

**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, May 10, 2005, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Kerry Gassler, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Council members: Winton S. Male, Jr., Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr., George Hinton, Scott Parsons and Tony Curcio. Also in attendance Mayor Kenneth George, Jim Milot, representing Borough Engineer, Hanover Engineering Associates and Secretary/Treasurer Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilwoman Karen Skorochood.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

1. EMS – Karen Skorochood was absent.
2. Police – George Hinton reported that the paperwork has been completed with regarding the new Full-time Police Officer.

On motion by George Hinton to hire Arron Flad as the Full-time Police Officer and seconded by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Tony asked when this officer would be starting? George replied as soon as possible. Scott asked for an overview of the Police hiring. George informed Council that 17 applicants applied, but two did not respond after the written round of testing. There were 15 applicants who were given the oral interview and the Civil Service Commission ranked the top five candidates to be interviewed by the Mayor, the Chief and George. After this interview the committee rated the top five as they had been scored during the written and oral interview and the number one rated applicant was Arron.

George reported that a police cruiser is sitting at the Oaten building that does not run. George recommended that a police cruiser be purchased or that at least the process be set in motion. There is \$17,850 in Capital Reserve for the purchase of a cruiser, but the quote obtained is less than \$25,000. George asked Council to consider moving \$8,520 in Capital Reserve that was not earmarked for any specific purchase to assist paying for the new cruiser. Council will attempt to salvage what can be transferred to a new car. Discussion regarding enough funds in the Police budget since a whole year was budgeted for a Police Officer salary and a benefits package for a period of twelve months when in reality only seven months might be used. A new radio may be necessary depending on the frequency issues being discussed by the County. Scott asked if the Borough would be in need of another Police Officer in the near future, would it be required to go through the entire hiring process again? George replied that the list could be held up to two years depending on the availability of the individuals who applied. Scott asked approximately how much money was spent in the process of hiring this officer? The amount was a little over \$3,000. George suggested that a line item should be added to the budget to include \$5,000 for all the expenses related to the Police hiring process.

This to be considered during budget time.

On motion by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. to use the \$8,520 (or what is needed) to add to the existing Capital Reserve money of \$17,850 to purchase a new cruiser and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Streets – George Hinton reported that the Woodward and Lehigh Stormwater Project is complete and the job looks well done. He stated that unfortunately the Third Street project has not been running as smoothly. George met with PennDOT and there are a lot of concerns regarding the State paving Third Street. Currently there exists a lot of high areas that require a lot more milling due to the height of the catch basins. He invited Council members to take a look at the area so that they understand the concerns of PennDOT. PennDOT suggested that the paving might only happen from the Borough line into Plainfield Township and not complete the Borough portion of Third Street. The problem is that the elevation for the water to run through the pipes may not be where they need to be. George stated that questioned things along with the curb contractor, but Hanover stated that what was being done was correct. The crown of the road in front of the Lemley's house has to be milled down five inches, but there is not five inches of asphalt in the road. To pave the road, the contractor for State will have to go down to dirt, put a base in and then bring it back up two inches. The returns on Oak, Cherry and Midvale where it was necessary to go around the curve, was not figured in the contract. Bernie Corbett was present from PennDOT to review the project. PennDOT was looking for an 8" curb reveal, but it might be difficult to get 6" of curb reveal. A resident has a problem with their driveway. It possibly may have to be cut back ten feet and dig it down so that it is pitched correctly. It could lead to a problem in the wintertime. At least all the water from Cherry to Midvale will flow into the 6" pipe which runs into the catch basin.

George reported that he has been working with Richard Dentith regarding the water problem in the Park connecting to Mr. Dentith's property. A tree was removed that was leaning over the main pavilion and another tree top that was dead was trimmed back. George stated the catch basins were cleaned out today by the Street workers and they should be finished tomorrow.

The Borough received two quotes for street sweeping. Hanson was \$110 an hour East Penn Power Sweeping was \$80 an hour. The street sweeping should occur toward the end of the month.

On motion by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. to award the street sweeping to East Penn Power Sweeping at \$80.00/hr unless the Borough can find someone lower than that hourly rate and seconded by George Hinton. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mitch questioned if the drains would be power washed this year? George stated that this can be discussed.

4. Finance – Kerry Gassler had nothing to report.

5. Administration – Winton Male reported that the administrative procedures would be reviewed in conjunction with the hiring of a new Zoning Officer because a few items need to be addressed and corrected.

6. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that there were three applicants for review at the May 4, 2005 meeting. Case 1-2005 was Darryl and Cindy Buss who were granted a variance for a porch extension with less than a 25' offset. Case 2-2005 was C.A. Lessig who was granted a waiver for an alternate buffer yard. Case 3-2005 was Image (Posh) for a sign schedule who asked for a continuance to the June 1, 2005 Zoning Hearing Board meeting. The Zoning Hearing Board granted the extension.
7. Planning – Scott Parsons reported that a meeting was held last week, but he was unable to attend. He reported that C. A. Lessig received preliminary approval. Council should be receiving a letter from the Planning Solicitor.
8. Parks – Karen Skorochood was absent.
9. Fire Company – Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr. reported the Fire Company meeting is next week.
10. Sewer Authority – Scott distributed the monthly report. The Authority sent Linda Nittle and Paul Levits to Harrisburg for a meeting on Anti-degradation Act 537 on who can get approval. The Authority representatives were happy with the meeting. They found out that the DEP does not have a set policy at this point. The original plan was that builders did not have to hook up anymore, that a sand mound was okay, but now the DEP states that as long as you are up to snuff with everything the Authority can expand their area to service more people. Winton stated that the downside for Wind Gap is that expansion will all be adjacent to Wind Gap Borough lines. The Comprehensive Plan was approved to allow the expansion adjacent to the Borough.
11. Insurance – Winton Male reported that today is the deadline to submit proposals for the Borough's insurance coverage. He will review the proposals tomorrow.
12. Land Use Committee – Winton Male had nothing to report.
13. 911 – Tony Curcio reported that he has a meeting planned with the committee on May 17, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. to finalize the information that has been gathered before being presented to the County. The meeting with County will be held on May 18, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. to give them all the final data including the house numbers.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that the Contractor's license collected in April was \$50 for a total of \$1,325 for 2005. The police report includes 152 calls in the month of April, 9 motor vehicle accidents, and 18 citations written. There will be a COG meeting on May 25, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal building. The Mayor checked with the representatives who monitor the Recycling Grant and they confirmed that the Borough could use funds from the Grant to purchase a box where leaves and clippings can be collected. A separate line item

exists in the budget to identify these funds. It was agreed again that the Borough should support the COG in their endeavor to secure a grant for the leaf recycling program that Bangor is being mandated to install.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one appeared before Council at this time.

APPROVAL OF CAPITAL RESERVE TRANSFERS

1. **On motion** by George Hinton to transfer \$6,703.56 to the Park budget for the Park Master Plan, to transfer \$2,213.49 to the Street budget for the Third Street Traffic light project, to transfer \$2,500 to the Administration budget for the computer upgrade, to transfer \$56,400 to the Street budget for the Woodward and Lehigh Avenue Stormwater Project and to transfer \$2,974.48 to the Police budget for the computer upgrade and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Broadway/Third Street Bid Results for Project Award. Jim Milot reported that the apparent low bidder is NAPA Development Corporation with a bid of \$89,700. Bill Anskis Company submitted a bid of \$95,595. Collins and Maxwell submitted a bid of \$104,858. He stated that the Borough has three options. The Borough can award the project to the apparent low bidder, they can reject all bids, or they can table the award and try to negotiate a lower project bid with the contractor. Kerry stated that every day the Council does not make a decision, the clock is ticking for the State's plan to pave Third Street from 512 to Plainfield Township. Discussion regarding how the project estimate has escalated from \$45,000 - \$48,000 to a bid being received now for \$89,700. Jim stated that he was not involved enough in this project to answer how the Borough Engineer could estimate this project at such a low number. He stated that this is a busy time for contractors and the aggressive project schedule may have caused higher bids. Scott stated that the Borough has a commitment from Waste Management for this project at \$72,000 and it would then only cost the Borough the difference. Kerry cautioned that there would be engineering fees on top of the actual project cost. Discussion regarding the absolute need to make the improvements to this intersection. George stated that the intersection is acceptable and is operating very well at this point. Jim added that this is a State road and the Borough is prompting the improvements not PennDOT. They do not identify this intersection as a problem intersection that needs improvements. George stated that with all his time and effort in this project and the bids still keep going up. He said that he feels it is just greed on the part of the contractors and that all bids should be rejected. He would like to see the improvements done, but enough is enough.

On motion by George Hinton to reject all bids and seconded by Winton Male. Roll call vote taken. In favor: S. Parsons, T. Curcio, K. Gassler, G. Hinton, W. Male. Opposed: M. Mogilski. Motion carried with a vote of 5-1.

OLD BUSINESS

1. George reported that he contacted Dave Albanese regarding upgrading the electrical wiring in the building above the Police Station to get the wiring up to code. Dave offered a bid of \$1,765 to do the work. There is enough room in the existing panel.

On motion by Scott Parsons to hire Dave Albanese to do electrical work at a cost of \$1,765 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. George reported that after spending a good deal of time near and in the Park relating to the Third Street project he has noticed numerous vehicles driving into the Park. Keys were issued to have access to the Park and now it has become a safety issue. He has witnessed vehicles driving down past the Babe Ruth field down to the Little League Field over what use to be a grass area. On a different day, a vehicle was parked in the Park next to the Kiddie area which is only 50' away from the play area. On days of Babe Ruth games there are 10 to 12 vehicles parked in the Park. If anyone is questioned about parking their vehicles they claim to be a coach and they claim they should be allowed to park in the field.

On motion by George Hinton to purchase a lock that cannot be duplicated and a key be given to EMS, the Fire, the Police and the Telephone Company for the Third Street gates and seconded by Scott Parsons. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Council decided to allow time for the members to look at an area to install gates at the lower end of the Park to eliminate the possibility of vehicles travel in the Park.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of May 10, 2005 and seconded by Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr.

The meeting of May 10, 2005 adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Secretary / Treasurer