

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Robert J. May, Council President  
Mr. David W. Eggert, Council Vice President  
Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Councilman  
Mrs. Joan Eshelman, Councilwoman  
Mr. Warren Lubenow, Councilman  
Mr. Cary G. Whitman, Councilman

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager  
Mrs. Susan Eggert, Borough Secretary  
Ms. Pamela Stevens, Borough Engineer, SDE  
Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor, KS  
Mr. William C. Daniels, Code Enforcement Officer  
Mr. Richard Golashovsky, Building Code Official  
Chief Raymond Serafin, Central Berks Police Department  
Mr. Keith Smoker, Reading Eagle

**ABSENT:** Mr. Rick Davidson, Councilman  
Mr. Michael Fritz, Borough Mayor

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order by Council President, Mr. Robert J. May, at 7:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the meeting of June 11, 2015, were presented to 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 presented to Council for their review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the report and Ms. Leinbach indicated that the treasurer's report could be approved and filed for audit as presented. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**GENERAL:** \$372,441.57 **SEWER:** 223,178.97 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$136,807.21 **RESERVES:** \$48,719.30

**APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** The bills requiring payment and ratification were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund total \$68,274.55. Bills requiring payment from the sewer fund total \$12,400.39. **MOTION:** Mr. Cary Whitman made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented from both the general and sewer funds; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **REPORT OF THE POLICE CHIEF - RAYMOND SERAFIN**

Chief Serafin attended the meeting this evening to answer any questions or concerns that the Council may have of the police department. Once again Council indicated that they hear positive feedback from the residents; the chief was glad to hear that. Also there was a request received for donations for the National Night Out which is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>. Council also discussed making a monetary donation to the National Night Out. There was a short discussion and Council agreed to make a \$200 donation to National Night Out. Also Chief Serafin came with a draft police services agreement which was given to Ms. London who will review the agreement in detail prior to the next Council meeting.

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

**LANDIS PROPERTY** - There has been work going on at the Landis property involving the HOP and changing of the entrance and exit. We are in receipt of a conditional use application and the review is in process and the Planning Commission is scheduled to review the application at their July meeting. The hearing is slated for the August Council meeting and Ms. London was looking for authorization to advertise the hearing. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to advertise the Conditional Use Hearing for 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 13, 2015, with the Council meeting to follow; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** - The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, at 7:30 PM. The Commission will be reviewing the Conditional Use Application for the Landis Property.

**ANIMAL KEEPING ORDINANCE** – There was a draft ordinance provided for Council to review. This particular ordinance prohibits the keeping of any live stock or bees unless it is a farm property or already having zoning approval for such; a copy of the draft is enclosed. **MOTION:** Mrs. Eshelman made the motion authorizing Ms. London to advertise the Animal Keeping Ordinance which will be Ordinance 433 for adoption at the August meeting; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**UGI** - Ms. Stevens told Council that the Borough continues to have a few issues with UGI. The latest being that they blocked a street and refused to move their vehicle which was blocking the road to let the trash truck through and the trash truck actually had to come back to the next day to pick up the residents on that street by request of the Borough. If this is to happen again the police will be called to assist. If the Borough is billed for the extra pickup UGI will be billed.

**MENET PROPERTY** - Ms. Leinbach indicated that she has spoken with Mr. Menet and there is a potential new use for the building. Plans will follow.

**WOLFE DYE & BLEACH** - There is also a possible buyer for the property. They requested a meeting with the Borough however the same memo that was given to potential buyers in the past was issued and will be forwarded to the attorneys.

**SIGN ORDINANCE** – Ms. Stevens and Ms. Leinbach are still currently working on the updated sign ordinance. This had to be put on hold while dealing with other issues.

**STREET OPENING ORDINANCE** - A draft copy of an updated street opening ordinance was distributed to the members of Council for review. This ordinance was updated and also allows for penalties for not pulling permits. An amendment will be added to allow for penalties for not marking out an area for which the entire width of the street to be considered the site which would increase the cost of the permit drastically. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to advertise the new Street Opening Ordinance which will be Ordinance 434; seconded by Mr. Cary Whitman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**SINKHOLE PINE AVENUE** - There was a huge sinkhole that developed on Pine Avenue which turned out to be a decayed tree stump. M&A Excavating was called out and the repair to the road was done.

**FORESTRY** – Ms. Stevens indicated that she e-mailed the forestry information to Mr. Lubenow for his review.

**ILLICIT DISCHARGE VIOLATIONS** - Ms. Stevens indicated that there were actually two violations for illicit discharge. One being the Exeter Fire Co emptying a swimming pool and AVSC for the broken pipe which contributed to the sewer back up on Prospect Street. Both have been reported and are being dealt with at this time.

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFT STOUDT**

**BLIGHTED PROPERTY** - Ms. London went over blighted property criteria with Council and at this time the property owned by Jeffrey Francis at 330 Parkview Road does not qualify under this criteria so that is not an option in dealing with this property.

**STORMWATER MAINTENANCE** - Ms. London is going to look into whether or not the Borough needs to get permission to access stormwater maintenance inspections on specific properties.

**MPBA** - The Borough received a letter from the attorney for Mt. Penn Borough Municipal Authority with a payment of \$3,125 for the cost of the repairs to a sewer later on Oley Turnpike Road. The original bill was for over \$8,000. There was a discussion and it was decided to accept the payment of \$3,125 with a rebuttal letter to be sent by the Borough Solicitor. **MOTION:** Mr. Robert May made the motion to accept the payment of \$3,125 for the repairs to Oley Turnpike Road with a rebuttal letter to be sent; seconded by Mr. Whitman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - WILLIAM C. DANIELS**

There were a few properties that were sent notices of grass cutting. The Borough has had to cut a few of them for safety reasons because they are in foreclosure and banks are in the process of taking them over at this time.

**REPORT OF THE BUILDING CODE OFFICIAL - RICK GOLASHOVSKY**

Mr. Golashovsky attended the meeting this evening to answer any questions that Council may have of him. Also Mr. Golashovsky indicated that he understands that some residents were upset about the price of some permits and lack of inspections. The property owner in question was Mr. Becker from Parkview Road. He presented last month with this complaint. Mr. Golashovsky indicated that the contractor never called for any inspections. Mr. Lubenow indicated that he also had another resident question the price of a roof permit and the fact that no inspections were done. Mr. Golshovsky has attempted to contact this particular contractor several times in the last couple of days and has not heard back from them. With regard to the complaint for which Mr. Lubenow presented; Mr. Golshovsky will be looking into this as well but it appears that contractors are not calling him for inspections.

**LIGHTING FOR THE PARKING LOT** - Mr. Golashovsky indicated that he has looked into bringing the parking lot lighting up to code. This would cost the Borough approximately \$3000. The repair to the street light at Teak and Patton Streets would cost approximately \$2000. Mr. Golashovsky indicated that he would like to try to find where the break is in the line at the traffic light at Teak and Patton first before proceeding with this project. **MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made the motion to have Mr. Golashovsky proceed with this project not to exceed \$3000 after it can be determined whether or not there this is a break in the line; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet on July 22, 2015 to review the Conditional Use Hearing application. Mrs. Eggert will be checking to be sure that there is a quorum.

**SANITARY SEWER**

Mr. May asked for an executive session to discuss potential litigation.

**RECREATION - DAVID EGGERT**

Mr. Eggert indicated that the playground is going very well. The average ages this year are drastically different from last year. This year the average ages range from 8 to 12 years. The morning attendance is up and averages 20 children; the evening session averages at least 30-40. Prime vacation time is approaching so attendance will most likely drop a little bit.

**MUNICIPAL LANDS**

Mr. Lubenow indicated that he has reviewed the information sent by Ms. Stevens. Isn't really sure that harvesting is a good idea at this point. He would like to see the fire lanes be opened up a little bit more.

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**NEWSLETTER**

There will be a stormwater newsletter going out before the July 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**GENERAL COMMENTS TO COUNCIL**

Mr. Eggert said that Mt. Penn Fire Company recently received their ISO rating. Their ISO rating is class #2. Mr. May congratulated them.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried. Borough Council went into executive session at 8:30 PM. Council came out of executive session at 8:46 PM.

**MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made a motion authorizing Ms. London upon final review to send Exeter Township the amendment; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Mr. Eggert 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 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert  
Borough Secretary