

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes October 1, 2013

Present: Chris Strause, Dennis Seldomridge, Jim Niethammer, Larry Hartman, John Mueller, Michelle Voydik

Chris Strause, President of Richland Borough Council, opened the October 1 meeting by calling the meeting to order and having everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He then distributed a Meeting Agenda.

Chris then asked for a motion to approve the council meeting minutes from September 3, 2013. Jim Niethammer made the motion and Dennis Seldomridge seconded it. Motion was carried with all council members voting yes, with the exception of Michelle Voydik, who was not present during the vote but reappeared after the vote was taken. Chris Strause then asked the solicitor if he needed to retake the vote and was advised he did not need to do so.

Chris then opened the meeting for **Citizen's Comments**. He called on each resident in the room and asked them for a comment.

Pam Guare questioned the council regarding the removal of the town Christmas tree., She asked if they took into consideration the council's agreement from March 2012 to inform the Steiner family of plans to remove or replace the Christmas tree should they ever want to do so. Chris stated he and the others who gave permission for the tree to be taken down and replaced by the Beautification Committee were unaware of the agreement but he was taking full responsibility for its removal. Vince Achey then intervened, as head of the Beautification Committee, and stated he had ordered a plaque to be placed at the new tree dedicating it to Martin Steiner. However, Michelle Voydik informed Vince the Steiner family is not interested in the plaque. Vince then stated he would cancel the order.

Dominic Mulhern asked the Council about a sink hole that is going down in front of his property. Dwight will check with the state on it but he feels it may be a sewer ditch.

Wilbur Keppley, representing the Richland Fire Police, asked if they must use the total amount of the \$2000 given to them annually. They have presently used \$1300. What happens to the balance not used? Can it be added to the \$2000 for the 2014 Budget? On another subject he stated motorists are driving 60-70 mph past his home on East Linden Street. He asked if it is possible to get digital signs to slow people down. **Colleen Marks** then complained about the speeding on Poplar Street, also, followed by several citizens complaining about the speeding on North Race Street. Chris asked Dennis Seldomridge to check with the State Police on these issues.

Communications:

Comcast sent a letter thanking us for our business in Richland Borough.

Lebanon County Transportation sent a notice of a Summit Meeting if anyone wishes to attend.

We also received several notices of seminars to attend with Penn DOT

We received a check for \$9836.99 for the Firemen's Relief Association. This check will be sent to the Neptune Fire Company Relief Association.

We received a letter of appreciation for our business from Choice Communications who recently installed our new phone system.

We received a notification from Blue Cross regarding signing up on line

The PA Liquor Control Board sent a notice regarding any issues we may have with the Legion or Savich Enterprises in town.

Channel 15 news sent us notification of a new password and codes for inclement weather

A letter was received from Sally Schaeffer and Carol Behney regarding recycling in Richland. Because we are in the middle of a three year contract, the Council asked Perri to check with Lebanon Farms Disposal to see what the pricing options would be to add recycling.

The Beautification Committee sent a thank you letter for the borough check they received.

A letter was received from Direct Energy for our one year contract with them.

Dan Culhane, our representative with the Refuse Authority, submitted a copy of the minutes for the meeting he attended. He also mentioned he attended the annual picnic held by the Refuse Authority. The Refuse Authority is very interested in recycling.

Financial Report

Jim Niethammer made a motion to pay the invoices that were submitted for payment; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

The Council is beginning to look into creating the new budget for 2014.

Water

Jim Niethammer reported we need to call Steckbeck to meet regarding the tank.

Also a new fire sprinkler system was discussed.

Highway

Larry Hartman stated we need to have a meeting to discuss some of the streets in the borough.

Property

John Mueller had nothing to report from the Property Committee

Finance

We need to begin working on the Budget for 2014. Gift Associates will assist us with the process.

Safety

A report was given from Mark Tice stating we had 21 incidents in August and 10 in September.

Road Supervisor

Dwight Belleman stated they would like to do leaf collection between Oct 29 and Dec 3. Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the report and Michelle Voydik seconded it. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Office Report

Was submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman. Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the report and Larry Hartman seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Recreation Report

Michelle Voydik reported the committee will hold a Harvest Day Oct 20 from noon till 2 PM at the Moehlman Park. The event is free and will include children's activities and food.

Trick or Treat Night is scheduled for Oct 31 6-8 PM in the Borough.

Solicitor

No report

Engineer

Sent the sprinkling system specs.

Other Business

We need to speak to Randy Mauer about the Property Maintenance Codes.

After a discussion about the low interest on the PLIGIT account, which holds our Liquid Fuels money, Jim Niethamm made a motion to move the money in the account to a new account at the Jonestown Bank specifically designated for Liquid Fuels money. John Mueller seconded the motion. Perri is to make the arrangements to have the money moved.

Letters were received from Schaefferstown and Myerstown requesting the use of the Richland Fire Police Oct 26 and Nov 30 for their Parades. Dennis Seldomridge made a motion to supply both towns with our Fire Police, for those dates, and Jim Niethammer seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all members voting yes.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman to have the Richland Fire Police on duty for the Borough for Trick or Treat Night Oct. 31. Michelle Voydik seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

The Borough would like to change the payroll payment to bi weekly, rather than weekly. This would cut the payroll expense in half for the year 2014. The last pay the employees would be paid weekly would be 1/2/14. After that, the pay would be bi-weekly. John Mueller made a motion to begin paying the borough employees bi weekly after the weekly check was paid 1/2/14. Jim Niethammer seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Chris then passed out a resolution on how a meeting is to be conducted.

Pam Guare asked about letters going out to North Race Street residents regarding sidewalks. Discussion followed.

Chris then asked if there was any other business. Jim Niethammer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion. Motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Respectfully submitted by,

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary