

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The **Finance Planning/Zoning, Public Safety and Human/Community Services Committee Workshop Meetings** were held on **February 17, 2020** in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

The meeting was called to order by President Reed at 6:30 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Bryon Reed		Daniel Stevens	Jason Nicholas
Jason Ruff			Jeffrey Hausman
Thomas Bartholomew			
Kevin Steckel			

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

B. PUBLIC SAFETY

Kevin Steckel-Chairman; Members: Thomas Bartholomew, Jason Ruff

1. Committee Member discussion on listed topics:

- a. Chief Nicholas wished to discuss the proposed purchase of a new fire truck. Chief Nicholas discussed options for purchasing a new fire truck. Currently, they are paying \$6,358.00 for vehicle insurance for the 3 trucks – one at the sewer plant, 1993KME and 1996 rescue truck. He stated that if they consolidated, they would save an estimated \$3,900.00 on insurance premiums. The insurance for the new vehicle would be \$2,458.00, which would save them approximately \$3,900.00. Chief Nicholas suggested they go through Community Leasing because there would be no money due from either the Borough, or the fire department, until approximately August 2022. In addition, we don't have to secure a loan until approximately 3 or 4 months before we would commit to signing any paperwork with Community Leasing. At that point the fire company would know how much they need to borrow. The fire department has committed to borrowing up to a maximum of \$220,000.00 towards a new truck. This would be over a 15-year repayment period at 3.24% interest. The worst-case scenario (without funding from outside) would be the fire department would pay \$18,756.01 yearly and the Borough would pay \$37,759.85 yearly over a 15-year period. Chief Nicholas suggested a tax increase to offset the payment. He stated that if the Borough increased the millage for the Fire Tax to .75, it would generate an estimated \$43,145.00 per year. Allowing for the worst-case scenario the payment for the Borough would be \$37,759.00. This remainder could be applied to capital purchase plan. Since they don't have to have the first payment until 2022, President Reed suggested splitting an increase for the 2021, budget and then 2022. President Reed stated they would split \$250,000.00 over a 2-year period. Any funds gained from the sale of the trucks would be put towards the principle. The other option would be to take the gains and put the monies toward the \$16,000.00 loan for the ladder truck for back payment plus 5 years of payments that are still due. Chief Nicholas informed the committee that they have a pending request from Senator Pat Browne for funding, and an LSA (Local Share Account) Grant. In 2019 the department spent \$8,455.79 in maintenance and repair to the engine they wish to replace. Chief Nicholas provided a report from Community Leasing showing that KME has agreed to hold the price at the \$662,907.00 until May 1st. After that, then there would be a 3% increase. Chief Nicholas would prefer to have yearly payments instead of monthly payments. Manager Stevens suggested looking into the USDA, which is federal money. USDA provides both grants and loans. The committee discussed other options for funding. The committee feels that they are hesitant to make a commitment due to the fact that no monies have been secured. Councilor Bartholomew asked if a resolution to commit \$220,000.00, both from the Borough and the fire department, then present it to Senator Browne could be done. President Reed suggested a separate donation drive thermometer. Chief Nicholas is requesting that the truck be signed for at this time, and then Borough will have 2 years to see how the funding would be

completed. Councilor Ruff suggested a resolution stating that the Borough is putting money towards the project through any monies gained from the sale of the trucks. Manager Stevens stated that Senator Browne's office stressed the fact that they would like to see a capital fundraising campaign from the fire department. Councilor Ruff feels a fire tax increase would not be a good idea until more information is obtained on funding. Councilor Bartholomew suggested to have Manager Stevens draft a resolution for the council. At this time there are 3 options: the resolution, a commitment funds from the Borough to what the fire department raises, or we see what grants come through. I was agreed to have Manager Stevens draft a resolution supporting the project, but not committing to any specific funding.

- b. The committee reviewed the revised quote from ECCO Communications, LLC, for police radios for \$3,480.00. The committee agreed to this quote.
- c. The committee discussed the appointments to Police Pension Committee. Ron Hausman has agreed to represent the citizens. Other committee members are: Det. Tim Wagner, Daniel Stevens, and Chief Dave Rachman. These members will be officially appointed at the next regular council meeting.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned.

A. FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING

Thomas Bartholomew – Chairman; Members: Kevin Steckel, Jason Ruff

1. Committee Member Discussion:

- a. Daniel Stevens informed the committee he had met with Charlie Breidinger to show him the office space that is available on the second floor. Manager Stevens has signed a contract to have Charlie advertise this space in the Multilist.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Finance Committee Meeting was adjourned.

C. HUMAN/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Jason Ruff – Chairman; Members: Kevin Steckel, Thomas Bartholomew

1. Committee Member Discussion

- a. The committee reviewed the e-mail from Tim Bollinger, 2/12/20, concerning the 2020 Lehigh County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event scheduled for Saturday, March 28th, 2020. More information will be posted at www.lehighcounty.org.
- b. The committee reviewed the PPL Electric Utilities Community Roots program. Orders for the program are closed for 2020. This program is to place orders for 2021. Councilor Ruff will work with Daniel Stevens to place orders for 2021. These trees could possibly be placed in the parks.
- c. Councilor Ruff discussed grants and loans for future business-use site. He stated that this is along the line of what LVPC and Multi-municipal Comp Plan. They are looking at a grant to have somebody put together an inventory of sites that could be potentially developed or redeveloped. The grant could be a 60%/40% deal. This would be a feasibility study. Councilor Ruff will talk with LVPC to see if this is the same thing they are doing.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Human/Community Services meeting was adjourned.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by, Councilor Steckel, to adjourn. Being no further business, President Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens
Borough Secretary