

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010**

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. James Simmons, Councilman
Mr. Cary G. Whitman, Councilman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager
Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary
Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor
Ms. Pamela Stevens, Borough Engineer
Dr. Ronald Ivison, Borough Mayor
Mr. William C. Daniels, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer
Chief Anthony Garipoli, Central Berks Police Chief
Mr. Joshua Nowotarski, Police Commission Chairman
Mr. Michael Fritz, Borough Resident
Mrs. Marilyn Gross, Borough Resident
Mrs. Pamela Hilbert, Borough Resident
Mr. Dan Andrews, 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 of the August 12, 2010 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. David W. Eggert made the motion to accept 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. Ms. Leinbach indicated that the treasurer's report could be accepted as presented. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. **MOTION:** Mrs. Eshelman made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Mr. Cary Whitman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$163,916.25 **SEWER:** \$25,525.92 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$178,000.23 **CAPITAL RESERVE:** \$139,214.61

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 or corrections. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$55,284.45 and from the sewer fund \$6,074.67. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER – PAMELA STEVENS

The engineer's report was distributed to the members of Council for review. There were three items that needed to be addressed this evening.

SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES - Ms. Leinbach and Mr. Daniels presented Council with a list of streets that they felt should be considered as snow emergency routes to make snow clean up easier. This list was presented to Council for review. This would be put into effect for greater than 6 inches of snow or ice. The following areas were proposed, St. Lawrence Avenue, Oley Turnpike Road, Adams Street both sides, Jacksonwald Avenue from Chestnut to Ganster on the south side, Ganster Street both sides, Stoner Avenue from Adams to Chestnut on the north side, Elm Street the west side, Patton Street from Walnut to Brown on both sides, Patton Street from Brown to Elm on the south side and around the mall area of Jacksonwald Avenue. This was discussed briefly and Council authorized Ms. London to draft an Ordinance to be reviewed at the October meeting.

TRAFFIC PLANNING & DESIGN LETTER FOR THE BRIDGE CLOSURE - Ms. Staudt from TPD drafted a letter for PennDOT regarding the detour for the bridge closure which is to occur February of 2011. This project is estimated to take one year. During this past summer the bridge was closed for about a three-week time period and at that time the Borough authorized Ms. Staudt to do traffic counts on Prospect Street, Oley Turnpike Road and Bingaman Street. It was also noted to take into consideration that these counts were done during the time period where there was no school time traffic. The traffic counts indicated that the traffic on Prospect Street had tripled. A letter to this effect will be sent to PennDOT and copied to state senators as well as others that the Borough felt should be notified. A copy of the draft letter will be included in the minutes. Mr. May suggested that during the budget process that perhaps an additional category should be added for purchasing supplies such as solar radar signs and such to help with safety during the bridge closure. **MOTION:** Mr. Warren Lubenow made the motion authorizing the Borough Manger to proceed with communication with Ms. Staudt and to send the letter off to PennDOT, state senators and others; seconded by Mr. James Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried.

PERKIOMEN STORMWATER ISSUE – Ms. Stevens explained that they did do a walk through with all of the property owners, PennDOT and some Council members. Basically the stormwater is coming from the state highway but PennDOT is claiming no responsibility. There has not been any response from the property owners to date. This is a real problem and no one seems to want to do anything about it because of the expense. Council directed Ms. London to contact the property owners and/or their attorneys on September 13 and give them until September 16 to come up with a plan or enforcement action will be taken against them which could result in a fine up to \$600 per day.

SHOPPING CENTER LIGHTING - It was also discussed that approximately one year ago the shopping center was told about the lighting issues and the differences in elevation in their parking lot and no action has been taken on that matter. This will also be brought to their attention again on September 13 and the Borough would like to see a plan by September 16 or enforcement will be taken against them with regards to these issue especially in light of the conditional use granted to the day care center.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, ESQ – KOZLOFF STOUDT

DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR RESTRICTION OF TRUCK TRAFFIC ON PARKVIEW – Ms. London prepared a draft ordinance which would restrict truck traffic on Parkview Road especially in light of the bridge being closed for one year. It was also noted that Exeter has a restriction of “local truck traffic only” on Beechwood Drive. There was a short discussion; it was noted that the ordinance should also limit local truck traffic only to Brumbach Street and Walnut Street as well since Parkview Road becomes Walnut to St. Lawrence Avenue. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the Borough Manager to advertise the Ordinance limiting truck traffic to local truck traffic only to Parkview Road, Walnut Street and Brumbach Street for adoption in October; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

DRAFT FIRE LANE ORDINANCE – Ms. London prepared a draft fire lane ordinance which sets rules and regulations for those areas assigned as a fire lane by Resolution. There were a few questions asked by Council and Ms. Leinbach and all questions were answered. Ms. London indicated that this ordinance would be enforceable. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the Borough Manager to advertise the fire lane ordinance for adoption in October; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

SUBURBAN PETROLEUM UPDATE - Ms. London gave an update on the Suburban Petroleum property code enforcement. Ms. London indicated that DJ Phyllis Kowalski's office stated that the enforcement notice was sent out on 8/17/10 but the certified mail receipt has not yet been returned to their office. She will keep Council updated on this matter.

DIBIASE APPEAL – Ms. London indicated that the hearing before the County Judge is scheduled for October 4, 2010.

ACT 46 - Ms. London told Council that Act 46 would extend building permits for a set fee. There was a short discussion; Mr. May asked if fees could ever be waived and Ms. London indicated that yes they could be waived by Council. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 706-2010 which establishes Act 46 for extension of building permits and would be in addition to the original fee schedule adopted back in the beginning of 2010; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - RONALD IVISON

The Mayor submitted his written report which was issued to each member of Council for review. This report included the police incident report for the month. Chief Garipoli was present to answer any questions that Council may have for him which were none at this time. The report was reviewed.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION - Mayor Ivison submitted a letter of resignation to Mr. May effective September 11, 2010. Mr. May asked if Mayor Ivison if he would be willing to stay on as Mayor until September 30, 2010 to allow Council 30 days to find a replacement; Mayor Ivison agreed. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to accept Mayor Ivison's resignation effective September 30, 2010. Mr. May proposed that Council hold a special meeting prior to the next Council meeting, scheduled for Thursday, October 14, 2010, at 6:30 PM to hold interviews for all interested candidates for the office of Mayor. It was decided by Council that the open office of Mayor should be advertised in the newspaper and all interested parties should submit a letter indicating why they would be interested in being Mayor as well as a resume indicating their qualifications to hold such a position. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the Borough Manager to advertise the open office of Mayor in the newspaper and to have all interested parties attend the special meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2010, to be interviewed and the appointment will be made during the regular public meeting scheduled to start on Thursday, October 14, 2010 no sooner than 7:30 PM; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

STREETS & LIGHTS - JOAN ESHELMAN

ORCHARD COURT SOLAR STREET LIGHT - The poles are now downstairs and Ms. Leinbach will be meeting with the electrician from Hirneisen Electric to get a quote on the installation of the light. They have all of the needed equipment and have installed solar lights in the past.

NO PARKING AREAS - Ms. Leinbach proposed a list of areas that should perhaps become no parking areas due to safety issues. The following areas were recommended, Patton on Walnut 20' both sides, Jacksonwald Avenue at Ganster on the south side 30', Brown Street at St. Lawrence Avenue 20' both sides, Ganster Street across from the alley east side 18' and Lynn Avenue across from the townhouse alley 20'. There was a short discussion; Council asked that properties affected by the no parking areas should be sent letters indicating what the Borough is proposing. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to draft an ordinance designating the above areas as no parking; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried. By sending letters to the residents affected by this change will give them a chance to ask questions and Council will review the draft ordinance at the October meeting.

NAMING THE ALLEY BETWEEN ELM AND POPLAR - Ms. Leinbach indicated that there has been a request to name the alley that runs between Elm Street and Poplar Drive currently known as the "no name alley". There was a discussion and Council decided on Boro Way. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to draft an ordinance for review naming the said alley Boro Way; seconded by Mrs. Eshelman; all were in favor and the motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION - ALLISON LEINBACH

The Planning Commission has not met for the past few months and probably will not meet in September either for the lack of business.

SANITARY SEWER - ALLISON LEINBACH

PAYMENT APPLICATION #1 and #2 – Ms. Leinbach indicated that she has received two payment applications from Mr. Rehab for work that has been completed with regard to the sewer rehabilitation project. The payment applications total \$92,766.55. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the payment of \$92,766.55 to be paid to Mr. Rehab for work completed on the sewer project from the loan account at PNC Bank; seconded by Mr. James Simmons; all were in favor and the motion carried. Ms. Leinbach indicated that after all of the work is completed videotaping will be done.

TRASH & RECYCLING - CARY WHITMAN

LABOR DAY WEEK PICK UP - Mrs. Eggert reminded everyone that trash pick is scheduled for tomorrow, Friday, Sept 10, because of the holiday. As a reminder, Thanksgiving week trash pickup will also be delayed one day.

RECREATION – DAVID EGGERT

Mr. Eggert indicated that the playground program this summer was very successful.

ZONING HEARING BOARD - ALLISON LEINBACH

GARAGE- Ms. Leinbach indicated that we have received some paperwork with regard to a proposed garage to be built which will require a variance. This is only preliminary plans no zoning hearing application has been filed to date.

BOROUGH HALL - ALLISON LEINBACH

ELEVATOR - Mrs. Eggert told Council that the pressure test of the elevator is scheduled for September 23.
LIGHTING - Ms. Leinbach told Council that the exterior lighting has been addressed.

NEWSLETTER - ALLISON LEINBACH

The next newsletter is scheduled to go out in approximately 2-3 weeks.

LIBRARY LIAISON - WARREN LUBENOW

Rev. Bennethum attended the last meeting. He reported that the library has begun their budgeting process. Mr. Lubenow will be attending the county system meeting later this month.

GENERAL COMMENTS TO COUNCIL

NOVEMBER MEETING - Mrs. Eggert reminded everyone that November’s Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10 and not Thursday, November 11 due to Veteran’s Day. A reminder will be given again next month.

ADJOURNMENT - MOTION: Mr. Lubenow made a 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 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Signed/Susan D. Eggert

Susan D. Eggert
Borough Secretary