

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

The Council met from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for Executive Session at Wind Gap Borough Hall.

The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, March 1, 2010, was called to order at 8:03 p.m. by Council Vice President, George Hinton, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: Tony Curcio, Dave Hess, Kerry Gassler, Joe Weaver and John Maher. Also in attendance were Mayor James M. Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Alternate Borough Engineer, Hanover Engineering, Dan Miller and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Scott Parsons.

Council Vice President George Hinton informed those in attendance that Council met in Executive Session prior to this evening's meeting to discuss Police SOPs. No action will be taken at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jeff Yob, Emergency Management Coordinator. Jeff asked if all members of Council are current with their NIMS classes. Everyone has to have at least taken NIMS 700, that is the minimum requirements. It can be taken online at the convenience of the employees. The backup generator, which at the primary emergency shelter, which is the Wind Gap Firehouse, is no longer functioning. Jeff contacted the County in search of an emergency generator is one was needed during the snow storm. Jeff requested that Council replace that generator and provided Council with several different styles for their consideration. The current unit is 14kw and he suggested that it be replaced with a similar one. George stated that it might make sense to have Dave Albanese check out the condition of the switching. This will be discussed at the workshop meeting. Jeff stated that he will look into possible funding through PEMA or through the Green Knight Economic Development grant opportunities.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the expenses for the month of February in the amount of \$50,806.72 and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ron Karasek reported that he did not have a chance to provide Council with a written report, but will follow up with one shortly. He stated that the request for information regarding the police text messages and other items with respect to that matter have been taking up a very significant amount of time. The responses to the requests have to be provided by tomorrow. Affidavits have to be signed by both, the Borough Administrator, Louise Firestone, and Ron in response to the Open Records requests and appeals to the Open Records office in Harrisburg.

Ron sent a letter to Council dated February 11, 2010 regarding the real estate taxes owed on the property condemned by the Borough and owned by Richard Keenhold. The Borough would owe

Mr. Keenhold \$46.25 for the 2008 calendar year. Mr. Keenhold has argued that the Borough should pay him retro back to the condemnation date of 2003. It is Ron's opinion that if the Borough had used the property to the exclusion of Mr. Keenhold back to that date then payment should be retro, but that is not the case. Ron further explained that 6 years times \$46.25 = \$277.50. The Borough does not owe anything currently on the property because it has been changed to a tax exempt status. Ron researched and has the base amount of the county, school and municipal tax, which is \$250.02 for the entire piece of which the Borough only needed 18% of the property (Borough tax - \$37.93, County tax - \$44.28 and School tax - \$167.81). Kerry asked Ron to verify the outstanding tax on that property.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian Pyscher was absent. George Hinton reported that he spoke to Brian regarding sending a letter to residents on Lehigh Avenue informing them of the storm water project and the Borough's intent on installing a six inch pipe along the street that the residents could hook into to take basement water out instead of piping into the street.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hontz/Gassler Subdivision. Dan Miller, Hanover Engineering, was in attendance to discuss the subdivision plan. Ron Karasek explained that this plan was before the Wind Gap Planning Commission and they are recommending that the plan receive conditional preliminary and final plan approval. The conditions have been agreed to and signed by Mr. Hontz. Dan Miller referenced his February 25, 2010 letter which outlines seven items that must be met by the developer. Kerry Gassler, as the applicant, asked for a waiver of number 5 – Section 403.d.25 – Section requires a detailed schedule of inspection (for the lateral construction, backfill, and paving installation).

On motion by Dave Hess to grant the waiver to number 5 as referenced in the Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. review letter dated February 25, 2010 – Section 403.D.5 – Section requires a detailed schedule of inspection (for the lateral construction, backfill, and paving installation) is not required and seconded by John Maher. Roll call vote taken. In favor: D. Hess, G. Hinton, J. Maher, J. Weaver, T. Curcio. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 4-0-1.

On motion by Tony Curcio to grant conditional preliminary and final plan approval based upon the agreement signed on February 4, 2010 by Mr. Hontz adding as an additional condition, compliance with the Hanover Engineering review letter dated February 25, 2010 (minus number 5 of that letter) and seconded by John Maher. Roll call vote taken. In favor: G. Hinton, J. Maher, J. Weaver, T. Curcio. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 4-0-1.

2. Kerry Gassler requested that Council consider re-zoning North Broadway (Candle Factory up to the proposed Industrial Drive and cross over to the ambulance building property). It was recommended in the Joint Comprehensive Plan that includes Wind Gap, Plainfield Township and Pen Argyl. He suggested talking to the Borough Engineer, Brian Pyscher, to get his input.

3. George Hinton asked if there was progress with the security cameras. John Maher contacted the vendors who supplied quotes, but he is now following up with a suggestion to put the feed of the cameras on the server so they can be viewed through the workstation.

Dan Miller took his leave from the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

George Hinton thanked Mayor Shoemaker for plowing the snow and Dave Hess for taking the snow blower around to the Borough properties to clear off the sidewalks.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business before Council at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Council reconvened at 9:22 p.m. Council Vice President George Hinton stated that no action would be taken.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of March 1, 2010. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of March 1, 2010 adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator