

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
February 4, 2020
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Joshua Bennett, Art Cicero, Scott Sistek, Ray Strosko, and Mayor Ronald Echard. Also: Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Emil Bove and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin. Absent: Councilmembers Linda Echard and Tom Theis.

Call to Order

President Raymond Strosko called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Prayer

Jeff recited a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Approval of Bills

Josh made a motion seconded by Scott approving the bills in the amount of \$77,416.64. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Todd made a motion seconded by Art to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting. Motion passed with Todd, Art and Ray voting yes and Scott and Josh abstaining.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- Items Not on the Agenda

There were none.

Council Additions to Agenda

Jeff asked council to consider adding a motion and vote tabling the Sheetz Revised Land Development Plan. Ray made it item 7.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

Tom Smith asked that when council addressed item #3 *M/V to Renew Contract with Commercial Choice Realty*, if an update could be provided on the status of the sale of the former borough building. Jeff said that he would.

Mr. Smith also encouraged council, in considering item #4: *M/V to Approve Spartan Central Lease*, to not lease out the field for less than what it will cost the borough to operate. He said the point is not to make money, but it is not to lose money either.

Agenda

1. M/V on Animal Control

Maria Dillman from The Hideaway Kennels was present, so Ray invited her to speak.

Maria Dillman, Owner, The Hideaway Kennels

Ms. Dillman stated that she was recently sworn in as an Animal Control Officer and is hoping to provide animal control to the borough. She also operates a non-profit shelter and has been rescuing dogs in New Stanton as well as surrounding counties for ten years. She stated that she lives close by. She mentioned that they do a background on the people with whom the dogs are placed. They have a rescue Facebook page on which dogs are posted after the mandatory hold period.

Josh made a motion seconded Art to hire The Hideaway Kennels to handle animal control in the borough for 2020. Motion passed unanimously.

Ray invited David Hauger who was representing the fire department to speak in lieu of Rob Cammarata.

Dave Hauger, President, New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department

Mr. Hauger reported that the fire department is now officially a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. He also reported that the Fire Department's Building Committee had its first meeting. He reported that the cost for a new building will be approximately \$200 a square foot and that is something that they cannot pay for by themselves, so they will be coming to the borough seeking help. They are still working on a total cost.

2. M/V to Adopt Resolution Regarding Pension Plan

Jeff stated that council voted at the December 2019 meeting to increase the pension Benefit Accrual Ratio from 1% to 1.25% retroactively to January 1, 2017. When he informed the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System of this they stated that they needed this to be adopted in the form of a resolution. They also stated that there were a few items in the borough's plan that were not clearly defined including what is considered full-time – in the borough handbook stipulates 32 hours – and they asked us how the borough wants to treat those items. Adoption of this resolution would also allow employees to be able to contribute additional money to their pension. Presently the mandatory contribution is 4% of an employee's pay. Jeff stated that the cost to the borough for increasing the Benefit Accrual Ratio will probably be a little over \$4,000.

John stated that pension plans across the state are being updated to comply with changes to federal law. That is the principle driver for seeking some of these updates. He stated that there are a number of options that could be reviewed and that the Finance Committee could

have a conference call with the solicitor from PMRS to review these options. Jeff stated that he and Anita reviewed the options with the solicitor from PMRS who made no substantive changes to the checklist aside from setting fulltime as 32 hours and changing the Benefit Accrual Ratio.

Scott made a motion seconded by Josh adopting Resolution 2020-944 regarding the New Stanton Borough Pension Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

3. M/V to Renew Contract with Commercial Choice Realty

Jeff stated that the contract was in need of renew. He reported that he spoke to Mr. Reese who agreed to the same conditions. Mr. Reese also has had a party that twice expressed interest in touring, but they canceled both times. They still seem to be interested, however.

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh, renewing the contract with Commercial Choice Realty for another 6 months. Motion passed unanimously.

4. M/V to Approve Spartan Central Lease

Jeff stated that the draft lease agreement which was provided to council in the agenda packet stipulates that only two Spartan Central teams, 9U and 10U, would be using the field as opposed to the three that used it last year.

After discussion, Scott made a motion seconded by Josh to approve the agreement without the clause regarding the operation of the concession stand and that council would consider amending the agreement at a future date depending upon discussions with Spartans Central regarding the concession stand and food trucks.

5. M/V to Hire Colmat Landscaping for 2020 Grass Cutting Services at New Stanton Park at a Cost of \$10,950

Scott made a motion seconded by Josh approving the 2020 contract with Colmat Landscaping in the amount of \$10,950 for grass cutting at the park. Motion passed unanimously.

6. M/V to Place \$45 Ad in WCBA Program Booklet and to Pay for Officials to Attend Dinner

Scott made a motion seconded by Josh to place a \$45 ad in the WCBA booklet and to pay for the dinners of borough officials that will attend the dinner. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to go into Executive Session at 6:42 PM. There were no objections.

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to come out of Executive Session at 7:15 PM. There were no objections.

7. M/V to Table Sheetz Revised Land Development Plan

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to table the Sheetz Revised Land Development Plan until the March 3, 2020 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Todd made a motion seconded by Art to purchase up to an additional \$3,500 in time from French Engineering. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Administrative

Planning Commission

Jeff stated that nothing has been submitted so there would be no meeting this month. He reviewed the PMPEI sessions. He said that we may be able to hold a future training session for zoning because the teachers seemed impressed with the facility and they are located in State College, so the drive wasn't overly long. He said that the attendees he spoke to also seemed like they would be interested in attending additional classes.

Borough Manager

Jeff stated that he has received a date from the magistrate for a hearing regarding the glare from a local hotel's parking lot lights.

The Westmoreland Conservation District's annual Municipal Roundtable is scheduled for February 21, 2020. The cost is \$12 for lunch.

Emil stated it was a good way to learn how other municipalities are handling stormwater issues.

John stated that he and Les Walker have been working with the Westmoreland Conservation District drafting a new county-wide stormwater ordinance. He reported that DEP just approved the draft ordinance. It now needs to go back to the commissioners for approval. Over the next 6 months municipalities will need to approve.

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh approving sending Jeff, John and whoever else would benefit from the roundtable to attend. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff stated that the Hempfield school board is holding quarterly meetings to which municipal officials would be invited. He stated that he would notify the council and the mayor as to when the next meeting would be held.

Jeff also mentioned that the G17 is planning on holding their conference at the Laurel Mennonite Center in the spring. There will be a planning meeting on March 5 in Derry.

Jeff stated that he had two quotes for the cyclone fence with privacy slates. The fence would run from the public works garage toward the creek to block the view of the supply yard. After discussion, council asked Jeff to bring back quotes for a more attractive fence.

Code Enforcement

Jeff reviewed the report that was provided to council. He stated that at this point Scott's hours are down, but in the spring when the grass starts growing, his hours will need to increase.

Solicitor's Report

John stated that all of the items he wanted to discuss were already addressed.

Engineer's Report

Emil reported that he has a call into the Farlow's about meeting regarding the easement for the Arona Road culvert.

He stated that we will be holding a pre-construction meeting for the seal-coat work that was awarded last year and that council will need to make some decisions about what roads and/or storm sewers would be addressed with this year's money.

Fire Department Liaison

Ray stated that the written report was provided to council.

Council President

Ray stated that he had John Barnes look at installing catch basins on Cortland Drive near Woodmere and that John is will be working on another section of Cortland when the weather breaks.

Art asked about paving the alley parallel to Center Avenue by the Sewickley Creek Bridge. Jeff stated that we may be able to pave it in-house with the drag box. Jeff stated that a resident from Swartz Road also asked about the borough paving their road.

Mayor

Ron stated that the voting machine training session will be held at the fire hall from 9 until 5 on Saturday, April 4, 2020. It will be open to anyone from the surrounding area.

Personnel

No report.

Public Works/MS4 & Parks

Ray stated that the guys installed the truck lift. As part of the project they jackhammered the garage floor and installed footers.

Special Events

Josh stated that the committee will begin planning for the Easter Egg Hunt. Ray mentioned that the committee may want to look into holding a parade.

Safety Committee

Art stated that the Safety Committee met and watched a webinar. Jeff stated it was the required initial safety committee meeting. Art stated that the committee set the first Friday of each month at 2:30 as the regular monthly meeting time. Jeff stated that AM Trust, the borough's workmen's compensation insurance provider, offers training videos and he registered the borough so the committee can watch these videos each month.

Building and Real Estate

This item was addressed earlier with the vote to extend the real estate agent's contract.

Financial Report

Scott reported that as of January 28th, the total balance of all checking accounts was \$498,276.28. The total of all savings accounts was \$1646,742.35 and the amount of taxes remitted from January 1st through January 28, 2020 was \$7,870.93.

Additional Opportunities for Public Comment

Mr. Tom Smith, Resident

Tom said that if the Spartan Central team was storing items at the park year-round the borough may want to put language covering that in the lease.

In reference to the meeting with Youngwood about the use of the small field, Tom mentioned that there was an article in the Tribune Review recently about South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg and Greensburg merging their baseball programs because of the lack of children participating in the individual programs.

Marge Fox thanked council for its decision on animal control.

Announcements

Ray stated that, if needed, the next meeting would be held on February 18, 2020 at 5:30 PM; otherwise the next meeting date would be March 3, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary