

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
29 MECHANIC STREET  
WIND GAP, PA 18091  
610-863-7288**

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, September 16, 2003, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Winton Male, Jr., at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Council members: Lewis Paulhamus, Sandra Lockard, Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr., Bill Pysher, and Kerry Gassler. Also in attendance were Mayor Kenneth George and Secretary/Treasurer Louise Firestone. Councilman Peter Stinson was absent.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to approve the minutes of September 2, 2003 and seconded by Sandra Lockard. Roll call vote taken. In favor: K. Gassler, S. Lockard, W. Male, L. Paulhamus. Abstained: M. Mogilski, B. Pysher. Motion carried with a vote of 4-0-2.

**On motion** by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. to approve the minutes of August 19, 2003 and seconded by Bill Pysher. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

No one appear before Council for public comment.

### **Committee Reports**

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported the Board of Trustees will be meeting and the proposed lease agreement with the Borough will be discussed. He feels as a whole they do not like it right now. In August, the Ambulance Corps has a spaghetti fundraiser at the Blue Valley Farm Show, but did not do so well because of the rainy weather.

2. Police – Bill Pysher reported that the Chief's contract is still a pending issue. They have asked for a legal opinion regarding increasing the Chief's rate every year based on a performance evaluation. Bill mentioned that he might check with the Chief of Police Association for more information.

3. Streets – Kerry Gassler reported that the street paving is done and looks good. The micro sealing will be starting soon. The committee has an appointment scheduled with Bernie Corbett from PennDOT to discuss the project on Center Street manhole cover and other areas regarding the Agility Program. They will be meeting in the next couple weeks to discuss the street projects for next year, so the curb letters can be sent out as soon as possible. There are no problems with the new truck.

Mitch suggested that since the Sewer Authority and the Water Company are taking up

West Street for a project this year, the Borough might want to consider doing stormwater work now because it will be cheaper. He stated that the project back by Taft Street that if the Borough did the plans for that culvert, Calantoni agreed to put it in. Hanover completed those plans so a follow up with Calantoni needs to be done. Kerry will continue to contact Calantoni. Grace Industries is doing the work now and Council would have to decide soon. If Calantoni can put in the pipe on West Street, the Borough could probably have Ron design the stormwater culvert on Mr. Klucsarits' corner so the Borough could run the pipe itself. Concern regarding the direction the pipe would need to go. Kerry will discuss this with the Borough Engineer, Ron Madison.

4. Finance and Administration – Winton Male reported that the ceiling tiles for the Borough hall have been received and a bill will be submitted to 911 for payment. Ron Madison and Winton met with a Vice President of Commonwealth Telephone Company regarding the stormwater problem at the Park and the adjacent Dentith project. Council received a cost estimate from Ron stating that a stormwater project to correct the situation would be approximately \$55,000 (running a pipe all the way out). Commonwealth Telephone is willing to come up with \$25,000 for the project, if the Borough would cut the grass around their building in the Park. The Borough would have to finance the other portion of the project. They stated that the project has to be done this year because they have money in their budget. Winton explained that this would be an opportunity for the Borough to resolve a problem that has been ongoing for years. There would be another catch basin in the Park to drain more water. Kerry asked if Ron considered going down Third Street and dumping into the inlet at the end of the Alfred property? Kerry will question Ron tomorrow when he contacts him to discuss other issues. Winton contacted Pennsylvania American Water Company and was referred to a public relations person who has yet to return his call. He was inquiring whether they would be willing to donate the quarry past the Park to Longcore to the Borough. If it was donated, it may be a better deal for them to receive credit on their taxes as opposed to selling it and paying taxes on the income. The property is currently listed on the market for \$49,000. Winton suggested that if the Borough could obtain the quarry, a deal could be made with PennDOT. In exchange for some free use of the water in the quarry, PennDOT could install a fence around the entire quarry. In regard to the question of the meeting minutes, Winton suggested coming up with a procedure that would include input from Council and then the procedure approved by the attorney. The agenda would be two sided, one side with the agenda and one with house rules listed. Winton stated that he was happy to report that the health insurance issue with the Police and the Street Leader has been resolved. As of October 1, there is a savings per month of \$1,100. The Mayor and Winton let County Council know that Wind Gap is not in favor of a Wal-Mart. County Council is currently considering taking the grant money away altogether. Winton spoke to Randy Lieberman from Plainfield Township. The three municipalities should get together to request County Council take this item off their agenda for their meeting this Thursday. In the County Industrial Park, the new tenants will be having approximately 75 trucks going in and out of there everyday. The water company trucks go run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the past, Wind Gap has only been getting about half of those trucks, but they are putting a terminal over on 512 across from the Medic 9 building. All the trucks will be rerouted through Wind Gap once that happens. He added that a Wal-Mart is not wanted, but the road is necessary or Wind Gap will be inundated with traffic. Bill added that it would be unfortunate to lose the County grant for

economic development because that would increase the jobs in the Slate Belt.

5. Zoning and Planning – Sandra Lockard reported that Planning agreed to give Posh an extension to the end of November. Kerry questioned whether the CVS would be given a public hearing? Winton replied that it was all advertised for September 30 as a joint meeting with the zoning ordinance at a cost of over \$4,000. Sandra reported that FBJ Real Estate on the upper end of Third Street is dividing a house. They will need some waivers. Winton stated that Council received the recommendations from the Planning Solicitor, Pete Layman, and suggested that Council should address this and if needed they could revisit the issue. The Planning Commission is recommending making the Town Center extend to the upper end of Alpha Avenue. If a major change occurs, the whole ordinance would have to be re-advertised.

6. Parks and Recreation – Lewis Paulhamus reported Lewis Paulhamus reported that Nicole Weber resigned because she is moving out of town. Chris Bruch has missed three or four meetings. Council may have to advertise for two new park board members. The electricity should be hooked up at the Park shortly. Council received a checklist from Hanover Engineering regarding things that need to be completed with the new restroom.

7. Fire Company – Jeff Yob reported that the truck is proceeding and a second site visit will be happening next week. The chassis should be finished and the basic body should be on by then and hopefully the truck would be delivered in eight weeks. Mitch reported that a terror training class will be held at the County, not sure of dates. The Auxiliary donated \$3,000 for the new truck. Jamie is in fire school. Fire Company will be going to the daycares the first week of October for fire prevention week. There were 27 alarms during the month of August, total for year is 103.

Letter to be sent to Nicole Weber and Andrew Biondo for their services.

8. Buildings – Mitch Mogilski reported that he would like the sound system on the agenda for the next business meeting. Only one quote has been received to date and Mitch was expecting three. He contacted, City Entertainment Systems, Law Sound and Lighting, Music Scene and Blue Chip Sound and Light. Bill stated that the Oaten Building is a real eyesore; Council needs to do something with it? Council needs to decide whether to keep it or sell it. Mitch suggested keeping the building and housing the Police there. Kerry stated that William Hontz put something together to dress that up, but nothing has been done. Lewis added that John had requested putting a garage door on that side to pull in equipment.

9. Insurance – Winton Male had nothing to report.

10. Insurance – Winton Male had nothing to report.

## Mayor's Report

Mayor George reported Contractor License fees collected for the month of August was \$50, for a total \$1,900 for the year, amusement license was \$450, transient license \$100 for the year for a total of \$2,450. Police report was distributed. They responded to 143 calls, 6 motor vehicle accidents, and 55 traffic citations. Mitch asked the Mayor if he had a chance to talk to the Chief about the expired vehicles. Their plates don't match their windshield, they're expired, they're running and as soon as they get in the car, they should be cited. He stated that he received a letter from Upper Mount Bethel asking for a letter of support from Wind Gap in their effort to apply for a grant for a master site plan. Slate Belt Municipality Association meeting will be held tomorrow night at the new Washington Township municipal building at 7:30 p.m. The COG is still a topic of discussion. Winton questioned whether the Borough should be involved until they are sure how many municipalities are involved. The County has made a financial commitment to give funds to the formation of the COG. This topic to be on the October 6, 2003 agenda. The Mayor was contacted by the Slate Belt Kiwanis Club. Every year they honor an area fire company and this year it is the Wind Gap Fire Company. They asked for a name of an individual to be honored. The Mayor suggested that Fire Chief Randy George be recognized. A ceremony will be held on Tuesday, October 7, 2003 at 12:00 p.m. at the J.R. Smokehouse. The Mayor will be presenting him with a proclamation and invited all of Council to attend. He reminded everyone that there is a Plainfield Township meeting tomorrow.

## **New Business**

1. Resolution for Park Grant. A resolution is necessary in the application to DCNR for a master site plan grant application. The cost of the master site plan will be checked with Urban Research and Development Corporation. They provided a quote last year.
2. Mitch stated that he would like the meeting minutes of July 15, 2003 be amended. He requests that the minutes contain the comments made by the Chief of Police spoke that a motorist must be traveling eleven miles over the speed limit to be cited. He feels that it is important that it be in the minutes.
3. Lehigh Avenue – Mitch asked that this topic be put on the agenda. He was not sure what he wanted to discuss.
4. Harry Oaten's building. Kerry stated that his rent is \$300 a month to lease 15,589 square feet. Mitch stated that on page 23, it specifically states that the rent cannot be changed. Winton replied that at this point it does not matter because Harry has decided to leave at the end of this year.

## **Old Business**

1. Emergency Management Coordinator. Nick Tylenda, Northampton County Emergency Management Coordinator, called and informed Winton that he had met with Anthony. They reviewed several things. Council needs to pass a resolution with reference to the Emergency

Operations Plan (EOP). Winton stated that in light of the hurricane coming, he suggested passing this resolution tonight. Mitch asked for time to digest the information prior to voting on it. The wording in the resolution is part of section 7503 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Code. Borough Council is responsible for making sure that the EOP is in place and done. Winton questioned the availability of Anthony since he has a full-time position with Suburban. Where would Anthony have to respond during an emergency? Mitch suggested that since Council appointed Anthony to be the coordinator, he could form his own committee. This topic to be on the October 6, 2003 agenda. The Mayor suggested sitting with Anthony and discussing Council's concern with his availability.

2. Teamster Local 773 Pension. Council received a letter from Len Zito regarding the Borough's obligation being for only a three-year period. Council must review the past three years and the obligation to pay pension for the part-time employees currently employed by the Borough. Kerry suggested that the street department might need another full-time employee or even subcontract out some of the work. The current pension payment is \$200 a month.

3. Park – Rubenstein Property. Kerry asked Council if a decision could be made on the Rubenstein property so that the project can be started. It can be used as a staging area for PennDOT. He added that the parking lot would be eventually used for the walking trail in the park. A parking lot can be used during the firemen's picnic for additional parking. He suggested cutting trees in the middle and staying away from the property line by fifteen feet. Council can decide how much of the area the trees should be cleared. This item to be put on the October 6, 2003 agenda.

4. Kerry reported that Carmella Eppolite, when her husband passed away, gave him Tony Eppolite's Civil Service hat, badge and belt and asked if the Borough would like those items. Also, her sister-in-law, Annie Eppolite, asked if the Borough would be interested in her brother's American flag which had been draped over his casket because he was a veteran. Suggestion to fly the flag on Veteran's Day and Memorial Day at the monument. Kerry will pass the flag on to the Chief. Fire Company to be asked if they would be interested in displaying the Civil Service items.

5. Mitch stated at the meeting at the Wind Gap Middle School on September 11, 2003, he feels that Len Zito's behavior was totally unacceptable. He would not allow some residents to make their comments. Mitch stated that if you look back through the minutes, Council never appointed a Solicitor for 2003. He said that he handled the situation like he was in court and not a Zoning Hearing Board because he was ripping the people apart. His partnership with Waste Management goes a long way and he is at heart Waste Management. Mitch stated that Council is looking for the best interest of our town and he is looking at the best interest for Waste Management. Advertisement for a Solicitor for 2003 will be put on the agenda for October 6, 2003. Discussion whether it should be 2003 or 2004.

**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Sandra Lockard. The meeting of September 16, 2003 adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Secretary / Treasurer