

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
545 EAST WEST STREET  
WIND GAP, PA 18091  
863-7288  
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council Vice President, Kerry Gassler, 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, and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one appeared before Council at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. In favor: T. Curcio, J. Faust, K. Gassler, D. Hess, J. Weaver. Abstained: D. Valley. Motion carried with a vote of 5-0-1.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. EMS – Kerry Gassler reported the Ambulance responded to 56 calls in the month of January. Last week the ambulance corps for Wind Gap, Plainfield Township, and Bushkill Township met to discuss the possibility of working together (not merging) to provide 24 hour service. They discussed having two (2) paid crews working the day shift and one (1) crew work the night shift and rotate out so there would 24 hour coverage – there are more calls during the daytime. The Ambulance Corps will take back the information discussed to their respective boards and another meeting will be held next month. All the Corps average between 700 and 800 calls a year.

*Council President, George Hinton arrived at 7:35 p.m. Council Vice President, Kerry Gassler, turned the meeting over to G. Hinton.*

2. Fire Company – Jon Faust reported that the Fire Company responded to 10 calls in February for a total of 23 calls for the year.

3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that the Zoning Hearing Board will meet on March 19, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Council chambers.

4. Planning – George Hinton reported that the Planning Commission did not meet.

5. Municipal Authority – Joe Weaver reported that the Municipal Authority met on February 25, 2015. The Authority will be advertising for their new truck because they receive a quote that was lower than the Pennsylvania Co-Stars price so they decided it might be better to solicit other quotes and not depend on the Co-Stars program. They have received 140 resumes for the Plant Mechanic position mainly received through Career Builder. Joe was asked to confirm that one of the conditions of the Cortazzo Subdivision Plan approval included a condition for the sewer hook-up. Attorney Karasek stated that he would have to double check that the sewer hook-up was a condition.

6. Streets – Jon Faust reported that the street department will be getting quotes for street sweeping and making a list of streets that should be repaired/paved this year. He asked for Council members to drive back to Jefferson Street. Rich reported that they have put approximately two (2) tons of cold patch to fill in the hole at the intersection of West Street and Washington Street. A water main broke in that area causing damage to the streets so Pennsylvania American Water Company should be contacted to make repairs. The current Borough Ordinance states that for any road to be paved, the street would have to be curbed and if it is not, the property owners would be responsible for installing the curbs.
7. Police - Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Police Department responded to 107 calls in February, 5 animal complaints, and 14 motor vehicle accidents. They issued 9 traffic citations and 1 parking ticket. All officers completed mandatory CPR and first aid training on February 22, 2015.
8. Park – David Valley reported that the Park Board met on March 10, 2015 and all members were in attendance. Lucy ordered more lights for the Park and she has sent out letters asking for donations to offset the cost of the lights. The benches and trash cans have been ordered. Park clean-up day is scheduled for May 2, 2015 and the Boy Scouts will be asked to help with the clean-up. All summer sounds bands have been booked at a total cost of \$5,500.
9. 911 – Tony Curcio has nothing to report. Jon Faust reported that over the past weekend, there were several complaints from residents because the siren went off too many times. The 911 Center confirmed that they will put instructions in their CAD system that the siren will only go off on the first alert for each call.
10. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that there has been no change from the last report.
11. Regional Police – Dave Hess reported that all pertinent documents, contract and lease, have been signed at the Commission level. All three municipalities are holding special meetings next week in order to finalize all the necessary paperwork. Wind Gap Borough will hold their meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Council will take action on approving the budget, vote on the ordinance that will change the charter to the new percentage that the calls will be figured out as to how much Wind Gap will owe. Council will discuss this in Executive Session later in tonight's meeting.
12. Park Master Plan – Louise Firestone reported that the office has mailed or e-mailed twelve packets to potential bidders for the Park Master Plan.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Shoemaker said that the Slate Belt Council of Governments will be meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the COG office. Former Councilman and resident, John Maher, will be training on the GIS system. Banner orders are currently 21 and will be ordered and placed on the poles before the Memorial Day holiday. The Mayor reminded citizens to please sweep stones and debris off the sidewalks. The Borough Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Wind Gap Borough Park on Saturday, April 4, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., rain or shine. The Wind Gap Fire Company will be holding their annual Easter flower sale on April 2, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Blue Mountain Community Library will be holding a fundraiser at Wendy's on March 25, 2015 with a portion of the sales from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. donated to the Library. The Mayor invited everyone to take a tour of the new Slate Belt YMCA and consider becoming a member (family, single, senior citizen).

Attorney Karasek reviewed the office file for the Cortez Subdivision, there were eleven (11) conditions that were made part of his approval and two (2) of them deal with the sanitary sewer and the water supply. The applicant has to provide verification, in writing, from the Wind Gap Municipal Authority and Pennsylvania American Water that adequate capacity does exist.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Sale of Borough Real Estate – Bids. Bid opening was today. This will be discussed in Executive Session.
2. Agreement for Use of New Polling Place – 545 East West Street. Joe Weaver asked how the residents will be notified that the polling place has changed. Northampton County Elections will handle notifying voters. Dave expressed concern with the amount of current parking spaces at the building. There will be six (6) people working the polls and they expect a low turnout for this year's election. Attorney Karasek stated that the only necessary requirement is for Council to authorize a signature on the County form.  
**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to approve moving the Wind Gap Borough polling location from the old firehouse to the new municipal building at 545 East West Street and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. In favor: J. Faust, K. Gassler, G. Hinton, D. Valley, J. Weaver, T. Curcio. Opposed: D. Hess. Motion carried with a vote of 6-1.
3. Abolishment of Wind Gap Police Department related items (ordinances, civil service, and police pension). Attorney Karasek explained that Ordinance 484 establishing the Slate Belt Regional Police Department (SBRPD) it automatically abolishes the Wind Gap Police Department when the regional police goes active. He advised to make sure that the SBRPD is in place before abolishing any other ordinances.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Attorney Karasek reported that he received the court order on March 2, 2015 removing three (3) real estate tax parcels for the property assessment list effective January 1, 2014 are back to un-reassessed status.
2. Attorney Karasek will be meeting with Jon Faust and/or George Hinton regarding the Fire Company litigation.
3. George Hinton reported that the concept drawing for the new social hall is at Borough Hall. He is in the process of setting up a meeting with representatives from Merchant's Bank to sit and discuss potential financing for that building.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss the proposed budget for regional police and real estate issues. Council reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

Council President George Hinton explained that no action would be taken.

Council will be holding a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Slate Belt Regional Police Department.

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of March 17, 2015. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of March 17, 2015 adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator