

Call to Order:

The regular scheduled meeting of August 2nd, 2010 was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. The meeting was properly re-advertised in the Tribune Democrat for Monday, August 9th, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 6:35 p.m.

Members present were: Mr. Kissell, Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Slanoc, Mrs. Chobany, Mr. Wozniak, and Mayor Fox. Also present were Robert Koban-Borough Manager; Don Squillario-Public Works; Chief Miller-Public Safety, Mr. Wisor-Engineer, and Michelle Claar-Secretary. Absent was Mr. Emerick-Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to go out of order on the agenda to recognize the visitors; motion carried 7-0.

VISITORS:

Gregory Simmons from the Department of Defense was in attendance to recognize the Portage Fire Department and Borough Council for supporting the "Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves". Several members of the fire department and council serve in the guard and the reserves. Mr. Simmons presented a Seven Seals Award plaque to Borough Council and also to Bruce Cadwallader; representing the fire department. Mr. Simmons requested a picture be taken with Borough Council and the Fire Department to place on the Department of Defense website. Ashley Watt with the Dispatch was also in attendance and took pictures. Mr. Simmons commended those who served in the military and Council thanked Mr. Simmons for attending the meeting.

Lynn Michaels from CBIZ Insurance was in attendance to present the renewal of the commercial liability insurance for 2010-2011. Mrs. Michaels provided the renewal package for Council to review and answer any questions concerning the coverage. Mrs. Michaels elaborated on several enhancements to the policies within the package and answered several questions from Borough Council. The Workers Compensation mod rate decreased from 1.919 (2009) to 1.109 (2010). There are two fire related injuries that are not included in the mod rate but the premium will increase in 2011 after the claims are processed.

Reports:

Managers Report:

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban recapped several items in his report. Mr. Koban commented on a grant application for the Gillespie Avenue Bridge that will be addressed later in the meeting. Mr. Koban had nothing additional to report.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report to Council but was absent from the meeting.

Engineers Report:

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report to Council. Mr. Wisor invited Council to a golf outing on August 20th, 2010. Mr. Wisor had nothing additional to report.

Police Report:

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Ms. McCarthy commented on the number of incidents for Portage Township and Mr. Wozniak questioned the outcome of Officer Wyar's personal vehicle that was damaged in the parking lot.

Public Works Report:

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario advised Council that he will be meeting with Scott Grannas to schedule the paving of Caldwell Avenue, High Street and Park Avenue. Mr. Squillario will confirm the work week to inform the residents in that area. Mr. Koban commended Mr. Squillario for obtaining \$1,000.00 from Kukurin Construction for the damage that was done to the roads during the construction of the plant. Ms. McCarthy commended the Portage Municipal Authority for obtain the grant funding for the new water lines and extensions. Mr. Koban informed Council that the summer youth worker from Career Link is no longer working and the Municipal Authority has been sharing their workers with the Borough. Mr. Squillario also commented on in-house paving projects that he will discuss with Mr. Koban.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve the Treasurer's report, motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence:

PSAB sent notice of a new program being offered: "Cable-Telecom Alliance of Municipalities". The program provides expert legal assistance and advice of cable and telecommunication issues facing municipalities statewide. PSAB member subscription fees will be \$200.00 per year and includes a training seminar.

The Cambria County Solid Waste Authority sent notice they are updating the Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with PA Act 101 of 1988 and the PA Department of Environmental Protection. The main goal is to assure disposal capacity for all municipal waste and waste reduction programs. The plan is being developed by the newly created Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC). Meetings are scheduled for September 15th, October 20th, November 17th, and December 15th. Once the plan is updated, the Authority will distribute copies to each municipality for review and comment.

The Medical Associates of Portage sent a permission request to sponsor the Portage Summerfest 2010 5k run on August 14th at 8:30 a.m. The race will start and end at the Football stadium. Mayor Fox motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to grant permission to the Medical Associates to sponsor the Portage Summerfest 5K run on August 14th at 8:30 a.m., motion carried 7-0.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes from July 6th regular meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve the minutes from the July 6th, regular meeting, motion carried 7-0.

Paying of Bills:

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to pay the unpaid bills and additional bills in the amount of \$31,190.08, motion carried 7-0.

Other Reports

The monthly reports were received from the Water and Sewer Authority for June. The Joint Recreation Commission submitted reports for June and July. Mr. Slanoc motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve the monthly reports as presented, motion carried 7-0.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Koban advised that he continues to petition for members of the Mainline Heritage Association.

The list of goals for the grant writer was discussed and can be removed from the agenda.

The emergency operations plan to be discussed at the committee meeting.

Update on the grant funding for Gillespie Avenue is still being researched or the possibility of utilizing liquid fuels funds in 2011.

Mr. Koban informed Council that Jen Pisarski had returned the Halloween Parade information back to the office as a sponsor for the event. Mrs. Pisarski advised that the event is more time consuming than what she anticipated. Ms. Claar was unsuccessful in contacting Mr. Vic Miller to inquire if he would reconsider handling the event. Council agreed to remove the Halloween sponsor from the agenda.

The Cambria County SERT Agreement will be discussed at the August 16th committee meeting with representatives from the Cambria County District Attorney's Office.

The Plummer property located at 1021 Caldwell Avenue is still in progress.

The Harpo's Building is scheduled for demolition in the fall. Remaining on agenda until it is demolished.

There was no update on the Rails to Trails grant funding.

There is no update on the Main Street Streetscape project.

Mr. Koban informed Council that a meeting was held with Ms. Jane Sheffield of Allegheny Ridge Corporation concerning the Silk Mill property. Allegheny Ridge is seeking to recoup some of their expenses that they have incurred with the building/property over the years. They are currently not in a position to donate the property to the borough. Meetings will be scheduled in the future for available funding. Mr. Koban commented that he will converse with Mr. Brant for possible funding sources.

The life insurance for part time patrol officers will be discussed at the August committee meeting.

Mr. Koban informed Council that the hazardous material program is not a sponsored program and will attempt to contact PA Cleanways for further information.

Mr. Koban requested an executive session to discuss the Shoenfeld appeal.

New Business:

Mayor Fox has been attending the meetings for the "Our Town: Portage" that is being documented by WPSU-TV and to be aired sometime in December. Mayor Fox suggested that a Council member participate in the documentary. WPSU is also seeking sponsorship donations for the documentary. Council agreed they support the documentary but that the businesses, organizations, and the community should financially support it. WPSU is seeking \$600.00 for a donation. Council agreed to keep the issue on old business.

Mr. Brandon Williamson submitted a letter to Council requesting a small piece of property be purchased from the Borough or a possible trade between the Borough and himself. The piece of property is divided by Trout Run between Sonman and Caldwell Avenue. Mr. Williamson provided a site map from the Cambria County GIS system indicating the area of interest. Mayor Fox commented that several other residents in the community have the same issues with their properties being in the middle of Trout Run and extending beyond the creek. There would be no benefit to the borough and after a lengthy discussion, Council agreed to deny the options of a trade or the purchase of the piece of property.

Mr. Koban requested Council direction on how to proceed with the grant application for the Gillespie Avenue Bridge regarding the stream channelizing and wingwalls. The 65% grant application is available through the PA Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Plus program with a deadline of September 17th, 2010. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Vandzura to proceed with the grant application process; with assistance from Mr. Jerry Brant, through the PA Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Program, motion carried 7-0.

Good of the Borough:

Council questioned if a request was submitted for participation in the Summerfest Parade on Saturday. Ms. Claar advised nothing was received. Mr. Vandzura commented that the Rotary Club will be providing vehicles for the Council to participate in the parade.

Mr. Koban provided Council with a public nuisance form that can be utilized by Council for residents in violation of the ordinance. The form includes violations for weeds and/or high grass; accumulation of trash, rubbish or garbage; abandon vehicles on premises; and

inappropriate storage of trash, rubbish or garbage. The notice stipulates that the owner has ten days to take corrective action on their property. Mayor Fox commented that all businesses should be held liable for their store front properties.

The Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau sent notice of the Annual Upset Tax Sale to be held on September 13th, 2010. There are 11 properties in Ward 1 and 5 properties in Ward 2 that are listed on the sale. Property owners that pay their taxes prior to September 13th will not be auctioned at the upset sale.

Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to go into executive session for litigation purposes, motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to go out of executive session.

Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to go into the regular meeting, motion carried 7-0. After a discussion, Mr. Vandzura motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to appoint Ebensburg Insurance as the "Broker of Record" for all insurances. Ms. McCarthy polled and motion carried 5-2-voting yes: Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Slanoc, Mrs. Chobany, Mr. Wozniak, and Ms. McCarthy; voting no: Mr. Kissell and Mayor Fox.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to adjourn, motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.