Adamstown Borough Council **August 5, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at the Adamstown Municipal Building, 3000 N. Reading Road, Adamstown by Council President Randy Good.

Council Present: Randy Good, Cindy Schweitzer, Dave Matz, Joe Dietrich, Ed Zander, David Gundrum

Visitors Present: Glenda Poole, Helen Shaak, Ray Burns, Donna Wetherhold, Mike Wetherhold, Bob Stork, Joe Hawley, Doug Coldren, Val Lacis, Michele Walter Fry, Ralph Vedder, Mark Schweitzer

Others Present: Dean Johnson, Mike Palm, Lisa Crouse, Sam Toffy

MINUTES: Minutes from the July 1, 2014 meeting were approved with a motion from D. Matz, seconded by J. Dietrich and unanimously carried.

BILL LIST: Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by E. Zander and unanimously carried to approve the bills and receipts presented.

POLICE and/or FIRE REPORT:

The July Police Report was read by Chief Beever.
The July Fire Report was included in the packets.

VISITORS BUSINESS:

Kent Lesher –Mr. Lesher, while not at the meeting, has expressed his dissatisfaction with the condition of the roadside base drain by his house on Stoudtburg Road after the recent paving. Mike Palm has been in contact with him and the concern is being referred to the Road Committee for review.

Mr. Lesher also has an ongoing issue with drainage in the rear of his properties at 57 & 59 W. Main Street since the sanitary sewer line was replaced. M. Palm has been working with Spencer Stober who has a storm sewer pipe on his property and will be doing grading and paving work. Mr. Stober has agreed to do the legwork necessary to potentially allow the excess storm water from Mr. Lesher's yard to drain into the existing storm pipe. This would avoid the need to install a seepage bed on Mr. Lesher's property.

Toni Mumma – Ms. Mumma approached Council regarding an increasing concern with dog attacks in the Borough. She said she is aware of at least 6 dog attacks in her area and has recently heard that it is happening in other areas of the Borough as well. She inquired if there are any ordinances or regulations in place to help avoid these situations from occurring. Chief Beever stated that if a dog is off of the property they must be under control, either by leash or by verbal command. If they are not, the owner can be cited under the State Dog Law. He explained that when the Police Department receives a complaint involving a dog, the owner is generally given a warning for the first incident and if it happens a second time, they are cited. Ms. Mumma was provided the contact information for the local Dog Warden Travis Hess, and combined efforts will be made between the Dog Warden and the Police Department to address the ongoing issues involving reported dog attacks.

SPECIAL TOPICS: None.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Stoudtburg Road Crosswalk – Stoudtburg Road paving is complete. The crosswalk should be painted 8/11, weather permitting. Line striping is being done throughout the entire Borough. The pavers leading up to the crosswalk area of Stoudtburg Road sit lower than the road and need to be brought up to grade with the road.

This area is in the right-of-way and is currently a tripping hazard. M. Palm suggested that Ed Stoudt and the Stoudtburg Village HOA be sent letters alerting them of what needs to be done. G. Poole asked if the Borough would take care of realigning the pavers; J. Dietrich agreed since the Borough created the hazard in repaving the road, but it would be a one-time only repair. C. Schweitzer was apprehensive, noting there is most likely documentation in the files stating Ed Stoudt, as the former owner of the Village, was responsible for any repairs to the paver crosswalk. R. Good suggested using monies left over from the Stoudtburg Road paving improvements to fund the project.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by J. Dietrich and carried by a vote of 5-1-0 to spend money left over from the Stoudtburg Road paving project to bring both sides of the road up to grade to avoid a tripping hazard. These improvements are to be done by the Borough one-time only. (C. Schweitzer opposed.)

Grove Tractor – M. Palm received a quote to trade both the grove tractor which has approximately four thousand hours logged, and the 1996 WWTP tractor, which is not being used anymore, for a new 1023 subcompact with a larger deck. It is a State contract and the price is $12,505.70. The tractor is more heavy duty and comes with a 3 point hitch. This is not a budgeted item. R. Good suggested taking monies from the leftover Stoudtburg Road project to pay for the new tractor.

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by D. Gundrum and unanimously carried to trade the grove tractor and WWTP tractor for the 1023 subcompact tractor with larger deck at a cost of $12,505.70.

Dump Truck Body – M. Palm received 3 quotes for a new dump truck body, the lowest from E.M. Kutz for a stainless body at $10,370. $8K has been budgeted, but the new truck was purchased for less than what was budgeted so those monies can be used towards the new body. Some maintenance work may have to be done on the truck frame prior to installing the new body.

Motioned by C. Schweitzer, seconded by E. Zander and unanimously carried to purchase the new stainless body for the truck from E.M. Kutz at a cost of $10,370.

SCADA – M. Palm is getting quotes to repair the SCADA system and will meet with the Water Committee to discuss.

FINANCE:

The Treasurer's Report was included in the packets.

WATER:

108 W. Main Street – The owner of the rental unit is asking for a waiver of late fees/penalties accrued because her tenant did not pay the quarterly bills on time. It was determined by Council that the owner is ultimately responsible to pay water/sewer bills and therefore declined a waiver for the late fees/penalties.

95 Willow Street – A payment plan was set up and has been honored, but the owner recently became ill and is unable to continue his payments at this time. He is asking Council if they would allow his payments to be put on hold until September when he begins collecting disability.

Motioned by E. Zander, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to allow payments to be put on hold until September, at which time they must be resumed.

151 Old School Lane (Apt. B) – There was a leak in the toilet and after the tenants discovered it and repaired it, their bill came back to normal. She is asking for a waiver of the overage amount.

209 E. Main Street – There was a leak in two toilets that was found and repaired and their bill is back to normal. She is asking for a waiver of the overage amount and late fees/penalties.

Council appointed L. Crouse and S. Toffy to come up with a standard policy for waiver requests and report back with their suggestions at the next meeting. Until then, 151 Old School Lane (Apt. B) and 209 E. Main Street will be tabled.

SEWER: None.

LIGHTS, PROPERTY AND PAVEMENT:

Following an informational meeting of the Council at the Community Pool, J. Dietrich contacted Bob Lynn to meet and present plans for the 2015 renovation project. The Rec Board will meet 8/7, at which time they will contact Joe with a scope of work.

Grills for Grove – J. Dietrich would like to purchase two grills for the grove at no cost to the Borough. The grills would be paid for from the Community Days funds if Borough personnel would install them. Renters must be made aware that they will be responsible for extinguishing them prior to leaving the park area. J. Dietrich would also like to build a quoit pit at the grove, also at no cost to the Borough.

Motioned by J. Dietrich, seconded by D. Gundrum and unanimously carried to allow two grills to be installed and a quoit pit, at no cost to the Borough, with the understanding that renters must be made aware that grills must be extinguished prior to leaving the park area.

Pavilion Benches – A resident who is required to perform community service has been repairing some picnic tables in the pavilion at the grove. He will also be staining all of the tables with stain he is providing at no cost to the Borough. A thank you letter will be sent.

ROADS AND BRIDGES: None.

PERSONNEL:

New Public Works Employee – After reviewing all of the resumes received and conducting interviews with six applicants, the Committee chose Roger R. Spitler for the position of Public Works Assistant Superintendent. His licensing and experience stood above the other applicants. His pay will be $27.00/hour and he will receive 3 weeks/year vacation which will be prorated for the remainder of this year, giving him 5 days vacation for the remainder of 2014.

Motioned by D. Gundrum, seconded by J. Dietrich and unanimously carried to hire Roger R. Spitler as Assistant Superintendent of the Public Works Department and that all of the particulars outlined in the offer letter be applied to his hiring. Hiring Mr. Spitler is contingent upon passing the criminal and drug screenings.

POLICE BOARD:

Council was provided with a draft agreement and startup costs for review and consideration. The Board will continue reviewing the documents and will provide updates as necessary. It was noted that startup costs would need to be budgeted in 2015 for a 1/1/2016 activation date for the regional police force.

FIRE/SAFETY: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1975 N. Reading Road – R. Good spoke with Mark Hiester who said they are moving forward to settlement and subdivision, and should settle by the end of August. At that time, each municipality should be able to contact the bank to either extend the loan or pay off their portion of the loan.

Stoudtburg Village, Phase 2 Letter of Credit – Josele Cleary needs to inform the Bank that Council has approved the reduction in the Letter of Credit that was issued to secure completion of improvements for Stoudtburg Village, Phase 2.

59 E. Main Street – The final settlement sheet was distributed to Council. The Borough received $76,126.61 for the sale of the 59 E. Main Street property. The auction bid was $82,000.

323 W. Main Street – Josele Cleary contacted Ms. Celentano's attorney by letter July 11th and to date has not received a response. Council discussed moving forward with filing the complaint against Ms. Celentano.

Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by E. Zander and unanimously carried to authorize Josele Cleary to move forward with filing the complaint against Ms. Celentano.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 Budget – R. Good asked Council to work on their numbers for the 2015 budget and get them to L. Crouse.

Soccer Shots Soccer Program – A request was received from Mark Laudenslager to run another soccer session this fall at Celebration Park. The duration would be for 11 weeks, one evening per week. Some of Council had mixed feelings due to lack of parking and restroom facilities.

Motioned by J. Dietrich, seconded by E. Zander and carried by a vote of 5-1-0 to allow Soccer Shots to hold a fall session in Celebration Park provided the necessary certificate of insurance is provided. (C. Schweitzer opposed.)

Gators Swim Team – The swim team won the County championship for the second year in a row. R. Good suggested recognizing their accomplishments with a sign or banner at the Community pool. M. Palm will check with Coach Kim Evans to see if she has any ideas in what they would like to see.

Congressman Joe Pitts – Our representative in Washington, D.C., Congressman Joe Pitts, will be visiting the Borough on August 22nd from 8:30AM to 10:15AM for a breakfast and a tour of the Borough. The main goal is to show Congressman Pitts what the Borough is attempting to do with the sewer trunk line from the Mad Hatter to the WWTP, along with the required permitting process.

Adjournment:

Motioned by E. Zander, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 8:23PM.

Attested: _____

Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary