



Borough of Walnutport Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday November 8, 2012

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1. Matthew Newhard, President called the November 8, 2012 regular council meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Borough Municipal Building, 417 Lincoln Avenue, Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Newhard led the Pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Matthew Newhard, President; Michael Gaston, Vice-President; Joan Rehrig, Councilwoman; Lamar Lauer, Councilman; William Turk, Councilman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Jason Newhard, Engineer; Michael Corriere, Solicitor; Michael Wentz, Grant coordinator; Eric Strohl, Road Foreman; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer. Henry Kline, Mayor & Harold Greene, Councilman-ABSENT.
3. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard
 - A. Brian Filchner-
 - They were told they are not allowed in the 215 building. They need to get in to put stuff away and inventory. Matt said they can get in on the weekends when no one is working to do their inventory and put equipment away.
 - Brian asked questions about recreation board and application for use of facility forms. The Rec board is planning on meeting and they are the contact for the information. We will find out who the chairperson is and forward it as soon as we know.
 - B. Robert Treskot
 - He informed council he went to the tax collector's class, took the test and passed. He did not submit any bills for the 3 days. It cost him over \$1,000.00 out of his pocket
 - Exoneration list for per capita was given to Annette. Joan made the motion to exonerate the list. Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - C. Matt wanted to thank Mike, Rick, the Authority and its board, the school district, the fireman, and fire company, PUC and DEP for all the work, and help they were during Hurricane Sandy and the power outage last week. We need to come up with a plan to get the community more involved and prepared for these kind of emergencies.
4. Dave made the motion to approve
 - A. minutes of the workshop October 4, 2012 & regular meeting October 11, 2012
 - B. Tax Collector's Monthly Report for October 2012
 - C. Police Officer's Report for October 2012
 - D. Zoning Officer's Report for October 2012
 - E. October 2012 Profit & Loss Report
 - F. October 2012 Bill List. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Standing Committees –
 - A. Finance – Michael Gaston – we will discuss budget and possible refinance after executive session.
 - B. Law – Michael Gaston – spoke to chief. They mayor never told him about using SUV more often. This is why we need to send them letters about things.
 - C. Streets – Lamar Lauer – working on picking up leaves
 - D. Solid Waste – William Turk
 - "Newsletter" from IWS/McAuliffe—a few changes were suggested. Annette will talk to Ron.
 - Complaints about them dumping recycles in truck at same time as garbage.
 - Money is starting to come in. People are taking advantage of paying year since the bill went down.
 - Spoke to the police about people sealing things out of garbage. Sergeant Wayda is looking at what they can do other than Ordinance violation.

- There will be a few changes to ordinances to help with garbage pickers and to make the businesses report their recyclables to borough
- E. Ordinance Review – David Stankovic
- Flood Insurance Rate Map – Corriere working on
 - Ordinance 2012-11 Bucket truck (advertised for adoption tonight) Dave made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-11. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Curfew Ordinance 2012-12—Dave made the motion to authorize Solicitor to advertise ordinance 2012-12 with the few changes agreed upon. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- F. Personnel – Joan Rehrig -nothing
- G. Grants-Michael Wentz
- PPL grant approved. He will start in the next 2 weeks
 - Stray animals—going for a grant for the reader for the micro chip. Since we have the kennel this will help get the animals back to their owners faster.
- H. Borough council entered into an executive session from 7:35 pm – 8:20 pm to discuss potential litigation, agreements, and pending litigation. No action taken.
- I. Solicitor’s Report –
- Elk property- appraisal came in at \$577.00 He will set up closing. We will need the \$4,500 and the transfer tax (2%) at closing.
 - Mr. Toth’s attorney sent the money per agreement. He is paid up to date on garbage. The lien will be taken off of his property
- J. Engineer’s Report –
- See report
 - Mike made the motion to approve pay application #4 for contract #1 @ 215 Lincoln Ave for \$28,485.00. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Mike made the motion to approve pay application #4 for contract #2 @ 417 Lincoln Ave for \$32,629.50. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Planning commission met and came up with a list of the alleys. He will bring to another meeting to discuss their recommendations
 - Restrooms—417 is completed. They have a lot to do on 215 building yet
 - Lock 23/Hurricane Irene Damage- the Us ACOE has issued the permit to the PA DEP for Lock 23. The permit is not official until the PA DEP signs and transmits ther permit to the borough.
 - Lock 24-Jason begun the permitting process for the Lock 25 project. Ther eis a 30 day comment period for some of the documents he has issued. Jason anticipates a submission to the USACOE in December.
 - Oplinger Reservoir Access Easement-SSM has finished the survey and prepared a sketch and legal description for the access road to the Kern Property. SSM has forwarded the sketch and description to the solicitor for his use in preparing an agreement. Jason has copied the Borough and Authority Offices on the sketch and legal description.
6. Unfinished Business/issues –
- A. Street lights-Solicitor working on
- B. Canal FEMA/PEMA—working on paperwork
- C. Elk lighting property
- D. Easement with 4683 Timberline Road (Estate of Martha Kern)
- E. Roof Bids-2 received, handed out to (Mint Construction, Wanamaker’s, Mel Fritz, Walnutport Construction, Beichy)
- Ashwood Enterprises \$16,285.00
 - Barry Hausman Aluminum Siding & Roofing \$12,280.00

- Joan made the motion to award to Hausman contingent he signs the agreement that the job will be completed in 30 days and meets all the spec requirements. Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried.
7. New Business –
- A. Mike made the motion to reimburse Christ Church United Church of Christ on their real estate taxes that they are now exempt from due to house being torn down. Annette is to take the commission amount back out of the tax collector next commission check as agreed upon several years ago. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - B. Butch Knappenberger approached Rick about purchasing one of the Christmas lights; specifically he would like the one on the corner of Main and Railroad in honor/memory of Franklin Williams. Council all agreed. Annette should bill him for \$500.00
 - C. Matt brought up the power outage and there was an open discussion. They would like to make the bingo hall a shelter. Matt would like to get cooperation from school, Slatington, the authorities, the EMC's, Lehigh Township about setting up an emergency plan, what is going to happen and when...
 - D. Discussion on budget-
 - Motion to approve preliminary budget made by Joan. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Joan made the motion to have solicitor advertise the millage rate. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - E. We had to purchase a generator because one of the others we had no longer works. They would like to purchase 2 more since we no longer have a back up and the one we use is the Authority's. Mike made the motion to purchase 1 new generator. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - F. Tax collector commission—Mike made the motion to reduce the commission of the tax collector starting January 2014 term to 3% from the 5% it is now. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried with a 5-1 vote with Bill opposing. The tax collector gets a raise every time taxes go up. The part time job earns about \$32,000.00 a year.
8. Mayor's Announcements –
- A. Joan made the motion to accept the Declaration of Disaster Emergency that was declared at 3:00 pm on October 29, 2012 due to Hurricane Sandy. Dave seconded the motion. Motion carried.
9. Adjournment- Joan made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 pm. Lamar seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, secretary/treasurer