

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

President Susan Aleshire called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Bill Cornman, Tom DeFazio, Charles Driscoll (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Stan Ference, Carole Ford (participated by phone), Jamie Morrill, Todd Renner and Larry Rice. The others in attendance were Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia of Village Green Partners, Fire Chief Jeff Neff, Assistant Fire Chief Jed Von Hofen, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Markus and Alex DeLoia, of Village Green Partners, addressed Council, indicating that the *Explore Sewickley* Website has been updated as of January 1st. It is mobile friendly, with additional search engine criteria. They are currently reviewing the Soup Crawl which will take place on March 15th or 22nd. Due to a very low response, they are cancelling the Chocolate Walk for this year. In addition, they are taking a survey, reviewing Light Up Night and Yuletide in the Village activities, with a report due to Council at the February Committee of the Whole Meeting. Village Green Partners is also forming an Advisory Committee, and are taking applications through February 1st.

Council reviewed a letter from Mrs. Darlene Palmer in reference to 616 Grimes Street, Sewickley, PA. Mrs. Palmer indicated that this was her family home and that her brother was living there, but he passed away on November 27, 2013. The family did not know that the real estate taxes were not paid on the property, and she asked if there could be any relief on penalties and interest. As a standard practice, Council does not grant relief on penalties and interest. On motion of Mr. Morrill, seconded by Mr. DeFazio, Council voted, 8-0, to send a nice letter to Mrs. Palmer, indicating that relief cannot be granted.

Council reviewed a letter of appreciation from James Maloney, of 622 Broad Street, complimenting the Borough crew during the recent snowstorms.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Brian Jeffe indicated that the Civil Service Commission held interviews for police candidates, utilizing the services of three police chiefs during the oral interviews. The next step is to have a Civil Service Commission Meeting and to prepare an Eligibility List for Council. Mayor Jeffe indicated that in accordance with the 2014 Budget, an officer would be hired in the first quarter of 2014 and another officer hired in July of 2014.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR (CONTINUED)

Mayor Jeffe also indicated that he would like to be added to the Executive Session to provide Council with an update on the Village Theater negotiations.

Council President Aleshire announced that there would be an Executive Session this evening at the Committee of the Whole Meeting for the Solicitor's Evaluation and for a Village Theater update.

Council President Susan Aleshire indicated that the suggested date for the Council Retreat is Monday, January 27, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., at the Edgeworth Club. On motion of Mr. DeFazio, seconded by Mr. Driscoll, Council voted, 9-0, to schedule the retreat for Monday, January 27th.

Council President Aleshire indicated that the Insurance Services Office, Inc. Report has been issued. This report is done every ten years, and it provides certification on fire protection services. This year, the report indicates that the Cochran Hose Company has achieved a rating of "3". Previously, they received a "5" rating. This is a very special honor, and the Cochran Hose Company is to be congratulated. Council President Aleshire complimented Fire Chief Jeff Neff and Assistant Fire Chief Jed Von Hofen, in particular, for their dedication and service to the Borough.

Council President Aleshire also indicated that on Monday, January 20th, at 6:30 p.m., there will be a Council Orientation Session with the Cochran Hose Company at the Municipal Building. All Council Members are invited to attend.

Fire Chief Jeff Neff addressed Council, indicating that the real credit for the ISO Rating should go to the Cochran Hose Company Members. He indicated that there are 48,960 fire districts in the United States, and only 2,230 have achieved a "3" rating or better. That puts the Cochran Hose Company in the top 4% in the country. The ISO Rating goes into effect on April 1, 2014. There are 27 volunteers in the Cochran Hose Company and they had 261 calls in the year 2013. Fire Chief Jeff Neff also indicated that he will be working on getting the rating higher over the next 10 years. All of the Members of Council and all of those in attendance at the meeting applauded Chief Neff and the Members of the Cochran Hose Company for their efforts.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that 3 permits were issued, with fees of \$429 collected on \$7,950 worth of construction. There were 19 building inspections performed.

Council reviewed Zoning Hearing Board Decision No. 13-05, which granted a variance for a carport at 606 Locust Place.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for December, indicating the completion of leaf collection, working on Yuletide in the Village, snow removal, the removal of Village Green banners, and work on Truck No. 4 for salt services.

The Borough Manager provided an update, indicating that the Borough has purchased 800 tons of salt. The South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) contract calls for the Borough to purchase 1200 tons of salt, and that the Borough must purchase 80% (or 960 tons.) The Borough replaces salt as used, but does not replace the salt in the beginning of February unless the snow falls have been significant. The Borough Manager also noted that the Borough also provides salt to John Wick for the municipalities of Glen Osborne, Haysville, Glenfield and Sewickley Hills. The Borough has letter agreements with each municipality, and in May of each year, the Borough of Sewickley bills each municipality for their salt usage.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for December, indicating that 22.481 million gallons of sewage were treated. In addition, 80,081 cubic feet of digester gas was used. In addition, repairs were made to a crushed tap at 736 Beaver Street and repairs were made to leaks in the Secondary and Digester Buildings.

The Borough Manager also reviewed a letter to John Mowry, of KLH Engineers, requesting that the Act 203 tap-in fee calculation be reviewed. We are anticipating an increase because of all the work associated with the Borough of Sewickley Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project.

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineers Report, indicating that Mele and Mele has final restoration work to complete, along with Enertech, to close out the contracts.

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

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Report for December, highlighting the Presbyterian Church settlement, the completion of the filing of deeds for the Waterworks Park property, the Police Contract extension with Glen Osborne, and various tax assessment appeals.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice in the amount of \$4,616.67.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the Melissa Farlow and Randy Olsen v. Borough of Sewickley Zoning Hearing Board Settlement Agreement. It has been signed by all parties from the Presbyterian Church and the Zoning Hearing Board, and this evening, the Borough.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed a legal update, as a confidential and privileged attorney-client communication, and the status of pending litigation before the Borough of Sewickley. The cases were reviewed to provide an update to the new Members of Council and also to remind all Members of Council of the ongoing litigation.

Solicitor Tucker reviewed the Decision by Judge Joseph James regarding the Mike Lyons vs. the Zoning Hearing Board of Sewickley and MCM Ventures and Borough of Sewickley No. S.A. 13-000414, which affirmed Ordinance No. 1283 against Mike Lyons' spot zoning challenge. Mr. Lyons has 30 days to file an appeal to the Commonwealth Court.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

The Borough reviewed the 2013 Municipal Lien Report, indicating that 155 lien letters were processed by the Borough of Sewickley. This is a strong economic indicator that properties are getting sold and refinanced in the Borough of Sewickley.

The Borough Manager reviewed the Child Health Association 2014 Sewickley House Tour, which is scheduled for Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd. In meeting with the House Tour Committee, all of the homes scheduled for the tour are located outside of the Borough of Sewickley. However, the Borough is recommending that permission be granted for the placement of signage in Sewickley, and that Child Health Association will be able to use the Wolcott Park Gazebo on those dates, as well as parking spaces in front of the Gazebo for the public and for buses, and that free parking be provided on Friday, May 2nd. A motion will be placed on the Council Meeting Agenda for Monday for approval by Council.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager reviewed a letter from the Community Development Block Grant Program, indicating that the dates for completion of projects have been extended.

The Borough Manager advised that the U.S. Post Office will be increasing their rates by the end of January, with the cost of postage going from \$0.46 to \$0.49 for mailing a letter.

The Borough Manager reviewed a memo provided to all employees regarding the requirement of wearing identification badges.

The Borough Manager reviewed the 2014 Road Project Bid for the Ferry Street Roadway & Sewer Improvement Project. Twenty-one contractors took bid packages, 13 submitted bids, 1 bid was rejected for submitting incomplete documentation, and the bids submitted from 2 other companies had mathematical errors. The bids ranged from \$974,584 to \$1,792,600. Documentation was provided to Council regarding quantities and description of work.

The Borough Manager indicated that the Sewickley Water Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, January 16th to approve the water line replacement portion; that portion of the contract is \$215,436. The value of the sanitary sewer work is approximately \$100,000, which means that the actual road work, consisting of roads, curbs and sidewalks, will be approximately \$630,000. This puts the bid under budget.

The Borough Manager indicated that upon completion of this project in June, Council may elect to prepare site surveys and review letters for work on curbs and sidewalks associated with the 2015 Road Project. It is anticipated that if Council accepts the bid on January 20th, the start of construction could take place sometime between February 3rd and February 16th, and then project should be completed between June 1st and June 16th.

The Borough Manager provided an update regarding a meeting with Borough engineers and Columbia Gas regarding the rehab work associated with the 2013 Gas Line Replacement Project. The cold weather has delayed the completion of the project, and the engineers are recommending that no concrete be poured or asphalt placed until the weather is warmer in April. In addition, the brick work will be scheduled for completion during that timeframe.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager reviewed an Incident Report regarding a Public Works Vehicle that was damaged due to a fire. The 2011 Ford F550 Dump Truck caught on fire December 17, 2013. It is speculated that the hydraulic fluid line broke or came loose and was ignited by the heat of the engine. There were no injuries to any employees. The insurance company is working to have the loss made whole to the Borough. In the meantime, the Borough has placed the salt spreader (which was salvaged from the fire) on the 2008 Ford F450 Dump Truck, and we are able to provide snow removal services.

The Borough Manager recommended that we do not replace the truck immediately, to wait for the reimbursement, and in July, review a new replacement truck with Council. It should be noted that it will take 6-8 weeks to replace the truck, have it prepped with painting, signage and other items. This way, Council can have a 2014 or 2015 model in July or August. The receipt of the funds from the insurance company will be deposited into the Capital Reserve 6 Account (which is the vehicle/equipment replacement fund).

The Borough Manager reviewed the Newly Elected Officials Training. As Council is offered every 2 years, if any Council Member wishes to have business cards, a form was provided. Council also reviewed the Borough Listing Information form, indicating what information that can be provided to the public. The Borough Manager reviewed the seating chart for Council.

The Borough Manager invited all Members of Council to the Fire Department Orientation Program which takes place on Monday, January 20, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., in the Fire Department bays. The Police Department Orientation Program will be on Monday, February 17, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. There is an Orientation Program on Friday, February 7th, beginning at 2:00 p.m., for Public Works and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Borough Manager advised Council to contact him if they plan to attend any of the Orientation Programs.

Members of Council agreed to dress up for the Council picture, which will be taken at the Retreat Meeting on January 27th.

Council reviewed the Waste Management 2014 Schedule and Pamphlet, which is available on our website and has been distributed by Waste Management to their customers.

Council reviewed a letter from Susan Hockenberry, Executive Director of the Local Government, extending a thank you for the Borough Manager's assistance with the Newly Elected Officials Course.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The Borough Manager reviewed the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) Report on Public Protection Classification. As previously discussed in the meeting, the Borough Manager indicated that the Cochran Hose Company is very deserving of the majority of the credit. It should also be recognized that the Borough is thankful to the Sewickley Water Authority and their working relationship to have a new 12 inch water line installed on Broad Street in conjunction with the Broad Street Road Project in 2005, and the rebuilding of its distribution and pumping system in Water Works Park. A letter was sent to the Sewickley Water Authority, thanking them for their collaboration and for being a good partner.

The Borough Manager reviewed the advertisement for the sale of the 13.635 acre tract of land in Waterworks Park. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m. on January 31, 2014. All bids will be presented to Council in order that Council can take action, approving the sale of the land.

Council reviewed a letter from Thomas Flannigan, Sewage Planning Specialist II, at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, regarding a land development near the Thawmont section of the Borough of Sewickley Heights. While this may be a 12 to 18 month process, the Borough of Sewickley looks forward to accepting new customers for sewage services.

The Borough Manager's Report was received and filed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss the Evaluation of Solicitor Tucker and an update on the Village Theater negotiations. The Executive Session concluded at 9:18 p.m.

Council went back into the Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Driscoll, the Committee of the Whole Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf