

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, October 5, 2015, 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 Pysker and Administrative Assistant Debra Harbison.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Minnich had questions regarding per capita tax for the Borough and how the Borough determines who is a resident. He stated that he received a tax bill for his aunt who has never lived in the Borough of Wind Gap and passed away two years ago. George Hinton said that he doesn't want to speak for Pat Sutter regarding how she sends out bills so he recommended that Ron contact Pat directly. Attorney Karasek said that it was probably sent in error.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the expenses for the month of September in the amount of \$48,968.06 and seconded by Dave Valley. Joe Weaver asked for a few minutes to review since he just picked up his mail. George Hinton said for him to take his time to review. Joe wanted to know what Super Heat was billing us for. George informed him that they worked on the coolant for upstairs. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ron Karasek reported that he was at trial in Carbon County last week and will be in Northampton County this week. He will have his report and invoice available for the mid-month meeting of October 20, 2015.

ENGINEER REPORT:

Brian Pysker reported that the proposal for Jefferson Street Paving was awarded to Willow Grove Paving. The contract was sent to them but has not been returned. Brian put a call in for them and has not heard back, but will follow up tomorrow.

Brian reported that he has been working on the electrical plans for the Park.

Brian informed Council that a Zoning Hearing Board Meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2015 in respect to the Auto Zone regarding the signage that they are proposing. The Public Notice was posted in the Express Times and was forwarded to the neighbors within 200 feet of the proposed Auto Zone location. George Hinton questioned if they are still going ahead with the signage even though nothing was finalized at the Planning Commission Meeting. George said that there was discussion at the Planning meeting regarding the configuration of the building. He stated that when you come into town you would look at the back or the side of the building and asked the Engineer if this were his town would he like to see that. The Engineer

said that all he can do is go back and ask if it can be changed. George said that if they were to spin the building they would have more parking spots. The Engineer said the he will bring the information back and see if they can work it. He spoke with the property owner, John Barto, regarding the set back and the merger of the property that they purchased and Mr. Barto said that it is their intent to merge the property but they do not want to do it until they get the approval. Attorney Karasek stated that the condition of the plan approval is fine assuming that the plan gets approved. They cannot get final approval until they do the merger. One of the issues that was discussed at the Planning Commission Meeting was the plan did not reflect does not reflect the merger of the properties.

Dave Hess questioned Brian as to the status of the construction on Route 512 and 33 and if the new lights on 512 were part of the ARLE Grant. Brian stated the he has not heard from PennDOT and to the best of his knowledge construction is complete. He added that they are working on the design plans and analysis which will be submitted by the end of this week. The PennDOT review will take approximately three to four weeks. We met with them a few months ago and discussed the different types of controllers and the ability to synchronize them. PennDOT requires this project to be put out to bid. Spring of next year is the deadline and they should not have any problem meeting that deadline. Brian stated that the scope of the project was \$10,000 over what their number were and will use any additional funding that towards the improvement and upgraded that make the most sense.

NEW BUSINESS

1. George Hinton stated that Kerry Gassler has resigned as Council Vice President.

On motion by Joe Weaver to accept the resignation from Kerry Gassler and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

George recommended that the Borough send Kerry a letter for his fifteen years of service on the board.

Dave Valley recommended that Dave Hess take over as Vice President for Council.

On motion by Dave Valley to appoint Dave Hess as Vice President and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

George Hinton stated that we have up to 30 days to fill the vacant position on Council. Dave Valley asked if we should ask for a Letter of Interest from the applicants. George said that is an option or we can have Alex Cortezzo fill the seat. Dave Valley said that he had no objection to Alex filling the seat. Dave made a suggestion that Alex submit a Letter of Interest. George said that we will table this until the next meeting in two weeks. Ron Karasek said the Borough Code states that this has to be done by resolution so if you think that Alex is going to be the person then it should be done by resolution. He stated that Louise Firestone has a sample resolution that she can have ready and that can be filled in that evening. Attorney Karasek said that we do not have to advertise since we are not making law, it is an administrative function.

2. George Hinton said that we must pass resolution 2015-05, for the Slate Belt Community Partnership (SBCP) – for the Façade Grant Program. Joe Weaver questioned as to where this money can be spent. George stated that this money can be spent anywhere in Wind Gap on a façade. For example, a business owner who wants a new face lift on their building, could spend \$10,000, submit the required paperwork and they would be reimbursed half or \$5,000. Dave

Valley questioned if this would change the Borough's contribution to the Slate Belt Community Partnership (SBCP) and George replied that it would not. Attorney Karasek said that according to the proposed Resolution, the Borough is agreeing to support SBCP and their application to Northampton County for a 50/50 matching grant for façade improvements.

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve Resolution 2015-05 - the Slate Belt Community Façade Grant Program and seconded by Joe Weaver. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Budget 2016. George Hinton informed Council that they should look over the first draft of the budget for 2016. He stated that Council will discuss the budget at the workshop meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Park. Dave Valley stated that he is not pleased with the problems that we are having with the delivery of the new spring toy for the Park. He would like to send it back at no charge to us and next year we can order something else.

On motion by Dave Valley to return the spring toy and seconded by Jon Faust. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Park Master Plan. Joe Weaver stated that S/G/A/, the consultant for the Park Master Plan, would like to hold the first meeting this month. They would need a place that could hold 25 to 30 people. Joe suggested the Fire House for the 27th of October. Jon Faust informed us to call Kathy from the Ladies' Auxiliary to schedule the meeting.

3. Wind Gap Ambulance. Joe Weaver questioned the status of the Ambulance Corps. George Hinton stated that the Borough loaned them \$7,000 to keep them running. This will be discussed again at the next workshop meeting. George said that at the last Ambulance meeting the Ambulance Board stated that they are currently working on the bylaws.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss real estate and the Teamsters Contract. Council reconvened at 8:40 p.m. Council President, George Hinton, informed those present that they will present a counter offer of \$360,000, with no conditions, for the Ambulance building at 433 N. Broadway. They will schedule another meeting with the Teamsters Representative to negotiate the contract.

On motion by Tony Curcio to present a counter offer for the Ambulance and seconded by Dave Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried out unanimously.

Darlene Klingel, Ambulance Board Member, said that at the Board Meeting there was talk about continuing to work the way they are right now for six to nine months while writing the bylaws, with the understanding that financially they need help. Call volume is down and there really is not enough money to pay the bills. They did receive \$7,000 from the Borough to stay afloat and will need more in the future if they continue to run for six to nine months. Darlene stated that she feels that the Board needs to know this. Is the Borough willing to back the Ambulance at what it costs to run the Ambulance without making a decision or doing any type of

merging? The Board needs to be aware that the Ambulance is financially in trouble. The Borough did give the Ambulance \$7,000 for a Grant that they received but needed to stay afloat. Our guys are out there on calls, trying to close the gap but we need to assure our staff that there is going to be money there and if we need money is the Board going to back the Ambulance to stay afloat for six to nine months? George Hinton stated that at the last meeting at workshop when they spoke about it they talked about how many weeks it would take to get to the next meeting when it can be discussed. That would be the workshop meeting which is in two weeks. The Board for the Ambulance meets on October 14th prior to Council meeting so it will be put on the agenda to discuss. Darlene Klingel stated that Council will meet and decide if they will continue to give the Ambulance money to keep running on October 14th meeting. This will let us know if that checkbook will still be open. George Hinton stated that this will be discussed at the meeting.

On motion by Dave Valley to adjourn the meeting of October 5, 2015. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of October 5, 2015 adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Debra Harbison, Administrative Assistant