

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes

November 3, 2015

(Recording B 02)

Present: Dennis Seldomridge, Jim Niethammer, Matt Johnson, Larry Hartman, Travis Randler, Solicitor Tom Harlan, Mayor Ray Shanaman

Absent: John Mueller, Dan Auman

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

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to approve the October 6, 2015 Borough Council Meeting Minutes, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman. Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the minutes; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present voting yes.

Citizens Comments:

Michelle Voydik asked the council if 2 Visually Impaired Signs could be erected for the two visually impaired citizens in town. One citizen lives on North Race Street and crosses Main Street to walk to the post office; the other lives on the corner of Church St and S Race Street and also walks to the post office. Signs would be needed where these two citizens cross. After discussion Dwight Belleman stated he would look into getting signs for the two visually impaired citizens' crossings.

Larry Simmon, of the Richland Fire Police, stated he received a request from the Ft Zeller School to provide fire police coverage to park cars at the school during an event on November 11. He stated he explained to the school they need to go through Borough Council to obtain permission. After discussion, Borough Council gave permission to the Fire Police to park cars at the school contingent on receiving a written request from Ft. Zeller School. President Seldomridge also mentioned the council had received a request from the Myerstown Borough for Richland Fire Police coverage for their Holiday Parade November 28. The council granted Myerstown's request for Richland Fire Police coverage for their Holiday Parade November 28.

Gary Althouse, Sr., of the Richland Heritage Society, asked permission to explore rebuilding the train station where the old station used to be. He was informed the Railroad owns a right of way 50 feet from the center of the tracks. Mr. Althouse also stated the Heritage Society would be holding an Open House on November 21 at the Neptune Fire Company at 12:00 Noon. Lebanon Levi will be present for a book signing and there will be an antique appraiser there. He asked, again, for permission from the borough to move forward with the exploration of rebuilding the train station, even if it would be a caboose situated where the old station existed. Borough Council gave him permission to explore the rebuilding of the train station.

Shirley Weinhold, of the Neptune Fire Company, wanted to clarify a statement that was made in the Lebanon Daily News at the October Borough Council Meeting. It was stated that 1200 letters were sent out, by the fire company, to property owners when they were, in fact, sent to every resident of the borough. She verified out of the 1200 letters, the fire company only received 127 donations. Out of those 127 donations, she stated none of the fire tax complainers in town gave anything to the fire company. She can verify this with the records she has kept over the years. Shirley added the fire company makes a continuous effort, throughout the year, having a total of 26 fund raisers, which amounts to a fund raiser every other week; participates in mandated training and fighting fires. She thanked the borough council for recognizing their obligation to provide fire coverage for the citizens of the town and move forward with the Fire Tax. She wanted to remind the public if no fire company exists in the community, their insurance will go up. Shirley also stated the fire company has initiated conversations with neighboring fire companies for a merger but the other company (s) were not interested. An officer of the Richland Beautification Committee, Shirley wanted to invite everyone to the Community Christmas Tree Lighting Service on November 21 at 5:30 PM. Santa will be arriving by fire truck for the young people to enjoy. Shirley also notified the council the Beautification Committee erected a sign, in front of the Christmas Tree, honoring our Richland Veterans. There are plans for a future flag pole, to be donated by the Richland Legion.

Matt Marks attend the meeting as chief of the Neptune Fire Company and expressed his thanks to the borough council for moving forward with the Fire Tax.

Communications:

President Seldomridge reported the council received a thank you letter from Shirley Weinhold and the Neptune Fire Company thanking the council for recognizing their fire company needs and moving forward with implementing the Fire Tax.

A thank you note was also received, from Trudy and Frank Gass, thanking the borough council for moving forward with awarding recycling as part of the trash bid award.

Myerstown Borough sent the borough council a letter asking permission to use the Richland Fire Police for their Holiday Parade November 28. Permission was granted earlier in the meeting.

The Lebanon County Contoller's Office sent the borough council a copy of an approved audit of District Magistrate Anthony Verna's office.

Invoice Approval:

Finance Chairman, Jim Niethammer reported he reviewed the invoices and found them all to be in order. Travis Randler made a motion to approve the invoices for payment; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Financial Report:

Jim Niethammer made a motion to approve the Financial Report, submitted by Gift Associates; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Committee Reports:

Water Committee – Attorney Tom Harlan reported he contacted four banks, including PennVest, regarding the financing of the proposed new well. FNB needs a scope of the project before moving forward with loan approval. Attorney Harlan also advised PennVest may have some grant money available for the borough, along with the loan. Dwight Belleman will ask Steckbeck Engineering for a detailed scope of the project.

Highway Committee – Larry Hartman stated he, Dwight and John checked out the curb to street crack issue on Oak Street, which Elaine Snyder brought to their attention at the last month's borough council meeting. He explained to Ms. Snyder what she was doing was unnecessary. He feels the whole street should be crack sealed.

Property Committee – nothing to report

Safety Committee – the council will be contacting PennDOT regarding the Impaired Vision Signs discussed earlier in the meeting. Also, Michelle Voydik intervened and asked if the railroad could institute its "dinging" sound, as it formerly had when another blind resident lived in town. The railroad will be called, by the borough, to make that request.

Finance Committee – nothing to report

Road Supervisor's Report – Michelle Voydik stated the street sign at S. Race and Church St spins. Dwight Belleman will check on it. He stated he has to repair that sign every few months. Dwight was asked what caused the water leak on Stricklertown Road. He stated it was caused by

the pipe rubbing a rock. Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the Road Supervisor's Report, submitted by Road Supervisor, Dwight Belleman; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

Zoning – nothing to report

Office Report – Matt Johnson made a motion to approve the Office Report, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present council members voting yes.

Code Enforcement Report – Jim Niethammer made a motion to approve the Code Enforcement Report, submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Arnold; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

MRJA Report – Matt Johnson made a motion to approve the MRJA Reports for October; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

State Police Report – No report was received.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to approve the First Reading of the proposed 2016 Budget to keep the mills at 1.89. Larry Hartman made a motion to approve the First Reading of the proposed 2016 Budget to keep the mills at 1.89; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

Matt Johnson made a motion to advertise, in the Lebanon Daily News, the ability of the public to view the proposed 2016 Budget at the Borough Office during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 9 AM-12 Noon; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked if there were any more comments for the good of the borough. Since there were no comments, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Niethammer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

Respectfully submitted by:

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary