

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2010**

ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager
Mrs. Susan Eggert, Borough Secretary
Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor, KS
Ms. Pamela Stevens, Borough Engineer, SDE
Dr. Ronald Ivison, Borough Mayor
Mr. Chris Reber, Reading Eagle

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 reorganization meeting and regular monthly meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council on Monday, January 4, 2010, were distributed to the members of Council for review.

MOTION: Mrs. Joan Eshelman made the motion to accept the minutes from the reorganization meeting as presented; seconded by Mr. James Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried. **MOTION:** Mrs. Joan Eshelman made the motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held on Mon. January 4, 2010, as presented; seconded by Mr. Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented to Council for review. Ms. Leinbach indicated that the treasurer's report could be approved as presented and filed for audit. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. **MOTION:** Mrs. Eshelman made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented and could be filed for audit; seconded by Mr. Cary Whitman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$67,123.57 **SEWER:** \$61,066.09 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$143,333.55 **CAPITAL RESERVE:** \$108,661.37

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: The bills requiring payment and ratification were distributed to the members of Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. **MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made a motion to approve payment and ratification to all of the bills presented for payment and ratification; seconded by Mr. David Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund total \$72,265.86 and from the sewer fund \$13,982.13.

APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/TREASURER: **MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made a motion to appoint Ms. Allison Leinbach as the chief administrative officer and treasurer for the Borough for the calendar year 2010; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE

Ms. Stevens presented a written engineer's report which included all of the items reviewed and worked on by SDE during the month of January. There were no questions and Council reviewed the report. There was a short discussion with regard to the Wachovia Bank property and the old Borough Hall property. It was noted that the Planning Commission did look favorably at both proposed uses.

REPORT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER - WILLIAM DANIELS

Mr. Daniels was not in attendance however Ms. Leinbach indicated that there was a denial of a commercial zoning permit that was submitted for the property at 3001 Perkiomen Avenue.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT

DIBIASE DECISION – Ms. London indicated that an appeal has been filed and shortly thereafter a counter appeal was filed by Mr. DiBiase.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - RONALD IVISON

Dr. Ivison reported that he felt that Central Berks Regional Police have done a fine job thus far. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she has had numerous compliments from the residents on the job that the police department is doing patrolling the Borough. Dr. Ivison indicated that we have received a check from the District Justice; ordinance violations totaling over \$500 and vehicle violations around \$280. Dr. Ivison indicated that he was very concerned with the issues with Fisher’s Gun Gallery however the police handled the situation and the issues have been resolved. There was a short discussion about the issues with Exeter Police. Ms. Leinbach indicated that the Borough has received an invoice from Exeter Township for court costs however it is the Borough’s contention that under the contract the Borough had with Exeter court costs were included in the calculation. Ms. Leinbach also indicated that in e-mails from Mr. Bingaman that Exeter would like to set up a meeting to discuss sewer and police issues and has appointed two of the supervisors to represent them at that meeting. Mr. May indicated that perhaps Council should appoint two or three members to represent the Borough. Mr. May indicated that he would like to be part of that committee, Mr. Lubenow indicated that he would like to be involved as did Rev. Bennethum. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she would contact Mr. Bingaman to coordinate a meeting. Mr. Lubenow indicated that he was not going to be available the last week of February.

BUDGET & FINANCE - ALLISON LEINBACH

UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES - Mrs. Eggert reported that there were five real tax bills that were not paid for the calendar year 2009. Taxes totaling \$4,498.04 were turned over the tax claim bureau for collection.

STREETS & LIGHTS - JOAN ESHELMAN

INDUSTRIAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE - Mrs. Eggert indicated that she has a proposal from Industrial Grounds Maintenance to provide the annual spring street sweeping for 2010 at the price of \$1,950 and additional \$250 to post the streets that are typically parked full for two days. The tentative dates are April 29th and 30th. There was a short discussion; Ms. Leinbach indicated that the price typically goes up \$100 every year and that this is \$100 more than last year. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to accept Industrial Ground Maintenance’s proposal of \$1950 for the street sweeping and an additional \$250 for posting signs; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mrs. Eggert will contact them.

PLANNING COMMISSION - ALLISON LEINBACH

ANNUAL REPORT - Mrs. Eggert indicated that the Commission has completed an annual report however this was not included in the packets. Council decided to table the acceptance of the report until next month.

SANITARY SEWER - ALLISON LEINBACH

WAIVER REQUEST 259 ELM STREET - Mrs. Eggert indicated that she has received a request to waive partial or complete sewer charges to Timothy Fiorillo at 259 Elm Street. Mr. Fiorillo had requested a waiver previously and has provided further documentation. Mr. May indicated that he felt that this issue should be tabled until next month to give Council more opportunity to review the documentation.

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM - Mr. Lubenow indicated that he has done some research on the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Lubenow indicated that from his research he has concluded that the sewer charges have not quadrupled over the past 3 years and felt that the sludge dryer project is the reason for the increase in the charges. Mr. Lubenow indicated that he felt that the Borough should look at turning the sanitary sewer system over to Exeter and therefore avoiding any further problems with Exeter's billing practices. Mr. May indicated that several years back this was proposed and Exeter was not interested in taking over the system unless the Borough was willing to fix all problems prior to turning over the system. Mr. Lubenow indicated that he has spoken with Mr. Paul Herb and that Mr. Herb seemed very interested in what Mr. Lubenow was proposing. Mr. Lubenow felt that the Borough should at least consider this and felt that it should be discussed at the upcoming meeting with Exeter.

TRASH & RECYCLING - CARY WHITMAN

SPRING CLEAN UP - Spring Clean Up has been scheduled for Thursday, May 13.

CANCELLATION OF TRASH - It was noted that because of the recent snow storm trash and recycling was canceled for Feb 11. Eagle Disposal will be picking up double the trash and recycling on Feb 18.

RECREATION - DAVID EGGERT

EGG HUNT - The egg hunt is scheduled for Fri, April 2.

ZONING HEARING BOARD - ALLISON LEINBACH

RESIGNATION - It was noted by Mr. Fritz at the last Council meeting that Mr. Houck would like to resign as the alternate of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mrs. Eggert and Ms. Leinbach did contact Mr. Boisson as requested at the last Council meeting to see if he would be interested in serving as the alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Boisson indicated that he would be interested. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made a motion to accept Mr. Houck's resignation and appoint Mr. Michael Boisson as the alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board by way of Resolution 696-2010; seconded by Mr. Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried.

LIBRARY LIASON - D. MICHAEL BENNETHUM

Rev. Bennethum indicated that the Library will be doing a mailing inviting all Council members to the unveiling of a major donor plaque on February 28th. The Library did adopt a budget of \$394,000. Rev. Bennethum also noted that Mr. Lubenow has agreed to take over as the Library liaison and Rev. Bennethum will be the alternate since he cannot make a lot of the meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

REIFFTON FIRE COMPANY - Mr. Lubenow indicated that Mr. Robert Jordan contacted him and would like to attend the next Council meeting to present the annual report. Mr. Lubenow also indicated that Mr. Jordan advised him that the advisory fire board will be giving a position to the Borough. Mr. May indicated as Council President that he would be like to represent the Borough on that board.

ANTIETAM BRIDGE PROJECT - Ms. Leinbach indicated that there was a utility meeting with PennDOT and all of the utilities involved in the bridge project. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she, Ms. London and Ms. Staudt also sat in on that meeting. It was noted that PennDOT is planning on starting this project in February of 2011 and the project will take 12 months to complete. They will be using Oley Turnpike Road as the detour. They are also planning on placing a temporary traffic signal at St. Lawrence Avenue and Oley Turnpike Road as well as a left turn signal at Perkiomen Avenue and Oley Turnpike Road. There will also be 3 phase traffic signal at Bingaman Street. Anyone having any concerns should address them to Ms. Leinbach. Ms. Staudt is expecting a plan to be sent to her from PennDOT and as a professional traffic engineer she will review the plan and give her professional opinion.

PRE-EMPTION DEVICE - Ms. Leinbach indicated that she needs authorization to have Metro Bank cut two checks from the pre-emption grant monies; the first check to Telco for the installation of the pre-emption device in the amount of \$9,952.80 and the second check to DCED for the balance totaling \$762.05. **MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made the motion authorizing Ms. Leinbach to have Metro Bank cut two checks in the amount of \$9,952.80 for Telco and \$762.05 to DCED; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Whitman made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Signed/Susan D. Eggert

Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary