

**Call to Order:**

The regular scheduled meeting of February 1st, 2010 was called to order by Ms. McCarthy at 6:30 p.m.

Members present were: Mr. Vandzura, Mr. Slanoc, Mrs. Chobany, Mr. Wozniak, and Mayor Fox. Also present were Robert Koban-Borough Manager; Mr. Emerick-Borough Solicitor; Mr. Wisor-Engineer; Don Squillario-Public Works; Chief Miller-Public Safety; and Michelle Claar-Secretary; and Jr. Council Ms. Cadwallader. Mr. Kissell and Jr. Council member Mr. Leydig were absent.

Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to go out of order on the agenda to recognize the visitors, motion carried 6-0.

**VISITORS:**

Mr. Dennis Beck informed Council that the Water Authority is considering the installation of a supply line to service the Martindale area along the railroad bed. Mr. Beck also commented that the DEP advised him that there are several wildcat sewer areas and sewer lines could possibly be installed at the same time. With the construction of the water line installation, the railroad bed could also be utilized for the Rails to Trails with the participation of the Portage Municipal Water & Sewer Authority and Portage Township.

Mr. Beck advised that he attended a conference in October regarding alternate energy sources. The electric company will be increasing their rates by 20-30% at the end of the year. A consortium is being considered through Johnstown to gather municipalities and groups to negotiate lower rates. Those entities would include the Borough, Township, School District, Water & Sewer Authority, and the Park. Mr. Beck commented that this consortium could benefit the entire community. Mr. Beck elaborated on how the residents can determine how many kilowatts per year they use and contact Penelec at the 800 number to negotiate the rates or be placed on a budget plan.

Mr. Koban commented on the Knights of Columbus no longer sponsoring the Halloween Parade. Mr. Koban questioned Mr. Beck on the average cost to sponsor the parade. Mr. Beck will gather the information and report back to Mr. Koban.

Mrs. Bonnie Fox was here to observe. David Hurst with the Altoona Mirror and Jeremy Portash with the Dispatch were also in attendance.

Mrs. Susan Kalasoski presented a video on her laptop showing a Borough snow plow truck speeding down Johnson Avenue throwing chunks of ice and snow onto her sidewalk. Mrs. Kalasoski advised that it is not necessary to speed down Johnson Avenue. Mr. Squillario commented that there is eight feet of sidewalk on Johnson and the snow and ice will go onto the sidewalk. Mr. Koban apologized and informed Mrs. Kalasoski that she can contact him directly or contact the Borough office to report the incidents like this in the future.

## **Reports:**

### **Managers Report:**

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban pointed out several areas of concern in his report. Mr. Koban and Mr. Squillario will be meeting with the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority on the 9<sup>th</sup> to inspect the two buildings (the former Harpo's and Stop N Go properties) being considered for grant funding for demolition.

Mr. Koban informed Council that the letters have been sent out to the various organizations in the Portage Area advising of the "meet the grant writer" meeting to be held on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Koban encouraged Council members to attend the meeting.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Emerick commented that his report will be covered under unfinished business; Floodplain Ordinance amendment.

### **Engineers Report:**

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Wisor informed Council that Cory Gehret from Stiffler, McGraw & Associates will be meeting with Mr. Koban and Mr. Squillario on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to inspect the Gillespie Avenue Bridge.

### **Police Report:**

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Miller had nothing additional to report. Ms. McCarthy commended Chief Miller for his efforts in purchasing the rifle at a cheaper price than was previously budgeted for in the 2010 budget.

### **Public Works Report:**

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario had nothing additional to report.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Ms. McCarthy commented that the agenda did not reflect the revenue figures received for the month. Ms. Claar apologized for the oversight and advised that the total revenue collected for the month totaled \$23,095.68 which can be verified from the deposit journal. Mr. Slanoc motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to approve the Treasurer's report, motion carried 6-0.

**Correspondence:**

PSAB sent notice of the Robert C. Edwards Scholarship Fund being offered to high school students in the amount of \$1,000.00. The deadline for the applications is May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A copy of paperwork was provided to Mr. Slanoc to give to the High School guidance councilor for posting.

Karen Jones with the Portage Woman's Club is requesting approval for Mr. Vic Miller to collect donations for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at 12:00 noon at Crichton McCormick Park. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to grant permission for Mr. Vic Miller to collect for donations for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, motion carried 6-0.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

The minutes from January 4<sup>th</sup> regular & re-organization meeting plus the January 18<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve the minutes from the regular and re-organization of January 4<sup>th</sup> and the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>, motion carried 6-0.

**Paying of Bills:**

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Additional bills were also presented for payment. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to approve paying the bills plus the additional bills, motion carried 6-0. The bills listed totaled \$26,374.71.

**Other Reports**

Monthly reports were received from the Water & Sewer Authority and the Portage Library for December, 2009 and the Planning Commission for November, 2009. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to approve the monthly reports from the Water & Sewer Authority and Portage Library for December, 2009 and the Planning Commission for November 2009, motion carried 6-0.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Slanoc presented a picture to Council of the progress that is being made for the Welcome to Portage Sign being constructed by the high school students. The sign has been sanded, primed and partially painted.

Mr. Koban advised that Officer King is enforcing the borough ordinances for property maintenance and junk vehicle violations.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he is moving forward with the 501C-3 status for the Borough. Paperwork and additional information is being gathered to determine which way is best to proceed.

Letters were mailed out to the boards & commissions requesting their attendance at the quarterly meetings. The issue will be removed from future agenda's.

Mr. Emerick informed Council that an amendment to the Floodplain Management Ordinance is being required to be in compliance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A

draft of the proposed legislation was provided to Council for their review as presented by the National Flood Insurance Program and FEMA. Mr. Emerick recapped the amendments. The draft of the proposed legislation is to be submitted to Kim Kalaha of PA DCED for compliance review by the middle of March. Once the draft is reviewed, a letter of final determination will be released for an effective date prior to adoption by Council. The timeframe for final adoption is scheduled for June, 2010 and the map effective date being in September, 2010. Mr. Koban suggested that Council review the draft and discuss at the February committee meeting; submit to PA DCED for compliance, and then seek approval for advertisement in March with adoption in May or June.

Ms. Claar informed Council that there were no letters of interest received for the vacant seat on the Portage Area Sewer Authority Board.

Cambria County Emergency Services sent notice of elected officials concerning the NIMS compliance. Ms. Claar presented a sheet to Council of those members who have not completed the studies. Mrs. Chobany, Mr. Vandzura, and Mr. Slanoc commented that they have taken the classes but did not have the certificates. Ms. Claar will research with Allen Kline from Cambria County to obtain information of where we can obtain the certificates.

#### **New Business:**

A reminder to Council of the "meet the grant writer night" on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The count for the Borough was six.

Cambria County Emergency Services submitted a re-promulgation to be approved and signed when changes occur in elected officials, if the EMA director changes, or if there is significant changes in the emergency operations plan. The promulgation statement has not been revised since 2003 with only a change in Emergency Director and Council. Mr. Koban suggested re-promulgating when the emergency operations plan is finalized and do both at the same time. After a discussion, Council agreed to discuss the issue at the February committee meeting with a copy of the current emergency operations plan.

#### **Good of the Borough:**

Mayor Fox reminded Council that the WinterFest Chili Cook-off will be held on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Royal Ballroom.

Ms. McCarthy commented on the notice received from the Rotary Club concerning the Christmas Parade to be scheduled back to the original time frame after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Bonnie Fox advised that the WinterFest will be meeting within the next few weeks to discuss the issue and will report back.

Box Seat Video opened its doors on Main Street. Ms. McCarthy commented that Jaytar Computers owner' John Ruffing has offered some of his parking spaces to be used by the Box Seat Video customers. Mayor Fox questioned if all Main Street business owners are offered the same opportunities. Mr. Koban informed Mayor Fox that the parking system currently in place is working well with no problems and shouldn't be an issue.

**Adjournment:**

Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to adjourn, motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.