

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2014

(Recorded-File A-3)

Present: Dennis Seldomridge, Dan Auman, Matt Johnson, Larry Hartman, John Mueller, Travis Randler, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Tom Harlan

Absent: Jim Niethammer

President Dennis Seldomridge Called the Meeting to Order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Seldomridge asked for an approval of last month's meeting minutes, which had been sent to the council for review previously. Travis Randler made a motion to approve last month's minutes submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman; Dan Auman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Citizen's Comments:

Michelle Voydik questioned the council when North Race Street will be done by PennDOT. Michelle emailed them regarding the pot hole in front of her house and they filled the pot hole the next day. President Seldomridge stated he will have Dwight and John contact PennDOT, again, regarding the paving of North Race Street. Discussion followed.

Orin Moehlman asked permission to install an outdoor furnace. He asked what procedures he must follow to obtain permission to install the furnace. He was informed, at the present time, we have no ordinances in Richland banning the furnaces; however, he was advised to contact Randy Mauer, of Associated Building Inspections Inc., to obtain the proper building codes and requirements before proceeding with the installation.

Shirley Weinhold attended the meeting on behalf of the Richland Beautification Committee. She wanted to reassure Borough Council, even though Vince Achey had passed away that week, the Richland Beautification Committee would remain active and continue with the Christmas Tree Lighting and other efforts for the good of the Borough. She further stated services for Vince would be the following Friday afternoon.

Bill Batdorf was present at the meeting representing the Neptune Fire Company. He stated the fire company wishes to open a dialog regarding a new model of funding for them. He expressed concern because they rely on citizens' donations and presently only about 19% of the citizens, of Richland, are donating to the fire company. The majority of the donations comes from the Sr. Citizens of Richland. That being said, Richland citizens will have approximately 22 trained firemen on their property within 3 minutes, should they have an emergency or fire, no matter if they contributed to the fire company or not. The former number was about 40 but training is costly and time consuming. The fire company presently has a major project – they are rebuilding

their fire engine – at a cost of \$380,000 vs the cost of a new pumper, which would be \$600,000-\$800,000. They have surveyed communities across the state and the burden of funding needs to be evenly distributed. 90-100% of the firefighters, in Richland, work out of town. They have upcoming expenses of 32 Breathing Air Cylinders, which expire in 2017, at a cost of \$100 each to replace. Mr. Batdorf asked the borough if they could increase their funding to help support the fire company. They would like to initiate a conversation regarding the upcoming budget. The borough council agreed to begin a dialogue, with the fire company, regarding the funds they need to keep the fire company going.

Larry Hartman stated he takes offense to being named in the paper, and on the radio, as having a vendetta against Michelle Voydik. He then gave Webster's definition of a vendetta and asked Michelle how she can accuse the borough council of having a vendetta against her. He also challenged her statement that the council is wasting tax payers' money on attorney's fees when she has been ordered to pay the fees.

Bevan Allen questioned the Parks and Recreation line item in the 2013 Audit Report. She also asked if the citizens are aware that the Borough is making money on the trash collection. Both Perri Shanaman and Dwight Belleman informed her no money is made on the trash collection. The figures she is seeing are cash deposits made in a calendar year and some of those are for previous year(s) with late fees attached.

Chris Good complained of cats in his neighborhood. He was told the best thing to do is trap them and take them to the humane society.

Financial Reports - President Seldomridge asked for a motion to approve the August and September Financial Reports from Gift Associates. Larry Hartman made the motion to approve the reports; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Dan Auman reported he reviewed the invoices and approves them for payment. Larry Hartman made a motion to approve the invoices for payment; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Committee Reports:

Water Committee - Dan Auman reported they have been discussing things that need to be addressed in a future planning meeting.

Highway Committee – Larry Hartman addressed the need for sealing the cracks of some of the streets in town. Larry made a motion to spend \$3999 for sealing the cracks on some of the worst areas in town; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes. Martin's did it in the past. Dwight Belleman will look at the worst of them and advise which areas should be done. Tar and chipping was also discussed.

Finance Committee – The Borough Council is presently working on the budget for 2015.

Safety Committee – no report

Supervisors Report – Larry Hartman made a motion to approve the written Supervisor’s Report, submitted by Dwight Belleman; Dan Auman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Office Report – Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the Office Report, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Code Enforcement Report – Matt Johnson made a motion to accept the Code Enforcement Report, submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Arnold; Larry Hartman seconded the report; report was carried with all members voting yes.

MRJSA Report – Dan Auman made a motion to accept the Millcreek Richland Joint Sewer Authority Report, submitted by Jay Wenger; John Mueller seconded the report; report was carried by all members voting yes.

Old Business

President Seldomridge discussed the fact that the Rec Board was asked to submit a Financial Report at the last meeting and Bevan Allen informed the Council the Rec Board was not obligated to do so. President Seldomridge referred to Resolution #234, dated May 1, 2007, where it states the Rec Board members will be appointed by Borough Council and they will submit a financial report to the borough quarterly. Bevan Allen expressed concerns why the Council was implementing this when the Rec Board is doing better than it has in years. President Seldomridge stated the present Borough Council is trying to do matters, per Borough Code, and per resolutions. Therefore, President Seldomridge stated there will be a sign up sheet, in December, for anyone interested in being on the Rec Board. The Rec Board will be reorganized, per the resolution, in January. Members of the Rec Board will be selected and voted on per the sign up list. Dan Auman made a motion to have Rec Board Sign-Ups in December with 5 appointments made in January, by the Borough Council; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

New Business

Dwight Belleman brought up the need for new portable radios for the trucks and backhoe. The present radios don’t work and it will cost \$300-\$450, per radio, to get the present ones repaired, as well as replace the present base, which would be another \$300. Last winter they used their cell phones, while snow plowing, and it isn’t safe. He received a quote from Donley Communications for 5 new radios at a cost of \$2950 total. They are private radios – no open mike – using the 3 towers that are owned by Donley Communications. The monthly fee to use the towers is \$15 /month total for all 5 radios. Keystone Fire Co, Millcreek Twp, Bethel Twp have them presently and are happy with them. John Mueller questioned what type of radios they are? Dwight responded they are Kenwood radios.

Larry Hartman made a motion to purchase the radios, per the quote from Donley Communications; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

The Richland Borough Council went into Executive Session at 8:05 and came out at 8:50. No recording or meeting minutes were taken during that time.

Communications:

President Seldomridge shared the PA State Police Report with the Council. The State Police received 9 calls for the Richland Borough.

Myerstown Borough sent the Borough Council a request asking for the use of the Richland Fire Police for their Holiday Parade November 29th. Larry Hartman made a motion for the Myerstown Borough to use the Richland Fire Police for the Holiday Parade November 29th; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

The Richland Borough also received a request, from Schaefferstown, for the use of the Richland Fire Police for their Halloween Parade October 25th. Dan Auman made a motion to allow Schaefferstown to use the Richland Fire Police for the Schaefferstown Halloween Parade October 25th; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

President Seldomridge also announced Richland will observe Trick or Treat Night, per the County Wide Trick or Treat Night Date of Thursday, October 30th.

Michelle Voydik asked when the leaf pickup will begin. Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman, called Dwight Belleman; he stated the week of Halloween, unless they see a significant number of citizens putting leaves out to the curb sooner – then they will begin the process sooner.

Dan Auman made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Respectfully submitted by,

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary

