

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
New Stanton Council Chambers
February 7, 2023, 6 PM
Minutes of Council Meeting

Attendance

Councilmembers: Todd Bartlow, Alex Brown, George Miller, Ray Strosko, and Edwina Zack.
Mayor: Tom Smith. Absent: Linda Echard, and Tom Theis.

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 February 7, 2023 council meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Prayer

Jeff recited a prayer.

Approval of Bills in the Amount of \$42,358.14

Edwina made a motion seconded by Todd to approve the bills in the amount of \$42,358.14.
Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of the January 17, 2022 Meeting

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2022.
Motion passed unanimously.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

There were no public comments.

Agenda

- 1. Presentation by Brian Lawrence, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Westmoreland and Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action Regarding Joining the Westmoreland County Land Bank**

Brian Lawrence gave a presentation about the Redevelopment Authority and the land bank.

Ray made a motion seconded by Edwina to authorize signing an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement so as to join the Westmoreland County Land Bank including paying the one-time fee of \$5,000. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Opening of Arona Road Paving Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action Award Arona Road Paving Contract

Steve opened the bids for the paving of Arona Road:

Contractor	Base Bid	Alternate #1
A. Folino Construction, Inc.	\$139,618	\$3,040
Costabile Construction	\$165,331.70	\$5,840
Derry Construction	\$114,715	\$2,400
El Grande Industries	\$129,914.50	\$2,560
Morgan Excavating, LP	\$144,886	\$2,400
Redstone Excavating, LLC	\$119,583.20	\$2,800
Tresco Paving Corporation	\$113,542	\$1,760

Ray made a motion seconded by Edwina to award the Arona Road paving contract to Tresco Paving Corporation contingent upon review by Steve and John. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt a Lease with the New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for the 2001 KME Ladder Truck

Alex suggested that if council is in agreement, one motion could be considered for all 3 trucks.

Tom said that firefighter Brandon Todd has electronic copy of an older lease.

George made a motion seconded by Edwina to approve the leases with the New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for the 2001 KME ladder truck, 2008 KME pumper truck and the 2015 Ford KME brush truck provided that there is not a signed lease for any of the trucks that can be produced prior to the signing of the leases now being presented to council. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt a Lease with the New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for the 2008 KME Pumper Truck

See above.

5. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt a Lease with the New Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for the 2015 Ford KME Ladder Truck

See above.

6. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Ordinance 2023-275 Regarding the Borough Pension Plan

Alex said that this is to address the issue raised by the Auditor General requiring that an ordinance be used to make changes to the pension plan as opposed to a resolution.

George made a motion seconded by Todd Adopt Ordinance 2023-275 regarding the borough pension plan. Motion passed unanimously including Tom Smith as mayor who also voted *yes*.

7. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or And Official Action to Adopt Ordinance 2023-276 Amending Chapter 15-1003 Regarding Skates, Skateboards, Coasters, Sleds and other Toy Vehicles

Edwina made a motion seconded by George to adopt Ordinance 2023-276 amending chapter 15-1003 of the codification of ordinances regarding Rollerblading, Skateboarding and Riding on a Coaster. Motion passed unanimously including a *yes* vote by Tom Smith as mayor .

8. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Ordinance 2023-277 Repealing Chapter 6 Section 101-104 Conduct (101- Curfew Established; 102 Exceptions; 103 Parent Not to Permit Violation; and 104 Violations and Penalties)

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to adopt Ordinance 2023-277 regarding the repealing of Chapter 6 Section 101-104 Conduct (101- Curfew Established; 102 Exceptions; 103 Parent Not to Permit Violation; and 104 Violations and Penalties). Motion passed unanimously including a *yes* vote by Tom Smith as mayor.

9. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Ordinance 2023-278 Repealing Chapter 15-403, Parking Prohibited in Certain Locations and Certain Days and Hours in Trotwood Manor

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to adopt Ordinance 2023-278 repealing Chapter 15-403, Parking Prohibited in Certain Locations and Certain Days and Hours in Trotwood Manor. Motion passed unanimously including a *yes* vote by Tom Smith as mayor.

10. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or And Official Action to on the Mooney Settlement

John said that there had been a settlement drafted regarding the Mooney property assessment appeal back in April of 2022, but there was never a complete agreement. He said that there have been some recent e-mails to reach a resolution but nothing has been finalized. As presently constituted, the cost to the borough would be nominal, \$125.18 for 2022 and \$19.98 for 2021. Alex asked John if council could approve the agreement, and if there were changes it could be brought back to council for consideration. John said that would be fine.

George made a motion seconded by Todd to agree to the Mooney Settlement. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Alex who abstained due to his position as Chairman of the Westmoreland County Board of Assessment Appeals.

11. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to purchase a John Deere Gator HPX 815 E in the Amount of \$14,648.67 from Deere & Company through Middletown Tractor Sales

Alex said that the ATV was included in the 2023 budget.

Jeff said that this would be used at the park to drag the field and to do general maintenance, hauling trash from pavilions, etc. He said that the current ATV was purchased used several years ago and is having transmission issues.

The vehicle would be purchased from John Deere through Middletown Tractor in Uniontown. He said that he checked and that the vehicle, manufacturer and seller are all Co-Stars approved and would result in a 17% discount off the list price.

George suggested looking into a used piece of equipment. There was general agreement.

George made a motion seconded by Edwina to table the purchase of a John Deere Gator HPX 815 E. Motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Resolution 2023-1019 to Close and Reopen the Pavilion Security Account

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to adopt Resolution 2023-1019 to close and reopen the Pavilion Security Account so as to eliminate the similar account numbers with other borough accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Resolution 2023-1020 to Close and Reopen the Money Market Savings Account

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to adopt Resolution 2023-1020 to close and reopen the “Money Market” Savings Account so as to eliminate the similar account numbers with other borough accounts. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Adopt Res 2023-1021 to Appoint to the New Stanton Planning Commission

Jeff said that he received two applications to date and a third person has expressed interest. He suggested that the Personnel Committee meet to review the applications. Ray suggested inviting Jay Gomolak or another member of the Planning Commission to participate in the meeting.

George made a motion seconded by Todd to table Resolution 2023-1021 appointing a new Planning Commission member. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Waive the Charges for a Car Show to be Sponsored by the Westmoreland County Concussion Awareness Group

Tom pointed out that the *Rollin’ Oldies*, which had car shows at the park for several years never had their fee waived.

There was a discussion about where the vehicles would park. If the ground is wet the day of the event the cars may cause damage to the grass and ball field resulting in additional maintenance by the borough. It was also pointed out that the group is not headquartered in the borough and borough residents have to pay full price for the rental of pavilions.

George made a motion seconded by Edwina denying the Westmoreland County Concussion Awareness Groups request to waive the pavilion rental fee to hold a car show at the park. Motion passed unanimously.

16. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Donate to the Top Dog Therapy Team Fundraiser.

There was a discussion about the group not being located in the New Stanton. Todd pointed out that the group has brought dogs to the school.

George made a motion seconded by Ray to invite representative of Top Dog Therapy Team to the council meeting to talk about their organization and the fundraiser. Motion passed unanimously.

17. Discussion and/or Deliberation and/or Official Action to Take Out an Ad in the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association Dinner Program

There was a discussion about having the focus of the ad be about the park.

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to take out a half-page an ad in the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association Dinner program promoting the borough. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Administrative

Planning Commission

Jeff stated that there was no Planning Commission meeting since the last council meeting.

Borough Manager

Jeff reported that:

- The filter came in for John's Barnes Public Works' truck but while replacing it the dealer found some corroded wiring and a new wiring harness has to be installed.
- The new truck is supposed to be delivered within two weeks.
- There is a leak in the Public Works garage roof and it appears that the roofer that installed it is out of business.
- The Westmoreland Conservation District Roundtable will be held on February 24, 2023 from 11:30 – 3:30 PM.

- He received a couple of calls from people wanting to have chickens in their back yards. He said that he and John had been discussing the question. *Agricultural Operations* are listed as a permitted use only in the Residential Agricultural area.

John pointed out that there is an ordinance about noise created by birds and animals. The idea of having chickens in a neighborhood like Stanton Heights where the homes are relatively close to each other was expressed as a concern. Also the concern about the chickens getting loose was also expressed.

Alex said that it seems like this is an issue for the Zoning Hearing Board.

- That the New Stanton Technology Park would be interested in turning their portion of Siebe Drive over to the borough. There was a discussion about the merits of doing that.
- He will be contacting Hunker about an increase in the hourly rate for vehicles and borough employees to take care of Hunker public works issues.
- He received a quote to replace the heating units in the lunch room, office and storage room in the Public Works space and will get some additional prices for consideration.
- Ethic forms for 2022 are due on May 1, 2023.
- There was a discussion on parking on Stratford Ct.

Code Enforcement Report

Mark Cypher's monthly report was included in council's agenda packet.

Solicitor's Report

John mentioned that everything is being put into place for the ordinances to be considered at next month's meeting.

John mentioned that the fire truck warranty for the 2022 KME.

Engineer's Report

Steve stated that the West Penn Power poles are supposed to be moved on Glen Fox Road in the near future. He also mentioned that he talked to the developer about paving Glen Fox Road across the turnpike bridge from the project site.

There was a discussion about landscaping on the SunCap site.

Fire Department Liaison

Ray reported that the general fund and savings account balance is \$90,687.72.

Council President

Alex said that a Central Planning District meeting is scheduled for February 23rd to discuss possible joint cooperative efforts on recreation and blight. He said that it would be good to cooperate with other municipalities, but it would need to be a good fit for the borough.

Alex mentioned that he has heard that a developer is looking for 500 contiguous acres in Westmoreland County. He said that we would probably not have that type of space in the borough.

Mayor

Tom mentioned that Mark Staud from Triad Engineering which has its office on Center Avenue asked him if he could give a presentation to the borough. Alex suggested having him talk to Jeff.

He also reported on an incident that occurred at a local business which was witnessed by a state trooper who took immediate action.

Tom stated that at the fire department meeting the chief asked him if council would consider replacing the truck bays as opposed to the entire station.

Alex said that council would certainly be willing to hear from the fire department if they want to present a proposal.

Personnel

No report.

Public Works/MS4 & Parks

Jeff said that Steve is looking to reapply to the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a grant for the park. The application is not due until April so a resolution would have to be passed at the March meeting to submit the proposal. Jeff suggested that a site plan showing the proposed improvements be developed to strengthen the application. He said that the borough would incur engineering expenses for Steve to develop the plan. Council seemed to be in agreement. He also suggested a committee meet to discuss the proposal. George and Todd volunteered to serve.

Steve mentioned that he is working with UPS to get access to the stream that needs addressed as part of the borough's MS4 requirements. DEP is requiring a 70' right-of-way to access the stream.

Community Betterment

No report.

Workplace Safety Committee

Jeff reported that the committee met earlier in the day. The topic was kitchen safety. The next meeting is on ergonomics on March 7th.

Finance Report

Todd reviewed the financial report: as of January 31, 2023, there was a checking balance of \$963,795.43; the total of all savings accounts was \$752,651.46 and the taxes remitted from December 30, 2023 through January 31, 2023 was \$9,574.44.

Additional Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments.

Announcements

Alex reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule including the hearing at 5:30 before the council meeting on March 7, 2023.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by Edwina to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM. There were no objections.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary