairs and replacement of the railing have been scheduled to begin next week. In addition, Borough Manager advised that the Borough Engineer and the geotechnical consultants will be reviewing slope movements of the earth on Orchard Terrace, and that a report will be ready in four to six weeks which will be provided to Ms. Lewis.

Council reviewed a notification letter to the Quaker Valley Recreation Association for the June 16th QVRA 5K Run and Walk and 1.5 Walk. This purpose of this event is to raise additional funding for the Quaker Valley Recreation Association ballparks.

Council reviewed a thank you letter from the Girl Scouts regarding the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouts.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MAY 15, 2012
PAGE TWO**

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Memorial Day Weekend activities were reviewed, with the Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 25th, followed by a patriotic music concert and fireworks. The 121st Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 28th, at 10:00 a.m.

Council reviewed the K-9 Report from December 2011 to February 2012.

Council President Hague reminded Council that Sewickley Unleashed is this Saturday, May 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the Green Street Parking Lot.

Susan Aleshire offered her congratulations, and asked Council to join in congratulating, Mr. Hague, who was wearing a new piece of jewelry. Congratulations to Mr. Hague on his wedding.

Bill Cornman stated that the Sewickley Car Store had a delivery of new cars at 11:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14th. Mr. Cornman indicated that he did not call for police services. The Borough Manager and Police Chief are to address this issue.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that sixteen (16) permits were issued in April, with permit fees of \$26,145.00 on \$2,432,500 worth of construction. Thirty-One (31) building inspections were performed and four (4) property maintenance inspections were performed. Council reviewed a letter to the owners of the property at 335 Logan Street, indicating that the grass has not been cut and that the Borough will be removing the violations, will cut the grass, and lien the property for all expenses incurred.

Council reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board Decision for Case No. 12-03 in which a variance was granted for the construction of a deck at 200 Frederick Avenue.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report highlighting the repairs of brick sidewalks, the preparation of playgrounds, repairs to the pedestrian crossing bridge at War Memorial Park, and assistance with this year's Spring Tree Planting. In addition, all playground equipment in Maple Lane Park and War Memorial Park was checked and power washed and a bee control specialist was brought in regarding Maple Lane Park and War Memorial Park.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for April, indicating that 14.288 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, WESTECH is scheduled to arrive the week of May 21st to complete repairs to the Dystor.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MAY 15, 2012
PAGE THREE**

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

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report, highlighting the contracts for the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project and for the Boundary Street Pump Station

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for April, highlighting the easements for the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Project, the MCM Ventures Spot Zoning Challenge, the retirement of a police officer, the Village Theatre Project, a Right-to-Know request, and tax assessment appeals by the Quaker Valley School District.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$11,259.25.

Solicitor Tucker advised that oral arguments on the MCM Ventures case were heard before the Commonwealth Court on Tuesday, April 17th. The Solicitor felt that the Borough made several good points in its presentation. The Solicitor indicated that a decision will be coming within the next forty-five (45) days. Each side had approximately ten (10) minutes for their case.

Council reviewed 117 assessment appeals filed by the Quaker Valley School District in response to residents' tax assessment appeals. Borough Manager indicated that a monthly review will begin in June of all tax assessment appeals and the decisions on those appeals. Council reviewed the Jordan Tax Service Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report for April 2012 indicating that \$30,702.08 was collected in delinquent taxes.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the Glen Osborne Sewer Project. The Borough of Haysville adopted the resolution at the Haysville Council Meeting on April 24th which then permitted the Borough of Sewickley to proceed with the Haysville condemnation notice of Block and Lot No. 343-F-45, the Lang Property. The Declaration of Taking was necessary as there are no known heirs left on the property.

Solicitor Tucker also reviewed the Glen Osborne condemnations and indicated that preliminary objections should be known by June 2nd. Solicitor Tucker recommended that Council may need to have a special meeting to award the Glen Osborne Sewer Interconnect Contracts. The suggested date is Thursday, June 7th, at 6:00 p.m. Council was in agreement to place the special meeting on Monday's Council Agenda.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MAY 15, 2012
PAGE FOUR**

SOLICITOR'S REPORT (continued)

Solicitor Tucker reviewed a position statement from Allegheny County Economic Development, establishing time tables for various submissions, zoning amendments, hearings, and land development.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager advised of the rebidding of the 2012 Road Project, indicating that the opening of the rebids for the 2012 will be on Friday, May 18th, at 11:00 a.m., and a recommendation will be presented to Council at the May 21st Council Meeting.

Council also reviewed a letter sent to the residents of Nevin Avenue, updating them on the outcome of the project.

Council reviewed communication from John Weinstein, Allegheny County Treasurer, listing Sewickley Borough senior citizens that have qualified for or have been removed from the Allegheny County Senior Citizen Tax Relief Program.

Council reviewed a report from Trans Associates, regarding the placement of stop signs on Chadwick Street and Ferry Street. Council was in agreement to proceed with a resolution to be on the Council Agenda on Monday, May 21st, approving the three-way stop sign placement.

In addition, Council reviewed the report regarding Smith Alley traffic concerns. As was discussed, there have been many communications from residents regarding the project and there have been several meetings with residents, Chief Ersher, Mayor Jeffe and the Borough Manager. Every time a general consensus has been indicated, there has been dissention by the residents. The Trans Associates reports indicate that Smith Alley should be made a one-way street, from Graham Street to Thorn Street, with the removal of some parking spaces on Thorn Street. Council was in agreement to forward the Trans Associates report to the property owners, and indicated that the property owners must need to be in 100% agreement for the Borough to proceed.

Borough Manager indicated that the Chestnut Street Boat Ramp and the Walnut Street Docks have been placed back in service as of April 23, 2012.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MAY 15, 2012
PAGE FIVE**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Borough Manager advised that the Quaker Valley Council of Governments Recycling Day was held on Saturday, May 5th at the Aleppo Municipal Building. There were over 100 tires, approximately 800 paint cans, a truckload of electronics, and a truckload of construction material collected on that day. It was considered to be a very successful Recycling Day.

Council reviewed a listing and pictures of seven properties located on Dickson Road that are dilapidated and/or vacant. Borough Manager indicated that he would like Council to adopt a resolution at the Council Meeting on May 21st that would allow submission of a demolition grant, under the Year 39 Community Block Grant Funding, for the Borough of Sewickley to proceed with the completion of the engineering certification and obtain quotes for the demolition of the properties. The Borough should know if the projects have been approved by the County by September. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the May 21st Council Agenda for adoption.

Borough Manager reviewed the settlement agreements with regard to the retirement of police officer Kurt Dizak. On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 8-0, to ratify the Dizak Settlement Agreement.

Council reviewed two funding proposals for the completion of the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project and the Boundary Street Pump Station. The bid for the Boundary Street Pump Station was \$553,000, and additional monies of \$2.8 million are necessary for the completion of the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project. Council reviewed one proposal from Janney Montgomery Scott and one proposal from the Bank of America. After some discussion, Council felt that the Bank of America proposal was better, financially, for the Borough in that it saved the Borough a considerable amount of money. On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. DeFazio, Council voted, 8-0, to accept the Bank of America proposal for financing at a rate of three percent (3%) for twelve (12) years for the \$3.5 million funding for the two projects.

Borough Manager advised that the Liquid Fuels Payment was received on May 1, 2012 in the amount of \$83,205.96. Borough Manager noted that the payment is usually paid as a direct deposit within the first ten days of April. However, after realizing the deposit was not made into the account, the Borough contacted PENNDOT and was informed that one of the forms that needed submitted, did not arrive in the mail. The form was resubmitted and the payment was made.

Council reviewed a list of the 2012 Tree Planting Volunteers who assisted in the planting of 48 trees within the Borough of Sewickley.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
MAY 15, 2012
PAGE SIX**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

Borough Manager reviewed a proposed lease for the Borough's copier. The Borough is in the last year of a 5-year agreement. The copier lease agreement provides a substantial monthly allowance for black and white printing, approximately 22,000 copies per month. The Borough, previously, made that many copies on an average, but with Council switching to the notebooks, with the Department Heads using iPads, and with more documentation sent via e-mail, the amount of copies has been reduced significantly. The attached proposal indicates that the Borough should save approximately \$1,426.95 per quarter, or an annual savings of \$5,707.80, by ending the current lease and entering a new 5-year lease agreement with a new machine and reduced number of copies allowance. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for the May 21st Council Meeting.

Borough Manager reviewed a copy of a safety report and a safety checklist that has been instituted for Sewickley Borough parks and playgrounds. As was indicated previously, the playground equipment has been professionally cleaned for the removal of graffiti and other materials, and that a bee exterminator removed swarms of bees and hives at the playgrounds.

Borough Manager also indicated that the Borough received numerous compliments for its compost which is made from the leaves collected on the streets of Sewickley. The leaves have been turned and decomposed and the compost has been used at all of the Borough's facilities, including the Borough Building, all of the Borough parks and all of the Borough parking lots. Borough Manager indicated that several members of the Sewickley Civic Garden Council complimented the Borough on this important recycling move.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. DeFazio, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf