

Conyngham Borough Council Work Session November 13, 2014

Conyngham Borough Council met in Work Session on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 7:04 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 recited and roll call was taken.

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: Mayor, Solicitor, Secretary, Treasurer.

Absent: None.

Citizens: Carol Ference, Linda Grencavich.

Public Comment: None.

Mayor: Arrived after Mayor's Forum.

Treasurer: The Treasurer reviewed the October 2014 report in detail. A copy of the report is available for public inspection and is on file.

The Treasurer met with the Finance Committee and they have compiled a First Draft Budget for Council to review. A lengthy discussion ensued over the budget line items. Major concerns were the part time police hours. Council stressed to the Mayor not to exceed the allotted hours per employee. The Solicitor advised Council that they set the hours and the Mayor is in charge of scheduling.

Council is also looking into meeting with Valley Regional to negotiate 2015 contracted rate.

The Debt Service remained as is however if Council decides to refinance the \$375,000.00 loan the budget will change to reflect new monthly payment. An additional \$12,000.00 will be necessary due to shorter term. President Gregory requested the Treasurer see if FNB will consider extending the term to nine (9) years.

A Budget Work Session has been scheduled for December 1, 2014 at 6:00 pm. The Solicitor will advertise meeting.

Solicitor: The Solicitor recommended bidding out services and equipment charges for 2015 road repairs. The Loan RFP will be on the regular session agenda for consideration by Council.

Valley Regional: Conyngham has two (2) Fire and Rescue calls for the month of October.

Recreation: Council will approve the 2014/2015 Valley West Little League Board Meeting Schedule at the Regular Session.

Christ Lutheran Church will have a live camel at their Living Nativity.

The Recreation Board met on Tuesday, November 11, 2014 and they have decided to determine an opening and closing date for Whispering Willows in order to ensure the water is turned off at the

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appropriate time. Council advised the park may still be utilized as long as the residents are made aware there are no bathroom facilities.

The Boy Scouts are planning an Earth Day clean up for the park.

Plans for Christmas in Conyngham are progressing. 13 Vendors have signed up and they need to turn in their vendor fees which benefit the Valley Food Pantry.

President Gregory advised the Christmas tree lights have been ordered and requested a tree lighting ceremony. The committee will determine if November 30, 2014 will work.

Planning & Zoning: The Solicitor sent a letter to Mr. Pittinger regarding his proposed subdivision. Variances are still needed and time is of the essence. Councilman Gallagher will personally invite Mr. Pittinger to the December 2, 2014 Planning meeting.

Councilman Gallagher advised Council that Verizon Wireless is very interested in erecting a cell tower on the CBA property at the sewer plant. Verizon was advised to contact CBA directly.

Councilman Jones questioned if there was a time limit for negotiations. Councilman Gallagher advised there is but they want to solidify service in the valley. It is up to CBA at this time.

President Gregory stated the tower is sorely needed for service as well as a revenue source. He would hate to see the opportunity go by the wayside due to lack of cooperation by CBA.

Once the transfer of assets occurs with CSJMA the Borough can control property. The CBA property at the sewer plant is the first choice. The second alternative was property the Borough sold. The third choice is in the Park near the first base line of the Babe Ruth field.

The CBA property has been surveyed with the tower located near the tree line.

President Gregory suggested Council sit down with Verizon to negotiate a lease.

Councilman Jones remarked the issue is in the hands of Verizon and CBA. A time limit needs to be established with CBA or Council needs to open contact.

Conyngham-Sugarloaf Joint Municipal Authority: Councilman Gallagher advised Council that the Joint Authority met last evening November 12, 2014 and they are trying to move forward with the transfer of permits. The regularly scheduled meeting for November 19, 2014 has been cancelled.

President Gregory announced that the complaint against CBA has been filed.

Streets & Property: Councilman McKee briefed Council about the Edge Trail paving project. The project was completed in six hours using 10-12 men and 2-3 trailers and dump trucks with no breaks.

Council will request residents cease putting out their leaves after November 21, 2014.

Reilly & Associates is requesting Council approve a detour for the box culvert project on SR 3034 at Section 350. The motion will be on Tuesday's agenda.

The Solicitor will check the availability of Don Totino from Reilly to brief Council on the Penn Dot paving loan.

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Grants: Councilman Gallagher is in the process of submitting the interim work being done under the WREN Grant.

The LSA Grant documentation has been received. President Gregory requested all the contacts be changed to current Borough officials. Councilman Gallagher is the primary contact with President Gregory as the secondary. The Borough is the Grantee therefore all requests must be approved by Council.

Any bills can be submitted for reimbursement as long as they fall within the scope of the grant. The Solicitor will obtain the receipts from CBA through Right-to-Know requests or the subpoenas.

Shade Tree: Meeting was held this evening prior to Council work session.

COG: Meeting Friday, November 14, 2014.

Police Committee: Nothing at this time.

Pension & Insurance: The Blue Cross insurance is up for renewal with a 5% increase. Council will review potential changes to the plan in order to save money.

The Solicitor has prepared an RFP for actuarial services for the Police and Non-Uniformed Pension Plans which will be returned for the December meeting.

New Business: Council received a bill for the 2015 Solvency fee however the Solicitor does not recommend payment due to the low turnover of Borough employees.

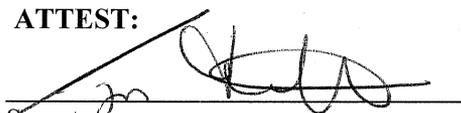
Old Business: Nothing at this time.

Catch All: Councilman Jones received an email regarding citizens pulling out of the park without stopping and exiting through the entrance. The Solicitor will look into the legality of erecting a stop sign.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to Adjourn @ 8:58 pm – Unanimous.

ATTEST:


Secretary