

Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2015

(Recording B 02)

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

Absent: Jim Niethammer

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 November 3, 2015 Borough Council Meeting Minutes, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman. Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the minutes; Dan Auman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present voting yes.

Citizen's Comments

Caleb Voydik asked the borough council if they ever considered having office hours in the afternoon. He stated several people asked him about afternoon hours. President Seldomridge stated the council never considered it.

Charles Haddad, owner of property on Poplar Street, stated he submitted a Conditional Use Application for **Mike Belleman and Son**, a local General Contractor. Mr. Belleman would like to rent 2000 ft in the Green Building, owned by Charles Haddad, which is presently zoned "limited industrial". Mr. Haddad was asking the Borough Council to waive the Conditional Use Application. Mike Belleman addressed the council and stated he and his son have been in business 25 years and do general contracting and home remodeling, new home building and have a small cabinet shop. Because the Borough Solicitor, Tom Harlan, was running late, the council asked Mr. Haddad to table his request until Attorney Harlan arrived.

Lester Beamesderfer, Vice President of the Richland Heritage Society, informed the council the Heritage Society would be holding a gathering, in the Grace UCC Church Parking Lot, on New Year's Eve, from 11:30 PM-12:30 AM, for the Richland Annual Cigar Drop.

State Police Report

A State Police Trooper, from the Jonestown Barracks, attended the meeting and submitted the Monthly State Police Report of: 6 Incidents within the Borough, 2 of which were Harassment and 1 was a DUI.

Communications:

1. President Seldomridge stated the borough received a response from PennDOT stating they will be doing a Traffic Study regarding our request for signage on Main St and also Race St for the two blind residents of the borough. The borough had also requested the sound be reinstated with the RR Crossing gates being activated for an incoming train.
2. The Borough received notice from our new refuse hauler, Eagle Disposal, they will pick up undecorated live Christmas trees, one per household, the month of January.
3. The Borough received notice from the Commonwealth of PA we will be receiving a check for \$444.11 for Police Fines.
4. GIS Aerial Imagery sent us correspondence asking us if we want to be part of their program. Matt Marks, Neptune Fire Company Chief, intercepted at this point and advised borough council to check with the Lebanon County EMA on this item.
5. The Lebanon County Humane Society sent the borough notification there was a dog turned in to them. However, the dog came from Jonestown; therefore, borough council felt they should refuse the fees involved. Dwight Belleman stated he would contact the Humane Society regarding this matter.

Citizen's Comments – Part 2

Because Attorney Harlan was now present at the meeting, Charles Haddad explained to him his wishes to rent part of his one building to contractor, Mike Belleman, and have the Conditional Use waived. Discussion followed. Attorney Harlan reviewed the ordinance and stated the Conditional Use could be waived. Dan Auman made a motion to waive the Conditional Use Proceedings and Hearing regarding the rental of Charles Haddad's property to Mike Belleman and Son; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

Owen Landes, part of the Richland Beautification Committee, wanted to thank the Borough Council, Neptune Fire Co and the Richland Fire Police for helping to make the Annual Tree Lighting Service a success. The Richland Beautification Committee would like permission to erect a flag pole on the Municipal Parking Lot downtown, behind the Christmas Tree. The Richland Legion is donating the flag pole and would like to know if the borough men could assist with the installing of the pole, with the borough backhoe. Larry Hartman made a motion to give permission to the Beautification Committee to have the flag pole placed there by the Richland Legion; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

Owen Landes further stated he has no Facebook account but he was told some citizens in town have an account named Richland PA Citizens for Community Progress. He went on the site and saw they posted the Richland Borough Council spent \$19,000 in legal fees suing two households in town for possession of chickens on their property and they also stated this would have made a great donation to the fire company and is a disgrace. Mr. Landes further stated he went on the Richland Borough Website and noticed, under the Right to Know Tab, the amount of Right to Know Requests submitted, primarily, by two families in Richland. He noted the requests require

extensive researching over a 2-3 year period. He feels the town people have a right to know these requests are taking up many hours of the borough's time. Discussion followed. Tom Harlan advised Mr. Landes, under the Right to Know Law, citizens have the right to make these requests to the borough.

Larry Hartman made a motion to allow Dwight and John to assist the Richland Legion, with the installation of the new flag pole, by operating the borough's backhoe to assist in the raising of the pole; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

Invoice Approval:

Dan Auman reported he reviewed the invoices and found them all to be in order. Matt Johnson made a motion to approve the invoices for payment; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

Committee Reports:

Water Committee – The committee reported they are continually working on the financing of the new well. Attorney Harlan stated Jeff Steckbeck has provided him with detailed numbers to apply for the financing.

Highway Committee – nothing to report

Property Committee – nothing to report

Safety Committee – nothing to report

Finance Committee – nothing to report

Road Supervisor's Report – Dan Auman 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.

Dwight Belleman reported Silvendale looked at the trees the borough is considering having logged out, in the reservoir area, and gave the borough a proposal. Silvendale would figure out the footage and do the advertising and the Richland Borough would open the submitted bids. Some trees are dead but the bark remains on them, which would mean they could be part of the logging out. The area was logged out about 8 years ago, according to Dwight, and is in bad shape. The area contains approximately 200 Acres. A motion to put the project out on bids was placed on hold until Attorney Harlan can review the proposal.

According to Dwight Belleman, Monday November 30 was the last of the leaf collection.

Zoning – nothing to report

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

President Seldomridge announced the Borough has some catching up to do with the monies in the two pension funds. The underfunding is due to large amounts of fees RJ Hall was taking out of the funds, annually. The funds are now being managed for \$60 a year, per fund, by PMRS.

Code Enforcement Report –Larry Hartman made a motion to approve the Code Enforcement Report, submitted by Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Arnold; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

MRJA Report – no report because MRJA Meeting was not held, to date, this month

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to accept the **General Funds Budget Amount of \$533,487.00**. Larry Hartman made the motion to accept the General Funds Budget Amount of \$533,487.00; Dan Auman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to accept the **Highway Fund Budget Amount of \$39,077.74**. Matt Johnson made a motion to accept the Highway Fund Budget Amount of \$39,077.74; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to accept the **Fire Tax Budget of \$30,000**. Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the Fire Tax Budget of \$30,000; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to accept the **Water Budget Amount of \$234,000**. Dan Auman made a motion to accept the Water Budget Amount of \$234,000; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to accept the **Total Budget for 2016 of \$836,564.74**. Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the Total Budget for 2016 for \$836,564.74; Dan Auman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion for the **Act 511 Taxes to be \$5.00 per Capita**. Dan Auman made a motion for the Act 511 Taxes to be \$5.00 per Capita; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion for the **1% Realty Transfer Tax**. Larry Hartman made a motion for the 1% Realty Transfer Tax; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to have **\$52.00 as LST**. Dan Auman made a motion to have \$52.00 as LST; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge asked for a motion to accept **Ordinance #379** with a **Tax Rate of 1.89 Mills and a Fire Tax of .3 Mills**. Dan Auman made a motion to accept Ordinance #379 with a Tax Rate of 1.89 Mills and a Fire Tax of .3 Mills; John Mueller seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

The **2016 Meeting Dates Published** are: Jan. 4, Feb 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug 2, Sept 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6

The **2016 Planning Workshop Dates** published are: the **Third Tuesday of each month, January through December, 6:00 PM**, as needed

President Seldomridge thanked all the voters who re-elected the Borough Council Members and had faith in the job they are doing for the Borough.

Michelle Voydik asked for additional funds for the Richland Library, if the State Budget isn't passed. She stated, the Library may have to close if the state budget isn't passed. President Seldomridge asked why Amy wasn't at the meeting to ask the council for funds. Ms. Voydik stated because she has young children.

The Borough Council went into Executive Session at 8:00 PM to discuss litigation. No notes were taken.

The Borough Council came out of Executive Session at 8:20 PM stating the purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss litigation.

Matt Johnson made a motion to authorize our Solicitor, Tom Harlan, to recover the lawsuit fees incurred with the Allens and the Voydiks; Travis Randler seconded the motion; motion was carried with all present members voting yes.

President Seldomridge announced the Richland Borough will have their 2016 Donation Check, for \$2000, cut to the Richland Library, the first of the year, to assist the library with their funding issues.

President Seldomridge asked if there were any more comments for the good of the borough. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary