

**RICHLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2014**

**Present:** Chris Strause, Jim Niethammer, Dennis Seldomridge, Gary Moyer, Travis Randler, Mayor Ray Shanaman

**Absent:** Larry Hartman, John Mueller, Solicitor Tom Harlan

President Chris Strause called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chris Strause had one correction to last month's minutes – to change one word from "parts" to "parks". Travis made a motion to accept the minutes with the one correction; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion carried with all members voting yes.

**Citizen's Comments:**

Michele Voydik notified the council that the benches in the Playground Bldg are bad. Can they be repaired or replaced? Dwight will look at them.

**Communications:**

Jackson Township is looking for an alternate to the TCC.

ELCO Youth Baseball is asking the Borough Council to purchase Diamond-Tex and also permission to place signs on the fence at the baseball field regarding sportsmanship.

The Neptune Fire Company is having its annual fund drive

Amerihealth sent us a CD on Safety.

Dennis Seldomridge made a motion to pay the invoices submitted for payment; Gary Moyer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

**Committees:**

Water Committee – need to meet with Steckbeck Engineering. Steckbeck Engineering and Tom Harlan are working on it and then the water committee needs to meet with them.

Highway Committee – Dwight Belleman reported we will be accepting bids to pave Walnut Street. There will be a new base provided in Hart Beaver's property area followed by repaving to the end of Walnut Street. Bids will go out in April; awarded in May with the project to be finished in July. Approximate cost should be around \$80,000.

Property Committee – nothing

Finance Committee – nothing

Safety Committee – nothing

**Road Supervisors Report:**

Gary Moyer made a motion to accept the Road Supervisor's Report; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion; motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Chris Good reported the alley behind his place is bad and crumbling in front of the road to the cemetery. Dwight will look at it.

**Office Report:**

Travis Randler made a motion to accept the Office Report; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Engineering Report – none

Code Enforcement Report – hard copy was submitted to the Borough Council in the absence of our Code Enforcement Officer.

**Old Business:**

Chris Strause asked the Rec Bd for an Officer's List that was requested in the January, February and March meetings. He also stated there are two background checks that MUST be performed on all future playground employees. (Bevan Allen left the meeting and came back with an officer's list.)

We approved payment to the present company handling the pension, the Principal Group, through the end of June only. We are hoping to change companies after we do further research on management and fees.

Supplying Diamond Tex for the ELCO Youth Baseball Team was discussed. Gary Moyer suggested Martin's west of Boyertown. Jim Niethammer made a motion to purchase Diamond-Tex for the ELCO Youth Baseball Team; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried by all members voting yes.

**New Business:**

The issuance of future Peddler's Licenses was discussed. The council would like to get rid of the ordinance for peddling in Richland due to allowing potential criminals to solicit our residents, even with the background checks. Need to discuss procedure further with Tom Harlan.

The purchase of a new small dump truck, to replace the old 1996 International, was discussed. We don't have to put it out on bids because it can be purchased through Co-Stars. If we order it now we can have it by Aug 31 or they pay a penalty of \$100/day until it is delivered. We presently have information on a \$128,000 purchase lease for 5 years at \$28,000 per year. Travis

Randler made a motion to purchase the new dump truck; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Dwight stated he would like to get rid of the old dump truck right away. Jim Niethammer made a motion to put the 1996 International Dump Truck out on a sealed bid with the option to refuse any or all bids or proposal and accept the bid of proposal which, in the judgment of the Borough Council, best serves its purpose; Gary Moyer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes. Perri and Dwight will work on the financing paperwork for the purchase of the new truck.

Insurance quotes were discussed. We currently have our insurance with H A Thomson and we have a second bid from Zinn Insurance. H A Thomson came in \$1600 cheaper; however, they don't have umbrella coverage included and Zinn does. Also, Zinn stated they can give us a cheaper quote if we change our deductibles. The Workman's Comp is the same – it doubled this year because of the mandated fire company coverage for cancer. Zinn's also suggested we have our buildings and properties appraised by an industrial appraiser because presently we are "guessing" the value of said items and we could come short in the event of a loss or we could be over insuring needlessly. An Industrial Appraisal would cost \$2925 but Zinn feels it is well worth it. After further discussion Dennis Seldomridge made a motion to go with Zinn's Insurance for our insurance needs; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes. Gary Moyer made a motion to go with the Industrial Appraiser for \$2925; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion; motion was carried by all members voting yes.

We have received a "Preliminary" Audit Report from Garcia, Garman and Shea. The recommendations attached to the report are much better than last year and the council feels we are making progress going forward.

President Strause asked for a motion to approve Resolution #263 to pave Walnut Street and put the project out for bids, which includes an escalator clause for bituminous material to be included as part of the proposal. Gary Moyer made a motion for the sealed bids to be advertised to pave Walnut Street with the Borough reserving the right to reject any or all bids or proposals and accept the bid of proposal which, in the judgment of the Borough Council, best serves its purpose; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes. Dennis Seldomridge made a motion to pass Resolution #263 to pave Walnut Street; Gary Moyer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

The Borough must apply for a Building Permit to place the 12X16 shed the Rec Board had donated to them. The value is \$3800. Dwight will take care of obtaining the building permit and determining where we are allowed to place it.

Street Sweeping will begin May 12 and May 13. This is the earliest date we could schedule it to be done.

Dwight reports there are cars parked illegally in alleys. Certain Borough Council Members, as well as the Mayor, have asked the owners to move them. Do we send a letter to the owner? It was suggested we have Tom Harlan send a letter to the owner on behalf of the borough council.

The Zoning Board is having a hearing at the Borough Hall Tuesday evening, April 15. Titus Nolt is asking for a variance to build on to his existing barn.

There was a building permit issued to the Christian Home on Race Street for an addition to their sun room.

Jim Niethammer made a motion to adjourn; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion; motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Respectfully submitted by,

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary