

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2014

Present: Chris Strause, Dennis Seldomridge, John Mueller, Travis Randler, Larry Hartman, Gary Moyer, Jim Niethammer, Solicitor Tom Harlan, Mayor Ray Shanaman

The 2014 Borough Council Reorganizational Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ray Shanaman who led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Ray Shanaman then swore in Chris Strause, Dennis Seldomridge, Jim Niethammer, John Mueller and Travis Randler.

Jim Niethammer nominated Chris Strause as President of Borough Council; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Larry Hartman nominated Dennis Seldomridge as Vice President; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Chris Strause asked for a motion to approve the December Meeting Minutes. Dennis Seldomridge made the motion; John Mueller seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

The Borough Council discussed the quotes submitted by two auditing firms, Stanilla, Siegel and Maser LLC and also Garcia, Garman and Shea, PC. Stanilla's quote was for \$6250.00; Garcia's quote was for \$5600.00. Larry Hartman made a motion to award the audit to Garcia, Garman and Shea; John Mueller seconded the motion. The motion was passed with all members voting yes.

President Chris Strause then presented council with the new committees:

Water: Chairman – Jim Niethammer; members Dennis Seldomridge and Chris Strause

Highway – Chairman – Larry Hartman; members John Mueller and Gary Moyer

Public Safety – Chairman – Dennis Seldomridge; members Jim Niethammer and Travis Randler

Finance – Chairman – Jim Niethammer; all council members are on this committee

Recreation – all council members are on this committee

Communications

We received a letter from Lebanon Planning and Zoning regarding Park and Recreation requirements. \$2000 must be used by 9/2/14.

The Zoning Board approved the variance for a building to be constructed on the property at 9 South Race Street

We received correspondence from WorkNet regarding updates and the fact that Dwight and John are eligible for random drug testing.

Comcast sent the Borough notification that their rates are going up.

The Greater Lebanon Refuse sent us notification they have raised their fees to \$30 for attending a meeting

Farmland Preservation Trust sent us a note of thanks for participating in their program in the past

The state sent the borough a list of Police Academy graduates from HACC who would be eligible for municipality employment

The library sent the borough a request for a donation towards their summer reading program

We are in need of a new Zoning Board Solicitor as the former one resigned. We are going to contact John Enck and also Reilly, Wolfson to inquire if any of them are interested in becoming our Zoning Board Solicitor. Perri will contact them.

A copy of the Christmas Tree Pickup Notification, which appeared in the Lebanon Daily News, was presented

Finance Report

Jim Niethammer approved the invoices presented to the council for payment. John Mueller made a motion to pay the invoices; Travis Randler seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all members voting yes.

The report from Gift Associates was reviewed and discussed.

The Recycling Program was discussed. Should registered voters make the decision to be charged extra each year to cover the costs of recycling? Tom Harlan said it is rare for a municipality to have a question, such as whether or not to mandate recycling in the community, appear on a ballot. Larry Hartman suggested a letter be sent out to all the residents asking for feedback or a vote on the recycling; John Mueller asked if we could hold a public meeting on the subject. Discussion followed on the suggestions but no final decision was made.

Chris Strause informed the group that he, Perri and some of the other council members had met with Jonathan Zinn of Zinn Insurance to obtain a quote from them for our liability and workmen's comp needs. He and his team will work with Perri, Dwight and John to determine what is needed for the borough and provide us with a quote.

Designing our long overdue website was discussed. Perri reported she had contacted the principal at ELCO High School to inquire if they have any students who might be interested in designing our website. The principal did some research and found a student in the Website Design Class, Wade Mauger, who is very interested. He will meet with Perri and some members

of council, in the near future, to discuss the needs of the website and to determine if he is able to provide us with what we need.

Public Safety

Dennis Seldomridge reported on the request we received for funds to be given towards the new Central Booking System, at the courthouse. He spoke to Mark Tice and Mark explained to him that the Central Booking System is working well for the troopers/police to bring their offenders to a central area and leave them for booking, versus having to find a District Magistrate after hours. The central booking area allows the police to come into the area, take care of business and get back on duty for other calls. Dennis explained the funds don't cover all the costs of the operation so they are asking for a % from each municipality. Because Richland's crime rate isn't high, Dennis feels the % they ask of us will not be high. It was stated contributing to this system is far less expensive than having our own police department.

Highway

Dwight Belleman reported our seasonal employees, used for assistance in leaf pickup and snow plowing, are presently receiving \$10 per hour. He feels, once taxes are taken off, this is not sufficient for the labor they are performing.

Dwight also reported the Borough needs a Fee Schedule for when the employees are called out because of an accident, etc. in order to bill the responsible parties.

Dwight asked for a motion to approve the following for the snow plow driver list: Dwight Belleman, John Johnson, Henry Eberly, Matt Johnson, Mike Belleman, Larry Hartman, Dennis Seldomridge, Ed Daub, Travis Randler; Back Hoe Operators: Larry Hartman, Ron Johnson, Justin Yeiser. Jim Neihammer made the motion to accept the above listed personnel as snow plow drivers and back hoe operators; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all members voting yes.

Dwight also reported the generator at the reservoir needs serviced. He received two quotes:

- 1) Winters - \$1250.00
- 2) Power - \$750.00

Discussion followed – it was decided we will have it serviced this year and load banked next year.

Dwight reported there is an issue with residents parking in the alleys during snowfalls.

The Council decided we should send a certified letter to those residents parking in the alleys, or anywhere not allowed during snowfalls and clean-up.

There are 23 homes that have NOT installed the Back Flow Valve. Discussion followed to determine how to handle these residents. The Water Committee will meet in the near future to come up with a plan of action.

New Business

The Council would like to appoint Jeff Arnold as our Code Enforcement and Ordinance Officer at a wage of \$14.00/hour. Solicitor Tom Harlan will prepare an Ordinance naming Jeff Arnold as the Code Enforcement and Ordinance Officer for Richland Borough.

Dennis Seldomridge made a motion to appoint Kevin Yeiser to our Zone Hearing Board; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all members voting yes.

Larry Hartman made a motion to appoint Dan Auman as an Alternate to the Zone Hearing Board; John Mueller seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all members voting yes. This alternate position is to fill the vacancy left by Evan Saylor moving out of town.

Gary Moyer made a motion to have Doug Good serve as Chairman of the Vacancy Board; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Larry Hartman made a motion to give \$2000 to the Richland Library; John Mueller seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Dan Auman stated the road crew did a great job during the recent snow storms.

The Borough Council then went into Executive Session. When they came out of executive session, the following took place:

Larry Hartman made a motion to pay seasonal employees \$14.00/hour retroactive back to Jan 1; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Dennis Seldomridge made a motion to give the two full time Borough employees, Dwight Belleman and John Johnson, a 3% raise retroactive back to Jan. 1; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Jim Neithammer made a motion to give the Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman, 2 wks paid vacation – 20 hrs per wk, since she cannot make a higher salary due to collecting Social Security. Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Chris Strause informed the council that he has asked Max Bender to give us a quote on a camera surveillance system to be installed at the Borough Office.

Jim Neithammer made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned; Gary Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Perri Shanaman

Richland Borough Secretary

