

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday July 11, 2016 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President, Dave Hess, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen: Jon Faust, David Valley, Alex Cortezzo III, Tony Curcio, and Jeff Yob. Also in attendance were Mayor James Shoemaker and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Kerry Gassler.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Eily Leicht, Scout Leader for Troop 33, came before Council to thank them for allowing the Boy Scouts of America use of the Wind Gap Park for their Trail to Town Jamboree. She said that despite the weather they had a good turn out and everyone had fun. Eily said she spoke with the Council for Boy Scouts and they were impressed with the event. She said they would like make the Jamboree a yearly event at the Wind Gap Park.
2. Kim Guerin, of 333 N. Broadway, came before Council regarding her ongoing problems with her neighbors regarding property dispute, diesel spills, and unregistered vehicles. Kim gave Dave Hess documentation and pictures for him to review. Dave asked Kim he should return them, or if these copies are for the Borough. Kim informed Dave that the copies are his and he does not have to return them. Dave said he will review the materials with the Borough Engineer.
3. Stefan Madzhirski, of 145 Utica Avenue, came to Council regarding the dust, speeding, and the congestion of cars on Utica Avenue. Dave said we will have our Street Department look at it and maybe get heavier stone to put down to help reduce the dust. Stefan said the business across from his property parks on the road and up to his driveway and this is creating a safety hazard. Jon Faust confirmed that there are cars parked on both sides of the alley. Dave said he will pass this information on to the Zoning Officer/Borough Engineer.
4. Bob Matlock, of 346 Alpha Avenue, came before Council because the property at 347 Fairview Avenue has remained the same in regard to the garbage and junk. Bob said he understands that notices have gone out, notices have been ignored and nothing has happened. He said he does not know where the problem is, but nothing is being done. Bob said he would appreciate it if the Borough or Zoning Officer could address the nuisance behind him and get it cleaned up. He said the noise, loud cars and spinning of the wheels has started again. Dave Hess told Bob to call the State Belt Police. Bob said he can keep calling but it will not eliminate the problem. He said they respond but by the time they get there it is too late. Bob said he would appreciate if the Borough had an idea as to how to address this issue. Jeff said they can get together with Chief Mettin to see what else can be done.  
Bob asked if the Street Department could fill the potholes at Alpha Avenue and Alpha Road when they have time. He said he would appreciate any work that can be done on the potholes.
5. Pat Sutter, Tax Collector of 413 S. Broadway, came before Council regarding the Park bathrooms. She said they look horrible, the dingy grey paint, the hoppers are very close to the floor, and they don't look clean. Pat said we should do something, spray the bathroom, everything in there. Jeff Yob said it was designed to be graffiti free and so new paint will not stick to it. He said they tried to make it vandal proof and unfortunately that make it institutional looking. Pat asked who was in

charge of taking care of paper towels and supplies. Dave Hess said that Rich comes up early in the mornings on Saturday and Sunday, on his own time, to clean the bathrooms and the park. Jon said that Rich and the street workers clean the bathrooms several times a week. Dave said they are doing the best that they can to keep the bathroom and park clean.

Pat asked how much the Borough pays Paychecks to do payroll every month. Louise replied that Paychecks charges \$112.25 a month to do the payroll.

Pat said that Leroy Amy came to Council several months ago regarding the water running across his property. She said he came in to pay his taxes and he was disgusted because nothing is being done. Dave said that Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher is going to meet with Leroy to determine what can be done regarding the water issue.

6. Maryann Getz, of 336 Fairview Avenue, came before Council to discuss 347 Fairview Avenue. She said to add to Bob Matlock's concerns, she feels there is going to be a serious accident there if they don't contain the idiots. Maryann said a white car went to pull into the driveway while someone was backing out and they almost crashed. She said they got out of their cars and almost had a fist fight. Maryann said she feels this area should be patrolled more. She said the Slate Belt Police Department did a great job last time. Dave Hess said the Chief is away this week but he will speak with him next week. Officer Young said you have to be patient until their court date comes up, he said he will put this up on the board in the police station and also let the Sergeant know that problems still exist at Fairview Avenue.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2016 Council meeting and seconded by Alex Cortezzo. Roll call taken. In favor - T. Curcio, A. Cortezzo, D. Hess, D. Valley, and J. Yob. Abstained – Jon Faust. Motion carried 5 - 0 -1.

## **APPROVAL OF EXPENCES**

**On motion** by Jeff Yob to approve June expenses of \$21,299.90 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Karasek was not in attendance at the meeting. Dave Hess said Attorney Karasek did send a report over and everyone should have a copy. He said they will hold discussion on the report this until next meeting with Attorney Karasek present.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. EMS – Alex Cortezzo III had nothing to report. Jon Faust said he has nothing to report. He said he did ask for a report but they did not meet last month.

2. Fire Company – Jon Faust had nothing to report. Dave Hess said he spoke with Randy George and asked him for a letter of interest in taking over ownership of the Fire House at 111 N. Broadway. George said that size of the hall and the parking lot has been resolved. He said they are working on the kitchen.

3. Regional Police – The Mayor reported that the Slate Belt Regional Police Department responded to 618 calls for the month of June, 195 of those calls were for Wind Gap. He said that the first six months of 2116 Officers responded to 3414 calls, 1065 were for Wind Gap. The Mayor said

Officer Long ran the Junior Police Academy which was a great success. He said one new Officer was hired and will be sworn in on July 21, 2016.

4. Emergency Management – Jeff Yob asked Louise if she heard anything regarding the federal reimbursement for the snow emergency we had this year. Louise replied that she received a call from Pennsylvania Emergency Management (PEMA), asking for a form to be resubmitted, because the State initially issued the incorrect form so the new form had to be completed and sent to PEMA.

5. Zoning – Tony Curcio had nothing to report.

6. Planning – Alex said there is a Planning Meeting scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup> for the Green Knights Industrial Park, Route 33 and Male Road.

7. Municipal Authority – Jeff Yob said he was unable to attend their last meeting. Dave Hess said we received a certified letter from the Municipal Authority telling us we have to hook up to the sewer now. He said they gave us 15 days to give them our money. Jeff said it is within their rules and regulations. He said he will attend the next meeting to further understand what they are asking us to do, if there is something other than the stock letter they need from us. Jeff said he had a conversation with the Vice Chairman, Paul Levitz and he said this is something they want to get off their agenda. The original notice from the Municipal Authority came to the Borough last year requesting the Borough to hook up to the Sewer. Dave replied that last year, the Borough was unsure of what was going to happen on the property and all potential buildings that may need to be hooked up. Jeff said that when he attends their next meeting he will report back at our next Council meeting. Jeff said the Municipal Authority had a meeting with State Senator Scavello about a week and a half ago and after waiting 75 days for driveway permits from PennDOT for the North Broadway sewer project the permits showed up for all the driveway's on the East side of North Broadway so they can begin rebuilding those driveways. He said there is still discussion about the house on the West side at the base of the hill, there is still uncertainty as of where to put the driveway.

8. Streets – Jon Faust informed Council of the work the Street Department had completed in June. Louise said last year the Borough submitted a Gaming Grant Application in conjunction with Plainfield Township. The application was for an eight (8) to thirteen (13) foot asphalt paver, an eight (8) ton vibratory roller, and a tact coat machine. Louise said the total estimated cost was \$228,836.00. Borough Council agreed that the Borough would commit 15% of the cost between Plainfield Township and Wind Gap Borough. The Grant was awarded to the two municipalities and our contribution will be \$17,162.70 for those three pieces of equipment.

9. Parks – Dave Valley reported Summer Sounds went very well, good crowds. Dave asked about the key fobs. Dave Hess said we were looking into other vendors. Dave Valley said we have a lot of things to do in the kitchen, some things are a safety hazard and need to be replaced. He said maybe we should do the work in the kitchen before we get the key fobs. Dave Hess said not knowing who is going in and out of there is all on the Borough. He said keys go out keys come back, every time we come up with a new system somebody beats it, we are constantly on the defensive with the kitchen.

10. Tipping Fees - Tony Curcio reported no change, the total fees available are \$310,764.56.

11. COG – The Mayor reported that there was no meeting in July. He said there should be a meeting in August where they will be discussing and making recommendations on the Animal Control Officer's (ACO) policies and procedures and adding cats in the near future. He said the next meeting is scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

12. Slate Belt Community Partnership – Mayor Shoemaker reported that they had a meeting with the public, the CACLV, Committee Action Committee of Lehigh Valley. He said they will be hiring a new Director to take over the position of Sharon Davis. The Mayor said she can reapply for the position. The CACLV will be coming out to the Boroughs and Townships to explain everything. Dave Valley asked if it is true that the Main Street Project will expire this year. The Mayor said it will June 30, 2017. He said it would be up to Council if they want to join or not. He said that since they are changing to a new regime he doesn't know if we are legally bound to stay within the realms of it. The Mayor said this would be a question for Attorney Karasek.

13. Technology – Dave said the television is on the wall and needs electrical work. He said the laptops have been shipped and should arrive shortly. Dave said this will complete Phase 1 on this project.

14. Fence Ordinance – Alex reported that he sent an email out to everyone to start reviewing the different ordinances. He said he has one that was emailed to us about the Home Occupation and Clear Sight Triangles that started a while ago. We have one from the Fire Company years ago regarding appointing a Chief, this was on the back burner for years. Dave Hess said this is a time consuming process, please take a look at them. Alex said he will keep working on them and include any suggestions from Council.

15. Mayor's Report – The Mayor said the Community Yard Sale was a great success. He said there was a Boy Scout Jamboree at the park, there were about 100 Boy Scouts there with displays and projects. He said the Boy Scouts had plans to take mini hikes on the Appalachian Trail, but due to the weather the hiking idea was not very successful. The Mayor said they ran a shuttle over to Tott's Gap for the dedication service of the new lien-to on the Appalachian Trail. He said the Scouts had a good time and they would like to do this again next year. The Mayor thanked our Street Department and everyone involved in making this a success.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Council Meeting July 26, 2016 / Re-schedule for August 1, 2016

**On motion** by Jeff Yob to cancel the meeting of July 26, 2016 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

**On motion** by Jeff Yob to advertise the next Council meeting on August 1, 2016 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

Dave Hess said we will put Committee reports on the agenda for August 1, 2016 in hopes of cancelling the second meeting for the month.

2. Proposed Loitering and Panhandling Ordinance – Louise said that as per an email from Attorney Karasek, he asked that this topic be tabled until he is in attendance to answer any questions. It will be placed on the August 1<sup>st</sup> Council agenda.

3. Dentith Stormwater Counterclaim – Litigation Pending - Dave Hess said the owner of the property that had this litigation has passed away, therefore Attorney Karasek suggested that Council make a motion to let this go. Jeff said he is not sure if this issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Borough because it involves water drainage issues. His opinion is not to let this go and pursue it and bring it to a resolution. Dave said we will table this until Attorney Karasek is present.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Dave said this was discussed with the Fence Ordinance.

2. 403 North Lehigh Avenue – Accept a Gift of this Property – Dave Hess said the title search was completed and came back clear. Jeff said it might be useful in case we need to widen the intersection.

**On motion** by Dave Valley to accept the gift of the property at 403 North Lehigh Avenue and seconded by Jeff Yob. Roll call taken. Council agreed unanimously.

3. Park Master Plan – Jeff asked Louise if the Park Master Plan status has changed. Louise reported that the Consultant hired by the Borough has to schedule one more Steering Committee meeting and then a copy of the draft master plan has to go DCNR for their approval. Louise said they are hoping to have a meeting in August.

4. Fire Department Siren – Jeff wanted to let Council know that the siren is now on Borough property. He said he wanted to thank George Hinton for delivering the siren. Dave asked if we heard from the bank about putting the siren back on the building. Jon replied the owners of the bank building property have not responded yet, but the controls are still in the basement and we will have to get them if the siren is not put back on that building. Dave asked if the Fire Department wants to keep the siren and Jon confirmed that the Wind Gap Fire Department wants to keep the siren.

## Public Questions and Answers

Nothing to Report

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of July 11, 2016. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of July 11, 2016 adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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Louise Firestone – Borough Administrator