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**CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION \*PAGE ONE\* AUGUST 14, 2014**

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Conyngham Borough Council met in Work Session on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal building, 215 Main Street, Conyngham, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Gregory, the Pledge of Allegiance was done at the Special Session and roll call was taken.

**Present:** Fuccile, Gregory, Hawk, Jones, McKee, Schneider.

**Absent:** Gallagher.

**Others Present:** Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

**Absent:** Mayor Carrelli.

**Citizens:** John Cotsack, Linda Grencavich, Maureen Susa, Carol Ference.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Mayor:** Absent.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer reviewed the July 2014 report in detail as well as provided Council with listing of the Debt Service on the Balance Sheet of \$536,488.94 which is the existing Borough debt. A copy of the report is available for public inspection and is on file.

President Gregory asked the Treasurer what is the largest debt the Borough currently holds? – The \$375,000.00 Street Paving Loan with Miners Bank.

Treasurer Blasé advised Council should come up with a 2015 Capital Budget. He noted there are four ways to cover Capital projects- Cash on Hand, Loans, Taxes and Grants.

President Gregory commented on despite the fact that our predecessors sold everything they could possibly sell they also saddled the Borough with ½ a million dollars in new debt. Current Council should look into refinancing current \$345,000.00 Street loan as one potential area to save money.

President Gregory asked Finance Committee to keep working on ways to save.

Vice President Schneider stated two major projects that must be undertaken are Grant Street and Edge Trail. This will require a major allocation of funds and/or raise taxes. People need to be involved and understand why we are here and how we got here.

President Gregory noted it has recently been brought to his attention that last year the Borough spent \$30,000.00 on a culvert project that the Borough did not own.

Last year Council members Hawk and Gregory cautioned ahead not to rush and to spend funds diligently and now potentially this money was spent on a property the Borough doesn't own. This is

what happens when you rush into a project. Councilman Fuccile stated we will deal with it. Councilwoman Hawk stated you can't deal with it when you don't have the money. She also expressed concerns over Willow Street not being paved correctly.

Councilman Fuccile advised curbs were added to Willow Street which keeps the water on the road surface and there is also a storm drain that was blocked and not unblocked leading to undermining of the road.

President Gregory noted it was brought up that the decision to alter the scope of the project was because a current council person at that time would have water emptying in the vicinity of their property. As a result Willow Street is being undermined.

President Gregory also noted the issue on Main Street around Sachse Avenue with water running on the East side across Main Street. In February this created a significant icing problem for the Borough. To this day the water continues to run. The Conyngham Borough Authority stated it is not a leak but a spring.

Councilman Fuccile will contact PA Rural Water to assist the Borough with independently testing for chlorine to verify it is not a water leak.

**Solicitor:** We have three Resolutions for Tuesday. One is for Remote Deposit to allow Lynn Falatko and Fred Blasé to operate. One is to electronically transfer funds between the Miners Banks accounts. The third is for the Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority to have the Borough pay half of the attorney fees of \$90.00 per hour until the CSJMA can reimburse the Borough. Sugarloaf has already approved this Resolution and the bills are detailed

**Valley Regional:** July had 5 Fire & Rescue calls and 7 EMS calls for Conyngham Borough. On Monday, August 11, 2014 Councilman McKee and Vice President Schneider attended an Emergency Management meeting dealing with the Nuclear Power Plant and drills. The sirens went off for testing today at 11:00 am and on September 2, 2014 there will be a practice drill at 6:00 pm at the Butler Municipal Offices for a planning exercise. Butler is the coordinator for most of the Valley. On October 21, 2014 at 6:00 pm Council there will be an Evaluation Exercise and Council must man the phones.

Councilwoman Hawk questioned if they were changing their methods? Vice President Schneider does not know at this time.

Councilman McKee noted we have the shortwave radio and it does work. Butler will transmit instructions to the Borough.

Councilwoman Hawk questioned if we still have the booklets? Yes they are in the office.

**Recreation:** Councilman Jones advised the summer program was very successful with 108 children participating. Jones noted he spent a lot of time there.

Movie Night will be held Friday, August 15, 2014 at 8:30 PM. Gino Molino will provide the screen and set up on the baseball field. The movie will be The Lego Movie. The park program youth

received flyers about the movie.

The Recreation Board held a meeting and they are interested in forming a Whispering Willows Garden Club. They have two or three interested right now to take care of the aesthetics of the park.

President Gregory noted that through the generosity of the Koral Foundation and the gentlemen operating the car dealership a donation will be made for beautification of park facilities. This will be formally occurring in the near future.

Councilman Jones would like to see extra money go towards bulletin boards for in front of the Borough building and at Whispering Willows. He will contact the Job Corps about building the bulletin boards.

A high school sports team will be volunteering to do park clean up.

