

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Robert J. May, Council President  
Mr. David Eggert, Council Vice President  
Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Councilman  
Mrs. Joan Eshelman, Councilwoman  
Mr. Cary G. Whitman, Councilman

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor Kozloff Stoudt  
Ms. Pamela Stevens, Borough Engineer, SDE  
Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager  
Mrs. Susan Eggert, Borough Secretary  
Mr. Gene Becker, Borough Resident  
Mr. Matt Stairiker, Lower Alsace Ambulance  
Mr. Merv Wertz, Lower Alsace Ambulance  
Mr. Barry Vogt, Mt. Penn Fire Company  
Mr. Robert Jordan, Exeter Township Volunteer Fire Company

**ABSENT:**

Mr. Rick Davidson, Councilman  
Mr. Warren Lubenow, Councilman

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order by Council President, Mr. Robert J. May, at 7:31 PM.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes of the previous meeting of Thursday, September 10, 2015, were distributed to the members of Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. **MOTION:** Mr. David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mrs. Joan Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was distributed prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the report. **MOTION:** Mrs. Eshelman made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**GENERAL:** \$374,190.48 **SEWER:** \$199,624.72 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$136,850.69 **RESERVES:** \$48,724.35

**APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** Bills requiring approval and ratification for payment were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the bills that were presented. Bills requiring approval and ratification total \$57,052.78. Bills requiring approval of payment from the sewer fund total \$7,767.63.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PETITION:**

**MATT STAIRIKER, LOWER ALSACE AMBULANCE** - Mr. Stairiker presented this evening to give a report to Council about the ambulance service since they took over in March. Mr. Stairiker sent a written report but also told Council that there were a total of 108 calls into St. Lawrence and they responded to 93 of those calls; the remaining calls were taken by the City of Reading or Exeter Township Fire Department. The report was reviewed in detail and Mr. Stairiker answered all questions.

**GENE BECKER - RESIDENT** - Mr. Becker is a resident at 332 Parkview Road. Mr. Becker is here this evening to complain about the condition of the property at 330 Parkview Road. Mr. Becker took pictures of the property and showed them to Council. Mr. Becker expressed his dissatisfaction with the action taken by the Borough since has

come numerous times to complain about the condition of the property and expressed a desire to have action taken at this time. He explained that he left his e-mail back in June to be notified of the progress and that no one has ever communicated with him. Mr. May asked the Solicitor for advice. Ms. London indicated that if the Borough can show that they have made a good faith effort to locate and serve the property owner that court action could be taken at this time. Mr. Becker asked about the time frame and Ms. London indicated that this could be done within the next month. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made a motion authorizing Ms. London to file a court order for a property maintenance violation against the property owner at 330 Parkview Road; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Becker is also here to voice a complaint about his roof permit. He indicated that he paid a very large building permit fee for a roofing permit. He was told that three inspections would need to be performed and to date there have been no inspections. Mr. May indicated that he has spoken to the building inspector about this and he claims that the contractor never called him for an inspection. The inspector has also contacted the contractor numerous times and is not received any return phone calls. It appears that there is no cooperation from the contractor at this time. Mr. Becker asked if it would help if he would put pressure on his contractor to work with the inspector to get this cleared up; Mr. May said that it would not hurt. Mr. May also indicated that we could have the inspector deal with him directly to get the inspection done to be sure that it was done properly and go from there; Mr. Becker would like to do that at this time.

#### **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE**

**UGI ROAD WORK** - There was an issue with UGI PennDOT permits and closing roadways different directions two blocks apart causing horrific traffic jams. Mr. May received numerous phone calls as well as being stuck in a traffic jam on St. Lawrence Avenue where he was at a standstill for at least 20 minutes. There were also complaints about the flaggers who were on the job site as well. The PennDOT office was contacted and they took care of the situation. In the future the police will be authorized to respond to such situations and close the project down if there are traffic and safety issues. Mr. May would like to have a third party come out evaluate all of the road openings to be sure that they are being fixed to Borough standards.

**HOP TOSCO** - The accident reports were received with regard to the Perkiomen Avenue/Oley Turnpike Road HOP application for Tosco's. A letter will be drafted to accompany the zoning hearing decision for a right in right out only at this business location.

**PARKVIEW/BEECHWOOD DRIVE**- PA American is beginning to complete the road work at this location. Mr. May indicated that he would like to have this location evaluated as well to be sure that it is done correctly.

#### **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT**

**RFP FOR FIRE/EMS** - The RFPs will be opened this evening however no decision was going to be made until a complete review could be done. There were bids received from Lower Alsace Ambulance and Exeter Township Fire Department for EMS and the City of Reading Fire Department and Exeter Township Fire Department/Mt. Penn Fire Company joint proposal. No information will be given about the proposals or the amounts until a decision is made and services are awarded. This will be voted on at the November meeting.

#### **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR – MICHAEL FRITZ**

**RESOLUTION 766-2015** - Resolution 766-2015 is to set the Halloween Curfew and Trick or Treat Nights for 2015. The curfew will start on October 24th and end on November 8<sup>th</sup> from the hours of 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM. Trick or Treat nights will be October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00PM until 9:00 PM. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 766-2015 setting the Halloween curfew and Trick or Treat nights for 2015 as stated above and included as part of the official minutes; seconded by Mr. Cary Whitman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**POLICE AGREEMENT** – Mayor Fritz asked about the Police Agreement; Ms. London has the police agreement minus the certificate of insurance and indicated that it is ready to be signed however she did not have the agreement with her this evening. Ms. London indicated that Council could vote this evening though to execute the signing of the agreement. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to authorize the signing of the new police agreement; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**BUDGET & FINANCE - ALLISON LEINBACH**

**BUDGET MEETINGS** - A reminder was given about proposed budget meetings dates that were authorized at the September meeting for November 4 and November 9. There is no change to be made to the meeting dates and will be advertised as authorized.

**TRASH & RECYCLING**

**RECYCLING GRANT** - There is a recycling grant that is being offered to aid in the purchase of equipment for leaf pick up. We would be looking at a dump truck type piece of equipment and then the leaves could be dumped on Borough owned property to create a leaf only compost pile. Ms. Leinbach was made aware of this by Ms. Jane Meeks from the Solid Waste Authority. Ms. Leinbach asked for authorization to proceed. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. Leinbach to proceed with the publications through DEP and DCNR for grants; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**NEWSLETTER**

The next newsletter will go out after the December meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW ACCOUNTS** - Ms. Leinbach indicated that since the National Penn Bank branch that we use is going to be closing sometime next year. We would be looking at setting up additional accounts with Vist Tompkins especially since they offer a much higher interest rate. The branch in the Antietam Valley Shopping Center will remain open as both were acquired by BB&T Bank.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. May requested an executive session to discuss potential litigation. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried. Council went into executive session at 8:15 PM. Council came out of executive session at 8:30 PM.

**SEWER AGREEMENT: MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made the motion to have Ms. London re-amend the sewer agreement and send it to Exeter for comment; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Mrs. Eshelman made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Whitman; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan D. Eggert  
Borough Secretary