

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011

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, Stan Ference, Carole Ford and Mike Glenn. Charles Driscoll was absent due to personal reasons, and Glenn Ford was absent due to work. Others in attendance were Ed Harrell, Kirsten Stripay and Jennifer Markus of Village Green, Larissa Dudkiewicz of Sewickleypatch.com, Mayor Brian Jeffe, Solicitor Richard Tucker, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

President Robert Hague stated that Council and the press were at the Borough of Sewickley Wastewater Treatment Plant for a progress tour of the upgrades to the Dewatering Facility and Headworks.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Council reviewed a letter from Harton Semple, Executive Director of the Sewickley Valley Historical Society, inviting Mayor Jeffe and Council to the Vintage Clothing Display and a lecture on the Sewickley Bridge sponsored by the Historical Society. This will be the 30th Anniversary of the current Sewickley Bridge and 100th Anniversary of the original Sewickley Bridge. Mayor and Borough Manager will attend on behalf of the Borough of Sewickley.

Kirsten Stripay and Jennifer Markus, of Village Green, updated Council on marketing efforts with the Borough of Sewickley Business District. The Exploresewickley.com Website is currently being completed. Kirsten and Jennifer indicated to Council that as of May 16th, the site should be active; they have already loaded over 209 businesses into the system. Ms. Stripay also stated that banners promoting the Business District are on order and are anticipated to be up by Memorial Day.

Ed Harrell, of 904 Beaver Street, addressed Council regarding Duquesne Light. He asked if there were any updates on litigation against Duquesne Light. Mr. Ference indicated that he had not met with Mr. Harrell and they arranged a Friday meeting in order that Mr. Ference can update Mr. Harrell on the litigation.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe reviewed the events of the Memorial Day Weekend, consisting of the Flag Retirement Ceremony on Friday, May 27, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., in Riverfront Park, followed by a concert of patriotic music and a celebration of Service Fireworks. In addition, the Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 30, at 10:00 a.m., with a service at Wolcott Park immediately following the parade, and a closing ceremony at the Sewickley Cemetery.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT/MEMBERS/MAYOR

Mayor Jeffe indicated that he and Police Chief James Ersher will be meeting a representative of Marsolf Construction regarding a Solicitor's Permit.

Mayor Jeffe indicated that he administered the Oath of Office to Councilman Robert Glenn on April 26, 2011.

Mayor Jeffe reported on the Got Drugs Program, which was an effort with state and federal agencies to collect unused pharmaceuticals in order that they can be properly destroyed. The Borough was able to collect four large boxes. The program is ongoing.

Council Member Stan Ference advised Council that the Planning Commission has asked for one more month before presenting the recommended Zoning Ordinance to Council. They are finalizing the details and will be before Council on June 20, 2011. Mr. Ference reiterated that this needs to be completed in a timely matter over the next several months in order that the grant reimbursement can be received by the Borough by the end of 2011.

Council Member Susan Aleshire indicated that she would not be in attendance for the June Committee of the Whole Meeting and Council Meeting.

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

Council reviewed the Building Inspector's Report, indicating that eight (8) permits were issued in April, with permit fees of \$1,261.00 on \$36,173 worth of construction. Seventeen (17) building inspections were performed, and two (2) property maintenance inspections were performed.

On motion of Mrs. Aleshire, seconded by Mr. Ference, Council voted, 7-0, to approve the recommendation of the Historic Review Commission to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 335 Henry Avenue, Block and Lot No. 506-D-296, to erect a single story addition in the rear yard, as submitted.

Council reviewed the Public Works Report for April, highlighting the preparation of the parks for spring and summer, cutting of sidewalks on Locust Place for the Spring Tree Planting, repair of the bridge at War Memorial Park, and the sweeping of the Sewickley Bridge.

Council reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant Report for April, indicating that 27.69 million gallons of sewage were treated, and 0 cubic feet of digester gas was used, which is due to the renovation project. The Wastewater Treatment Plant assisted in a sewer line clog on Canterbury Lane.

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

Council reviewed the Consulting Engineer's Report for the month of April, indicating that the permit has been received for the Glen Osborne Interconnect Project. KLH is preparing the bids. It is anticipated that the bids will be opened in June, which would allow construction to start in July.

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 bond issue, the health insurance buy-out, and Developer's Agreements for Quaker Valley School District and the property at 604 Beaver Street.

Council reviewed the Solicitor's Invoice for the month of April in the amount of \$6,514.80.

Solicitor Tucker advised that Mr. Lyons is appealing the Decision in the MCM Ventures, Ltd. vs. the Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Sewickley, No. S.A. 10-122.

Council reviewed a Sheriff's Sale Notice for 640 Pine Road.

Council reviewed several Tax Assessment Appeals and the Jordan Delinquent Tax and Municipal Claims Report, indicating that in the month of March, \$17,900.15 was collected for delinquent taxes.

Council reviewed a proposed Developer's Agreement between the Borough of Sewickley and Florida Properties I, LLC, the owner of 604 Beaver Street, formerly the Yankello property. Borough Manager advised that the signed agreement has not been received nor have any comments been received on behalf of the property owner.

The Solicitor's Report was received and filed.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Borough Manager advised that bid proposals were opened for the 2011 Road Project on April 28th; the lowest bidder was Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc., of Valencia, PA. Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, the Borough road engineers, have recommended approval. The bid amount for the base amount was \$418,506, and \$32,017 for the ad alternative, for a total price of \$450,523. Borough Manager advised that in relationship to the 2011 Budget, there is an additional \$76,604 available for road work. After some discussion, Council was in agreement to review if any additional roads can be paved in August, utilizing the \$76,604. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for the Council Meeting on Monday, May 16th.

Council reviewed the proposed Brick Spec Sheet for the repair of brick roads. The length of a patch shall be a minimum of ten feet each way, and the joint between the old and the new brick surface shall be made with full brick were included on the proposed sheet. Council was in agreement to place the matter on the agenda for Council Meeting on Monday.

Borough Manager advised that Chartiers Paving performed repair work on patches on Walnut Street. Mr. Hague and Mr. Cornman were able to view the repair work on Saturday, April 29, 2011.

Council reviewed a letter from NIRA Consulting Engineers, who represents Glen Osborne Borough, indicating that they are in agreement to have a common contract for the paving of Beaver Road in conjunction with the sewer project. Because the project will also involve the Sewickley Water Authority, as there are thirty connections to be made for waterline services, the Borough of Sewickley will bid the project as a separate project. At that point, each of the entities will be required to submit their letter, agreeing to the payment contribution per the bid, in order that the paving can be completed.

Council reviewed a letter from the Federal Communications Commission indicating that by January 31, 2013, the Borough will be required to convert to a "narrowbanding" operation. The Borough is continuing to work with the 911 Center in the County of Allegheny with regard to a new radio system. Borough Manager advised Council that some funds in the budget were set aside for radio improvements.

Council reviewed a letter from Attorney E.J. Strassburger regarding a Duquesne Light issue. Attorney Strassburger is proposing that it is time to have a meeting regarding that direction on the lawsuit. Council was in agreement to have an Executive Session before the Monday, May 16th meeting with Attorney Strassburger, at 6:30 p.m.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Borough Manager reviewed a letter from Allegheny County Economic Development regarding the option of being included in the Community Development Block Grant Program. Every three years, the County notifies all municipalities within Allegheny County as to whether they wish to participate in the County's program or opt out. Borough Manager indicated that the Borough should continue to be part of this program.

Council reviewed a copy of the DEP Permit for the upgrade of the Route 65 Pump Station, to now be known as the new Railroad Avenue Pump Station. John Mowry and KLH Engineers are preparing the specifications for the bid process in order that a bid can be advertised in June. It is the intention to start construction by late July, with completion in January or February.

Council reviewed a letter from Municipal Risk Management (MRM) on withdrawal procedures from the Municipal Risk Management Workers' Compensation Pooled Trust and the insurance trust. Notice must be given by June 30 each year. MRM trustees have also determined that whenever the termination of a member occurs, the member will forfeit all future dividends.

Council reviewed a Comcast cable franchise fee payment, for the first quarter of 2011, in the amount of \$8,622.42.

Council reviewed the 2010 Public Utility Realty Report.

Borough Manager reviewed electric prices for a 2-year agreement with Triangle Energy for 2012 and 2013. The estimated annual savings will be approximately \$25,910.35, representing a twenty-one percent (21%) savings. Borough Manager did caution that this is for the power portion of costs; Duquesne Light has a transmission cost, which usually increases annually.

Borough Manager outlined some cost savings to assist in strengthening the Borough's bottom line in 2011.

Borough Manager reported that with the enactment of the IRS Section 125 Ordinance last month, the employees that have opted out of the healthcare have indicated such, signed their forms and returned them to the Borough office. In addition, the remaining employees receiving healthcare have indicated a switch to the Highmark 1500 High Deductible Health Plan, \$1,500/\$3,000. The forms have been forwarded to the Municipal Employers Insurance Trust, and the funding of the Health Savings Account will occur on June 1, 2011. Borough Manager indicated that the employees and their bargaining associations will need to pay attention to health care matters in the upcoming years as ongoing changes and uncertainties remain in the health care area.

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Council Members reviewed the 2010 Audit; there were no other corrections to the audit. Council was in agreement to place a motion on the May 16, 2011 Council Meeting Agenda to accept and order received and filed the 2010 Audit. As one of the new conditions, the audit will be loaded onto the Electronic Municipal Market Access, a requirement of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Borough Manager advised that the docks for Walnut Street Landing and the Chestnut Street Boat Ramp have not been installed as of May 1st. The agreement with Industry Terminal and Salvage Company calls for removal of the docks by October 1 and replacement by May 1, with an annual cost to the Borough of \$5,000. We have delayed the placement of the docks for an additional week to ten days to allow for the rivers to recede. With the large amount of rain that we have received, the river is very high and fast and we believe it will be better to wait before placing the docks.

Borough Manager advised that the three-unit recycling container that Council requested has been placed in Wolcott Park. The cost of the unit was \$1,527. Council was in agreement to review the possibility of placing a second container in the Walnut Street Park once Walnut Street has been rebuilt.

Borough Manager reviewed the gas prices for April indicating that the price for the first fifteen days of the month was \$3.45, and as of April 21, gas was \$3.63. Gas prices will be monitored. Mr. Glenn asked that the report also review the diesel costs.

Borough Manager indicated that between the ingress and egress access of the Municipal Building driveway, a tree has been planted. As Council has directed, a plaque will be placed in the honor of Dean Williams. Council concurred.

The Borough Manager's report was received and filed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Mr. Ference, seconded by Mr. Glenn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Manager/Secretary

KMF:pmf