

MINUTES OF THE BOROUGH OF MONTOURSVILLE

October 7, 2013

The regular meeting of the Montoursville Borough Council was called to order by Council President Robert Brobson at 7:00 PM, with the following answering roll call: Mark Tillson, Robert Brobson, Ronald Shearer, Eugene Boyles, Kim DiRocco and Mayor Dorin. Absent - Dennis Holt.

The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

The minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Boyles, second by Mr. Shearer. The motion carried.

LAND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT – Preliminary Land Development – Euro-Optics– Engineer, Mr. Randy Webster/Wentz and Webster Engineering presented to council the proposed Preliminary Land Development for Euro-Optics. Several questions from council members were answered by Mr. Webster. Council member, Mr. Gene Boyles requested Borough Engineer, Mr. Todd Pysher to explain a sewage planning module exemption. He also noted that the exemption has not come back from DEP. Borough Engineer, Mr. Todd Pysher recommended a conditional approval noting that all his recommendations and requests must be met by the applicant. Council member, Mr. Mark Tillson requested stop signs be installed at the exits. Engineer, Mr. Webster agreed.

Motion by Mr. Boyles to conditionally approve the Preliminary Land Development Permit for Euro-Optics meeting the conditions to be determined by Borough Engineer, Mr. Todd Pysher, second by Mr. Shearer. The motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT –

Motion by Mr. Boyles to approve the treasurer’s report and the Borough bills for September 2013, second by Mr. Shearer. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS –

RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – William Edwards & Brian St.John/Vine St.Extension – It was explained by the Borough Secretary that the agreement had met all the criteria requested by council and had been reviewed and approved by the Borough Solicitor.

Motion by Mr. Boyles to approve the Right of Way Maintenance Agreement with William Edwards & Brian St. John regarding the Vine St. Extension, second by Mr. Shearer. The motion carried. At this time, Council member, Mr. Eugene Boyles discussed the need to raise water rates. He stated the water rates had been reduced to \$ 3.00 per thousand gallons, since then an engineering study had been done; the study stated that it costs the borough \$ 4.51 to produce a thousand gallons of water. He noted that it would generate approximately \$150,000.00 that could go to purchase new meters.

Motion by Mr. Boyles to raise residential and commercial water rates to \$4.50 per thousand gallons with a 5000 gallon minimum per quarter as of January 1st, 2014, second by Mr. Tillson. Council member, Mr. Ronald Shearer noted that the meters are closer to the \$200,000.00 range. Council member, Mr. Boyles stated the money needed to replace the meters would then not need to be taken from the Water Capital Improvement Fund and it is something that needs to be done as the meters are approximately 25 years old. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated he is not in favor of raising rates especially to the senior citizens and feels it is not justified with 2.5 million dollars in the bank. Council member, Mr. Boyles stated that the 2.5 million dollars in the bank is to be used to replace the Broad Street asbestos water line. Council member, Mr. Shearer stated he feels the time has come that the Borough must do something. He stated we are going to spend over a million dollars on Broad Street; the reservoir is another 2.6 million dollars so that takes care of 3 million dollars. He noted in the past the Borough has had no monies in the kitty to put toward infrastructure of the water system. He stated he pays a water bill like everyone else but we are running a business and you can’t run a business and give everything away or you would be out of business pretty quick. Council member, Mr. Mark Tillson agreed. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated that the vast majority of the people in the borough that he spoke to are not in favor of a water rate increase nor are they in favor of raising taxes; he said these are tough economic times. He stated it was reduced

by 25 percent to \$ 3.00 per thousand gallons; now it is going to go up to \$ 4.50 per thousand gallons. Council member, Mr. Tillson stated that it may have not been in the best interest to lower the rates by 25 percent to begin with. The motion carried.

Council President, Mr. Brobson acknowledged Fire Chief, Scott Konkle asking if he had any questions or comments before he leaves for his meeting. Fire Chief Konkle had no comments at this time.

BUDGET 2014 – Council President, Mr. Brobson requested approval for the advertisement of the proposed 2014 Budget presented by the Finance Committee.

Motion by Mr. Boyles to authorize the advertisement of the proposed 2014 Budget, second by Mrs. DiRocco. Council member, Mr. Tillson noted that expenses are up 25 percent and questioned where the revenue is coming from regarding the general fund budget. Mayor Dorin stated that they are transferring \$323,000.00 into the general fund budget in order to support it; as it has been done for the last 3 ½ years. Council President, Mr. Brobson questioned Mayor Dorin's calculations. Mayor Dorin stated that \$243,000.00 is coming from the Special Capital Improvement Fund; which is a Water Fund. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated that it was not, that it is the Special Capital Improvement Fund for the General Fund; there is also a Capital Improvement Fund for the Water Fund. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated that this is money that had been tied up until the LCWSA agreement had been approved. A discussion regarding the Special Capital Improvement Fund monies took place. Mayor Dorin asked Council President, Mr. Brobson for his suggestions on what to tell the new council. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated that he is not going to suggest anything, as he did his job on council. Mayor Dorin questioned Council President, Mr. Brobson about the September 6th, 2011 presentation; asking if he had forgot about it. He noted that Council member, Mr. Boyles did the presentation. Mayor Dorin questioned what council had promised the citizens. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated he had to agree with the Mayor on some points. He noted that most of the projects noted in the presentation are suppose to be started January 2014. Mayor Dorin stated we will be short monies. A discussion took place regarding the shortfall of monies to be used on the upcoming projects. Mayor Dorin stated that we have deep pockets and we keep getting shorter and shorter on change; ending up with not a penny left. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated he suspects the water sales will increase over the next few months. Mayor Dorin commented that the water projected sales had decreased over the last several years. He noted this is a financial guide, and questioned what Council President, Mr. Brobson would do. Mayor Dorin stated there is literature going around the Borough stating that there is a water surplus and he would like to know where it is. Mayor Dorin stated that there isn't any water surplus. Council President, Mr. Brobson disagreed and noted that there is a surplus in the water fund. Council President, Mr. Brobson questioned Mayor Dorin on what he would suggest as a solution; would he remedy it with a tax increase. Mayor Dorin stated that Council President, Mr. Brobson should make the decision. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated that Mayor Dorin stated all the problems but has no solutions. A discussion took place regarding water engineering, water finances and the water projects. Council member, Mr. Boyles stated that the water engineer has discovered a lot of other utilities in the ground where the pipe was to be originally placed; which created a problem; now you have right of ways and other issues to deal with, which has turned one project into two. He stated that the borough has enough money to do the first part of the project; hopefully with the project to be shovel ready by the first part of the new year. Again, Council President, Mr. Brobson questioned the Mayor if he would raise taxes. Mayor Dorin stated he has a plan in mind but stated he did not want to share it. Council member, Mr. Tillson stated his biggest concern is that expenses are going up and questioned the health insurance figures, which had been estimated. A discussion took place regarding the figures for health insurance in prior years with the conclusion that the figures do not include the refunds and are overstated. Council member, Mr. Tillson then stated it is admirable to not want to raise water rates however he does not feel we should hedge ourselves with the premise that we think we will sell water; which can come back to haunt you. A discussion took place regarding the proposed 2014 budget and the reduction of income from the bulk water sales to the gas industry, estimated income from taxes, and the future reassessment; which must be equalized. Council member, Mr. Boyles stated the budget is a spending plan which is not cast in stone. A discussion regarding revenue from 2010 & 2011 that contributed to the monies in the Water Capital Improvement Fund took place among council members; it was agreed that those were the peak years. Council member, Mr. Boyles noted that the changes regarding the water rate increase needs to be adjusted on the Water Fund budget's revenue along with the adjustment to

decrease the borrowing from the Water Capital Improvement Fund for the meter replacement project prior to advertising. The motion carried.

PLANNING & ZONING – Central Keystone COG Reports September 2013 were reviewed by council.

RECREATION –

September Minutes
Event Permits:

2013-28 Yoder/Luxenberger Wedding - Oct. 26th, 2013 11:00AM – 2:00PM
2013- 29 Community Alliance for Bridging Autism–Nov 9th, 2013 8:00AM-10:00PM–
conditional approval

Motion by Mr. Shearer to approve Event Permits 2013-28 & 2013-29, second by Mrs. DiRocco. A discussion took place regarding Event Permit 2013-29; it is a senior project and was not received in time to go before the recreation board meeting, the event is after the next council meeting so it was noted that it would be granted with the following conditions, no garbage pick, the restrooms may be closed so they may need to make other arrangements, and there will be no police service; however the Chief of Police offered help in trying to get fire police. It was noted that liability insurance would be needed and that the fee had not been paid on this event permit; Council member, Mr. Mark Tillson stated he would pay their fee as a donation. The motion carried.

STREETS/WATER – Street/Water Commissioner, Mr. Ron Smith reported to council on several projects. He stated the Pine and Bennett Street project, paving has been completed; a few sidewalks still need replaced. He stated the pond has been cleaned out, hot patching had been done, street sweeping and removing and trimming trees in the park. He stated that the millings from Pine and Bennett Street would be used at the soccer field’s parking lot on Mill Street. He explained that the salt truck had been taken in for inspection; it would not pass. He will not be repairing it as it would be a waste of money. He noted leaf pickup will start this week; only a day or two in the beginning until more of the leaves have fallen. He stated Wells 3 & 4 are almost complete and they painted Well 3 building. He noted that the leak detection on the whole water system will start on October 28th.

MAYOR – Mayor Dorin explained to council that he and the Chief discussed the current drug problem and decided to collect outdated prescriptions and counter medications on October 17th, from 8:30AM – 4:00PM in order to help residents dispose of their prescriptions. He noted he had put ads in the newspaper inviting Borough residents and residents within the Montoursville School District also. He stated that pick up will only be available to borough residents. A discussion took place between council members and Mayor Dorin regarding the implementation of the collection of prescriptions and safety. The outcome of the discussion was that all containers and the collections will take place in the police department. Mayor Dorin agreed. Council President, Mr. Brobson questioned Chief Gyurina about the District Attorney doing a program collecting expired prescription drugs and if Montoursville is participating. Chief Gyurina stated yes in a sense; any prescriptions we collect will be given to the District Attorney; however we will not be participating in the advertisements. Mayor Dorin reviewed the September Police Report with council. Mayor Dorin noted again that the police budget is running over; mostly the part time wages. Council President, Mr. Brobson stated he has suggested several times that Mayor Dorin should sit down with the Personal Committee to discuss. Mayor Dorin questioned the status of the Aqua America agreement. Council member, Mr. Boyles gave a brief explanation to Mayor Dorin and council. He stated that discussions are at a standstill and does not feel we will be hearing from them anytime soon. Mayor Dorin stated he attended the “Strong Towns Chat” at Lycoming College hosted by Larson Design Group which discussed looking forward into the future of our communities. He noted he has information available from the chat if anyone would be interested. Mayor Dorin stated he had been contacted by Lycoming County appointing him to a new Brownfield’s Committee. He noted that he had been appointed to the prior committee.

POLICE CHIEF – Chief Gyurina reported and explained to council about the serious drug problem in the community. He stated it is mostly heroin. He noted there are several investigations going on. He stated that it starts with high school age kids experimenting with things found in their medicine cabinet; by the time they are in their twenties they are stuck on heroin. Mayor Dorin stated that there has been a 50 percent increase from last year to this year with the drug problem.

COUNCILPERSONS – Council member, Mr. Boyles questioned the borough secretary about the FIRM map update. It was noted that in the last couple of days it has been brought to our attention that the state has hired a consultant to review different regions in our state floodplain ordinances and make sure they are compliant with the federal guidelines. The consultant has reviewed Lycoming County and has found that most municipalities do not meet the criteria established by FEMA. So instead of moving forward with the advertising of just the FIRM map, we will wait until the Floodplain Ordinance is updated to meet the criteria required by FEMA and advertise them together. Council member, Mr. Boyles stated that it is a very complicated and time consuming process. It was noted that Matt Sauers, CKCOG and Borough Solicitor, Randy Sees will be going through the Zoning Ordinance to make the Flood Plain Ordinance compliant.

SOLICITOR – nothing at this time.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT – nothing at this time.

CORESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12th, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Council President, Mr. Brobson noted the change of date for the meeting is due to Election Day and Veteran’s Day. Halloween will be held Thursday, October 31, 2013 from 6:00 PM -8:00 PM

VISITOR AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – nothing at this time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm on a motion by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mr. Mark Tillson and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Gardner, Borough Secretary