

Borough of Susquehanna Depot
Minutes May 11, 2016

Present: Sue Crawford, John Hendrickson, Barbara Larsen, Roy Williams, Dana Rockwell and Deborah Zayas

Absent: Joseph Varsik

Also Present: Margaret Biegert, Mayor Nancy Hurley

Guests: Adam Millard, Emerson Whitehead, Kerri Ellen Wilder, Staci Wilson

MOTION: By Sue Crawford seconded by Roy Williams to approve the agenda. Sue Crawford, Barbara Larsen, Roy Williams, Dana Rockwell and Deborah Zayas. John Hendrickson voted no. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Roy Williams seconded by Barbara Larsen to approve the minutes of April 20, 2016. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Sue Crawford seconded by Roy Williams to approve the minutes of May 9, 2016. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Barbara Larsen seconded by John Hendrickson to approve the bill list. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Roy Williams seconded by Barbara Larsen to adopt Ordinance 471 requiring a permit to excavate borough streets and sidewalks. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Roy Williams seconded by Sue Crawford to adopt Resolution # 05116. Setting a fee schedule for opening and excavating borough streets and sidewalks per ordinance 471. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

MOTION: By Sue Crawford seconded by Roy Williams to adopt Ordinance 472 eliminating the ward system. All present voted yes. Motion carried.

Council Vice-President Deborah Zayas opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. After the approving the agenda and minutes council decided to table the camera bids as there was no formal vote to advertise the bids.

Public Comment: None

DPW:

Council reviewed the DPW report. Roy Williams advised council that, despite repeated request, Popple Construction has still not met with the DPW department for a pre-construction meeting regarding the Penn Dot SR 92 project between High and Vine Street. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss traffic patterns, accommodations for emergency vehicles and other issues. He expressed his frustration with the lack of communication. Councilwomen Larsen asked if High and Vine street would still be passable. Councilmen Williams said yes, but 92 would be down to one lane.

Councilmen Williams would like to form a regional/community transportation committee consisting of area business owners and/or council representative from neighboring communities to address the serious maintenance neglect and other issues on the state roads. Councilmen Rockwell felt that Susquehanna County had the poorest road conditions when compared to other counties in the state. There were many concerns from both council and guests about the "disgraceful" and "despicable" condition of the state roads including SR 92 (Scenic By-Way), SR 171, unmaintained ditches, unbalanced funding and inattention from the state. There were also observations of continual improvement projects in other areas of the state. Questions were raised about the gas tax from this county along with Natural gas funding. Councilmen Williams advised that the state's agility program works well, but is frustrated with other departments in Penn Dot. Stacy Wilson suggested that Roy Williams contact Commissioner Alan Hall, who has been working with a group from the Farm Bureau on these same issues. Council agreed it would be a good to the idea to pursue these committees.

Secretary's Report:

Council approved the Bill list and was presented the treasurer's report for review. The secretary went over some recommended changes to the Web-site that the Trehab community service person had been working on.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor reported 54 incidents. She advised that the County sponsored "Drug Take Back" program in April was a success with 18 people turning in 36.7 lbs of prescriptions drugs. They hope to have the "Drug Take Back" van at Hometown Days event. She advised that residents have reported calls from people claiming to be from the IRS and asking for personal information. She warned citizen to be cautious of scams from these types of calls and that the IRS only makes notifications by mail. She received a call from a resident that had some concerns about a large dying trees. Councilmen Williams will look into it.

Emergency Management:

Councilmen Hendrickson thanked Mayor Hurley, President Varsik and Councilmen Williams for their participation in the county sponsored hazard mitigation meeting.

Codes:

Councilmen Williams reminded the public that grass should be no longer than six inches and violators will be cited. He also advised that the grass clipping cannot go on sidewalk or the street. Litigation for 165 Front St. has begun and he expects action to be taken the following week. He advised council that demolition for one blighted property is currently underway; two have already been taken down and two blight removal projects should be put out to bid in June. These blight removal projects are at no cost to the borough. Councilwomen Larsen had received a complaint from a resident who received a rental notice for 2016 and stated that she never got a return call when trying to schedule an appointment for re-inspection in 2015. Mr. Williams advised that in 2015 NEIC had attempted to contact the registered landlords many times, but calls were not returned or the landlords left it up to their tenants. This year it is the responsibility of the Landlord to make contact with NEIC and schedule inspection appointments. Roy Williams thank the school district, teachers and mentors who assisted in the "Pride and Polish" community service day. Students assisted in washing the building, Fire Department equipment and picking up trash throughout town. Student cleared enough trash to fill a large dumpster. Efforts will be made to coordinate this project with the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful in 2017.

Old Business:

Council adopted the following: Ordinance 471 requiring a permit to excavate borough streets and sidewalks; Resolution 051116, setting a fee schedule for opening and excavating borough streets and sidewalks per ordinance #471; Ordinance 472 eliminating the ward system.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35