President Gregory noted that the public should be aware of the usage of the park. 108 children attended the park program, the boy scouts held day camp at the park, several daycare groups, School District groups, Churches utilized the facilities. Free lunches were served daily by the Hazleton Area School District. The facility is used extensively.

Councilman Jones asked the Solicitor if the park clean up increased the liability – No more than any other volunteer.

**Planning & Zoning:** Planning is currently working on the Pittinger Minor Sub-division. Councilwoman Hawk commended Carol Zamba on the work she is doing with the feral cat program. She is arranging the trapping and spay/neuter.

One bid was received for Vector Control from Hazleton City for \$1,000.00 for the remainder of the year.

President Gregory advised the Borough is not running the Spay/Neuter Program we are strictly a clearinghouse. Council has not authorized additional solicitation of donations. Perhaps the group can establish their own account.

Council had a discussion on spay/neuter versus vector control. A decision will not be made without a Council vote.

Solicitor advised there are some obstacles with the Pittinger Sub-division. He will need an access easement and with the second lot he violated the Zoning Ordinance and will need to go to Zoning Hearing Board for variances.

**Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority:** In the absence of the Councilman Gallagher, Councilman Fuccile advised Entech has prepared the permit applications and they are need of signatures from the Conyngham Borough Authority. An interim licensed operator will also be retained for the transition. CSJMA Board Member Cotsack was in attendance and assured the Council they are ready to go. Billing will be addressed shortly.

**Streets & Property:** Councilman Fuccile noted the Sugarloaf Avenue paving is complete and he would like to thank the residents that cooperated with the Engineer concerning water runoff near Sheetz.

The proposal by Energy Technologies will be held off until Councilman Fuccile can review.

The Winter Services Agreement has been received for SR 3034 for 2014/2015.

A meeting was held with Brookhill and Edge Trail needs to be done however funding is the issue. Councilman Fuccile will check on contractor to cut out bad area and use hot patch.

There is money in Liquid Fuels for Main Street and Edge Trail.

President Gregory advised using surrounding communities for equipment and manpower.

Penn Dot agreed to lower speed limit on SR 3034 from 35MPH to 25MPH. Signs will be approximately \$400.00. \$27.00 per sign and \$20.00 for breakaway poles.

President Gregory noted one of our major concerns is pedestrians especially on Sugarloaf & Butler Avenue. An ARLE Grant was applied for to help with sidewalks on Sugarloaf Avenue and the speed reduction will be a tremendous help. We were always told the speed reduction couldn't be done but Council did not accept that for an answer. Council approached Penn Dot and people listened and agreed. Now we have to have the Mayor have the Police enforce the speed limit.

Reduced Speed Ahead signs may be required in Sugarloaf on Butler Avenue at a cost of \$39.80 per sign.

Councilman Jones read aloud a portion of the Penn Dot letter stating the Speed Limit was actually reduced in on October 8, 1993 however Council never took action at that time.

Councilman McKee added that he did some research and found a bill from 2011 regarding roof repairs at the Streets building. Councilman Fuccile will review.

**Grants:** 2015 Community Block Grant was addressed at the Special Meeting which authorized the application being submitted for Streetscape Improvements along Main Street from the Post Office to Sugarloaf Avenue..

**Shade Tree:** Nothing at this time.

**COG:** Friday meeting cancelled. A Municipal Auction to be held in August. We may want to look at what is available for auction.

**Police Committee:** Nothing at this time.

**Parking Committee:** Vice President Schneider recommended the Solicitor prepare the Ordinance for advertisement for the Tuesday meeting.

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**CONYNGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION \*PAGE FIVE\* AUGUST 14, 2014**

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**New Business:** Court Order #11547-2012 was received to provide a refund of taxes to Larry P. & Nancy Ellen Harmon c/o Hoegan & Associates PC in the amount of \$ 95.13

Councilman Jones would like to launch a program “Kid Kudos” to recognize the positive attributes of children after two girls rescued his loose dog and went above and beyond by bathing and feeding the dog.

Vice President Schneider advised no applicants to date for the Junior Council Representative.

President Gregory advised the press that at the Special Meeting we also authorized looking for an additional UCC Board member due to the passing of Mr. Fields.

President Gregory would like to research or develop a new Ordinance to address dumpster concerns with relation to the public. The Chief advised it could be addressed through the Nuisance Ordinance however the Solicitor recommended a specific Ordinance for proper enforcement procedures.

**Old Business:** Nothing at this time.

**Correspondence:** For the meeting.

**Catch All:** Solicitor advised there are errors in the existing Parking Ordinance which he will clean up the mistakes.

**Public Comment:** None.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:28 pm – Fuccile. Second – Jones. Unanimous.

**ATTEST:**

  
Secretary