

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
New Stanton Council Chambers
October 4, 2022, 6 PM
Minutes of Public Hearing & Regular Council Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Alex Brown, Linda Echard (Via computer), George Miller, Ray Strosko, Tom Theis (Arrived at 6:07 PM), Edwina Zack and Mayor Tom Smith.

Also in attendance: Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Steve Eby and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin.

Call to Order

President Alex Brown called the regular October 4, 2022 council meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Prayer

Jeff recited a prayer.

Approval of Bills

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to approve the bills in the amount of \$38,153.59. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the September 6, 2022 Meeting

Edwina made a motion seconded by George to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Todd who abstained.

Tom T. arrived at meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- Items Not on the Agenda

David Hauger

Dave complimented the Public Works crew for pulling the weeds and sealcoating the median along N. Center Avenue. He said it is a huge improvement. He said that that Rob would like to meet to discuss LST expenditures. He also mentioned that he has heard of some chatter about the fire department fundraising capability. He said that if the fire department were to raise \$2,500 a month, which he said would be a significant amount of money for them to raise, it would take 91 years pay off a new fire station. If they needed to raise \$2 million, it would take 66 years and to raise \$1 million it would take 33 years. He stated that they can't raise the amount

of money needed with normal fundraising activities. Dave also pointed out that his wife is spearheading a coat drive. He asked Jeff if he could put the announcement on Savvy Citizen. Coats will be collected on Saturday, October 15th and 22nd and distributed on November 5th.

Richard Nedrow, 205 Florence Dr.

Mr. Nedrow stated that at the May meeting he attempted to find a solution to the noise level and at this meeting is acknowledging his failure to convince council to seek a solution. He also expressed mentioned that an e-mail he sent was not acknowledged.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

There were no comments on agenda items.

Agenda

1. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action on Requisition #2 in the Amount of \$86,746.50 for Pugliano Construction's Work on the Arona Road Bridge

George asked if this money would be paid out of the funding PennDOT earmarked for this project. Alex said it would. Jeff reported that he had reached out to the local PennDOT representative about any additional funding for the project. The PennDOT representative told Jeff that he has passed the request on to the Harrisburg office and is waiting for a response.

Ray made a motion seconded by Todd to pay Pugliano Construction \$86,746.50 out of the Arona Road Bridge Account for Requisition #2. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action on the Borough's Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plan for 2023 in the Amount of \$16,728.00

Jeff stated that this is the borough's pension obligation and it is brought to council on an annual basis for approval. He pointed out that the cost is partially borne by the state.

Jeff also reported that the auditor general's office recently completed the pension audit for 2017 through 2021. The management letter included a finding that the borough had amended the pension plan with a resolution as opposed to an ordinance. Alex said we could put a motion on the agenda for the next meeting to advertise the adoption of an ordinance.

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd approving the Borough's Minimum Municipal Obligation for the 2023 Pension Plan in the Amount of \$16,728.00. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action Adopting the Omnibus SunCap Resolution

George made a motion seconded by Todd to table the adoption of an Omnibus SunCap resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Amend the Zoning Map / Existing Code of Ordinances

Alex said that he reviewed the code ordinances and wrote down some proposed changes for review by the Administration Committee. He also said that the committee will review the zoning map as well. He said that at this point there is no need for action. He just wanted to give an update on the process.

A discussion about zoning uses and possible changes to the zoning map followed.

5. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action Paying for Borough Representatives to Attend the Blight Remediation Workshop

Jeff reported that the Blight Workshop is scheduled for Friday, October 14th. Tom S. and Jeff said that they planned on attending.

George made a motion seconded by Todd to pay for any interested staff member, council members or the mayor to attend the Blight Remediation Workshop. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Waive Building Permit Fees for CWCTC Building

Steve stated that the students are building an addition onto the school. Steve said that he would be willing to provide engineering services to the school. He also reported that Mike Stack said that he would waive his fee. There was a discussion on the merits of waiving the building permit fee.

George made a motion seconded by Ray to waive the building permit fees for CWCTC as described and overseen by the borough engineer. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Tom T. who voted *no*.

7. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Seek ARPA Funding from Westmoreland County

Jeff reported that the county is taking a survey to determine the need for water and sewer projects in the various municipalities in the County. The survey asks for a description of the project, cost, and if there are any matching funds.

George made a motion seconded by Edwina to submit to Westmoreland County for 50% of the funding for the MS4 streambank remediation project and the W. Post / W. Pennsylvania / Sewickley Street Storm Water Project with the borough paying the balance. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Seek DCNR Funding for the Park

Jeff reported that this grant is for communities that are less than 5,000 in population. Steve reported that DCNR would provide the first \$30,000 (i.e., \$20,000 for construction and \$10,000 for professional services) and then they would provide a 50% match for anything above the \$30,000, with the maximum grant request being \$110,000. Steve suggested adding a commercial kitchen addition to Pavilion B. He pointed out that the borough submitted a

\$215,000 grant back in May for an LSA grant to fund the kitchen as well as a splash pad and basketball backboards. Steve suggested submitting to the DCNR for those projects as well. Ray said a splash pad would generate a lot of interest and would have a great ripple effect, drawing people and increasing demand for the pavilions.

There was a discussion about accessing the borough's property across the creek from the park.

George made a motion seconded by Todd to adopt Resolution 2022-1006 to apply for a grant to DCNR for a kitchen to be added to pavilion B and for a splash pad to be installed. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Administrative

Planning Commission

No report.

Borough Manager

Jeff reported that:

- Jim Pillsbury from the Westmoreland Conservation District called a meeting with representatives from the SunCap warehouse project to make sure work was proceeding as necessary on the erosion and sediment control system. Jeff reported that he received a complaint about the contractor's start time, which under borough ordinance they are not to start before 6 AM. Jeff informed the contractor, who inquired about going to a 24-hour work schedule. Jeff informed them that they would need to request a zoning variance. He said that the contractor has closed Siebe Drive for the foreseeable future. Jeff also reported that he had recorded the project's Memorandum of Agreement.
- Jennifer Byrnes, the UPS Run/Walk Coordinator is considering a new route due to the SunCap warehouse project.
- Mark Cypher passed all of his pre-employment clearances and started on September 22, 2022. Jeff sent him information on four properties.
- He, Tom S., and John Barnes assessed the condition of the trees in the park and decided to get a certified arborist's opinion. Tom said it appears that there are approximately 180 trees and about 60 are in need of being cut down. A representative of Bartlett Tree Service has agreed to meet at the park on October 5th to give an initial no-cost assessment.
- He, Alex and Edwina attended the September 22nd Central Planning District held at the Youngwood Borough Building. The roles of different intergovernmental organizations were reviewed and the idea of municipalities participating in a new intergovernmental project, possibly having to do with recreation was discussed.

- He contacted PennDOT regarding possible additional funding for the Arona Road Bridge project. The local representative said that he is awaiting an answer from Harrisburg.
- He contacted the Armbrust Veterans who will perform color guard duties and play Taps at the Veterans Day event. Tamara Barbara Kamer has agreed to serve as the keynote speaker. Linda is lining up the music.
- Henninger Accounting Services submitted the 2021 audit to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and the borough is presently awaiting a copy.
- Anita provided the state auditors with the necessary information for them to perform the audit of the pension fund from 2018 through 2021.

Code Enforcement Report

Jeff reported that he contacted a property owner on Stan Avenue about an unregistered vehicle. The owner had the vehicle removed. The property owner submitted several possible violations.

Solicitor's Report

John reported that there was a total of 7 property assessment hearings, two of these appeals were with UPS. There was only one change, but it was not one of the UPS properties. Property owners have until September 15th to appeal.

John also mentioned the idea of passing an omnibus SunCap resolution that would be a comprehensive resolution tying up all of the previous resolutions.

Engineer's Report

Steve said that the time is coming when decisions will have to be made on which roads to pave next year. He said that in making any decisions the need to pave Arona Road should be kept in mind.

Fire Department Liaison

Ray pointed out in the fire department's financial report that the gas bill is \$737 for one month. in the NSVFD General Account is \$95,122.87

Council President

Alex reported that he will be meeting with the Administration Committee to discuss changes to the ordinances and zoning map. He also reported that he along with Edwina and Jeff attended the Central Westmoreland Planning District meeting where potential areas of intermunicipal cooperation were discussed, including the idea of joint recreation and/or a regional police force. Alex said there wasn't much interest in the regional police force. One issue is the massive cost. He said that unless the state starts charging a per capita tax for police coverage, municipalities would probably be unwilling to take this step. There was a discussion on regional policing.

Alex said that the other idea, to have communities work together on recreation and parks, seemed to have more interest.

Mayor

Tom S. said that the representative from Youngwood that he has been speaking to said that their Youngwood Recreation meets on October 6th and that he will follow up with her after that. Tom also reported that a homeless man has been roaming the business district and sleeping outside. Jeff said he received a complaint from a resident about the gentleman.

Administration

Alex said that he, George and Tom will be meeting to review the ordinances.

Public Works/MS4 & Parks

A written report by John Barnes was provided to council. Jeff reiterated what Dave Hauger has said earlier about the Public Works crew pulling the weeds and sealing the N. Center Avenue median island. This should help prolong its useful life.

Tom T. mentioned that the 2016 Ford F550 is still in need of an anti-pollution filter that is to cost \$6,000. Jeff reported that the truck only has 37,000 miles on it and that he contacted the dealer who in turn contacted Ford. They said that Ford would be willing pay 60% of the cost, which lowers the borough's cost to approximately \$2,500. However, the part is back ordered. Ray said the same thing will probably occur in a few years.

Tom mentioned that there are trucks parked on Byers Avenue waiting to pull into Sheetz and suggested that the traffic pattern on the Sheetz property be changed.

Community Betterment

Linda reported that the Holy Cross choir and music director will be attending the Veterans' Day event. She said that Anita would be taking care of the refreshments.

Workplace Safety Committee

Jeff reported that the committee met in September. The topic was Hunter Safety.

Tom S. stated that the insurance savings for having a Safety Committee is approximately \$1,500 a year, but the cost in man hours is approximately \$1,441 which leaves a cost savings of \$159 a year.

Jeff said that the committee participates in approved training videos from the PA Department of Labor and Industry. Edwina asked if the topics are relevant to what Public Works is doing. He said that they typically are, including: first aid, trips and falls, driving in inclement weather, etc. Tom T. said that previous public works crews did not attend Safety Committee meetings and the rate of injury was not any higher than it is now.

George asked if the percentage discount on the workmen's compensation insurance can be negotiated for having a Safety Committee. Jeff said it is possible although only one private company and the state provide workmen's compensation insurance to governments with fire departments.

George said it might be a good idea to put the fire department on a separate policy.

Personnel

Alex said that with the Budget Committee meetings taking place, the Personnel Committee will need to meet to discuss compensation.

Finance Report

Todd reviewed the financial report: as of September 27, 2022, there was a checking balance of \$926,467.96; the total of all savings accounts was \$1,397,245.10 and the taxes remitted from September 1, 2022 through September 27, 2022 was \$9,740.34.

Additional Opportunity for Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

Announcements

Alex said that the next council meeting has been advertised for October 18, 2022. It will be held if necessary. The November is scheduled for November 1, 2022 at 6 PM.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by George to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary