

WORK SESSION

June 18, 2018

Council President, Beverly Wolfe, called the meeting of 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 Joe Dudash
Councilwoman Laura Germain
Councilman John Stratz
Councilman Rich Flanagan
Councilman Mark Moffa – arrived 7:35 p.m.

Also present

Ben Hauser, Hill Wallack, Solicitor

Announcements

The Recreation Board is having a fundraiser on June 20th at Rita's Water Ice from 6 – 8 p.m.

Old Business

The authorization of advertisement of Ordinance #2018-3 amending sewer penalties was tabled from the June 4, 2018 Council meeting.

John Stratz asked if the entire ordinance will be in the newspaper. Ben Hauser explained that only the ad goes in the newspaper. A copy of the ordinance is displayed at borough hall.

Mike Smith asked about repeat offenders; same accounts are always late. Beverly Wolfe said this ordinance is only changing the amount of the fine. Solicitor explained that a lien can be put on the property under state law (stated in the ordinance). You cannot have a different penalty for repeat offenders.

Mark Moffa asked about bill payment online and credit card payment. Bev Wolfe responded that they will look into that.

MOTION BY BEVERLY WOLFE TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF ORDINANCE #2018-3 AMENDING CHAPTER 322-SEWERS AND CHAPTER 340 SOLID WASTE. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion on Resolution #2018-11

Beverly Wolfe asked for Council's response after review of Resolution #2018-11, the new fee schedule. Barbara Heffelfinger said she thinks it is restrictive and residents will not update their homes due to permit fees. The new company compared us to Red Hill and Hatboro, both in Montgomery County. Penndel does not have the same income base as they do and the fees are high. Barb reviewed the old fee schedule along with the new one. She said if Council wants residents to continue to update their homes and make improvements, this will deter them from getting the work done. Mark Moffa asked for which specific fees she was referring to. Barb said that it is hard to compare the current one to the new one; it isn't structured the same. Joe

DuDash said that according to the new schedule a permit is necessary to finish a floor. Mark Moffa likes the flat fees as opposed to a percentage of the work to be done. Challenging an ordinance or zoning classification, which requires a court appearance, is \$10,000.00. In the comparable municipalities it was \$3,000 or \$4,500 depending on the zone. Barbara Heffelfinger said that that is oppressive. Ben read comparable costs from other municipalities.

Mike Smith said taxpayers pay for borough attorneys to make sure that the ordinances are correct. It's not fair to make residents pay \$10,000.00 to challenge them. The attorneys should be the ones paying for this. Bev said that our current attorneys had nothing to do with already written borough ordinances. She then asked how often this happens. Mike Smith answered that it has happened several times. Barbara Heffelfinger said that she isn't implying that the current fee schedule was good but that this one is high. Mike Smith said electrical permit fees are high in the current fee schedule. Contractors don't want to deal with PennDel because it is so complicated to get things done.

Bev Wolfe explained that heliport fees are on the fee schedule because the ICC National Fire Prevention requirements fee schedule is on our current fee schedule and it includes heliports. Ben Hauser read from the current fee schedule, which had the same fee for challenging the validity of an ordinance or zoning classification. Barbara Heffelfinger said comparing fees with other municipalities that are the same population size isn't a fair way to evaluate fees. Income and other factors need to be considered not just those numbers.

There was discussion on some specific numbers on the fee schedule.

The new company, Barry Isett, works on a different configuration of pay than the previous company did. The previous company was paid by the hour and the new company gets paid based on the permits. The company gets paid 85% of the permit and the borough retains 15%, which covers administrative fees. The current fee schedule was not in as much detail as they are used to. In 2015, Karen Kondrk worked with the borough solicitor for some time to update the fee schedule. Mike Italia, Carol Schuehler, Ben Hauser and Beverly Wolfe had a phone conference and had multiple meetings and discussion reviewing the fee schedule and this was the result.

Mark Moffa asked what some of the changes that were made to the updated fee schedule. Bev Wolfe explained some examples. In the original version of this under UCC Plan Reviews – accessory structure was not in detail as much as this version. The pool plan review by the borough engineer escrow wasn't what Bev thought it should be. She had a lot of questions on the electrical section. The new fire marshal reviewed all of the fire prevention and fire maintenance sections and made the suggested changes. The storm water management plans and reviews were decreased considerably as well as swimming pools and miscellaneous construction permits. Ben Hauser added that at the end they added fees for filing of liens. Carol Schuehler was a big help reviewing the new fee schedule and recommended changing fees for major sub-divisions. Joe DuDash suggested we look at what the objective is for the borough, which is to revitalize the borough. He questioned the fees for impervious inspections. He would like to see flat rates as opposed to being billed by kilowatts. Contractors will be able to understand the way the fees are figured. He also is concerned with seniors paying the rates with limited income. Mark Moffa said that we have the responsibility to keep the fees the same as others in this area and that reducing the fees won't encourage revitalization.

President Wolfe suggests that Council compare fees between the current fee schedule and the new one for common permits then consider adoption at the next meeting.

MOTION BY LAURA GERMAIN TO TABLE THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #2018-11 UNTIL JULY 2, 2018. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO PAY PECO INVOICE DATED JUNE 8, 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$198.21 FOR ELECTRIC AND GAS SERVICE AT 37 W. WOODLAND AVENUE. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY LAURA GERMAIN TO PAY PECO INVOICE DATED JUNE 8, 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28.53 FOR RECREATION FIELD ELECTRIC. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO PAY STATE WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND INVOICE DATED 6/1/18 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,009.00 FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSTALLMENT. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, carried.

President's Report

We have been working hard to get low interest loans for property owners on Lincoln Hwy. for the concrete repair work. Tina Davis informed us that residents can go directly to Bucks Co. Redevelopment Authority themselves and apply for low interest loans. Information will be sent out to property owners with the necessary processes.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor attended the Annual PA State Association of Borough's Conference at Hershey, PA.

Committee Reports

Streets (John Stratz):

One June 9th & 15th John Stratz went out with Patch Management and filled 36 potholes. Five extra were filled with no fee.

Worked with Borough Engineer and Mark Sorrentino to look around for good prices for concrete repair.

They are getting things done.

Public Safety (Joe DuDash):

The committee met with the Mayor and discussed the PBA contract to start contract negotiations.

Building & Maintenance (Joe DuDash):

John Stratz saved us money with Verizon who fixed a downed line at the sewer plant. Since it was outside we didn't get charged.

Joe worked with John Butler at Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority. Mr. Butler is going to submit exemption paperwork so we will not have to install a back flow preventer. The borough saved approximately \$1,700.00. We also will not have to get a permit annually and have it tested, which will also save us money.

The roof at borough hall is leaking. The committee is researching costs of a new roof. Contractor referrals would be appreciated.

Refuse (Joe DuDash) – Report attached

Choices on ratification plan with Bucks County:

1. Ratify plan
2. Ignore it
3. Vote yes (that is same as no)
4. No – County needs 51% of all municipalities

The resolution can be passed at the next meeting whether we will respond that we are for or against the plan. This will not benefit us; just host towns. It doesn't make sense because it does not address large part of issue – recycling. If we vote no, we actually must say why. Recycling plastic is the problem. Solicitor Ben Hauser said a decision does not have to be made until August 6th.

Finance & Administration (Barbara Heffelfinger):

The committee will be meeting on Wednesday to review the possibility of refinancing borough loans. The 2017 audit has been completed by Bee Bergvall & Co. and everything was fine.

Community Development (Barbara Heffelfinger):

The committee met with the Revitalization Task Force on June 7th. The business survey will be going out this week. The Revitalization Task Force will be meeting again in August. They would like to have a public meeting in September.

Community Relations (Laura Germain):

Two website firms have approached the committee. They will get some quotes and set up a meeting. Automatic payments is in one of the proposals. Laura discussed family events at the recreation field. Movie nights are more expensive than expected due to getting the rights to the movies. She has made calls to businesses asking for sponsors. Rita's Water Ice has offered 150 free servings of water ice. She sent information to the ordinance committee regarding building little libraries to have a give one/take one library program outside borough hall. Laura has had six responses on the website for Penndel's Got Talent.

Recreation Board (Laura Germain):

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday night June 21st. The Rita's Water Ice fund raiser is on Wednesday, June 20th as announced at the beginning of the meeting.

One of the swings had loose bolts. Rich Flanagan said Gianpiero Lo Piccolo fixed it.

Rich Flanagan announced that he has been appointed to the by-laws committee for PA State Association of Boroughs. He won a fully-paid trip to the fall conference.

John Stratz will be representing Penndel at Washington National Cemetery for Gold Star Families Memorial Dedication on July 9, 2018.

New Business

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE HALL RENTAL REQUEST FROM COMMONS AT MIDDLETOWN CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION FOR SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

Beverly Wolfe explained that the storm water inlet on Lincoln Hwy., under the sidewalk, needs to be repaired. The property owner cannot touch his sidewalk until this is completed so we need to grant him a conditional waiver on concrete repairs until the inlet repair is completed. We are trying to find out if PennDot will do the repairs. If not, the borough will have to do it.

MOTION BY BEVERLY WOLFE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-12 GRANTING A CONDITIONAL WAIVER FROM REQUIRED CURB AND/OR SIDEWALK REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS CONNECTED WITH STORM WATER INLET BOX REPAIRS TO BE PERFORMED BY PENNDOT. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-13 AUTHORIZING COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN ANY AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE PENNDOT GREEN LIGHT-GO PROGRAM. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2018-14 GRANTING A CONDITIONAL WAIVER FROM REQUIRED CURB AND/OR SIDEWALK REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS CONNECTED WITH THE PROPOSED WAWA. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

Joe DuDash asked if we can put the ad in the paper for the part-time maintenance employee. Council all agreed to send it to the Courier now.

Persons to be Heard:

Mike Smith, 127 DeHaven Avenue, do we have to stay with SWIF, how does recycling help the borough because someone in the room does not recycle at all, questioned problem with the manhole in driveway in Mill Creek Village, water is going into the manhole.

MOTION BY MARK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:35 P.M. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer