

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON  
COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM**

The Water, Sewer/Solid Waste, Highway, Public Safety, Finance/Planning/Zoning and Human Community Services Committee Workshop Meetings were held on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA. The meeting was called to order by President Schnaars at 6:31 PM with the following in attendance:

| <u>PRESENT</u>     | <u>ABSENT</u>    | <u>OTHERS</u>   | <u>VISITORS</u>    |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| President Schnaars | Bryon Reed       | Tom Dinkelacker | Dan Stevens        |
| Joseph Wechsler    | Walt Niedermeyer | Dave Lear       | Robert Herzog, Jr. |
| Michael Brogan     | Dave Rachman     |                 | David Altrichter   |
| Melvin Gildner     |                  |                 | Mike Kukitz        |
| Jon Rinker         |                  |                 | Robert Stettner    |
| Jason Ruff         |                  |                 | Jeffrey Hausman    |
| Manager Danko      |                  |                 |                    |

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

**A. FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING**

Joseph Wechsler– Chairman; Members: Jon Rinker, Jason Ruff  
Committee Member discussion on listed topics:

1. Discussed e-mails dated 9/18/17 from Fire Chief Nicholas in reference to 2017 budget status, discuss invoices over and above Fire Department 2017 budget allotment and Fire Tax. Manager Danko brought bills from Kaler Motor - \$585.95 and \$771.94; Horwath Freightier - \$2,342.47; Mid-Atlantic Fire & Air - \$2,339.47 for Council to advise her as to how the Council proceeds with paying monies out for the Fire Co. once their budget is at their limit. Council directed Manager Danko to place the invoices on the Council agenda, October 9, 2017, for discussion for either the Borough to pay the invoices or for the Borough to request that the Fire Company pay the invoices.

Currently, the Fire Department is over budget for 2017. The Fire Department obtains approximately \$77,000/year from the fire tax. However, with the high cost of insurance and building maintenance, there are insufficient funds to cover the cost of the fire equipment.

Manager Danko said that they have been going through the budget for the last 4 years of expenses, and over the past 4 years there is over \$100,000 plus dollars of cost that the Borough has paid from the general fund (making the general fund over budget) that actually should have come out of the fire company money, but they were over budget. At this time as we review the budget numbers, the fire tax owes the Borough money. This, and other items, will be discussed at the workshop budget meetings.

Councilor Rinker asked Jeffrey Hausman how many times the jet skis had been used. Is there a necessity for certain equipment to be purchased? Jeffrey Hausman said that many years ago an emergency management company had come to the fire department and informed them that for this type of municipality it recommended they have: 2 class A

engines, ladder truck, and some type of squad truck along with water rescue. Hausman also stated that the jet skis were paid out of the fire companies own monies.

Manager Danko has requested all departments to contain their spending for the rest of 2017.

Manager Danko will provide the Council with a spreadsheet showing the line items which have been spent. She has also asked Jason Nicholas for a spread sheet showing what the fire company has paid for out of their own monies.

Regarding the truck that had been in the accident, to date the estimate is up to \$349,000. At this point, the insurance company thinks the estimate is too high. Judith and Jason feel that once they start pulling the truck apart more, it will be higher. The insurance company has sent a special assessor to re-look at the truck. Judith & Jason are looking at an alternative way (if any) - take the money put it towards what is really needed.

2. Letter from LVPC in reference to Zelinsky Subdivision were provided to Council, informational only.
3. Council discussed approving the quote from Costars Dealer Kovatch Nesquehoning Ford to purchase 2018 F-550 Diesel Dump truck with Stainless Steel Dump Body-Salt Spreader and plow system in the amount of \$86,980.23. The old truck will be used at the water plant. Council directed Manager Danko to place this on the Council agenda, October 9, 2017, for approval. Running boards may be added at a cost no more than \$500.00. Walnutport so kindly brought their truck for the Council to see...it is very similar to what the Borough Council may order.

## **B. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Jon Rinker-Chairman; Members: Joseph Wechsler, Jason Ruff  
Committee Member discussion on listed topics:

1. Council discussed the memo from Robert Stettner dated 9/19/17 along with ABC Heating and Cooling Co. Quote in reference to the Vigilante. Manager Danko along with Ronald Hausman are currently obtaining quotes for one commercial air conditioner verses repairing the current A/C system and the ones that go in the wall. Councilor Rinker feels that two auxiliary AC units would be better. The Vigilante stated they would pay for one of the units per the ABC quote if the Council would add the second needed new unit to their 2018 budget.
2. Memo from Chief Rachman (in reference to 2017 budget efforts) showing Council that he is trying to work with Manager Danko to try to keep the Police budget in line, informational only.

## **C. HUMAN RESOURCES/COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Jason Ruff – Chairman; Members: Joseph Wechsler, Jon Rinker  
Committee Member discussion on listed topics:

1. David Altrichter was present from the Veterans Memorial Committee to discuss e-mail dated 8/24/17 in reference to the Memorial Park and future proposed work. David is requesting approval from the Council for the Veterans Memorial Committee to work with Lehigh Engineering to devise a plan for the proposed work. They will need a plan for Mike

Kukitz to apply for a grant that may be available next year. The discussion was to have lighting, parking and additional items in the grant for the park. David Lear, from Lehigh Engineering, has volunteered their services for 1 hour for free. Council was agreeable to this.

2. Mike Kukitz – NLRA – was present to discuss e-mail dated 9/18/17 concerning various topics.
  - a. Trail Town/Visitor Center updates: They plan to operate a welcome center with volunteers (Alice, D&L Staff, Mike) on the weekends through the month of October, prior to fully launching this idea in the spring of 2018. He will also review landscaping/signage recommendations.
  - b. Disc golf course expansion
  - c. Veterans Memorial Park project
  - d. Williams Island
  - e. Opportunity for DCNR Small Communities Grant for 2018 – Victory park items that may need updating.

Mike provided Council with budgetary requests for 2018 which was also in the Council packet and discussed briefly as Mike explained the requests.

3. Manager Danko approved an E-mail from PA Dept. of Agriculture to work with the Borough to be in compliance with Act 106 (compliance was required back in 2010) Food Health Inspections, informational only.

#### **D. SEWER/SOLID WASTE**

Mel Gildner – Chairman; Members: Bryon Reed, Michael Brogan, Jr.  
Committee Member Discussion:

1. Letter dated August 19, 2017 from Attorney Healy concerning the Walnutport Reserve capacity at Slatington WWTP, provided to Council, informational only.
2. Sewer Authority Annual Report along with 2016/17 Financial statements from Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits provided to Council, informational only.
3. Professional Services agreement was provided to Council in reference to “PA small water grant” and the utilization of the large digester for approval. Council directed Manager Danko to place this item on the Council agenda October 9, 2017, for approval.
4. Discussion took place in reference to approving relief for the UCC Church in reference to sewer line tape in fees due to the Church doing all of the work. The Borough crew to do the inspection. Council directed Manager Danko to place this item on the Council agenda, October 9, 2017, for approval.

Councilor Wechsler asked about the status of the cold-water infiltration into the sewer – Manager Danko explained that the review of certain lines was put out to bid and the Council approved the lowest bid at the last meeting. Manager Danko will follow up on the work start date.

#### **E. WATER/SPECIAL SEWER COMMITTEE**

Bryon Reed – Chairman; Members: Mel Gildner, Michael Brogan, Jr.  
Committee Member Discussion:

1. South Street water line construction timeline provided to Council, informational only. Bid opening is scheduled for Monday, 10/2/17 at 10AM. Council directed Manager Danko to place this item on the Council agenda 10/9/17 to award the lowest bid.
2. Discussed E-mail dated 9/20/17 from LB Water-Quotation in the amount of \$3,560.87 for fire hydrant repair on Center and Union Street. Council feels the fire hydrant should just be capped for now due to the cost. It was verified that there are two other hydrants in close proximity to this one.
3. Manager Danko reported a storm water inlet issue on Fernwood St., repair costs being evaluated at this time, informational only. There is a mini sink hole appearing right aside of the inlet.

#### **F. HIGHWAY**

Michael Brogan - Chairman; Members: Mel Gildner, Bryon Reed  
Committee Member Discussion:

1. Arle grant-stop light at Main & E. Church St. update. Manager Danko informed Council that we have received 3 signatures and 3 payments of \$500.00 have been made to the property owners. We are waiting for just 1 more signature. Once this is completed, it will then go to PennDOT. Manager Danko thanked Roxanne for her diligent work on this.

David Lear from Lehigh Engineering up dated the Council on the John Freed Way project. The curb should be installed shortly. They are working on the lighting next and then towards the completion of the project. The water problem should be solved with the raising of the curb.

#### **G. PRESIDENTS REPORT**

President Schnaars announced that we will be having a budget meeting on 10/24/17. Councilor Ruff mentioned that he had just attended the PSAB budget training class and felt it May be a good idea if we add a few more meetings to our list, Manager Danko agreed. President Schnaars then asked Council members how they wished to proceed with the budget meetings. Members agreed to have 1-hour meetings starting at 6:30PM for each department or conglomerate the smaller departments together. Manager Danko and President Schnaars will put meeting schedule together and inform Council. Manager Danko was directed to advertise the meetings.

#### **H. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

**COURTESY TO THE FLOOR: NONE**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, President Schnaars declared the meeting was adjourned at 8:03PM.



Judith A. Danko  
Borough Secretary