

**Orwigsburg Borough Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 14, 2018**

The Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 in Council Chambers. President Rudloff called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In Attendance were: President Michele Rudloff; Vice President Susan Murphy. Councilors: Paul Bedway, Brian Baldwin, Rod Schaeffer and Katie Bedway. Mayor Barry Berger; Planning Consultant Chris Bentz; Solicitor Paul Datte; Borough Manager Robert Williams; Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Dave Teter, Shawn Reichart, Slade Bugajinsky & Devin Deibert, Lane Koury of the Orwigsburg Borough Streets/Utility Crew, Officer Bobby Bechtel; Officer Tanner Noecker, Officer Bryce Lewis and Chief John Koury, Janis McGowen of South Schuylkill News, Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St, Bill McMullen of ARRO Engineering, Scott Rarick, Candace and Tim Osbourne of Ridgeview Drive, Jim Setlock of 1031 Ridgeview Dr; Pat Daley of 429 Hess St, Schuylkill Haven; Jarrett, Bruce and Georgia Davenport of 807 N Warren St; Rick Bubeck of 415 Marshall Dr; Rene Wetzel of 1610 Mount Hope Ave Pottsville; Lori Koury, Janice Bayer of 134 S Warren St; David Barr of the Republican Herald, Jayne Gilbert of 202 Long Ave; Joanie Hollenbach of 206 Long Avenue; Rachael Skocik of 204 Long Avenue.

**First Responders Awards Ceremony**

Mayor Berger, President Rudloff and Joanie Hollenbach presented Michele presented the First Responders Certificates to the following for their response to the fire on Long Ave:

Robert Bechtel	Landingville Community Fire Company
Slade Bugajinsky	Deer Lake & West Brunswick Fire Company
Devin Deibert	Rainbow Hose Fire Company #1 – Schuylkill Haven
Dave Teter	Schuylkill Hose Company #2 – Schuylkill Haven
Lane Koury	Liberty Fire Company #4 – Schuylkill Haven
Kobe Reed	Good Intent Fire Company – Pottsville
Alan Shepler	West End Hose Company - Pottsville
Deb Shepler	Yorkville Hose Company - Pottsville
Scott Rarick	American Hose Company – Pottsville
John Koury	Tanner Noecker
Bryce Lewis	Bruce Davenport
Kerry Mariano	PPL Utilities
American Red Cross	Vinny Alessi
Harold Shuman	Brad Miller

Not present: Rick Examitas, Elise Amato, Jesse Zimmerman, Jake Brensinger, Rick Boyer, Frank Fisher and Terrence Mollick.

Joanie Hollenbach and neighbors thanked the First Responders for their efforts the day of the fire.

President Rudloff addressed the recent criticism on Facebook of the Borough Manager, staff and its officials. The Borough has an official Facebook page maintained by the Borough and in addition there is an Orwigsburg Resident Facebook page maintained by a private borough resident. Lately there have been comments on the resident page that are false, inaccurate and unfair and possibly libelous. This

Council does not shy away from responding to constituent's questions and issues when reaching out via phone, e-mailing, attending meetings and borough Facebook. There are a few local minorities that make it their business to destroy the reputation of the borough. Council will not stand for it nor support it; Bob has 100% of Council's support as do the employees. Council thanked Bob and the employees for what they do day in and day out and for serving the residents of the borough.

## **Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 meetings was made by Sue Murphy, second by Rod Schaeffer. Unanimous.

## **Treasurer's Report was presented to council**

The January 2018 Treasurer's Report was presented to Council.

The Tax Collector's Report for February was presented to Council as follows:

Real Estate	\$65,153.75
Per Capita	\$3,441.80
Occupation	\$970.52

## **Tax Exoneration List**

A motion to approve Tax Exoneration list #2 was made by Sue Murphy, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

## **Building Permits**

0 New Permit issued at \$00.00 total value  
4 Renovation Permits issued at \$45,681.00

## **Public Comment –**

Tim Osbourne of 1036 Ridgeview Drive – thanked the Borough workers for looking at the sinking Storm Drain at his house. He expressed his concern with the deteriorating storm drain and someone or school bus falling in the hole. He asked council to consider using whatever fund available to fix the storm drain before someone get injured.

Jim Setlock of 1031 Ridgeview Drive also expressed his concern with the sinking storm drains. His dog fell in the hole a few years ago and now it's even worse.

Bill Knecht – 204 S Warren St – asked what council is going to do about the Facebook issue President Rudloff responded we are conversing with the Solicitor.

## **Budget Review**

Bob reviewed the budget year to date

Budget Report – Target Objective 8%

General Fund Revenues 4%, Expenditures 9%  
Water Fund Revenues 6%, Expenditures 4%  
Sewer Fund Revenues 7%, Expenditures 6%  
Sanitation Fund Revenues 7%, Expenditures 8%

We exceeded what we predicted on our repairs to the sewer system – grease in sewer line repairs  
Our equipment/vehicle repair due to winter weather  
Replaced transmission in the 2001  
Get old Crown Vics up and going to limit wear and tear / repairs on the dump trucks  
In the process of identifying a funding source for a new vehicle

We should be good at the end of the first quarter

## **Old Business**

### **Solicitors Report – Paul Datte**

Items 1, 2, & 3 – No movement to report

1. Pine Creek Retirement Community
2. Blue Mountain Retirement Community
3. Villas of Orwigsburg

Again as a reminder we defending the actions still continue to sit

4. Sopko/SCMA will be discussed in Executive Session at the end of the meeting

## **Committee Reports**

### **Borough Manager's Report**

Water Main Break & Repair on February 28, 2018

Borough crew identified a major water main break on S Wayne St – losing over 100,000 per day, leaking into the creek. One valve didn't seal properly so we needed to move to the next valve which affected a couple more residents that were not originally notified but got the word out ASAP. Water pipes are 50 years old and maps are inaccurately. Boil water advisory went out via robo call, Facebook and website to all affected customers.

### **Engineers Report**

Chris Bentz, Benesch Engineers

Veterans Memorial Outdoor Basketball Bid results:

Two bidders - Miller Brothers Construction and Spotts Brothers Inc

Benesch is recommending awarding Base Bid plus 2 items (Handicap Parking Signage and Bio Retention Area) to Spotts Brothers Inc totaling \$69,299.00.

Project consists of:

- Regulations size basketball court
- Chain Link fencing on 2 sides – 12ft
- Chain Link fencing – 4ft between ballfield
- Handicap signage
- Bio retention – mini rain garden
- Run electric for lighting

\$40,000.00 DCNR grant + \$29,299 BMRC fund = \$69,299.00

Engineering and administration costs are already budgeted

### **Recreation & Health**

A motion to Award the Veterans Memorial Outdoor Basketball Court to Spotts Brothers Inc at a total cost of \$69,299.00 was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

Chris recommends council consider applying for another \$40,000 DCNR grant for the Walborn Playground and the Louis Fanelli Park. Applications are being accepted until April 11<sup>th</sup>. Fanelli Park only has a playing field, could use a play structure with swings, parking and retention issues would need to be addressed. Walborn Park currently has slide, play structure and pavilion with a fence around the park. There are no playgrounds on the south side of town. Consider applying for a CFA grant as well.

### **Recreation & Health**

A motion to authorize Benesch Engineers to design, develop, and apply for a DCNR Grant in the amount of \$60,000 and CFA Grant for recreational improvements to the Louis Fanelli, Jr. Park was made by Katie Bedway, second by Rod Schaeffer. Brian Baldwin abstained due to Benesch Engineers is his employer. Motion carried.

### **Engineers Report**

Robert Williams, Borough Manager - Bill McMullen, ARRO Engineers

### **Street/Road Improvement Projects**

The Borough crew put together a slide show presentation to show road conditions throughout the borough:

Kimmels Road – Cost to repair \$80,002.00

Full Depth pavement replacement

Shoulder restoration

Dave noted he receives complaints almost daily about this road

Need to determine boundary line – PennDOT has been contacted to investigate which municipality is responsible for the middle section (800ft) of the road.

Intersection of N Wayne & E Mifflin Sts – Cost \$43,458.00

Sinkhole at storm box on northeast corner of intersection held in by cold patch – temporary fix was made in January 2018 – Cost includes ADA ramps

Eisenhower & Marshall Dr – Cost \$37,862

Project started in 2016 - excavated and installed storm water junction box

To complete project – install and or replace 7 inlets and tie them into existing box and discharge below bridge on Ridge Rd. Project would be almost a total work force project. To move forward we still need a signature on an easement.

Rick Bubeck of 415 Marshall Drive is concerned that the engineer's design won't work due to not enough elevation to discharge the water where proposed

Lehigh Avenue – Cost 50,000 in 2016

Swale construction, storm water installation, partial road reconstruction and overlay

Church St between Perry & Columbia – Cost \$50,000 in 2016

Storm Sewer Improvements and road reconstruction

Once have borough garage – we can get a paver and roller

Do as much maintenance as possible

Clark Drive – massive pot holes around 190 Clark Dr. Road originally constructed as a driveway, only wide enough for one car.

Cherry St & Lincoln St – Road is heaving

Margaret Ave – ideal candidate for overlay with slight modifications on failing areas and match grade with the storm boxes.

Ridgeview Drive

Replace existing inlets storm sewers and road improvements – cost \$1,441,000 in 2016

- Craters and alligator cracks on new Ridgeview Drive
- Storm box at 1036 Ridgeview Dr (Osborne) – huge hole at storm box causing public safety hazard
- Storm box at 1042 Ridgeview Dr – storm box sinking
- Sink hole on Country View Lane
- Storm box sinking on Country View Lane & Ridgeview Dr
- Safety issues need to be addressed first (1036 Ridgeview Dr). Cones, steel plate to prevent something bad from happening.

Bill suggests to do some preliminary work, survey work, locate existing inlets, verify discharges and put it on a plan to make sure what goes in the new pipe also discharges.

Council determined to take care of the storm box at 1036 Ridgeview Dr with a steel plate. Clarify ownership of middle section on Kimmels Rd before approving project.

Research bond issue or PIB loan for road improvement funding. \$100,000 is budgeted for 2018 road improvements.

Consensus is to temporarily fix storm box at 1036 Ridgeview Dr; clarify Liquid Fuels on Kimmels Rd and develop a plan for the Ridgeview storm boxes for next month.

A motion to authorize the Engineer and Dave Teter to fix storm box at 1036 Ridgeview Dr under bidding amount as they feel fit was made by Paul Bedway, second by Rod Schaeffer. Brian Baldwin abstained due to authorizing work of an engineering firm. Motion carried.

### **Streets, Lights, & Buildings**

#### **Engineer's Report Continued.**

Robert Williams, Borough Manager - Bill McMullen, ARRO Engineers

Blinker Light foundation repairs – Bob have a brief history about the blinker:

1956 - Borough Request a permit for the Blinker Light

PENNDOT's approves the Borough's request

1996 – Borough Request to modify the 1956 signal permit from a 2 way stop with flashing beacon to a 3 way stop with a flashing beacon.

PENNDOT approves the Borough's request

1998 -After asking for the permit and receiving it, the Borough does not install the 3 way-stop.

PENNDOT request a status report, never received, JD 130318.

District Traffic Signal manager informed the borough we could not keep the pole and if Liquid Fuel Monies is used you have to buy an upgraded pole

It is the boroughs duty and responsibility to maintain our signal and structure, therefore we can maintain the base.

A quote has been obtained to install new reinforced concrete strain pole foundation at a cost of \$35,141.00 which includes \$4000 per day for traffic flaggers

The borough crew can attend flagger training to eliminate the \$4000 per day costs

Bob proposed using a local contractor to install a new concrete base with adapter plate and reinstall our pole. Utilize borough crew as flaggers. Bob will obtain a cost estimate. The Borough is not in compliance with the latest permit by not having a three way stop signs at that intersection. Keep intersection as is with 2 stop signs and blinker and amend Penndot permit to reflect this. Bill McMullen will contact Penndot to initiate amendment.

Rental Inspection Process/Policy – Deferred to next month's meeting

Bill McMullen, ARRO Engineers

- Move In-Move out Permit
- Rental Unit Inspection Form – 25 Items
- Failure to pay Utilities and/or Taxes Ordinance

Grease Trap Inspection Ordinance – Deferred to next month's meeting

Bill McMullen, ARRO Engineers

- Entech – Rules and Regulations
- Review by the Solicitor

**Personnel & Negotiations**

A motion to remove Officer Tanner Noecker from Probation Employment Status in accordance with his successful completion of one year of excellent service to the Orwigsburg community was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

**Recreation & Health**

A motion to approve the Ragnar Relay Race scheduled to run through the Borough late Friday June 15, 2018 and early Saturday June 16, 2018, with no road closures or expense to our community was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

**New Business - None**

**Police Department Report**

Police Chief John Koury – will present February's report next month

**Fire Company Report**

Fire Chief Jesse Zimmerman submitted the February 2018 report:

Fires	3
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	8
Hazardous Condition (No fire)	1
Service call	4
Good Intent call	3
False Alarm & False Call	6
Total	25

238 Man hours – training  
203.19 Man hours on Fire Dept. responses for the month  
44.29 North Manheim Township  
31.58 West Brunswick Township  
126.52 Orwigsburg Borough

**COG**

Councilor Murphy noted the next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Orwigsburg Borough Hall.

**Correspondence**

Bill Knecht e-mail regarding trash responsibility will be read at next months meeting

## **Bills**

Motion to approve and ratify the accounts payable for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, State, Grant, Credit Union, and Capitol Improvement accounts was made by Sue Murphy, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

## **Community Events**

The Orwigsburg Lions Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 12 noon at Albrights Woods.

The Orwigsburg's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

At 10:50 pm President Rudloff called and Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

At 11:10 pm the Executive Session ended and the regular meeting resumed.

Solicitor Datte advised Council the various parties in the Sopko/SCMA case have settled their differences. The settlement agreement between the Sopkos, Borough, SCMA & Forino require a payment to the Sopkos in the amount of \$36,000 at no expense to the Borough; Sopkos would withdraw the pending lawsuit; the Borough would relinquish the Eminent Domain taking; the Sopkos would provide the Borough with an easement that would cover not only the water line but the vault and all pertinent facilities within the easement area. Accordingly, a motion to authorize Council President Rudloff to sign all Sopko settlement documentation on behalf of the Borough was made by Sue Murphy, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards  
Borough Secretary