

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, April 6, 2015, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President George Hinton. In attendance were Councilmen: Jon Faust, David Valley, Kerry Gassler, 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 Kerry Gassler to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. In favor: D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley, J. Weaver, T. Curcio. Abstained: J. Faust, K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 5-2.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

On motion by Kerry Gassler to approve the expenses for the month of March in the amount of \$28,275.74 and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Karasek reported that the majority of his time in the month of March was spent on issues related to the Slate Belt Regional Police Department: the operational cost formula, the lease agreement and the payment formula. He sent a status letter to the Wind Gap Fire Company with a copy to the Borough regarding the Dalmatian Fire Company case. He researched and submitted a Right to Know form to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) relating to the property at 435 North Broadway (Wind Gap Ambulance/Oaten Garage) requesting all the reports associated with the soil testing that was completed prior to the construction of the ambulance building. He will provide Borough Council with a comprehensive written report later this week.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian Pysher was absent from the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Street Sweeping Recommendation. Street Leader, Rich Fox, reported that he received three (3) quotes: Keiper Trucking & Paving - \$150/hr, Elegant Lawn Care - \$100/hr, A.B.E. Paving &

Sealcoating - \$100/hr. Rich Fox recommended A.B.E. Paving because they have larger equipment and should be able to complete the job within the allotted 40 hours.

On motion by Kerry Gassler to approve hiring A.B.E. Paving & Sealcoating at \$100/hr. using water and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken.

2. Zoning Hearing Board Appointment

George Hinton explained that the currently the Zoning Hearing Board has three members: Sam Nittle, Scott Snyder and Bob Matlock, but both Scott and Bob have attendance issues. The Zoning Hearing Board requires two of the three members be in attendance for a quorum, but if only two are at the hearing there is a possibility of a tie vote. Two (2) residents have submitted a letter of interest, Alexander Cortez and Marguerite Mullins.

On motion by Kerry Gassler to appoint Alexander Cortez and Marguerite Mullins as alternates to the Zoning Hearing Board and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Quarterly Slate Belt Regional Police Invoice Approval (\$145,488.22). Dave Hess explained that this check would be for the quarter (April, May, June) and that the remaining two quarters in 2015 will be the same amount.

On motion by Joe Weaver to approve the Slate Belt Regional Police Quarterly Invoice in the amount of \$145,488.22 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. In favor: D. Valley, J. Weaver, T. Curcio, J. Faust, D. Hess, G. Hinton. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-1.

4. Nicholas Calabrese, speaking for the Wind Gap Film Club, proposed to Council dates and films to be shown at the Wind Gap Borough Park bandshell. These showings will be advertised and open to the community. He proposed the following dates and films:

June 10 – Into the Woods (PG)

July 8 – The Sandlot (On the Baseball Field) (PG)

August 8 – Mary Poppins (G) and Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13)

Nicholas stated that if the film series is successful, the Club would consider showing movies in October and again next summer. George stated that the Borough office would have to confirm that the dates would not conflict with any other activities already scheduled in the park. Nicholas anticipates that the films would start between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Joe asked if they would schedule a rain date. Nicholas replied that unfortunately they would just cancel the showing.

On motion by Kerry Gassler to allow the Wind Gap Film Club to hold three (3) film nights in the park and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Girl Scout/Boy Scout Camp out. Council had previously discussed allowing the scouts to camp out in the park. The scouts have asked that they be allowed to have a campfire. Council discussed the issues related to allowing a campfire and location of the camp out. The scouts have tentatively decided on dates of May 1 to May 2, 2015.

On motion by Jon Faust to allow the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to camp out in the Wind Gap Borough Park in the top portion of the park with a contained fire pit and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Kerry Gassler asked with the designation of Wind Gap as an Appalachian Trail Head Community will there be anything for hikers. George replied that a list of projects has been compiled and camping out in the lower end of the park (Lehigh & West streets) has been discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Officer A. Flad Increase Compensation Approval

George Hinton explained that Council had previously discussed increasing Officer Flad's compensation, but never took official action to make this happen.

On motion by Dave Hess to approve a pay increase for Officer Arron Flad as proposed in the current Wind Gap Police Agreement at a rate designated for a Sergeant and to make the increase retro effective to January 1, 2015 and seconded by Tony Curcio.

Amended motion by Dave Hess to specify the time for the pay increase for Officer Arron Flad is January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015 and seconded by Tony Curcio.

Roll call vote taken. In favor: J. Faust, D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley, J. Weaver, T. Curcio. Abstained: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 6-0-1.

2. Lehigh Avenue Municipal Parking Lot behind old School.

George Hinton reported that the Borough received an offer of \$75,000 from Chip Pressman for the two lots on Lehigh Avenue. Mr. Pressman stated that he would need time to secure the necessary permits and approval, but would offer a \$10,000 check as a deposit.

On motion by David Valley to move forward with negotiating the sale of the Borough property located on Lehigh Avenue and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. In favor: D. Hess, G. Hinton, D. Valley, J. Weaver, T. Curcio, J. Faust. Opposed: K. Gassler. Motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

3. Attorney Karasek reported that he sent an e-mail today to PA DEP regarding the Ambulance building and all the pertinent documents. PA DEP responded that the request is board and would require thirty (30) days to complete. Attorney Karasek suggested that it might be beneficial if the Borough would want to travel to Wilkes-Barre to inspect the documents at the PA DEP offices.

David Valley stated that he sat in on the meeting with Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher and representatives from PA DEP and MEA (soil testing company). Brian Pysher submitted a written report for tonight's meeting as follows:

Brian wrote that he met with David Everitt from MEA Inc. and representatives from DEP. Through discussion and review of the previous soil sampling and water testing, it was determined that an additional quarter (3 months) of water testing needs to be completed. If the water testing results fall below the standards of 1997, then the water testing will be complete. DEP notified the Borough that some of the soil testing completed in the original reports is not acceptable due to the fact that the lab that did the testing was caught falsifying results. Additional soil samples need to be obtained and tested for lead. If the soil samples are clean and the water testing is clean, DEP will write the Borough a Closure letter. If the samples are not clean then additional testing will be required. Dave Everitt tried to locate the existing wells at the property and was unable to find any of them. I spoke with Rich and he will scarify the area where the wells were located in order to try and locate them. If they cannot be located, or have been damaged, it will cost more money to do the water testing. Once we have determined the state of the wells, Dave Everitt will prepare a proposal for the Borough to complete the necessary work.

Rich Fox added that Dave Everitt marked where he thinks three (3) wells are located.

4. Dave Hess asked the Street Department to remove the green and white signs at the top of West Mechanic Street that identify the Borough Police Department and Borough Office since they have both re-located.

5. Joe Weaver inquired about improving the condition of the streets in Wind Gap. Rich Fox replied that he has been fixing as many potholes as quickly as possible, but there are many throughout the Borough.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of April 6, 2015. Council agreed unanimously. The meeting of April 6, 2015 adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator