

**Borough of New Stanton  
Borough Council  
December 19, 2017  
Minutes of Meeting**

**Attendance**

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Dean Clark, Linda Echard, Scott Sistik, Tom Smith, and Tom Theis. Mayor Nick DeSantis. Also: Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin.

**Call to Order**

President Scott Sistik called the regular council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Invocation**

Linda recited a prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

Scott asked for a motion to accept the December 5, 2017 meeting minutes. Jeff pointed out that in the heading for Item 3, the word “Appeal” should read “Repeal”.

Dean made a motion seconded by Linda approving the minutes of the December 5, 2017 including changing the word “Appeal” to “Repeal” in the heading of Item 3. Motion passed unanimously.

**Guest – Alan Wagner**

Scott stated that he was going to have Alan Wagner present at this point, before the *Opportunity for Public Comment* period.

Alan Wagner introduced himself as a representative of the New Stanton Recreation Board. He stated that he had heard that council wanted to eliminate the Recreation Board and the Recreation Board members were wondering why this was being done. He also asked why they did not receive advance notice. Scott stated that Mr. Wagner is free to ask questions but council is under no obligation to answer. Alan asked why the minutes were not posted. He also stated that he thought the Recreation Board was addressing the items that were brought up at a meeting he attended with a committee of council several months ago. He stated that 3 people did resign from the Recreation Board, but that they still have 5 members. Communication was bad, but he does not believe it was just on their end. He stated that he gave 19 years at 40 hours a week to the Recreation Board. Scott stated that he had a statement that he would read concerning the matter latter in the meeting.

**Opportunity for Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda**

Scott asked if there were any public comments on items not on the agenda. There were none.

### **Council Additions to Agenda**

Scott asked if there were council additions to the agenda. There were none.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only**

Scott asked if there any public comment on agenda items only:

#### ***Barbara Shipman, 152 Stratford Court***

Ms. Shipman stated that this is her first year on Recreation Board. She discussed her family's history of volunteering. She was thankful and appreciative of the opportunity to spend time on the Recreation Board, but she stated that she had not done much compared to the members that have been involved for many years. She said that they have put in a lot of hours and have done a lot for the community. She was wondering if there was something that could have been done better or changes that could have been made. She stated that they had a lot of activities coming up that need addressed. She was wondering what direction the council was going to take.

Scott thanked her and stated that she had some very good comments that have been taken into consideration.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. M/V to Adopt a Tentative 2018 Budget of \$918,196.00 and the Liquid Fuels Budget**

Dean made a motion seconded by Tom T. to adopt a tentative 2018 Budget of \$918,196.00 and the Liquid Fuels Budget. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Tom S. who voted no.

#### **2. M/V to adopt Tax Ordinance 2017-259 for 2018, maintaining the tax rate at 2 mils for general purpose, 1 mil for Debt Service and 1 mil for the New Stanton Fire Department**

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda to adopt Tax Ordinance 2017-259 for 2018, maintaining the tax rate at 2 mils for general purpose, 1 mil for Debt Service and 1 mil for the New Stanton Fire Department. Motion passed unanimously.

Scott read a statement that he had prepared in anticipation of moving onto Item 3 on the agenda:

*Residents & Taxpayers, Ladies & Gentlemen:*

*Change is difficult but all change is not bad if one can understand the reasons behind it. The action we are taking this evening, in repealing the ordinance that created the Recreation Board, will change the way we approach recreation for the youth of New Stanton.*

*First, personally and on behalf of the Borough of New Stanton, I would like to thank all of those who have served on the Recreation Board and its many volunteers since its inception in 1972. Many young people have grown up with the New Stanton Recreation program and are better*

*people today because of it. We will be eliminating the positions on the Board but by no means are we dismissing volunteers as was stated in a recent Facebook post. Volunteers in a youth program are essential and the action we take tonight is by no means trying to discourage any resident or parent from participating.*

*Moving forward, we are advertising for a Recreation Administrator/Coordinator. This individual will be paid by New Stanton Borough and will ultimately be responsible for implementing the programs and policies as designated by Borough Council. The exact structure of the program will be a “work in progress” after the Administrator/Coordinator is hired. In the interim, Borough Council will administer the Recreation Program. We hope that current parents of youngsters in our program with the qualities, abilities, ambition and most importantly, time, apply for this position.*

*We encourage the parents of our youth to volunteer and help the Administrator/Coordinator move New Stanton Recreation forward. Active participation will help our youth enjoy baseball, softball and perhaps other sports like soccer. We will continue to seek ways to help the young people of New Stanton grow through participation in our Recreation program.*

*Please understand and work with Borough Council during this time of transition and a period of moving forward. We were elected to represent the interests of the residents and taxpayers plus be fiscally responsible with their tax dollars as paid to the Borough. Taxpayers deserve to get the most from their tax dollars & helping the youth of New Stanton is just one step as we move in a new direction with our Recreation program.*

*Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this time of change.*

**3. M/V to Adopt Ordinance 2017-260 to Repeal Ordinance 2003-200 that created the New Stanton Recreation Board**

Before the vote, the Mayor stated that the idea of abolishing the Recreation Board is a mistake. Council does not understand how much work is involved. He stated that it was a mistake to hire a professional person using taxpayers’ money to carry out the Recreation activities. The Mayor also mentioned all of the causes for which the Recreation Board has raised money.

***Bill Naylor, 217 Melrose Dr.***

Mr. Naylor asked to speak. Scott invited him to do so. Mr. Naylor stated that he read the article and started that he was appalled that council would consider getting rid of the Recreation Board.

Todd made a motion seconded by Dean to adopt Ordinance 2017-260 to repeal Ordinance 2003-200 that created the New Stanton Recreation Board. Motion passed 4 to 2 with Todd, Dean, Linda and Dean voting yes and Tom S. and Tom T. voting no.

***Alan Wagner***

Alan Wagner asked to make a comment. He mentioned that a lot of groups in the area are already offering soccer and also basketball. He stated that he highly doubted that the borough

could start such programs and be successful because of the competition. He thinks it is going to fail.

***Barbara Shipman***

Barbara Shipman stated that they haven't been able to find volunteers. She also questioned a paid staff person. She stated that some things need to evolve instead of change.

Scott thanked everyone for their comments.

**4. Discussion on New Stanton 2018 Meeting Calendar and to Advertise the Calendar**

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Tom T. to adopt the 2018 meeting calendar that was presented by Tom S. at the previous meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff pointed out that he found out subsequent to the last meeting that the Zoning Hearing Board meeting dates originally proposed will not work.

It was decided on a motion by Tom S. seconded by Todd to rescind this motion so as to have more time to clarify the dates. Motion passed unanimously. It was decided to resume the discussion later in the meeting.

**5. Discussion on Amendment to Ordinance allowing dogs in New Stanton Park**

Linda stated that she had a few concerns about the language in the draft ordinance and she encouraged council to review before moving ahead. Tom S. and Scott also felt that council needed to review the language.

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd tabling the adoption of the ordinance allowing dogs in New Stanton Park until a future meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Citizen of the Year**

Scott stated that he wanted to point out that the new borough building and the interchange would not have turned out the way that they did without Dean and he recommended that he be considered for the Citizen of the Year award. Dean thanked Scott for the consideration. Linda also recognized Dean's good work. She added that she would also like the borough to get into the cycle of recognizing its oldest citizens.

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda that Scott's nomination of Dean Clark be accepted as Citizen of the Year and that the borough also recognize Homer Myers and Alice Theis as the borough's oldest citizens. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Dean who abstained.

**Reports**

**Administrative**

**Borough Manager – Jeffrey McLaughlin**

Jeff stated that the PA Department of Labor and Industry recognized the borough's Safety Committee and as a result the borough will be receiving a 5% discount on its workmen's compensation premium. Jeff also stated that the borough's insurance agent has been able to secure us an additional 15% discount over the original renewal amount.

Jeff stated that he received 2 proposals for the property and casualty insurance for the borough and fire department – one from the borough's present agent Simpson-McCrary and a second from Century Insurance Consultants, Ltd. After going back and forth between the two to ensure an apples-to-apples comparison he suggested going with Century Insurance who came in at \$18,102 while Simpson-McCrary's quote was \$25,220.

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Linda to go with Century Insurance Consultants for the property, liability and automotive insurance at a premium of \$18,102. Motion passed unanimously.

Jeff stated that he, Emil and the public works crew will be meeting with PennDOT the next day regarding the traffic signals at Pennsylvania and Bair Boulevard. This would be the first step in the borough taking over the signals.

#### **PennDOT Project Liaison – Dean Clark**

Dean said that as part of the interchange project there are some borough signs that need reinstalled and PennDOT is seeking feedback from the borough as to where we want them. Discussion ensued. No decision was reached.

Dean stated that Fay is to be on the job through February and will be back in April. Retention pond fences are to be installed shortly. The guide rails that we requested are to be installed. The Rachel Drive punch list had 62 items that needed addressed as of the time of the first walk through. He stated that another walk through would be held in April. The park and ride lot will not be turned over to WCTA until entire job is complete.

Dean stated that he wanted to make some final comments. He stated that he was one of the original 8 members of the Recreation Board and served on the board for 23 and as a council member for 10 years. He stated that the borough is in better shape that it has ever been: the new interchange, and the possibility of new homes and a new gas station. He stated that almost every year there was money left over instead of needing money from the general fund to balance the budget. Public Works is in better shape now than it has ever been. He stated that the borough did not have to hire extra administrative help when Mary Ann left even though it was budgeted. The office and public works is head and shoulders above where it has ever been and that the employees deserve the raises that were included in the budget.

#### **Announcements**

Scott reminded council about the biennial reorganization meeting Tuesday, January 2, 2018, 7 PM.

#### **Borough Calendar**

Tom S. made a motion seconded by Tom T. to adopt the 2018 borough meeting calendar:

*Council meetings*

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, September 4<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The second and third meetings of each month will be held on an as-needed basis. All meetings shall begin at 7 PM.

*Planning Commission*

January 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, February 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and December 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The second meeting of each month will be held on as-needed basis. All meetings shall begin at 7 PM.

*Zoning Hearing Board*

January 17<sup>th</sup>, February 21<sup>st</sup>, March 21<sup>st</sup>, April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, September 19<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, November 21<sup>st</sup>, December 19<sup>th</sup>. All meetings shall begin at 7 PM.

*Budget Committee*

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>th</sup>. All meetings shall begin at 4:30 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.

Alan stated that they had some keys, letters and Nite at the Races tickets and ticket money to drop off. He stated that there are additional tickets still out. They placed the items on one of the council desks.

Janine Heatley asked about reading her letter. Scott said that he would make sure it was distributed to council.

Several council members made some year of the end comments.

**Adjournment**

Dean made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin  
Secretary