

# **Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes**

**November 1, 2016**

**(Recording A 19)**

**Present:** Dennis Seldomridge, Jim Niethammer, Kelly Bricker, Matt Johnson, Larry Hartman, John Mueller, Travis Randler, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Tom Harlan

President Dennis Seldomridge called the meeting to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to approve the October 4, 2016 Borough Council Meeting Minutes, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman. Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the minutes; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

## **Citizen's Comments:**

**Jay L Wenger** stated he wanted to mention several items to the borough council.

He proceeded to state misconstrued statements being made on social media that were not correct. He also stated the borough has not grown, in the past 20 years; in fact, it shrank. There is no Leffler, no Ocello and other large businesses that were formerly situated within the borough. He questioned all elected officials on the following:

1. The Water Pressure and lack of a timed daily refilling of the water tank in back of George Forry's property on W Main St
2. Which checking account paid for the former Police Dept?
3. Why are we outsourcing so many functions rather than having all borough employees perform them?

The elected officials answered his questions. Councilman Jim Niethammer stated the timer never functioned properly and, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to make it work properly, it was disconnected. The General Account paid for the Police Dept, however, John Johnson's salary was paid out of the Water Account, because the General Account was unable to support the Police Department and both borough employees. Outsourcing of certain jobs is being done because it is more efficient and productive, to the borough, to do so.

Mr. Wenger then went on to recap his sewer authority career and future needs of MRJA. He stated he will end his service to MRJA on December 31, 2016.

**Lorie Hartman** asked if the PA State Police were contacted regarding the speeding on Main St. President Seldomridge answered they were contacted following the last meeting.

### **Communications:**

1. President Seldomridge read a letter of **resignation, from Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Arnold**. Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept Jeff Arnold's letter of resignation; Kelly Bricker seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.
2. A letter was sent to the Borough Council, from **George Savich**, who owns the property at **1 West Main Street**. He asked the council's permission to **place a dumpster** on his property, rather than use the contracted refuse service, for his tenants. Jim Niethammer made a motion to allow George Savich to have a dumpster at 1 W Main Street; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.
3. The Borough Council received an **agreement from the Humane Society** asking for a renewal of our agreement for **\$135.00 a year**. Jim Niethammer made a motion to renew the agreement with the Humane Society, for \$135.00 a year; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.
4. **4.48 Tons of Recycling** were collected by Eagle Disposal, for the month of **September**.

### **Invoices:**

President Seldomridge stated the invoices, submitted for payment by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman, were reviewed by Jim Niethammer and found to be in order. Larry Hartman made a motion to pay all the invoices submitted for payment; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

### **Financial Report:**

Larry Hartman 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** – Chairman Jim Niethammer stated he wants to schedule a Water Committee Meeting in December.

**Highway Committee** – nothing to report

**Property Committee** – nothing to report

**Finance Committee** – nothing to report

**Safety Committee** – Travis Randler reported he is getting a lot of good feedback on the new street lights.

### **Reports:**

**Road Supervisor's Report** – Road Supervisor stated they had picked 3 loads of leaves that day. There aren't many leaves down, to date, therefore there aren't many loads to pick. Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the Road Supervisor's Report, submitted by Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman; Kelly Bricker seconded the motion; motion was carried with all council members voting yes.

**Office Report** –Borough Council questioned the Del Star progress being made to bring their factory up to code, after their recent second fire. Kelly Bricker questioned the email hacking that was done to the borough's Comcast email. Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman, stated it was reported to Comcast, who spent a large amount of time with her and ELCO Computers, getting the email account unlocked and changing the password. She also stated she was assured, by ELCO Computers, none of the borough's computer files were hacked, because of the firewalls installed. Only the email system was hacked. Travis Randler made a motion to approve the Office Report, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all council members voting yes.

**Code Enforcement Report** – No report given – Code Enforcement Officer resigned.

**Police Report** – Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the September State Police Report, submitted by the Jonestown Barracks of the PA State Police; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

**MRJA Report** – No report as MRJA did not meet, to date, this month.

**Zoning** – nothing to report

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

President Seldomridge stated the borough council had discussed, last month, the use of Hamer Enterprises, to allow our residents to pay for the Richland Borough Water Invoices with a credit card. There would be no fee to the borough; the fee would be paid by the citizens using the credit card paying service. MRJA presently uses Hamer Enterprises, as do several other municipalities throughout the county. After discussion, Jim Niethammer made a motion to use Hamer Enterprises for any citizens wishing to pay for their water invoice via credit card; Kelly Bricker seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to pass the **First Reading of the 2017 Proposed Budget to increase the borough taxes, by .6 mills, to 2.49 mills and keep the Fire Tax at .3 mills.** Councilman John Mueller stated he would like to go into Executive Session to discuss

Employee Matters before the motion is passed. President Seldomridge announced the borough council would go into Executive Session to discuss Employee Matters, at 7:55 PM. No notes were taken.

The borough council came out of Executive Session at 8:10 PM. President Seldomridge called the meeting to order stating they had discussed Employee Matters in the Executive Session.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to pass the **First Reading of the 2017 Proposed Budget to increase the borough taxes, by .6 mills, to 2.49 mills and keep the Fire Tax at .3 mills**. Jim Niethammer made the motion; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried by all members voting yes.

A motion was asked, by President Seldomridge, to **advertise the Public Viewing of the Proposed 2017 Budget**, in the Lebanon Daily News. Kelly Bricker made the motion to advertise Public Viewing of the 2017 Proposed Budget; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a **motion to remove former councilman, Dan Auman, from the check signing list of all checking accounts, and add Larry Hartman to the list. Matt Johnson made the motion to remove Dan Auman and add Larry Hartman to the check signing list; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.**

President Seldomridge announced he is removing **Matt Johnson** from the Property Committee and **adding him to the Water Committee**, to take Dan Auman's place. He is also **adding Kelly Bricker to the Property Committee**.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to approve **Resolution #283**, which changes the **tapping fee**, for connections to the Richland Borough water system, **from \$3996 to \$5800**, per Steckbeck Engineering's recommendation. Jim Niethammer made the motion to increase the tapping fee from \$3996 to \$5800; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

It was announced the final inspection on the logging job will be done shortly and any council member who wishes to be present for the inspection is welcome. Several council members expressed interest in attending. The forester should be there also.

President Seldomridge asked if there were any comments for the good of the borough.

Since there were no comments, Jim Niethammer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

Respectfully submitted by:

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary