

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, October 20, 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, and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Lisa Wood, 738 Alpha Road, Wind Gap. Lisa appeared before Council to express her concern for the excessive speeding on Alpha Road. She submitted a petition to Council and the Slate Belt Regional Police Department to take measures to consistently enforce the 25 mph speed limit to ensure that drivers are within the acceptable speed limit range. The petition, with 15 resident signatures, was copied and handed to Sgt. Hoadley to be delivered to Police Chief Mettin. Sgt. Hoadley did state that the police department enforces the speed limit on local roads when additional officers are on duty by using the ENRADD speed device.

2. Sgt. Hoadley, Slate Belt Regional Police Department, introduced a criminal justice major intern from Northampton Community College. Jessica Muccione began her internship in September. She has reviewed the start-up documents for the department, toured the Northampton County 911 Center, District Attorney's Office and Central Booking Center as well as accompanied officers on patrol. She has learned about the department's reporting system and generated a six month Uniform Crime Report comparison.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:41 p.m. to discuss real estate and the teamster's contract. Council reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

On motion by Dave Hess to sell the old Wind Gap Ambulance Building and Oaten Garage (433 and 435 North Broadway, Wind Gap) to Ken Fairchild, "As Is" for \$350,000, with 5% down at the time the Agreement of Sale is signed and closing will be completed within ninety (90) days and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried out unanimously.

George Hinton informed those present that no action would be taken on the teamster's contract at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Jon Faust to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2015 Council meeting and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMS – Nathan Pysher, Wind Gap Ambulance Corps, reported that the Ambulance Board met and decided that they are going to redo the by-laws by the end of this year. He stated that they are going to give it a go for six (6) months if they have the backing of Council. George reported that there was not a board meeting this past week because of scheduling conflicts, work or prior commitments. George informed Council that at this point in time, there are six members on the Board that have been showing up and 3 members want to see the Ambulance Corps continue to exist and move forward in Wind Gap. The other three board members appear to have given up and think that it is best to give away the ambulance and join with another ambulance corps. The majority of the members want to keep the Corps going and they displayed that this past weekend with their participation in a coin toss in working with the Wind Gap Fire Company. The emergency responders had a very difficult health and welfare call and both entities worked hard together on that situation. Nathan responded that he wants an ambulance in Wind Gap and staffed 24/7, but financially we are struggling. George expressed that if the organization is being led by negativity, then you get negative results in any business. If management is positive and forthright and working toward that common goal you will be successful and achieve. George spoke to Jim from Bushkill Ambulance and was informed that if it is necessary for Wind Gap Ambulance to be out of service, contact Bushkill and they will station a unit in Wind Gap. During discussion, Council learned that the Ambulance Corps has been using the same billing company for a minimum of 15 years, an ambulance was sold to Bushkill because the engine had been replaced twice and it was determined that it needed another new engine and the Board of Directors decided not to spend any more money on that ambulance. The volunteers are responding whenever they are available and they are not giving up on keeping the ambulance in Wind Gap. Council discussed how practical it is to expect the Borough to fund the ongoing operation of the ambulance. There are questions about how a transition would be handled (i.e. housing unit in Borough Municipal Complex with regard to rent, utilities, equipment).

On motion by Joe Weaver to appoint Nazareth Ambulance as the Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Borough of Wind Gap and seconded by David Valley. Roll call vote taken. In favor: D. Valley, J. Weaver, D. Hess. Opposed: G. Hinton, T. Curcio, J. Faust. Vote was a tie 3-3. Mayor Shoemaker voted nay. Motion did not pass.

2. Fire Company – Jon Faust stated that he will have a report next month.

3. Zoning – Tony Curcio reported that a Zoning Hearing Board Meeting was held on October 7, 2015 regarding a sign variance for Auto Zone. The Zoning Hearing Board did not approve the variance. Auto Zone may appeal the decision.

4. Planning – A Planning Commission Meeting was held regarding the proposed Auto Zone. The Commission requested that the developer consider constructing the building facing 512 and not sideways as it is currently shown on their submitted plan.

5. Municipal Authority – Joe Weaver stated that the Borough received a letter from Robert Hahn, Wind Gap Municipal Authority Administrator, informing the Borough that the bid from Doli Construction Corp of Chalfont, Pennsylvania was accepted to replace the sewer mains, manholes and laterals on North Broadway. There will be a pre-construction meeting at 10:00

a.m. on October 21, 2015 at the sewer plant on Abel Colony Road. Joe asked if Brian or a Borough representative will be attending. George stated that Brian is not feeling well and if Rich is available he will attend.

6. Streets – Rich Fox reported that he met with the paving contractor for Jefferson Street. Willow Grove Paving anticipates starting the project Wednesday or Thursday of next week. They will mill and patch on the first day and then do the overlay on the second day.

7. Parks – Dave Valley reported that the Park Board met on October 13, 2015. The board questioned if the cost of the park cameras would be coming out of the park budget. The replacement part for the new kiddie play area toy has not come in yet. Rich will evaluate the safety issues related to the concrete base being exposed through the playground mulch. Lucy Flinn reported to the park board regarding the holiday lighting at the park.

8. 911 – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.

9. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported that a total of \$158,671.04 was transferred out of the street tipping fee capital reserve fund in order to pay for the salt shed and the skid loader. The balance remains at \$71,645.63. The third quarter tipping fee check was just received from Waste Management in the amount of \$72,745.84. Tony will update the report and distribute as soon as possible.

10. Regional Police – Mayor Shoemaker reported that the Slate Belt Regional Police responded to a total of 157 calls in the month of September in Wind Gap. Dave Hess added that the proposed 2016 Regional Police was approved by the Police Commission and sent back to the three municipalities for approval. The formula for determining the municipalities' contribution to the department will remain the same as originally agreed upon in the Charter. The formula used is the least expensive calculation for the Borough of Wind Gap.

Council tabled the Regional Police Budget discussion until the next Council meeting.

11. Park Master Plan – Joe Weaver reported that a Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the old Wind Gap firehouse. The concept of a park master plan is to put all ideas for how the park currently is and how residents see it being improved. Public participation is important in order to generate as many ideas as possible and is key to the success of the park. Joe invited all to attend the public meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Shoemaker reported that the COG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2015, all are invited to attend. He reported that the grant application submitted to Northampton County through the Slate Belt Council of Government for an Animal Control Officer (ACO) was awarded in the amount of \$10,000.

October 25, 2015 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. is trick-or-treat in the Borough.

Leaf collection will begin the first week of November.

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Wind Gap firehouse for the park master plan.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was before Council at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A Resolution to Fill a Vacancy on Borough Council – 2015-06

On motion by Joe Weaver to appoint Alexander Cortezzo III to the fill the vacant Council seat with his term expiring December 31, 2015 and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Shoemaker will get the necessary paperwork together to administer the Oath of Office to Alex prior to the next Council meeting.

2. Budget 2016. Council decided that they needed more time to review the proposed 2016 Budget so it will be on the next Council meeting agenda. Tony suggested, that if necessary, a special meeting should be held dedicated to the discussion of the budget.

3. Property Maintenance Code. George explained that the Ambulance Corps and Fire Company responded to a call on Second Street where a female resident is living in deplorable conditions. He believes that if the Borough would adopt a property maintenance code then something could be done in a timely manner in order to correct some of the deteriorating properties in the Borough that are not up to code. The Borough has been trying to clean up two properties on Lehigh and it has been going on for years. It was necessary to go through Northampton County Court to gain approval to make the necessary repairs to the property. George asked Council if they think it is fair that the neighbors should have to live next to such properties because these properties are throughout the Borough.

He strongly urged Council to look at the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). Dave Hess suggested that this be tabled until the next meeting.

On motion by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of October 20, 2015. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of October 20, 2015 adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator