

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at the Adamstown Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant, 235 E. Swartzville Road, Denver by Council President Randy Good.

Council Present: Randy Good, Dave Matz, Alex McManimen, Mark Bansner, Randell Weaver, deLyn Alumbaugh, Jerry Thomason

Visitors Present: Tom Shumaker, Tom Unger, Derek Miller, Melissa Wenzel-Miller, Daniel Wieder, Mike Burkholder, Steven Roth, Sandy Roth, Corgan Herbert, Mike Marti, Richie Deickhaus, Joe Dietrich, Deb Schmidt, Bill Bixler, Brenda Bixler, Michele Walter Fry

Others Present: John Schmidt, Mike Palm, Lisa Crouse, Sam Toffy

MINUTES: The minutes from the July 7th meeting were approved with a motion from d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and carried by a vote of 6-0-1 (A. McManimen abstained).

BILL LIST: Motioned by M. Bansner, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve all bills and receipts presented.

POLICE REPORT:

The July Police Report was read by Lt. Shumaker. He said that there will be an announcement for a new police chief in the next 3 weeks.

FIRE REPORT:

The July Fire Report was read by Chief Miller. There will be a chicken BBQ on September 26th beginning at 10AM until sold out.

VISITORS BUSINESS:

Joe Dietrich, Community Days Chairman – Mr. Dietrich addressed Council regarding moving forward with plans to hold the AppleUmpkin Fest in the grove on October 17th. Changes will be made to follow Covid protocol and social distancing such as not offering hayrides this year. Council had no objections to holding AppleUmpkin Fest this year.

Pam Young, Remax – Ms. Young’s client owns the property located at 10 S. Broad Street and is looking to sell that property. Several people have shown interest in the lot but were deterred because of the requirement of having to hook up to public water and sewer which is a Borough ordinance. Ms. Young addressed Council to see if anything could be done to allow the sale of the property for a potential buyer to stage equipment without the requirement to hook up to public water and sewer. R. Good said he does not support putting a building on the property without water and sewer. He said that she needs to go through the correct process by submitting a plan to the Planning Commission first.

SPECIAL TOPICS:

Recognition of Former Fire Chief Steve Roth – Mayor Schmidt presented former Fire Chief Steve Roth with a Resolution of Appreciation in recognition of his service and leadership to the Adamstown Fire Company as a volunteer for the past 16 years and Fire Chief from 2011 to 2019. He also presented Mr. Roth with a Certificate of Recognition from the House of Representatives, a Letter of Appreciation from the Pennsylvania Senate and a

thoughtful letter from Governor Wolf, all expressing their appreciation of the former Fire Chief's dedication over the years. Mayor Schmidt extended a genuine thank you to all of the volunteer fire fighters and their families.

Richard Diekhaus, Boy Scout Troop 4318 – Mr. Diekhaus addressed Council regarding a project he would like work on to earn his merit badge. He is proposing installing a concrete pathway from the small parking lot at the east end of the grove (near the playground equipment) over to the playground which would be handicap accessible so that those who use wheelchairs or walkers could be closer to the playground if they have children/grandchildren playing on the equipment. He said he saved up money and plans to pay for all of the materials for the project. M. Marti already discussed the project with Community Days Chairman Joe Dietrich and was told it would not interfere with that event.

Motioned by J. Thomason, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve the project at the grove as presented by Richard Diekhaus.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Billboard Sign Quote – M. Palm received several quotes to replace the damaged billboard sign at the entrance to the community pool, with the quote from Eckert Signs being the lowest at \$2,843.61. Public Works staff would provide and install the posts.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by J. Thomason and unanimously carried to approve the quote from Eckert Signs in the amount of \$2,843.61 to install a new sign at the entrance to the community pool.

Refrigerated Composite Sampler – M. Palm said there are three refrigerated composite samplers at the plant which are used to sample wastewater. One of the samplers is over 20 years old, is beginning to fail and should be replaced. A quote was received for a replacement one through CoStars at a cost of \$6,495.85.

Motioned by M. Bansner, seconded by R. Weaver and unanimously carried to approve the quote to replace the failing refrigerated composite sampler through CoStars at a cost of \$6,495.85.

Water Issue on Second Avenue – M. Palm said there is an excessive amount of water running out near Second Avenue and a leak detection company will be returning for a second time on Thursday to try to find the source of the water. Visitors to the meeting who live on Grant Road, Bill & Brenda Bixler, said that they have a toilet in their basement which backed up causing an overflow in their basement. M. Palm explained that due to the heavy rains recently, the sewer line backed up because it wasn't running into the interceptor line quickly enough. Because Grant Road is the lowest area, it resulted in the overflow of their toilet. A. McManimen suggested having the Water/Sewer Committee review this issue.

TREASURER:

School Reopening Meeting – L. Crouse said she will be meeting with the school tomorrow to go over the school's reopening plan. She requested that if anyone had any questions or concerns for the school, to please email them to her prior to the meeting.

2021 Budget – It's budget time so committees should begin to get together to review items they may want included in the budget for next year and get them to L. Crouse by the end of September at the latest.

FINANCE: None.

WATER/SEWER/MS4:

Water/Sewer Late Fees – D. Matz said that due to the Covid pandemic, Council waived late fees for the 1st quarter water/sewer bills. Since we are still experiencing economic uncertainties due to the pandemic, he is recommending that we again waive the one-time 10% late fee for the 2nd quarter bills that were just sent out.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to approve waiving the one-time 10% late fee on the 2nd quarter water/sewer bills.

Water/Sewer Delinquent Accounts – D. Matz said that we currently have approximately 28 properties whose water/sewer bills are over 180 days outstanding. Many of the delinquent accounts are repeat offenders who don't pay their bill until they receive a shutoff notice. Due to the pandemic, water cannot be turned off right now. D. Matz said that for the 1st quarter billing, the 1-1/2% monthly interest fee was waived, but he would like the monthly interest reinstated.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve reinstating the 1-1/2% interest fee on all balances over 30 days past due beginning September 2nd.

Rosemary Johnston Parcel – A motion was made at the July meeting to purchase the parcel of land currently owned by Rosemary Johnston with the condition that the Sales Agreement be reviewed by our Borough Solicitor. She reviewed the documents and is proposing some contingency changes be made prior to signing the contract. She also prepared Resolution #2020-04 authorizing the acquisition of land by condemnation or deed in lieu of condemnation which means that the buyer and seller will not have to pay real estate transfer tax on the parcel because it will not be developed.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution #2020-04.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by J. Thomason and unanimously carried to authorize the President of Borough Council to execute the Standard Agreement for the Sale of Vacant Land between the Borough and Rosemary Johnston to authorize acquisition of the property identified as Lancaster County Tax Account No. 010-07857-0-0000 for the purchase price of \$17,500 in the form presented to Council if the settlement date in Paragraph 4 and the date of acceptance by all parties in Paragraph 5 are revised to dates acceptable to the President of Council; the individual on-lot sewage disposal contingency in Paragraph 15 is indicated as being waived; and the contingencies in Paragraph 12 are indicated as waived or elected in accordance with the discussion of Council at this meeting.

COMMUNITY:

Bench Quote for Trail – d. Alumbaugh received several quotes on benches for the trail between Stoudtburg Village and the grove and would like to purchase the maintenance-free type that are in the grove.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by R. Weaver and unanimously carried to purchase two benches from Bowman's Stove & Patio at a cost of \$924.

Signs for Trail– d. Alumbaugh is requesting that the PW staff create wooden trail signs in-house to save on cost when time allows.

Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by R. Weaver and unanimously carried to have the PW staff create the wooden signs in-house.

SDE Zoning/UCC Fee Schedule – The Borough solicitor reviewed the proposed fee schedule and offered her comments. SDE was in agreement and made the appropriate revisions to their document.

Motioned by M. Bansner, seconded by R. Weaver and unanimously carried to adopt SDE’s amended 2020 Fee Schedule for UCC Enforcement, Zoning and Stormwater Fees.

A. McManimen said that our Borough fees haven’t been updated in many years so we should take a look at that. The Community Committee will review and report back to Council.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: None.

PERSONNEL: None.

RECREATION:

Trail Around Community Pool – R. Weaver said that there has been an ongoing issue with stormwater running across the trail north of the pool and running down into the pool, occasionally flooding it. A plan was drawn up by the borough engineer to repair the issue. The Committee is recommending using Leon Ray Martin Excavating, Inc. for labor and equipment at a cost of \$16,731 and M. Palm will purchase the materials from CoStars. Millings will be used on the trail instead of stone. R. Weaver said that the Community Committee was requesting millings be placed at the beginning of the trail near Stoudtburg Road. R. Good also suggested thinking about placing a split-rail fence at the beginning of the trail.

Motioned by R. Weaver, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve using Leon Ray Martin Excavating, Inc. for labor and equipment at a cost of \$16,731 and having M. Palm purchase the materials from CoStars.

Motioned by R. Weaver, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve also using millings at the beginning of the trail near Stoudtburg Road from the roadway into the grass area to help define the location of the trail.

FIRE/SAFETY:

Willow Street Speeding Complaints – Mayor Schmidt said he’s heard of a lot of complaints, particularly on social media, regarding speeding along Willow Street. The speed limit is posted as 35MPH. He discussed his concerns with Lt. Shumaker and a speed study was conducted in this area. Lt. Shumaker said that the study was done from 6/25 through 7/1, 24 hours/day. During that time 4,738 vehicles traveled this area of Willow Street. Of those 4,738 vehicles, there were a total of 52 vehicles in a citable range which is 1.1% of all vehicles that traveled Willow Street during the study. Speeding citations cannot be issued unless a vehicle is exceeding the speed limit by at least 10MPH.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pollinator Plots – J. Thomason said that they are moving forward with working on pollinator plots which will be no cost to the borough. Plots could be established along the trail. R. Good suggested the Community and Recreation committees work together to come up with a sketch and plans to be discussed at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential Office Upgrade or Relocation – With the library moving out of its current location soon, R. Good said he believes that the best thing for the borough long term would be to sell the existing building which would put it back on the tax rolls and bring more business to the area, and construct a new borough office behind the new library. He spoke with Library Board President Marge Herb who said they would be interested in working with the borough to either lease or subdivide a small portion of land for the new office building. R. Good is proposing that we build the Adamstown Borough community room at the new library which would be used by the Borough for its Council, Planning Commission and ZHB meetings, and when it's not being used by the Borough, the library would use it to hold programs, meetings or lease out. In addition to that, offices would be built for the secretary and treasurer, a storage area and a small conference room. He said that this could be done without a tax increase or a water/sewer increase and it would be maintenance-free for the next 30 to 40 years. A committee consisting of A. McManimen, as Chairman, Mark Bansner and deLyn Alumbaugh was appointed which will work with the library and Finance Committee, and report back to Council monthly.

Adjournment:

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by J. Thomason and unanimously carried to adjourn.
The meeting ended at 8:21PM.

Attested: _____
Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary