

COUNCIL MEETING

February 4, 2019

Council President Beverly Wolfe called the meeting of the Penndel Borough Council to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting

Mayor Robert Winkler
Council President Beverly Wolfe
Council Vice President Barbara Heffelfinger
Councilman John Stratz
Councilwoman Laura Germain
Councilman Mark Moffa
Councilman Joe Dudash
Councilman Rich Flanagan – absent

Also present

Dave Truelove, Hill Wallack, Solicitor
Chief of Police, Sean Perry
Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering
Marie Serota, Borough Secretary/Treasurer

Announcements

Laura Germain announced the Valentine's Day party for the kids on Saturday February 9th from 12:30 – 2:30 at the borough hall.

Barbara Heffelfinger announced the Heritage Society Soup Dinner on February 23rd from 4:00 – 6:30 at the Coffee Cup. \$8.00 per person, kids 5 and under are free. All the soup you can eat, salad, dessert, rolls & drinks.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS:

- a. Approval of Minutes: January 22nd Work Session, Motion by Laura Germain, seconded by Barbara Heffelfinger. All ayes, motion carried.
- b. Reading and Approval of Bills

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE BILLS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$42,992.96 |
| Fire Tax Fund | \$ 792.30 |
| Refuse Fund | \$ 202.64 |
| Sewer Fund | \$65,285.62 |
| Sewer Capital | \$ 255.00 |
| Liquid Fuel Fund | \$ 2,994.10 |
| Escrow Fund | \$ 921.25 |

Payroll

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|--------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$21,212.39 |
| Sewer Fund | \$ 3,490.54 |
| Refuse Fund | <u>\$ 1,311.60</u> |

Total **\$26,014.53**

Escrow Bills:

Mill Creek 2:

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|-------------------|----------|
| Hill Wallack LLP | \$ 60.00 |
| Value Engineering | \$ 72.00 |

McHugh:

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|-------------------|----------|
| Hill Wallack LLP | \$ 60.00 |
| Value Engineering | \$229.50 |

Schoolhouse Court:

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|-------------------|----------|
| Hill Wallack LLP | \$424.00 |
| Value Engineering | \$ 75.75 |

Pre-paid Checks

Check #12350 dated January 3, 2019 in the amount of \$262.90 made out to Langhorne Postmaster for quarterly billing postage

Check #12402 dated January 28, 2019 in the amount of \$5,859.69 made out to Commonwealth of PA for unclaimed property (checks not cashed-mostly PECO street opening escrow reimbursements)

SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Winkler read his report, which is attached.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management Report – Mayor Winkler read the report, which is on file in the secretary's office.

Chief's Report – Chief Perry read his report which is on file in the secretary's office.

Chief Perry also reported that they have had numerous complaints regarding stray dogs, some of which have bitten people and some which have defecated on other people's properties. They are becoming a nuisance. They are looking at reaching out to the owners of these dogs so that they don't have to cite the residents. If you should see dogs out and about, call them. This month they had 2 cases and were able to locate the owners. There was one they haven't located the owner, that was turned over to the Women's Humane Society.

Another thing he wanted to address was the recent incident in Falls Township with the impersonation of a police officer. A woman told police an unidentified man pulled her over and took her information. The man was driving an older model black or dark blue Ford Crown Victoria with one red and one blue light, placed inside dashboard. The vehicle also may have had a front license plate. The suspect was described as a white male, late 30's to early 40's, dirty appearance, 2 or 3 day growth of facial hair. He had body odor and smelled of cigarettes and alcohol, had scruffy hair and spoke with a Philadelphia or New York accent. He was not wearing a uniform and may have had a plastic badge or a security badge. If you are ever pulled over by a vehicle that you don't think is a police officer or there is not a lot of lights on it, it probably isn't. Cars today are lit up like a Christmas tree. If there are not a lot of lights on the car, don't pull over. Call 911 on your phone and dispatch can verify if they are actually a police officer. Slow down, put your flashers on but don't pull over; just make the call to 911. If you don't have a phone on you, try to find somewhere safe that is well populated and well lit and pull over.

Solicitor's Report - Dave Truelove said he wanted to note that since they passed the minutes from the last meeting, near the end of the meeting there was a motion for an RFP Survey for

Taddei Woods. He had overlooked the fact that the engineer had already prepared a proposal. His recommendation to the council would be to rescind that motion and to direct the engineer to conduct the survey so that it will make that correct for the record.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO RESCIND THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE SURVEY OF TADDEI WOODS AS INDICATED AT THE JANUARY 22ND WORK SESSION. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO DIRECT THE ENGINEER TO PERFORM THE SURVEY OF TADDEI WOODS AS PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

Engineer's Report - Carol Schuehler read her report which is attached.

Mike Smith asked how bad the line was leaking at Mill Creek Village II Apartments. Carol did not have the full report with her but said there were dislocated joints that were discovered. There was no water pumping in but there was a dislocation of the joint in the one line. In another line they really didn't get a good video because they could not get through so they have some work to do. Joe Dudash asked if they are going to get more videos and Carol said yes.

Committee Reports

Finance/Administration (Barbara Heffelfinger):

The budget is completed and now they can start doing everything they plan to do. Carol and she met last week to work on a number of different things. One for DCNR and one for CDBG. They will bring their thoughts back to council and have them look at what they think they might be able to do and then get the grants in promptly. Beverly Wolfe asked what the deadlines were. Barbara said they were both due around the same time in April.

Public Safety (Joe Dudash):

He was at Taddei Woods with Rick's Tree Service. We have the bore ash problem. We also have liability issues with the trees hanging over Middletown resident's properties if you look at Adams and Parkview Aves. They can't tell who's is what so they do need to have the survey done. He will have a report on how much it is going to cost the borough once the boundary lines are found. They are talking about a 6 – 8 foot wide space along the border to clear out so that if anything falls, it will be on our side. Mark Moffa asked if this was in addition to the figures he gave last meeting for the tree emergency. Joe said it is. They need the survey done first. Mark said he was talking to Young's Tree Service last time and now he is talking to Rick's. Joe said Young's can't do a big project like this and sent him to Rick's because they have the equipment and manpower. Beverly Wolfe wanted to know who recommended the 6 – 8 foot easement. Joe said Rick's did. Beverly asked if it would be 6 – 8 feet from the property line into Taddei Woods and Joe said yes. He will give us an estimate on that. The next thing is the ash trees. They went through today and Rick's doesn't think there is as much ash as everyone thinks there is. After walking around through there, he is now finding sump pump lines from residences dumping into the woods and storm water pipes coming into Taddei Woods from Middletown. There is debris on the Parkview Ave. side that they didn't see when they cleaned up because of evasive stickers.

Joe met with Barbara and Carol over rec field matters. Rick's Tree Service went down to the rec field. Barbara is trying to get us grant money for the rec field to do the fence and get the trees out. He got the guy from Dennis Roofing who is going to do the borough hall to give us an estimate for the rec field. They are looking to start on the borough hall roof in March. They were delayed because of the weather. Amanda Mieluch asked what he was working with Dennis Roofing for at the rec field. Joe said the pavilion roof. Amanda said she was concerned

and wanted to know who takes care of the other buildings. Pat Dicken asked about the roof and why they couldn't lay it down now and what kind of roof it was. Joe explained because of the weather, when you put the shingles down, if there is water vapor, it freezes, and doesn't melt the sealant. That's why he wanted to wait to do it. Same with Young's tree service. The weather held him up with the emergency tree work. He was shocked it was all ice in the woods and you could have gone ice skating. Pat Dicken asked why Rick's instead of Young's. Carol Schuehler said they started with Young's but he said it was too big of a job for him. Beverly said if this job reaches a certain point, they have to bid it out.

Community Development (Barbara Heffelfinger):

They are starting to work on the RDA grants. The Chief is working on the police items. For the borough hall they are looking to get new windows. When they get the roof and if they discover problems under it, hopefully there will be enough money to cover that.

Ordinances (Mark Moffa):

There is a planning commission meeting Wednesday and they are reviewing the sober homes and medical marijuana ordinances. He will explain them to the planning commission and get their feedback. The snow ordinance is ready but there is no rush at this point. He has been in discussion with the attorneys, chief and mayor for a while. If the mayor and chief have no more input, it can go to council for review before they plan to present it at the next meeting. There were problems with it as it would create a conflict with our existing snow ordinance. They are going to repeal and replace everything they have on the books with the new ordinance. As for the odd, even for plowing, for non-emergency routes they are going to make that the standard. The reason he said there was no rush is because they can't issue tickets until they have signs on the roads, which he thinks the mayor said would be about 84 signs. This will be a multi-phase project. They will start with snow emergency routes. He hopes by next winter they will have this legislation in place and the signs up on the emergency routes and then take it from there on the non-emergency routes. After meeting with the mayor and chief, the chief asked what they will do where there is a street where there is already no parking on one side and we try to enforce odd even rules. Basically, you will just have to move your car off that street. As for other violations such as snow on sidewalks and dumping snow in the street, they have added language that leaves it so that it can be either code enforcement officer can issue citations but if it is necessary for police to get involved, they can do that too. Mark said they left it open so that it could go either way. Dave Truelove said the purpose of that is that it depends on the emergency situation where the police officer on duty feels that the situation needs to be dealt with immediately, they have the authority to do that. If it is a situation that needs to be remedied later, it can be reported and the code enforcement officer can take care of it. It gives you flexibility. Beverly Wolfe had a question about the snow ordinance. She asked if they dealt with the places in the borough where the residents have no off-street parking. Mark said that Woodland Ave. has been designated by the Mayor and Chief to be a snow emergency route. So there will be no parking allowed if the mayor declares a snow emergency on that street. They will have to move their vehicles to the roads with odd - even parking. Sean Perry said the residents have the option of parking on Highland or Fairview Aves., following the odd - even rules. It will be an inconvenience. He believes the snow emergency routes are Crescent, Woodland, Dehaven and Rumpf Avenues.

Streets & Sewer (John Stratz):

The streets & sewer committee will be having a committee meeting within the next 2 weeks. As for snow, despite the weather in the Midwest, we have been lucky and we have not had any major bills for snow removal.

Building & Maintenance (Joe Dudash):

Bob is going to have the maintenance person start painting the hall.

Community Relations (Laura Germain):

The Valentine's party is this weekend and is cohosted with the Rec Board. She is looking to having an event in March. They are looking into dates for Local Government Day which they had last year and was successful. She is hoping that someone from the borough will host an event once a month. For April she is looking at science day. She has contacted a bunch of people from the Philadelphia Science Festival. They do them all over Bucks County and if we get the backing from them, they give us free things to hand out. The date is not yet set in stone. The tentative date is Saturday, April 20th. She has been talking to some of the professors at the college and some are interested. She has talked to Lower Bucks Hospital and they may send someone to demonstrate CPR. She's looked at Silver Lake and Churchville Nature Centers. Our refuse hauler has agreed to come and do a little thing on trash. She invited the rec board to come. They might do a teddy bear clinic where the kids bring in the stuffed animals and put bandages on them and things like that. They are looking at National Night Out in August which is something that celebrates the community and police. She will be meeting with the Mayor and the Chief regarding this.

Marie emailed the preliminary logo to council for suggestions so hopefully by the next meeting we will have some samples to show.

A reminder to council to send her your blurbs for the newsletter. She's almost done setting it up so she would like to lay it out.

Recreation Board (Laura Germain):

They haven't met since the last meeting. Their priority is the Wildcats contract which needs to be in by March. Earth Day is April 27th. They may do one of the events at the pavilion.

Long Range Finance (Mark Moffa):

They have not met since the last meeting. Their next meeting is February 13th.

Persons to be heard

John Stratz had a question for the Finance & Cable Committee. Comcast has been doing some major upgrades, going through resident's properties. He wanted to know if we get any permit money for this. Dave Truelove said they could pass an ordinance in the future for that. What you do is a resolution with the ability to change the fees going forward. You can't do anything about it if you don't have it in place right now. John said they have been testing all the poles in Penndel for rot. Beverly read Section 355-26, Easement from the borough code. Easements shall be provided for utilities with a minimum width of 20 feet for a single utility. Where multiple use of an easement is proposed, an adequate width shall be determined by the Borough. Nothing shall be permitted to be placed, planted, set or put within the area of a utility easement. Mark said they are going along the same lines. Beverly said that was it, it is the utility easement.

Barbara Heffelfinger asked Steve Lowe if the fire company started using the money for the equipment they requested from the RDA grant. Steve said they are working on the paperwork. Barbara asked Steve if he could give her a copy of the paperwork.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADJOURN. SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN.
All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Marie Serota Secretary/Treasurer