

Borough of Susquehanna Depot
Minutes August 10, 2016

Present: Susan Crawford, John Hendrickson, Barbara Larsen, Dana Rockwell, Roy Williams, Joseph Varsik and Deborah Zayas

Also Present: Margaret Biegert, Attorney Michael Briechle

Guests: Lillian Senko, Chris and Dan Vinsko, Emerson Whitehead, Staci Wilson

MOTION: By John Hendrickson seconded by Roy Williams to approve the agenda. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Barbara Larsen seconded by Sue Crawford to approve the minutes of July 6, 2016 as amended. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By John Hendrickson seconded by Roy Williams to approved the bill list as presented. All present voted yes. Motion Carried.

MOTION: By Barbara Larsen seconded by John Hendrickson to advertise for repair/replace bids the wall at East St and Franklin Ave. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By John Hendrickson seconded by Deborah Zayas to advertise for paving/milling bids on Washington from Franklin to Fourth Ave. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: Roy Williams seconded by Deborah Zayas to circulate the petition to reduce the number of council seats. Sue Crawford, John Hendrickson, Barbara Larsen, Dana Rockwell voted no. Roy Williams, Deborah Zayas, Joseph Varsik voted yes. Motion not approved

MOTION: By John Hendrickson seconded by Deborah Zayas to pass resolution #081016 giving Joe Varsik and Deborah Zayas the authority to sign the DEP Access Agreement. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Deborah Zayas seconded by John Hendrickson to hire Lillian Senko for the part time codes administration position at \$12.00 per hours, 8 hours per week. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Joe Varsik opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Council approved the agenda and minutes of July 6, 2016. Roy Williams updated council on Franklin Ave project. Penn Dot is currently waiting for the south bound lane to fail and then will begin to work. They anticipate an approved engineering plan in the next 3-6 weeks and will then begin work 24/7. Despite fencing, tape and signs, trespassing continues to be a problem. He stated that a request for extra patrols had been made and he had been given assurances that the police would have a "zero-tolerance" for trespassing, He stated that no additional patrols have been observed. Joe will write a note to the Mayor regarding the extra patrols. Roy Williams would like to have the speed limit on the Erie Ave detour temporarily changed from 25 to 15 miles per hour due to safety concerns. John Hendrickson agreed.

Public Comment:

Dan Vinsko thanked Roy Williams and John Hendrickson for their time and assistance with his concerns for his property on Franklin Ave. He was advised from Penn Dot that they are 98% certain that his garage will collapse when the road fails. He felt if the garage went, his house would also be at risk. He also had concerns for property owners, or anyone traveling on Erie Ave if the structures were to collapse. He and his neighbors have been having trouble getting information from Penn Dot or other state representatives. Joe Varsik said that the project was more complex than Penn Dot anticipated. Penn Dot had come across four unforeseen water sources and has been scrambling to stabilize it since. The borough will share information with residents as they receive it from Penn Dot.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from county commissioners regarding the comprehensive plan and a provision allowing for Land Usage restrictions. The secretary did not understand and spoke to county planning for more information. She was told the letter was spurred due to the New Milford incinerator proposal. The commissioners want municipal input on giving the county authority in land use restrictions. He had made comparisons with having the county making zoning decisions on the boroughs behalf. Michael Briechle and Staci Wilson explained some of the issues about the New Milford incinerator proposal. Michael Briechle felt that zoning was different from a clean air

ordinance that some county residents are requesting. He suggested that the county could pass such an ordinance on a case by case basis. The Library sent a thank you letter for the yearly donation and the PEC sent a letter thanking the borough for assistance during the 2016 clean-up.

DPW:

Council reviewed a report submitted by Kevin McKee. Roy Williams reported that the Dura-patcher has been working. He presented council with a sample ordinance allowing police to address unregistered/uninspected vehicles of borough roads. Michael Briechle was asked to review the ordinance so that it is in place before winter. W. Church Street, Willow Ave, High St, Vine St will be paved by the Water Company in 2016. The approved tree work should begin in a week. Council voted to advertise bidding out repairs/rebuilding the wall at Franklin and East St. and paving on Washington St. from Franklin Ave to Fourth Ave.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

Council reviewed the bill list and Treasurer's report. Margaret mentioned that Hometown Days and 5K went well. Have received comments on how helpful the DPW how nice various community organizations are working well together. Dana updated council on the success of the two day North Branch River Festival being held on August 20th and 21st.

Emergency Management:

John has been volunteering with the DPW for Dura-Patching. He is working with the water company about the possibility of adding another fire hydrant near High St.

Mayor/Police Report: Report presented to council.

Codes:

Joe Varsik mentioned that much time has been spent with grass compliance. Roy explained that the borough ordinance requires that the borough maintain a property if an owner does not comply with citation. The court will fine a property owner to recoup cost, but if fines are not paid and a bench warrant is issued and the borough is out of the cost of maintenance. Costs associated with putting a lien on non compliant properties make that action infeasible. Roy advised that there have been five non-compliant properties that had to be cut back. Two times were with done with volunteer work. Council felt it more cost effective to allow borough personnel to maintain the property with hours coming from the codes budget rather than outsourcing it.

Old Business:

Margaret explained that the DEP right of way agreement that council approved at the prior required a resolution and asked council to pass Resolution #081016 granting Joe Varsik and Deborah Zayas permission to sign the approved DEP Access Agreement. Michael Briechle thought that the borough may have to pass an ordinance to sign the agreement. Margaret did not believe that was the case. Council voted to pass resolution #081016 and asked the attorney to investigate the need for an ordinance. If one was needed, they would pass it in the future. Michael Briechle advised council of the procedure needed to reduce the number of council seats. Joe Varsik explained that this was being considered because of the difficulty getting interested residents to fill borough positions such as zoning, codes appeals and council seats. After a lengthy discussion, council voted not to proceed with the process of reducing the council seats.

Joe Varsik said that there have been some zoning concerns in regards to commercial activity in a residential area and asked Sue Crawford to look into possible updates to that section of the zoning ordinance. Joe Varsik gave council some information on a camera system in Lancaster. Council discussed benefits of a camera system in other communities.

Council went into an executive session at 7:17 pm to discuss legal and personnel issues.

Council reconvened at 8:25 PM.

Council made a motion to hire Lillian Senko for the code administration position for 8 hours a week at \$12.00 per hour starting after August 29, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25PM