

Richland Borough Council

Meeting Minutes for November 5, 2013

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

Absent: Jim Niethammer

President Chris Strause called the meeting to order and asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of our Mayor, Ronald Steiner, who recently passed away.

Following the moment of silence we pledged allegiance to the flag.

President Strause asked for a motion to accept the October Minutes. Dennis Seldomridge made a motion and Larry Hartman seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

The Borough Council was asked, by President Strause, to appoint Gary Moyer to fill Owen Landes' remaining term. Owen resigned in August. However, Michelle Voydik asked the council if they can do that because the Borough Code does not allow the council to appoint someone to a vacated seat if more than 30 days have passed. She also informed the council a Vacancy Board has 15 days, after the 30 day period, to appoint someone and, if that doesn't happen, the county Court of Common Pleas can appoint someone.

Tom Harlan stated Michelle was correct and, since the borough has no Vacancy Board, he would recommend the council have him petition the Court of Common Pleas to appoint Gary Moyer. The council agreed to have Attorney Harlan petition the Court of Common Pleas to appoint Mr. Moyer to the Borough Council vacant position created by Owen's resignation. Larry Hartman made the motion and Dennis Seldomridge seconded it. Motion carried with all members voting yes.

In the very near future, the Borough Council also needs to appoint one of their members to the Vacancy Board, along with one citizen of Richland who is not on council.

Chris Strause asked for a motion to have Mark Brubaker replace Gary Althouse on the Zoning/Hearing Board. Gary's term expired the end of October. Dennis Seldomridge made the motion; Larry Hartman seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all the members voting yes.

President Strause asked for a motion to appoint Ray Shanaman, who is the town's mayor-elect, to the office of Mayor to fill the remaining term of recently deceased mayor, Ronald Steiner. John Mueller made the motion; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all the members voting yes. Ray was instructed to go to the local District Magistrate to be sworn in, which he agreed to do.

Citizen's Comments:

Sally Schaeffer questioned if Borough Council has done any research on starting a recycling program in Richland. Chris Strause read a quote, from Lebanon Valley Farms Disposal, giving Richland several options to begin a recycling program. Sally suggested the Borough Council may wish to do what Heidelberg Township does – they have a central drop off area, once a month, which is coordinated with the Boy Scouts and some other organizations for traffic control, etc. The township is given a grant that covers some of the costs and they, in turn, give some of the grant money to the Boy Scouts for their time and efforts with the drop off of the monthly recycling. Discussion followed. Because Neptune Fire Co Chief Matt Marks was present at the meeting, Chris asked him if he thought the local carnival grounds could be used for the drop off area and if any of the firemen would be willing to work with the local scouts. Matt stated he would check with the fire company at their next meeting. Chris asked Perri to do some research with Heidelberg Twp and report back at the next borough council meeting with her findings.

Holly Mulhern, representing the Recreation Board, asked permission to put a Santa Box down at the Christmas tree area for the Richland children to put letters in to Santa. She said the Rec Board would handle everything with the Letters to Santa. Larry Harman made a motion to allow the Rec Board to erect a Santa Box near the town tree and Dennis Seldomridge seconded it. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

Matt Marks, Neptune Fire Co Chief, informed the council their QRS is “stepping up” their game because of the delayed response of our local ambulances. We will have an extended response time frame, for medics arriving from Berks Co or Myerstown, if Newmanstown cannot respond.

Vince Achey reported on the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. It will be held Saturday November 23 at 5:30 PM. Everyone is invited. He also reported the trash can on the site is being used by local businesses. He suggests either removing it or keeping an eye on it.

Gary Althouse reported Carriage Rides will be available December 7 from 5:30-8:30 PM. He gave the Council a Certificate of Insurance from Rabold Carriage Rides. However, Perri Shanaman, Borough Secretary, stated the certificate was unacceptable because it does not name the Richland Borough as additional insured. Tom Harlan agreed with Perri. Perri stated she would call the Rabold Carriage Rides' personnel and ask them to send a proper certificate. Larry Hartman then made a motion to allow Rabold Carriage Rides to participate in the event providing they give us the correct Certificate of Insurance; Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members voting yes.

Gary Althouse also reported the Historical Society is coming along. He is working with personnel from the Hershey Museum.

Communications

We received a Thank You Note from Joan Steiner for the floral wreath we sent to Ronald Steiner's funeral.

United Concordia sent their renewal Dental and Vision rates.

We received a notice regarding interim taxes but the borough does not wish to impose interim taxes.

We received a check from PERTA for \$426.29

Also received a renewal form to renew membership to the Borough Association

Jeff Steckbeck, of Steckbeck Engineering, gave an update on the Tap and Fee Study. He stated the value of the Water Company **was \$1.845 million**, but it is **now worth \$7.8 million**, because of improvements made to the system. We have a 200,000 gallon per day capacity and the ability to charge \$5,894 for the tapping fee. We are presently charging \$3,999. Mr. Steckbeck submitted an invoice to the borough to be paid for his services. Dennis Seldomridge made a motion for the Steckbeck invoice to be paid out of the Escrow Account. Michelle Voydik seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all members voting yes.

Safety

Larry Hartman reported the Richland Fire Police did an excellent job on October 31 – Trick or Treat Night. He noted, however, because of the negligence of some drivers, two children were almost hit on Main Street. He feels we should have “No Parking” on Main Street, in the future, on Trick or Treat Night.

Dennis Seldomridge reported he contacted Mark Tice, of the PA State Police, regarding the speeding concerns several of our citizens expressed at our October meeting. To date, he has received no response. He also contacted the Cornwall Police Department regarding the rental of their electronic digital speed sign. They will get back to us with a price, as well as the decision of allowing us to use the sign.

Road Supervisor Report

Dwight Belleman reported they are working on the Stop Signs for the alleys.

Larry Hartman made a motion to accept the report and John Mueller seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

Solicitor Report

Tom Harlan advised the Water Committee needs to meet and come up with a Development Agreement with updates to the Ordinance. The Borough Council should decide the amount of the tapping fee, per Steckbeck Engineering’s recommendation, and then request the Solicitor (himself) to prepare a Resolution for adoption at a future public meeting. Chris stated the Water Committee will schedule a meeting in November.

Resolutions

Resolution #258 appointing the Borough Secretary as the Chief Administrator of the Pension Plans, was passed with a motion from Michelle Voydik, and a second from John Mueller, and all members voting yes.

Resolution #259 stating How to Run a Borough Meeting was passed with Larry Hartman making the motion, and a second from Dennis Seldomridge, with all members voting yes.

Chris Strause informed the Borough Council the day after the council had a meeting with the administrator of the Borough Pension Plan, the borough secretary was notified, by phone call, their fees would be going up \$1000 per year, for both the Police Plan and the Non-Uniformed Plan. Chris reported he spoke to Edward Jones in Myerstown and they are willing to stop in and look into our present plans and advise us if they feel they could become the administrator of the plans with less fees. John Mueller made a motion to allow Edward Jones to review our present Pension Plans and further advise us. Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion. Motion was passed with all members voting yes.

President Strause advised the group they sat with the new accountant, Gift Associates, and pieced through the 2014 Budget. We will advertise, in the Lebanon Daily News, for the ability of the public to review the 2014 Budget during regular office hours – Monday through Friday 9 AM – 12 Noon. A motion for the First Reading of the 2014 Budget was made, by Dennis Seldomridge, to keep the mills for Richland Borough at 1.89 Mills. John Mueller seconded the motion. The motion carried with all members voting yes.

Chris Strause stated the Liquid Fuels Account has been successfully transferred from PLIGIT to JBT and is now living in its own Money Market Account, giving us much better interest than what it was earning through PLIGIT.

Michelle Voydik made a motion for a plaque to be ordered in honor of Ronald Steiner, our recently deceased mayor, who passed away while in office. Dennis Seldomridge seconded the motion. The motion was carried by all members voting yes. Michelle is to get the information, to Perri, of the beginning date he served in office, so Perri can order the plaque.

Maybelle Morgan reported she successfully sent out the 3rd quarter water bills. This is the first time she did the water billing, since she was given the project.

The Lebanon Zoning Hearing Board asked permission to use our meeting room December 9 at 7:30. Since this doesn't conflict with any of our meetings, Perri will call and give them permission. She is also to inform the board that we have a new member, Mark Brubaker, and give them his information.

Dennis Seldomridge 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

