

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President, George Hinton, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: Jon Faust, David Valley, Tony Curcio, Joe Weaver and Dave Hess. Also in attendance were Mayor James Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysher and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Councilman Kerry Gassler was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Abraham of 604 South Broadway said that he notified his landlord, John Itterly, numerous times regarding leaks and mildew on the floor and walls. Mr. Abraham has been living there for a year and a half. Because the landlord has not fixed a major problem, Mr. Abraham has withheld his rent due to these living conditions. His landlord sent him a notarized letter with a \$50.00 late fee and an eviction notice. There is also a store connected to his apartment and using his electric. Mr. Abraham contacted Met-Ed to have this problem corrected. George Hinton said that he would contact an inspector with L & I and speak with the Borough's Zoning Officer and get back to him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting of November 3, 2014 Council meeting and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. In favor: T. Curcio, D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley, J. Weaver. Abstained: J. Faust. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler was absent. Joe Weaver had nothing to report.
2. Fire Company – Jon Faust reported that the Fire Company responded 13 calls in October for a total of 139 for the year.
3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that no applications were submitted therefore, no meeting will take place in the month of December.
4. Planning – George Hinton reported two plans will be before Council at the December 1, 2014 meeting - planned subdivision on First Street and plans for a property on Center Street.
5. Municipal Authority – Joe Weaver stated that he attended the last month's meeting, but has nothing new to report, business as usual.
6. Streets – Jon Faust reported that the street workers have been patching streets, vacuuming up leaves, replacing several street signs, and working on the street vehicles. Joe Weaver requested a status of replacing street signs. All the necessary stop signs have been refaced to PennDOT specifications. Dave Hess wanted to know the status of the salt shed. George Hinton said Brian Pysher is in the process of getting the specification package out to bid for this year. George asked if

the street department is mixing salt with anti-skid. Rich Fox stated that there is currently a mixture of salt and anti-skid in the shed.

7. Police - Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police Dept responded to 116 calls in October, 1 animal complaint, 4 motor vehicle accidents. They issued 18 traffic citations and 1 parking ticket. All police officers participated in fire arms qualifications.

8. Park – David Valley reported that the Park Board met on November 11, 2014. Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, approved the location for the swing set. The sign has been updated for the November 30th, 2014 Christmas Celebration. Lucy Flinn wanted a guarantee regarding future years of installation of the lights in the Park. Discussion regarding the cost of renting a bucket truck and utilizing volunteers - to be discussed further. Summer Sounds currently has six bands chosen for next year's schedule.

9. 911 – Tony Curcio has nothing to report.

10. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that the Borough received the third quarter tipping fee from Waste Management and he updated the reported on November 7, 2014.

11. Municipal Building – George Hinton reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry inspector, Robert Hebel, will be at the new building tomorrow to do the final inspection. There were seven (7) items remaining on the list to be completed, which have all been done. We anticipate receiving our Certificate of Occupancy. If so, the Borough office will move in on the first of December and the Ambulance and Fire Department will move in by the end of December. An open house/grand opening will be scheduled once everyone is settled in after the move.

12. Regional Police – Mayor Shoemaker reported that a meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2014. Dave Hess added that the main focus will be on the police contract and the budget with an expected startup date of January 1, 2015. The meeting begins at 5:30 and is open to the public. An employment notice went out to hire new Police Officers. Attorney Karasek asked for an update on the regional police budget so Borough Council can properly advertise for the Borough budget. On December 5, 2014, the firehouse will be open for a written exam.

13. Park Master Plan – Joe Weaver reported that he is waiting to hear back from DCNR.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker said that the Slate Belt Council of Governments will be meeting on Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. COG is on recess for November, the December date will be announced. Leaf vacuuming is ongoing. The tree lighting will begin at 2:30 on December 30, 2014. Santa will arrive around 4:00 p.m. Food and beverage is sponsored by local businesses. The Fire Department Breakfast with Santa will be on December 13, 2014 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. We currently have orders for nineteen banners. We would like to get twenty or more before we place our order in December.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Northampton County Appeals Board Decisions
 - Utica Avenue (Firehouse) - Assessment - \$93,000
 - N Broadway (parcel behind Firehouse) - \$900
 - Center St (vacant strip of land) - \$18,900

The Tax Assessment Office determined that the Borough should pay taxes on the three properties. Borough Council can either pay taxes or file an appeal to Northampton County. Solicitor Ron Karasek explained this year Northampton County has been in search of properties that had previously not been taxed as a way to find revenue.

On motion by Dave Hess to appeal the Appeals Board Decision and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Joe Weaver stated that the Park Board submitted a quote from BYO to purchase a new swing set. To date the order was not placed and they would like to know the status. George asked Administrative Assistant, Debra Harbison, to explain to Council additional quotes from two different companies along with the one from BYO. Each one varied in price. The quotes are as follows; GEA - \$4,521, Game Time - \$6,139, and BYO - \$6,466. The price for GEA is good through January 31, 2015 while other prices will increase 5% to 18% on January 1, 2015. Joe suggested that this information be taken back to the Park Board for their input. Council stated that it is ultimately the Borough's decision and from a financial standpoint it makes sense to purchase the lowest price.

On motion by Jon Faust to purchase from GEA at a cost of \$4,524 and seconded by Tony Curcio. In favor: D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley, T. Curcio, J. Faust. Opposed: J. Weaver. Motion carried with a vote of 5-1.

Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, arrived at the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

2. 2015 Budget

Council discussed the unknown regarding the regional police department budget. The preliminary number was estimated for the police budget to be \$500,000. That number is higher than originally proposed during the feasibility studies for the regional department because the commission used the Stroud Regional Police Department budget as a model. An emergency meeting was held to further discuss the budget and the number from that meeting was approximately \$12,000 higher than originally though. Dave Hess explained that the Police Commission meets this Thursday to look at the budget that is being proposed by Chief Mettin and the numbers will be further discussed. Dave explained that the regional budget does not include grant monies that have been verbally awarded to the department including the \$150,000 from Northampton County. George suggested tabling this topic until the Council meeting on December 1, 2014 because the police budget has to be finalized prior to really finalizing the Borough budget. The budget for 2016 will not include the start-up costs that include the professional services provided by the Meyner Center for Lafayette College who have assisted with the search for a Chief and negotiations for the Police Association. The Charter Agreement dictates what each municipalities would contribute and Wind Gap percentage is 18.1%.

3. Cell phone Tower. Brian Pysher explained that the phone provider applied for a zoning permit and they had PPL listed as the owner of the property. The Borough had done a condemnation in conjunction with Industrial Drive. The northern part of that strip was from Calantoni's Towns at the Gap and the southern part of Rick Keenhold's property. The Borough owns that sixty (60') right-of-way. When the phone provider applied for a permit five years ago, they listed Rick Keenhold as the property owner, which at the time would probably have been correct. Brian asked if now there should be some type of lease agreement between the Borough and PPL. Attorney Karasek responded that he will have to review the settlement agreement because he does not recall what specifically was settled.

4. Salt Shed. George Hinton asked Brian Pysner for an update on the salt shed specifications. Brian replied that he has a request in for current prevailing wage rates. Once he receives those, he will put the specs together.

5. Joe Weaver addressed those in attendance. He stated that he believes that this Council does provide a lot of information and try to explain all the highlights in regard to the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Council reconvened at 8:41 p.m. George Hinton stated that no action will be taken at this time.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of November 18, 2014. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of November 18, 2014 adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator