

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF NESQUEHONING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 08, 2017 at 6:00p.m., Borough Office
114 W. Catawissa Street, Nesquehoning, PA 18240

ROLL CALL: COUNCILMEN JACOBS, RADOCHA, SABOL III; COUNCILWOMAN FOX, POREMBO; PRESIDENT HAWK; & MAYOR KITCHKO

President Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Councilman DeMelfi was absent.

President Hawk stated how they had received a copy of the newly assigned committees.

PURPOSE: Committees/Workshop

- Bridge Inspections

Matt Kaczmarczyk and David Cassell of McMahon Associates were present to discuss the 2015 bridge inspections of the Borough's four bridges (Industrial park Road [pond], Industrial Road, Mermon Avenue, and Tonolli Road). They discussed the priority ratings, which would determine the required maintenance for the bridges. PennDOT would not require immediate action on priority ratings between 2 – 5. Mr. Kaczmarczyk stated how there was no high priority or critical maintenance for any of the four bridges. They reviewed some of the items that they had listed on their spread sheet; repairing cracks, spot painting rust, guiderails, install hazard clearance markers, repairs deteriorated steel plate, remove debris/gravel bar. Mr. Cassell stated how PennDOT would not come after the Borough for anything from a rating between 2 – 5. He stated that with a priority 2, they would suggest addressing it within 2 years.

Mr. Kaczmarczyk explained how the bridge report was broken down: front sheet summary page, next couple of pages were the components of the inspections, followed by the maintenance page with the priority rating with a very loose cost estimate, location map, load rating summary, photographs, filed PennDOT inspection forms, and the last pages were the sketches, plan reviews and elevations.

Mr. Kaczmarczyk stated how the reports were usually completed within 30 days of the date of the inspection. He stated how the Council Members could contact them if they had any questions on the reports. He stated how they could notify the Borough as to the scheduled date for the next inspections, in order to have someone from the Borough crew meet them at the bridges.

Councilman Radocha asked who was paying for the inspections. Mr. Kaczmarczyk stated how PennDOT pays for 80% and the other 20% was deducted from the Liquid Fuels payment.

Councilwoman Fox asked if PennDOT only required inspections on those four bridges. Mr. Kaczmarczyk stated how they were the only structures that were over 20'. He stated how the Borough might have other structures under 20' that would require inspections, but PennDOT would not fund those inspections.

Mr. Kaczmarczyk stated how most of the required maintenance was just regular maintenance. Mr. Cassell read through some of the maintenance items. Mr. Kaczmarczyk stated that someone would be in touch with the Borough if there was something major that needed to be done. They discussed having another meeting after the next inspections. President Hawk stated how they might be able to do some of the maintenance repairs prior to the next inspection.

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4. PUBLIC SAFETY

ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK, CO-CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX

Mayor Kitchko stated how they had discussed some of the code issues and some of those issues were taking a little longer than expected. He stated how they needed an ordinance or something with little more teeth so they could address them easier. Officer Blisard stated that when they condemn a property, they have no back bone for enforcement. He stated how they could still be in the house but they were not allowed to sleep there. Officer Blisard stated how he wanted to set up a meeting with the Solicitor, Mayor, and the Chief to discuss setting up a time frame that they would be allowed to enter the property.

Mayor Kitchko stated about a Quality Of Life Ordinance. He stated about some things that they did not have strong ordinances for: Disorderly conduct, Public drunkenness, Noise and Open containers. Councilman Jacobs stated how they would need a decibel meter for noise. President Hawk stated how it could not be subjective. Mayor Kitchko asked if they would need someone qualified to read the decibel meter. President Hawk stated about getting someone trained and having the meter calibrated regularly. Councilman Sabol stated about checking into the cost of a meter. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated that for noise, they might be able to classify it as a nuisance. President Hawk stated that if they would go by noise, they would have to have something saying how loud it was, but they might be able to get around the magnitude of the volume with going with a nuisance. Officer Blisard stated how he has seen a lot of the loop holes with working at the Courthouse. Councilman Jacobs stated how they should meet with the Public Safety Committee to review it.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how they had met with John McArdle concerning the Knox Boxes. She stated how it came out of the Budget Committee; they had decided that there was not enough money in the Budget to support the Knox Boxes. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Fire Chiefs felt that it was important to them. She stated that with the understanding, the Borough would not contribute in 2017, unless funds became available, but would continue to allow the adoption of the ordinance. She stated how they would look (budget) to contribute to it over the next three years. Councilwoman Porembo stated that the only thing they would be asking for in 2017 was for the borough to adopt the ordinance. President Hawk stated how they would fund it out of Firemen's Relief. He stated how they had talked about reimbursing them over a three-year period. Councilman Sabol stated that everyone he has asked was not in favor of it. He stated how he has yet to come across one person, however, he had not contacted any businesses. Councilman Sabol stated how he could not endorse it, if they had the money or not, because he did not feel it was a safety issue.

Councilman Sabol stated how the Fire Companies would use the Firemen's Relief, but they would have to forfeit some training. He stated he was not in favor of that, because why should they not have their firemen train just to have the Knox Boxes. He stated how he was still opposed to buying or contributing in one year or in three years or in 10 years for the Knox Boxes, because all of the residents would not benefit; all of the residence he had talked to do not want it; and, until he would see something different, why should their firemen not have training just so they could have the Knox Boxes.

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Councilwoman Fox stated that the cost for the Borough/Fireman's Relief would strictly be for the boxes that were mounted in the trucks. President Hawk stated how the businesses would be purchasing their own boxes. Councilman Jacobs stated how Mr. McArdle had names 7 – 8 businesses that were willing to install the boxes. He asked if they would want to get involved with only 7 – 8 people interested in installing them. He stated that if they would have had 75 – 100 businesses, then it would be different. Councilman Sabol stated that if businesses were that interested in it, they could foot the bill for equipping the vehicles. He stated how the citizens did not want it nor could they afford it.

Councilman Sabol stated how he felt that the Fire Companies were doing a wonderful job, but he could not see getting the Knox Boxes. Mayor Kitchko stated how Mr. McArdle had pointed out that the businesses contribution quite a bit of tax money. Councilwoman Porembo stated how the Ordinance also refers to businesses that have multiple false alarms throughout the year. Councilman Sabol stated how it was instituted for false alarms. Councilwoman Porembo stated about the liability for the Fire Companies on the false alarms when they were not able to get into a building. She asked what the borough's obligation was if the Fire Company would have to break down a door only to find out that it was a false alarm.

Councilman Radocha asked what the cost was to equip the trucks. President Hawk stated how it was estimated around \$3,200.00. He gave a brief description on how the work. Councilman Radocha stated how he agreed with Councilman Sabol that they were going to spend \$3,200.00 for approximately 10 businesses. He stated that if Mr. McArdle would have solicited the businesses and half would have supported it, he could understand. Councilwoman Fox stated how there were more businesses in town than what they thought. Councilman Radocha stated how there were 50 – 60 businesses in town. Councilman Sabol stated that with his understanding, the police were usually on the scene, so that it would be more economical to equip the police vehicles. President Hawk stated how they were usually the first on the scene, but they were not typically going to enter a building for a fire alarm because they were not trained to respond to what was happening inside. Councilman Radocha stated about charging the businesses a fee to equip the vehicles.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they would have to equip 5 vehicles. Councilman Radocha asked if they required any maintenance with replies of "no". Councilwoman Porembo stated how Mr. McArdle also talked about how the three Fire Companies might not always be there. She stated how they might have to downsize because they were not getting enough volunteers to keep three companies. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was getting harder to get younger volunteers. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner asked about a yearly monitoring fee for the businesses; \$20.00 - \$30.00 per year. She stated how it would take time, but they would eventually recoup their cost. Councilman Radocha stated how they should be self supportive. Councilwoman Porembo asked if they could add something like that to the Ordinance. Councilman Jacobs stated about new businesses. President Hawk stated that it would have to fall under the UCC regulations. Councilman Radocha stated that they might be able to get away with one for each Fire Company to start. Mayor Kitchko asked if Nesquehoning Hose Company needed one in each truck.

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President Hawk stated about the request from new Columbus Fire Company for the generator. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were requesting \$1,685.00. President Hawk stated how they had turned it into their insurance company but they were not getting the full replacement cost. He stated that the only reason they had a generator was because years ago, when the Borough was setting up designated Red Cross shelter, they had asked New Columbus to install a generator. He stated how he did not remember if they had paid for it or if they help pay for it. Councilman Jacobs stated how the Borough had paid for it. Councilman Radocha asked if it did not work or if it did not automatically turn on. President Hawk stated how it got hit during a storm. He stated how it was cheaper to replace it then to repair it because of the age of the unit.

1. STREETS: FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; GEORGE SABOL III, CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilman Jacobs stated about the quotes Daniel Staehle had received for a new truck; \$190,000.00 - \$200,000.00. He stated how they were not able to afford it.

Councilman Jacobs stated how everything was ordered for the projects on Rhume Street and hazard Street. He stated how the Engineer was getting the grades ready for the curbing on Hazard Street. Councilman Jacobs stated that the Borough crew will be installing the inlets as soon as they could. He stated how the County would be bidding it out in June. Councilman Sabol asked if Hazard Street was in the works for the past 2 years. President Hawk stated "yes". Councilman Sabol asked if the scope of the project had changed. He stated how the Borough crew had informed him that the Engineer was surveying the street for the third time. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were not shooting the grades for the curbing. Councilman Sabol asked if he was there other times to survey other things. Councilwoman Fox stated how he was there for the inlet boxes. Councilman Jacobs stated how he had to get the specifications drawn up to submit to the County so that they could put them out for bid. He stated how there were different elevations issues. President Hawk stated how he probably had to survey for the stuff that the Borough has to do.

Councilman Jacobs stated how they had received one quote, \$8,400.00, for a street sweeper. He stated how he had talked to another company, but was not getting a quote from them. Councilwoman Poremba asked if there was something that they had talked about last year. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about the shared services with Summit Hill, Lansford and Coaldale. She stated how Mayor Kitchko had also suggested that they should check with the COG. Councilman Jacobs stated how the quote they received had referenced 30 miles of roadway. He stated how he had to talk to them. Councilman Radocha asked what it cost the Borough last year for the street sweeper. Councilman Jacobs stated how it was \$8,000.00 to rent and they had to pick it up in Mechanicsburg. Councilman Radocha asked if the company was going to run the sweeper for the \$8,000.00. Councilman Jacobs stated "yes". He stated that if they would get it done in 4 days, they would give the Borough a discount.

Councilman Sabol stated about the Mermon Bridge and how they were supposed to install rock protection along the bank. He stated how the west side would be the most important side. Councilman Sabol stated that in an effort to not have to purchase all the rip rap, they might be able to get the residents to donate boulders that they had on their properties. He stated how he had talked to Mr. Ouly about using his property for a staging area.

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Councilwoman Fox stated how there was some rip rap down at the sewer plant from a project that they did a few years ago. Councilman Radocha stated how there was going to be a garage being built in New Columbus and that was going to be all rocks that were being dug out. Councilman Jacobs stated about the Applegates and the boulders that were sitting on their property. Councilman Sabol stated about getting the Borough crew to load them on the trailer and haul them down to the bridge. President Hawk stated how he did not have a problem if the Borough was going to be using them.

2. SEWER: MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilwoman Fox stated about the Rhume Street project, everything had been ordered. She asked if the Committee could meet Thursday, March 16th at 10:00 a.m. She stated how they had some quotes to review for a pipe lever. Councilwoman Fox stated how they were also requesting diamond blades and a cutting saw. Councilman Jacobs stated how they bury the blade when they cut and it rips the blades apart. Councilman Radocha stated about using a multi-use blade and that they should use water.

3. BUILDINGS: GEORGE SABOL, III, CHAIRMAN; FRANK JACOBS, CO-CHAIRMAN; MICHAEL RADOCHA

Councilman Jacobs stated about looking into the lights at the Borough garage. Councilman Radocha asked if they were getting quotes for the lights or the bulbs. Councilman Jacobs stated "lights". Councilman Radocha stated how they were changing the light bulbs in his garage and he should see a cost savings of approximately \$1,200.00 a month. Councilman Jacobs stated how they were looking to install the same lighting fixtures that they installed at the sewer plant.

Councilman Sabol stated how they had gone around to all of the buildings. He stated how they had a talk with the Borough crew about getting the meeting room and the basement cleaned up.

5. SANITATION: GEORGE SABOL III, CHAIRMAN; MARY FOX, CO-CHAIRWOMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO

No report.

6. RECREATION: MARY FOX, CHAIRWOMAN; GEORGE SABOL, III, CO-CHAIRMAN; DAVID HAWK

Councilman Sabol stated about a DCNR grant. Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated about a small community grant that they might be able to apply for from DCNR. Councilman Sabol stated how they might be able to get a grant for the Recreation Center sidewalks.

President Hawk stated how he had a request if the VFW could hold an Easter Egg hunt in the New Columbus park on April 8th.

Councilman Jacobs stated about the gun cleaning room in the basement and getting it cleaned out.

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Mayor Kitchko stated about the police locked file cabinets in the basement.

**7. BUDGET/ FRANK JACOBS, CHAIRMAN; ROSEMARY POREMBO, CO-
PURCHASING: CHAIRWOMAN; DAVID HAWK**

Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how she had received a request for a new office chair for Officer Laninger. She stated how she would get quotes for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Porembo stated how she had only gone through one cycle of budget/purchasing, but when they were putting together the budgets for 2018, could they get the committees together to review what would be needed to be included in the budget. She stated that when they receive request for something, they were always turning it down because they did not have the money.

**8. PERSONNEL/ ROSEMARY POREMBO, CHAIRWOMAN; MARY FOX, CO-
SAFETY: CHAIRWOMAN; FRANK JACOBS**

Councilwoman Porembo asked how they did with getting the information to BCIU.
Secretary/Treasurer Ahner stated how the disk had been mailed to them.

Councilwoman Fox stated about the list of street lights. She stated how they should review the list for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**Councilwoman Fox moved and Councilwoman Porembo seconded to adjourn the meeting.
All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.**

RoniSue Ahner
Secretary/Treasurer