

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes December 2, 2013

Present: Chris Strause, Jim Niethammer, Larry Hartman, John Mueller, Michelle Voydik, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Tom Harlan

Absent: Dennis Seldomridge

Chris Strause, Council President, called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chris asked if he could have a motion for the November Council Meeting Minutes to be approved. John Mueller made the motion; Larry Harman seconded it. Motion was carried with members voting yes.

President Strause submitted a document from the Court of Common Pleas appointing Gary Moyer to finish Owen Landes' term vacated by his resignation. Gary was then sworn in by Mayor Ray Shanaman and sat at the council table to participate in the meeting.

Citizen's Comments:

Dominic Mulhern asked if the borough contacted the state regarding the sinkhole in front of his house. Dwight Belleman stated he contacted the state and it is out of our hands, however he would contact the state again. Michelle Voydik stated there is another sinkhole in front of the apartment house at 32 North Race Street.

Nancy Wenger questioned why we don't have a handicap entrance to the borough building to allow our handicapped citizens to attend our meetings.

Jay Wenger reported the Millcreek Richland Joint Sewer Authority approved their budget of \$1,075,000.00 this week. There will be no rate change for 2014.

Bevan Allen reported she received the borough's lawsuit and the borough will be hearing from them. She then asked if she could have a goat. Tom Harlan, Borough Solicitor, advised her she would have to take that question up with the Lebanon County Planning and Zoning.

Communications:

We received a letter from the PA State Police stating the borough will be receiving a check for \$352.17 for fines imposed.

Amy, from the Lebanon Refuse Authority, sent the borough a letter regarding the recycling of Christmas Trees. We are to notify her, in writing, if we will be participating in their program.

President Strause instructed Perri to write Amy a letter stating the borough recycles its Christmas trees through our contracted hauler, Lebanon Farms Disposal.

The borough received a letter from Chuck Johnson, a Church Street resident, regarding the property at 200 Church Street falling in disrepair. President Strause stated he will have Randy Mauer check into the situation.

President Strause asked for a motion to accept and pay the invoices submitted. Jim Niethammer made the motion; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was carried with council members voting yes.

Committee Reports:

Water – will report under new business

Highway – nothing

Finance – nothing

Safety – nothing

Office – Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the Office Report submitted by Perri; John Mueller seconded the motion. Motion was carried with members voting yes.

Solicitor's Report – Tom Harlan stated he worked on the council appointment and advised Perri on some issues

Old Business

Chris Strause reported he and Perri met with Steve Goodhue, of Edward Jones, last week regarding the Uniformed and Non-Uniformed Pensions. Steve will be requesting quotes from three different companies regarding the costs to manage these two pension funds. R J Hall is presently charging the funds a total of \$23,750 a year to manage and, therefore, the funds are not growing.

President Strause read the Recycling Report which Perri prepared. Discussion followed with suggestions from Sally Schaeffer and Carol Behney on moving forward with the recycling. Perri is to check with the Lebanon Board of Elections on how to have a question put on the ballot next spring.

New Business

Chris Strause did the Final Reading of the Budget.

- Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the **General Funds Budget Amount of \$549,487.00**; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all members voting yes.
- Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the **Water Budget Amount of \$179,300.00**; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.
- Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the **Highway Account Budget of \$130,758.82**; John Mueller. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.
- The **total budget** passed for the 2014 year is **\$859,545.82**
- Larry Harman made a motion for the **Act 511 taxes** to be **\$5.00 per capita**; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.
- Jim Niethammer made a motion to have **1% Earned Income Tax**; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.
- Jim Niethammer made a motion to have **1% Realty Transfer Tax**; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.
- Larry Hartman made a motion to have **\$52.00 as LST**; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.
- Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept **Ordinance #374 with a Tax Rate of 1.89 mills**; John Mueller seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.
- The **2014 Meeting Dates** published are: Jan 6, Feb 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept ;2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2, 7:00 P.M.
- The **2014 Planning Workshop** dates published are: Third Tuesday of each month, January through December, 7:00 P.M. as needed.

Jan Klaus' term is up, on the Millcreek Richland Joint Sewer Authority Board, Dec 31 but he has agreed to go on for another 5 year term. Gary Moyer made a motion for Jan Klaus to be on the MRJSA for another 5 year term; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

Chris Strause reported some of the members of the Borough Council had a meeting with H A Thompson regarding the Workmen's Comp Insurance. Chris would like permission for Zinn's Insurance, in Myerstown, to review our needs and provide us with a quote for both liability and auto insurance. He feels local representation would be better for the borough, as well as more economical. Larry Hartman made the motion for Zinn's Insurance to review our needs and give us a quote; Jim Niethammer seconded it. The motion was carried with all members voting yes.

The Water Committee met with Steckbeck Engineering and, because of recent upgrades to our water system, Steckbeck recommended increasing our tapping fee from \$3996.00 to \$5800.00. Gary Moyer made a motion for the Richland Borough to increase the tapping fee from \$3996.00

to \$5800.00; John Mueller seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Because we only received one quote for our annual audit, the council decided to table their decision until next month, with the hopes we will receive another quotation for comparison.

The Zoning Hearing Board will meet in the Richland Borough Hall on Monday, December 9 at 7:00 P.M. The property at 9 South Race Street is applying for a variance to erect a 32'X28' detached garage on the property.

Dwight Belleman announced the last day for leaf collection would be the following day – Wednesday, Dec. 4.

The Borough Council then went into an Executive Session and no notes were taken.

At 7:50 PM council came out of Executive Session and proceeded with the meeting.

We received a request from the County Commissioners for funds to be used towards their Central Booking System presently located at the Lebanon County Courthouse. The county is short on funding for this program and is asking all the municipalities, in the county, to contribute towards this program. The Central Booking System enables police officers to turn over the custody of their defendants and return to their shift; the process is streamlined with pre-scheduled arraignment times and booking procedures are standardized; results are a more efficient and effective criminal justice system. The council decided they would investigate this request further before deciding how they want to handle the request.

The Planning Module has been approved for Richland View per the Lebanon County Planning Department.

Chris Strause reminded the council that the next Borough Council Meeting will be held as a Reorganizational Meeting Monday, January 6, 2014.

Michelle Voydik asked if she could speak and proceeded to read a letter to the Borough Council and the citizens of the community because it was her last meeting as a Borough Council Member.

Jim Niethammer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Respectfully Submitted by

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary

