

August 6, 2013

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes

The August meeting was opened by President Owen Landes and a moment of silence was given in memory of the 3 who died as a result of a shooting in the municipal building in Monroe County. The pledge to the flag was said.

Call to order: Motion was made to appoint Shirley Landes as acting secretary. Motion made by Larry Hartman and seconded by Jim Niethammer. Motion approved.

Motion to accept July minutes made by Chris Strause and seconded by Dennis Seldomridge, motion approved.

Motion to accept Road Supervisor's Report by Larry Hartman and seconded by JHohn Mueller, motion approved.

Josh Webber, Project Manager, spoke representing Steckbeck Engineering concerning the Richland View subdivision for Mr. Weaver. Borough would take over the road upon completion of the project. Motion to approve the right of way for borough road, motion to approve made by Chris Strause and seconded by Larry Hartman. Additional motion was made to amend Act 537. Resolution #257 was enacted to amend the sewage planning module. Motion given by Chris Strause, seconded by Dennis Seldomridge, motions approved.

Following people addressed council: Colleen Marks read a letter from Matthew Marks addressing the curb and sidewalk issue of N. Race St. Matthew volunteered, after speaking with Owen, to be the spokesperson for the N. Race St. group.

Owen spoke and said there was not a definite date for this work to be done. If funds are available, the state expects to do the work in Spring/Summer of 2014.

Sue Rohr spoke on her water pressure being terribly low and questioned the cause. She was informed, by Dwight, that she is the high point of the town and most likely the community pool was filling at the same time she was trying to obtain water. She also discussed a smell of her water and Dwight told her that cause was most likely her washer. Other residents questioned water pressure at different locations. Jim Niethammer said the most likely problem was due to the filling of the water tank and the system being outdated. Chris Strause suggested having a water committee meeting to discuss the problem and possible solution.

Bevan Allen spoke on behalf of the Recreation Board asking the Borough if there was any place that they could store equipment. Borough employees are checking feasibility.

Holly Mulhern brought up a question in reference to what she considered to be a dangerous intersection. The location was New St and Filbert Alley. She asked if stop signs could be erected at the intersection. Dwight discussed the cost involved. Highway Dept is going to study other similar locations and try to decide on the best possible course of action. They will report outcome at borough council.

Andrew Kriss questioned the legality of certain signage placed at various locations throughout the community. Vincent Achey answered and said that he personally purchased the signs in question and each property owner was asked whether they would like to place a sign on their property. Mr. Kriss was instructed by Attorney Harlan to contact Lebanon County Planning and Zoning as to the legality of the signs.

Michael Long questioned the North Race Street work to be done by PennDOT. His concern was when will he have to take care of his pavement and curbing? As of this date he expressed that he does not have line and grade for the curb and sidewalk. Chris Strause spoke and told him the State is not too cooperative in giving information ahead of time. Attorney Harlan said to speak to Jeff Steckbeck at Steckbeck Engineering. Owen read his letters from Rose Marie Swonger of April 5 and April 10. No one, including PennDOT, has given us definite dates. A letter to each resident of North Race St will be forthcoming to notify each property owner of the improvements that must be done to their curb and sidewalk prior to the start of PennDOT's work. A motion was made by Jim Niethammer and seconded by Larry Hartman to send each property owner a letter.

Justin Rohr presented borough with a proposal to deal with the building on his property that was not acceptable to code. Proposal was given to Doug Stump who, in turn, will be in touch with the Rohr's.

Sarah Rohr voiced her opinion of the time frame given to them in the letter they received from Randy Maurer. She was informed by Owen Landes that her handing in her proposal to Doug Stump showed good faith in trying to solve the problem. She also questioned what would be the cost of Richland moving back to having our own police force. Jim Niethammer responded with calculations that amounted to more than \$100,000, just to have one officer on duty of only 40 hrs per week.

Chris Good asked what we are doing for recycling and he wanted us to know that he is NOT in favor of having recycling. In addition he and several other property owners of North Race Street questioned whether they would be able to use brick to replace their sidewalk? Dwight Belleman said that Lititz puts concrete down and puts the brick on top of that. John Johnson also noted that 2 properties on South Race Street, which had PERFECT brick pavements, were required to replace them with concrete pavements. Borough Council will discuss the options.

Water Committee will schedule a meeting with Jeff Steckbeck.

Hi-Way Committee: North Park was tarred and chipped

Property Committee: No report

Finance Committee: No report

Code Enforcement Report: Doug Stump presented council with a written report

Communications: Owen read the letter from Meretta Marks concerning the property at 213 E Main and its appearance. Doug Stump will look into the situation.

Borough of Womelsdorf requested borough council to allow Richland Fire Police to add support at two functions. Borough granted permission to the Fire Police if they can arrange it in their schedule.

Jim Cooper asked to use the field adjacent to the Borough building for a sale of household contents. Borough, rather than establishing a precedent, decided that it was best not to allow him to use the field for the sale.

Patti Fernsler said she is IN FAVOR of curbside recycling.

Lebanon County Planning submitted copies of letters sent to two property owners on North Race Street informing them that their chickens must be removed.

Submitted notice to the Post Office that eliminated the fee for the Post Office Box.

COUNCIL ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION (Secretary not present) – Discussion centered on resignation of borough secretary/treasurer, hiring a new secretary, work schedules, hourly rates and benefits, hiring an accounting firm for payroll and other duties, opening dialogue with Jim Harter in reference to training new office personnel, reviewed accounts payable.

Council ended executive session and reconvened August meeting.

Motion made to improve additional lighting in garage and work area. Motion was made by Jim Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman.

Three signatures submitted to Jonestown bank – Owen Landes, Chris Strause and Dennis Seldomridge.

Council looked at all bills they have received as of August 6, 2013. Council approved the payment of all these invoices. Motion was made by Chris Strause and seconded by Larry Hartman.

Gift and Associates Accounting firm has been chosen by council to take care of payroll and check writing. Motion was made by Chris Strause and seconded by Jim Niethammer.

Owen was given permission by

Attorney Harlan to handwrite checks until such time as the accounting firm can take over.

At a sheriff's sale a car was purchased for \$10.00. It was the only item posted. Dwight Belleman, acting on behalf of the borough, paid the \$10.00 for the car. Borough does not want the vehicle and has offered it to Dwight for the \$10.00 fee. Dwight will remove the vehicle, dismantle parts and sell them at his discretion. Motion was made in agreement of this by Larry Hartman and seconded by Dennis Seldomridge.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Niethammer and seconded by Larry Hartman.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Landes, acting secretary