

WORK SESSION

September 17, 2018

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

Present at 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

Also present

Ben Hauser, Hill Wallack, Solicitor
Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering, Engineer
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

Motion Items

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO PAY GETTYSBURG BENEFITS ADMINISTRATORS, INC. INVOICE DATED AUGUST 31, 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$164.93 FOR DENTAL INSURANCE INSTALLMENT PAYMENT (DUE 9/25/18). SECONDED BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY JOHN STRATZ TO PAY STATE WORKERS' INSURANCE FUND INVOICE DATED AUGUST 31, 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,737.00 FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT'S WORKERS COMPENSATION INSTALLMENT PAYMENT (DUE 9/26/18). All ayes, motion carried.

Solicitor Ben Hauser reported on the executive session of council at 7:00 p.m. this evening for a potential retainer of a borough consultant.

Engineer's Report

Carol Schuehler read her report which is attached. Beverly Wolfe thanked Carol for reaching out to BCWSA on the Joyce Ave. issue which was repaired at no cost to the borough. Mark Moffa asked if the intersection they were talking about was the same intersection they talked about at the council meeting with the stop sign. Joe Dudash said they will be posting two fire engines entering highway signs. The Chief said to put one down by Joyce Ave. so that it is a straight line. Beverly Wolfe asked about the hedges and Bob Winkler said it is in the hands of the inspectors. Joe Dudash said we still have the issue with the dip and the fire truck problem. If we put up a stop sign, it's not going to help the fire trucks. He asked what could be done about that. Carol Schuehler said they could rework the pavement. Joe Dudash asked if they could put in a French drain across like the one on Woodland Ave. Carol said she would work up some numbers. There's a couple of ways they can lessen the bounce. Sam Simon asked if anyone contacted the guys that did the black top work. It hasn't been a year so maybe you can have them do something with it. Carol believes it is over a year but will check into it. Mike Smith brought up about the bump and was told by Chief Perry that that's the way it was. Mike

said he can absolutely tell you it was not that way. Somehow or other when they built that out, it created that bump. Carol went back and looked at survey data they had when they repaved Crescent St. There was a 2 percent in and 2 percent out back then which is about what it is now. It was probably a little more rounded back then. Sam Simon suggested having the attorney send a letter to the company but Beverly said they first have to see if the maintenance agreement is in effect. Mike Smith suggested contacting our prior engineer. Beverly responded that they have reached out to them for records in the past for other things and they have not been very forthcoming.

Beverly Wolfe thanked Carol Schuehler and Barbara Heffelfinger for their work on the Woodland Ave. grant. They had budgeted \$20,000 this year for that project because it was put on hold, so that plus the grant should get us pretty close to doing the ADA ramps next year with little or no cost. Sam Simon asked if they could do another street next year and Holly, Oak and Manor were pretty bad.

Committee Reports:

Streets

John Stratz met on September 5th with the DVRPC. He has agreed to participate on the municipal steering committee for the regional street light program. This will allow him to be completely involved in every step in the entire program, not just our own street light program, including being part of the committee that actually reviews and scores the submitted proposals from design services professionals. He will not only be helping get the professionals to design our street lights but the street lights in about 18 different municipalities.

Finance

Mark Moffa said the finance committee met Monday and started going over the budget requests from the recreation board and community development committee. They also discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant.

Public Safety

Joe Dudash reported they had a Blue Mass on Sunday in honor of fallen police officers. It was a success. He wanted to thank Penndel Police, Penndel Fire Co. and Penndel rescue personnel for all of their assistance helping the community out. It was on channel 6 news. There were bagpipes which was very nice. Phase II of Taddei Pond is complete. The entrances are beautiful now. They had a committee meeting, Barb, the Mayor and himself to discuss finances. They went over emergency preparedness with Nick Foufas, our Emergency Management Coordinator. They went over budget and policy to get it started. They also had a meeting with the police about their contract and are at the final stage. They drafted some things then sent it back to them for review and are waiting for their response.

Building and Maintenance

They went over the budget with Barbara in finance and he has all his numbers and contractors in and will be presenting them soon. He got all the bids in for the recreation field mulch.

Community Relations

Laura Germain said the two big things for the fall are the newsletter and the website. She is trying to set up meetings with two other website developers so that she will have three bids to pick from. When they went through the budget they realized it may have to wait until next year but at least she will have the bids. She posted on Facebook asking residents what they would like to see and she got a lot of great ideas so she is going to try to figure out how to implement

them. She touched base with Karen Flowers to see if they have to order play mats. The mulch has to be ordered before that. They will discuss it more on Thursday at the rec board meeting. October 20th is the chili cook off fundraiser for the rec board and she will post it on Facebook. Rich Flanagan said they will discuss the playground equipment that Mike Smith got donated. If it needs to be taken before Thursday, they will not take it. Otherwise they will discuss it at the meeting. Beverly Wolfe said for those who don't know, Mike Smith was able to procure a donation of playground equipment that appears to be in magnificent shape. It's free of charge. All we have to do is go get it and we can store it at the plant. Rich Flanagan said he likes it but likes what Mrs. Dudash said about putting trees down there and keeping what we have in the tot lot now. He doesn't know where they are going to put this equipment. The borough hall was mentioned but it's a bad spot. They will talk more about it on Thursday. Mike Smith asked why the hall is a bad spot. Rich and Beverly said traffic and safety. Mike said every municipal complex around has some sort of playground equipment. Mike suggested asking Our Lady of Grace if they wanted some of it.

New Business

MOTION BY LAURA GERMAIN TO AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH ENGINEER TO RESPOND TO THE CDBG OFFICE AND SCHEDULE A SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED RAMP LOCATIONS FOR THE WOODLAND AVENUE PROJECT. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE BUCKS COUNTY RDA FOR USE OF GAMING FUNDS FOR CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENT UPGRADES CONTINGENT UPON SOLICITOR REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION. SECONDED BY RICH FLANAGAN. All ayes, motion carried. These are various police equipment upgrades for the department such as in car camera, flashlights, laptop, and keyless door entry system, optic for rifle, miscellaneous items, body cam docking, and mobile phone totaling \$64,400 for equipment for the police department for 2019. Laura Germain asked if this was a grant application for gaming funds and if we could tie it to gaming. Ben Hauser stated that it is due by the 28th of September by 4:30 pm. The RDA wants a separate resolution for each request. Mark Moffa asked if they had to prioritize these requests.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE BUCKS COUNTY RDA FOR USE OF GAMING FUNDS FOR THE REPAIR OF BOROUGH HALL CONTINGENT UPON SOLICITOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes, motion carried. This will include a new roof for borough hall, front steps repair, building of an ADA ramp and new windows for borough hall at a total cost of \$40,400. Rich Flanagan asked if the new ramp was going to go out front. He asked if they needed another ramp since there's one out back. Joe Dudash asked Rich if he has ever been here for election. That's why we need it. Rich said people come in both sides for election. He said that's another thing we needed three years ago and didn't get. Joe Dudash said he wasn't here three years ago, you were. Mark Moffa said we are getting lessons on what didn't happen three years ago. Rich said he brought up the repairs and his wife was the one who brought up the ramp. Karen Flowers said since they are putting in the roof and new windows, could they put in new window treatments. Beverly said they would not ask the RDA for that and would work on it separately. We have to tie all these back to gambling and the casino in Bensalem.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO APPROVE A MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION TO THE BUCKS COUNTY RDA FOR USE OF GAMING FUNDS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN FIRE COMPANY RESCUE TOOLS. SECONDED BY JOE DUDASH. All ayes,

motion carried. Beverly Wolfe said this was not contingent because she has the application. To reiterate what Steve Lowe said at the council meeting, the grant amount requested is \$125,000 with a total project cost of \$132,500. Their tools are 15 - 20 years old and the efficiency has diminished. Beverly Wolfe said Barb Heffelfinger would like to thank the fire department for completing the grant application, narrative and everything that went with it. Steve Lowe said on behalf of the fire company, thank you to council for including them in the RDA grant.

Beverly said the last thing under new business motion items is the review of fire inspection relief requested for Account 601 & 602. Beverly said she would like to table this until she can get a little more information on this entire situation.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO TABLE THE REVIEW OF THE FIRE INSPECTION RELIEF FOR ACCOUNTS #601 AND #602 TO THE OCTOBER MEETING. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried. Laura Germain asked if there was anything time wise that has to be done before the next meeting. Beverly Wolfe said they sent in a letter and would like some relief but she would like to have some time to review it.

Persons to be Heard

Karen Flowers, 500 Hulmeville Ave., was checking on what she heard earlier. She asked Laura Germain if they could order the mulch. Laura said she thinks so and she was trying to touch base with Karen. She asked if there were 3 quotes and Joe Dudash said there was only 2. Karen asked if they needed the 3rd quote before they could order. Joe said that the 3rd one did not show up so he feels that they did try. Beverly said it is a low bid threshold and it's nice to have 3 bids but sometimes you just can't. Karen Flowers said then it is up to Council to make the motion. Laura said she thought it was talked about at a prior meeting and laid out money. She thought that was already done. Karen said no, it has to come out of a line item. Beverly said they did talk about it at a previous meeting but it was a quote. The mulch plus the labor was way above what they have budgeted. They were trying to get volunteer labor. Beverly said they are probably down to having \$5,000 - \$6,000 left for mulch and taking down trees. Beverly said if she remembers correctly that quote was for over \$7,000. Karen thought the quote for the mulch was \$3,600 and the other one was \$2,600. Beverly said the original one presented to them with labor was for way over \$7,000. Joe Dudash said the trees were \$2,000, the two bids were \$3,000 and \$2,595. That was for them to dump it off, bring it back, lay it all out and make sure it's even. Those were the 2 bids plus the trees. Karen Flowers said \$1,400 for the mulch and the \$2,595. Is there enough in the budget to cover that? The trees were already paid for. You have enough for this, but you didn't for the other bid. It is a budgeted item so you do not need a motion to buy the mulch. Karen said the landscaper would need to be here when they deliver the mulch. Beverly said we have the money so get it done. Karen mentioned that someone keeps cutting off the metal clips on the handicap swing. You can't just replace the metal clips. You have to replace the whole strap which is \$119 plus shipping and handling. The recreation board took it out of donated funds to replace it last year. Could they pay it out of the line item this year? They are trying to save enough money to get the pavilion roof done. Beverly said there is money in the line for the recreation board for the field and Taddei Woods. Last year that had to bring it up and Marie cut a check for it.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF STRAPS TO FIX THE HANDICAP SWING AT THE TOT LOT NOT TO EXCEED \$150. SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN. All ayes, motion carried. Laura asked if they needed the mats too. They need to replace the mulch first.

Sam Simon, Sr., 126 Holly Ave., asked when the landscaper was going to do Taddei Woods. He was informed that they are done and Sam said you still can't walk in there. Beverly said they have to bring in the DEP now that they've gotten all of the junk out of there. They only worked at main entrances. They didn't do the trails, they only did the pond, just emergency work. The lawnmower and tires are gone. Sam said he was talking about the arch. He said you can't even walk through there. Joe said they cleaned it out.

Beverly Wolfe said that the solicitor advised that they make a motion for the rec board to purchase mulch.

MOTION BY JOE DUDASH TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF MULCH BY THE REC BOARD FOR THE PLAYGROUND AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500. SECONDED BY LAURA GERMAIN. All ayes, motion carried. Mike Smith said if you put batteries in the backhoe, he would run it to save money. Sam Simon said if you take that money that you were going to use to buy the mulch and buy two batteries for the loader, he would get them at cost. He said we need to start working together. Tell him what size and he needs the old ones. John Stratz said the problem is we don't have the old ones because they were stolen. Mike Smith said there are other batteries laying around down there. Beverly said just give him the cores.

MOTION BY BARBARA HEFFELFINGER TO ADORN THE MEETING. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer