

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Allison A. 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. Chazz Lyon, Amity Township Manager
Mr. Oddvar Norheim, EDAC
Mr. Robert Yanos, Amity Township Chairman
Mr. Paul Weller, Amity Planning & Supervisor
Mr. Robert Jordan, Exeter Township Fire Department
Ms. Carole Duran, 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 February 11, 2010 meeting were distributed to the members of Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. **MOTION:** Mr. David Eggert made the motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. James Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried.

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

GENERAL: \$23,478.37 **SEWER:** \$87,241.79 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$143,438.01 **CAPITAL RESERVE:** \$108,740.56

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All of the bills requiring payment and ratification were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve all bills presented for payment and ratification; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried. The bills needing payment and ratification from the general fund total \$52,946.88 and the sewer fund total \$5,398.06

PUBLIC HEARINGS, PETITIONS

AMITY TOWNSHIP - Mr. Charles Lyons from Amity Township presented to Council to discuss a zoning change that Amity is interested in pursuing at this time. Amity Township, Exeter Township and St. Lawrence Borough are part of the same joint comprehension plan therefore Amity Township felt that it was appropriate to come to the meeting to inform the Borough of their intentions. Mr. Lyons indicated that Amity Township was looking to promote light industry and business within the township since they are trying to stabilize their tax base. Mr. Lyons turned over the presentation to Mr. Norheim from EDAC who explained what Amity Township's intentions were and location in question. He answered questions that Council raised about the proposed change. Mr. Yanos also indicated that they were hoping to be able to send all of the recommendations to the Amity Supervisors by next month. Mr. Yanos also indicated that Exeter Township has sent a negative outlook letter to the County expressing their concerns over the change. There are at this point no official plans and Mr. Yanos promised to keep the Borough informed as they move forward.

ROBERT JORDAN, EXETER TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Mr. Jordan presented to Council the 2009 Annual Report of the Exeter Township Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Jordan gave Council the highlights of the report and indicated that the merger of the two companies is going well in fact better than he had expected and should be completed by June of this year. Mr. Jordan also indicated that there is a seat for a St. Lawrence representative on the fire advisory board and looks forward to working with that representative in the near future.

REPORT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER - WILLIAM C. DANIELS

Mr. Daniels indicated that he had sent out a few code enforcement letters. There were a few complaints received about the pot holes on Bingaman Street, EJ Breneman was contacted and we are awaiting a quote from them for the repairs. Mr. Simmons indicated that he had reported to the Borough office that the garage roof on the Wolfe Dye & Bleach property has caved in and felt that something needed to be done about that property. Mr. Daniels was aware of the situation and we take another look at the property next week. Mr. Lubenow asked Mr. Daniels about the property on Orchard Court and whether those problems have been resolved. Mr. Daniels indicated that there are a few unresolved issues with that property however on the whole he has made an improvement to the property and as the weather gets nicer he will be keeping an eye on things at that property. Mr. Lubenow also asked Mr. Daniels if he was able to look at the dumping of construction material at the end of the woods that he reported. Mr. Daniels indicated that he had but he had no way of knowing who dumped it there. Mr. Lubenow asked if something could be placed in the newsletter letting residents know that it is illegal to dump construction materials or any other materials on another person's property.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON

DIBIASE APPEAL - Ms. London told Council that the appeal and the counter appeal have been filed. The appeals are going to be consolidated by the court system. Ms. London will keep the Council updated on the progress of the appeal.

RIGHT TO KNOW REQUEST - Ms. London indicated that she had sent letters to all present and past Council members informing them that Mr. DiBiase's attorney requested statements of financial interest from Council members in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and that that information was released to Mr. Stock.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE

WRITTEN REPORT - Ms. Stevens handed out a written engineer's report for review. There were no questions. Ms. Stevens indicated that that appeal period for the denied zoning permit has expired.

ZONING ORDINANCE - Ms. Stevens indicated that she is working on the language for the amendment for zoning district changes for the two areas previously discussed; the old Wachovia Bank site from R4 to C5 and a small parcel that was missed in the Borough Center from C10 to BC. Ms. Leinbach asked Council if they would like to open up options for possible uses in the shopping center that are not currently allowed; Council was in favor and more investigation will be done.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES - The Planning Commission members asked that everyone go out and look at the Goodwill site so that waiver requests can be looked at during the next Planning meeting. Any Council member wishing to look at the site should do so as well so that when the waiver requests come in everyone is familiar with the site.

LIGHTING AT THE SHOPPING CENTER - Mr. Whitman indicated that he has had a few complaints from residents about the lighting at the shopping center. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she has spoken to Mr. Kevin Cannon at the shopping center and he is aware of the issue. This will need to be taken care of as part of the conditional use for the daycare.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - DR. RONALD IVISON

POLICE REPORT - The police report was reviewed by Council. There were a total of 113 police calls in the Borough during the month of February.

WRITTEN REPORT - Mayor Ivison included a written report for Council to review. The Borough received a check from the District Justice in the amount of \$921.26 for the month of February. Mayor Ivison asked Council to clarify the duties of the Mayor. There was a short discussion and Mayor Ivison was given some guidance from Council and Ms. London.

BUDGET & FINANCE - ALLISON LEINBACH

CASH FLOW DOCUMENTS - The cash flow documents were included in the packet to be reviewed by Council. No questions.

COUNTY GIS AGREEMENT - Ms. Leinbach indicated that the County is now charging for their GIS services except to municipalities. There is an agreement that needs to be signed in order to use the GIS system. **MOTION:** Mr. Whitman made a motion authorizing Mr. May to sign the GIS agreement with the County; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

STREETS & LIGHTS - JOAN ESHELMAN

BINGAMAN STREET - Ms. Leinbach indicated that she had received an e-mail with regard to possible federal grant availability to re-mill Bingaman Street. There was a short discussion about the different possibilities for getting Bingaman Street re-milled even basically seeing if it can be done as part of the bridge project. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to have Ms. Christy Staudt from Traffic Planning & Design construct a letter explaining how closing St. Lawrence Avenue during the bridge project will impact Bingaman Street; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION - ALLISON LEINBACH

2009 ANNUAL REPORT - The Planning Commission's annual report was submitted to Council for their review. There were no questions.

3400 ST. LAWRENCE AVENUE - Mr. David Klechner has purchased the property at 3400 St. Lawrence Avenue which is known as the old Borough Hall. Mr. Klechner will be coming before Planning Commission for plan review. There was further discussion that perhaps the Borough should have a memo of understanding signed by Mr. Klechner for the reimbursement of all professional services involved in his project since no land development plan will be required and Council felt that an escrow would not be necessary. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to construct a memo of understanding for the purpose of reimbursement of all professional services related to the project at 3400 St. Lawrence Avenue; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF JAMES LEWARS - Mr. Lewars term on Planning Commission will expire on 4/1/10. Resolution 697 reappointing Mr. Lewars to the Planning Commission for a 5-year term expiring 4/1/15. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 697-2010 appointing Mr. Lewars to the Planning Commission for a 5 year term expiring 4/1/15; seconded by Mr. Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried.

SANITARY SEWER - ALLISON LEINBACH/ROBERT MAY

SEWER PROJECT - The sewer bids were received and the bid opening was done on Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 12:00 PM. Eight bids were received and the apparent low bidder was Mr. Rehab with a bid of \$389,652.60. Ms. Leinbach indicated that Mr. Conrad estimated that this project would come in around \$750,000. This bid is still pending final review by the engineers and the solicitor. Ms. London was authorized to start on securing the financing to move forward with this project.

TRASH & RECYCLING - CARY WHITMAN

TRASH PICKUP - Mr. Whitman requested that we asked and reiterate to the residents the need to put your trash out the night before in the event that they need to pick up the trash extremely early as they had to during the snowy winter. Residents will be reminded to do this in the upcoming newsletter.

SPRING CLEAN UP - Spring Clean up is scheduled for May 13th and will be advertised on the sign and in the newsletter.

RECREATION - DAVID EGGERT

EGG HUNT - The annual egg hunt is scheduled for Friday, April 2. The hunt will start at 9:00 AM. Mrs. Eggert informed Council that the Borough did receive a donation from RM Palmer Candy and we purchased 2 cases of candy from them as well. Refreshments will be served and the Easter Bunny will arrive on the fire truck compliments of Mt. Penn Fire Company.

MUNICIPAL LANDS

PLAYGROUND INSPECTION - Ms. Leinbach indicated that she has asked Mr. Daniels and Mr. Eggert to do a walk through inspection of the playground. Ms. Leinbach will provide each individual with a check list.

NEWSLETTER – ALLISON LEINBACH

NATURE HIKE - Mr. Lubenow indicated that he has hosted a nature walk in the past and would like to do so again this year. Mr. Lubenow will contact Mrs. Eggert with some dates so that this can be included in the newsletter scheduled to go out within the next week or two.

LIBRARY LIAISON - WARREN LUBENOW

FUNDRAISING - Mr. Lubenow told Council that the library's main objective at this time is fundraising. They will be having a Reading Phillies night for the county library system on April 9th. The Exeter Woman's Club will be sponsoring a fashion show with all proceeds going to the Exeter Library. Mr. Lubenow also indicated that Exeter Township has increased their donation to the library, they are now giving \$4 per resident. Mr. Lubenow asked that Council consider giving more money to the library this year to stay comparable with Exeter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SEWER RELIEF REQUEST FOR 259 ELM STREET - A few months ago Council received a request from Dr. Timothy Fiorillo who owns a property at 259 Elm Street. Dr. Fiorillo had a tenant who moved out and turned off the heat which caused some water pipes to burst. Dr. Fiorillo received a sewer bill for over \$1300 and is asking for some relief on this bill. It is Dr. Fiorillo's belief that the water was not released into the sewer system however sewer bills are based on water usage. Dr. Fiorillo was asked to get more information and "proof" that the water was not released into the sewer system. Dr. Fiorillo submitted documentation from Service Master and the insurance company which indicated that there are not any floor drains in Dr. Fiorillo's basement. Mr. Eggert indicated that he has thought long and hard about Dr. Fiorillo's situation and felt that the Borough should grant him some relief. After a short discussion Mr. Eggert proposed a \$600 relief on his \$1300 sewer bill. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to grant Dr. Fiorillo a \$600 relief on his sewer bill; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; Mr. Eggert, Mr. Lubenow, Mrs. Eshelman, Mr. Whitman, Rev. Bennethum and Mr. Simmons all voted in favor; Mr. May opposed; the motion carried.

POLICE SURVEY - The Borough received a survey from the County with regard to regional police services. Mayor Ivison was asked to fill out the survey and mail it back to the County.

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CARSONIA PARK – The Borough received a letter from the Carsonia Park Committee who was asking the Borough for a \$1500 donation in order to hold fireworks at their carnival scheduled for Sept 22, 23, 24 & 25. They were also asking Mt. Penn, Lower Alsace and Exeter Township for the same donation. There was a short discussion. No action was taken. Ms. Leinbach indicated that if Council were to decide to give this donation it would have to come out of the recreation budget.

INCOMING & OUTGOING COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATIONS TO SPRING DINNER - The invitations to the Spring Dinner Meeting for Borough Officials were distributed to the members of Council. Anyone wishing to attend was asked to let Mrs. Eggert know so that reservations could be made for those individuals.

GENERAL COMMENTS TO COUNCIL

MEETING WITH EXETER TOWNSHIP - Ms. Leinbach indicated that the meeting between Exeter and St. Lawrence is scheduled for March 29, 2010 at 5:30 PM at the Exeter Township Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed/Susan D. Eggert

Susan D. Eggert
Borough Secretary