

**REGULAR SESSION \*\* ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL \*\* MARCH 11, 2008**

Council Vice President Larry Googins called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of the Economy Municipal Building to conduct business of general purposes.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Larry Googins, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Donald Sivy, John C. Thomas

**ABSENT:** Arthur Mutschler – Ill, Ronald R. Rock – Death in the Family

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mayor David N. Poling, Dale M. Fouse, Esq. (7:13 PM), Scott Shoup, P.E., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager

Mr. Googins introduced Gina DeRose, Maronda Homes, Inc., who gave a brief overview of homes available at Whispering Pines; her office hours are Saturday to Wednesday 11 AM to 7 PM.

Bob & JR Adams, Knighthawk Alarm Services, gave an overview of a key fob lock system for the police department, public works and the municipal building; copies of the proposal will be given to all elected officials; prior proposals will be given to Mr. Thomas.

7:13 PM – Dale Fouse enters the meeting.

**HEAR THE PUBLIC:**

Sam Cercone, President, EYBA, came before Council requesting permission to build on borough property an 8X10 or 10X12 storage unit to house a tractor, quad, tools, etc.; currently the tractor sits out all winter on borough property. Council suggested the use of the old concession stand (block building). Mr. Googins referred Mr. Cercone to Mr. Sivy and Mr. Kunkle regarding the block building, insurance, etc., Mrs. Mutschler suggested if the block building can not be used, Mr. Cercone should contact the code enforcement officer.

Sal Boboth, 105 Timber Ridge, thanked the road crew for the excellent job on the roads and asked if an expensive locking system is really needed. Mayor Poling reported a new system is needed for security purposes; the joint bid is to keep the cost down. Mr. Googins added this would make sure Economy Borough property is protected with up to date equipment and more secure.

Bob Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, requested the total cost of the salt shed project, contracted and in house, how much is left to do before it is done, and when Economy Borough will see a return of the money spent; suggested this information could be put in the next newsletter. Mr. Sivy reported there were numerous meetings and at one meeting a power point was presented which is in the minutes; the salt shed itself cost \$186,000; 2 items are left to do; lights inside it, they have been working in the dark and possibly a fence to secure the building, it is gated now; estimated was \$20,000 for the seeding and public works did the seeding for between \$4,000 to \$6,000; will get the figures together; the goal was to satisfy the DEP regulations and potential savings by filling the shed with salt to get the discounted summer pricing; currently salt is unavailable from Central Salt. Mr. Googins stated the COG price on salt is \$40.89/ton. (and the current non COG price on salt is \$125/ton.) Corrected-03/25/2008-(and the current.....) to be deleted.

John Campbell, 123 Gross Drive, reported the Beaver County Tactical Unit is made up of between 29-31 tactical officers from Ambridge (3), Aliquippa (1), Center (2), Monaca (2), New Sewickley Twp. (1), Rochester (3), New Brighton (1), Harmony Township (1), Beaver Falls (1), and Economy Borough (7); PSP has two units one in Greensburg and one East of Harrisburg; proud the 7 officers volunteer their time to take the training.

Mr. Campbell asked the status of the request for Council to partner with the electric to the Veterans Memorial. This will be discussed under the Manager's Report.

Mr. Campbell stated 10 months ago a request was made for a new recording system for the minutes. Mr. Sivy stated he looked into this and had estimates of \$1,800 to \$3,000. Mrs. Mutschler stated a good digital recorder could be purchased for \$50 to \$150 that could burn a permanent CD. Mr. Sivy said he called Baden and the secretary downloads the minutes into her computer. Mr. Thomas suggested Mr. Kunkle could double check with the surrounding municipalities to see how/if they record their meetings. Mr. Sivy will check into this.

Mr. Campbell asked why the website minutes have not been updated since the September 11, 2008 meeting. The secretary reported emailing the minutes to the webmaster March 5th to be posted on the web.

Butch Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, suggested holding off spending the money for the purposed new door lock system until we see what the roof repair/replacement the police building roof that is leaking, will cost. Mayor Poling stated the roof was never put on properly. Mr. Kunkle reported he has contacted the contractor twice and the contractor refuses to do anything about it; the building was built 12 years ago. Mr. Fouse stated if the shingles were nailed wrong, we are out of luck on the warranty. Mrs. Mutschler suggested money could be moved around to pay for it. Mr. Googins asked Mr. Sivy to get prices to fix or replace the roof with a metal or shingled roof.

Mr. Mecchia, 211 Fernwood Drive, asked if PennDOT could be contacted about the drainage needed to stop the water pooling on Conway Wallrose Road at Andrus Drive, near the bus garage.

Mr. Mecchia reported there is still a problem of school busses speeding. Mayor Poling reported a school bus in front of him went thru a red light in Ambridge. Mr. Googins asked Mayor Poling to have Chief Harrington send a letter to the bus company regarding the speeding.

Mr. Boboth, 105 Timber Ridge, reported the drainage ditch across the street from his house is filled in and causes water to pool on the roadway. This will be reviewed.

### **MINUTES:**

Mrs. Mutschler requested the Minutes of the February 26, 2008 meeting be amended to reflect Larissa Theodore, Beaver County Times reporter, in attendance and that she reminded Mr. Sivy that at the October 23, 2007, meeting pricing for above and underground electric service to the salt shed was to be obtained.

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler seconded by Mr. Thomas – to approve the Minutes of the February 26, 2008, Regular Session of Council, as amended. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Poling thanked the Road Department for doing an exceptional job.

Mayor Poling read the Mayor's Report for the Police Department for the month of February as prepared by Chief Harrington, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

Mayor Poling checked the status PennDOT resurfacing Conway Wallrose Road. Mr. Kunkle reported the job has been bid out and awarded.

Mayor Poling asked what time the custodian starts work. Mr. Kunkle reported Mark is here by 5:30 AM some days. Mayor Poling asked that Mark clear the snow at the Police Department first then the other sites.

Mayor Poling asked that the tennis courts be reviewed to be fixed. Mr. Thomas will follow up on this.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**1. Stop Sign Ordinance No. 416:** Mr. Kunkle reported this has been advertised and is ready to be considered for adoption.

*MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize the adoption of Ordinance No. 416, an ordinance of the Borough of Economy, County of Beaver, Pennsylvania, created pursuant to the Pennsylvania Borough Code authorizing the location and enforcement of Stop Signs at Intersections throughout the borough. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

**2. Veteran's Memorial Lights:** Mr. Kunkle reports each light will use about \$70.00 worth of electricity per year so seven lights will be about \$500.

*MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to authorize the payment of the monthly electric bill for the Veteran's Memorial lights. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

**3. Office Assistant Position:** Mr. Kunkle reported Sharon Paul, 1885 Conway Wallrose Road, has been interviewed, has the back ground, and is recommending her for the part time office assistant position.

*MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to make an offer of employment to Sharon Paul as the office assistant for approximately 15 hours/week at \$9.00/hour, contingent upon a back ground check. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

**4. Sewickley Area YMCA Summer Camp:** Mr. Kunkle reported the Sewickley Area YMCA would again like to use the Economy Borough Pavilion for their 6 week youth summer program of low impact activities for grades 1-6 from 9 AM to Noon Monday thru Friday.

*MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to authorize the Sewickley Area YMCA to conduct their 6 week summer camp as in years past on Economy Borough recreation property. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

**5. PIRMA:** Mr. Kunkle reported PIRMA, our insurance carrier, is in need of 1 member for their Board of Directors and he would like to seek the position; 3 2 day meetings per year in Harrisburg, 1 conference; all expenses are paid by PIRMA. Mr. Thomas stated it would be a plus to have someone from Economy Borough on the Board of Directors. Mr. Kunkle reported his applying does not guarantee the position.

*MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to authorize Mr. Kunkle to apply for a position on the PIRMA Board of Directors. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

Mayor Poling reported the real estate tax collector called him concerned about the Liberty Hills development building permits being issued under 1 tax parcel number and not individual parcel numbers. Mr. Fouse advised the document required to be filed by Traditions of America with Beaver County would start the process to set the parcel numbers has not yet been filed by the owner; they have been made aware of this, however it would not affect this tax year; we will start to issue Occupancy Permits this year; this is not unusual in a condominium circumstance like this for the first year or two of the development of being one tax parcel, it is all they have to assess; eventually it will be broken down with the condominium document and the parcels themselves; until such time that the document is filed and the Beaver County Assessment Office actually comes out and looks at the structures individually it will not be separate tax bills issued for the separate tax parcels; it probably is a good idea to wait until it is a complete build out, because sometimes within the project the parcels and structures can change and the assessments could change; we could argue that we should wait until it is all finished to actually split it up into parcels, which will occur; talked with Mike Kohlman today, as has Mr. Kunkle, this is an ongoing process. Mayor Poling asked if he was to buy one how would he be taxed on his property. Mr. Fouse stated he has dealt with this in the past and one big tax bill would be given to the owner who would split it up among the residents; the property owner could file an appeal; with condominiums it is not unusual for this to occur; it may take a few years for this to be split up. Mayor Poling asked why it is done this way. Mr. Fouse stated it is a law and Mr. Kohlman will follow the dictates of the law which has changed recently as it relates to the condos. Mr. Kunkle reported the bottom line is Economy Borough will get the tax money.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

***MOTION by Mrs. Raymer, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to authorize payment of all bills listed and properly signed off and approved by the appropriate supervisor of that department. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mrs. Raymer reported April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the scheduled second Council meeting and also Election Day; Council Chambers is a polling place, will the meeting be cancelled. Mr. Kunkle reported the meeting can be cancelled or change the meeting date. Mr. Googins advised this will be decided at the next meeting.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Sivy read the Road Department Report for February, 2007, as prepared by Mr. Fitzgerald, which will be on file for review in the borough secretary's office.

Mr. Sivy reported the salt supplier called and informed Mr. Fitzgerald that they are out of salt and awaiting shipments; they could not give a date when they would receive their shipment; as a result of this we have changed the way we are treating the roads until we can secure more salt; currently we have approximately 100 tons of salt and 500 tons of salt/cinder mix. Mr. Googins stated the Beaver County Regional COG bids out the salt as a guaranteed bid; part of the bid statement says the amount Economy Borough uses can be over or under with no problem; the supplier needs to supply that; the supplier, Central Salt, stores in Monaca or Aliquippa; all are low on salt; bid is guaranteed; no one has run out yet, just running low; coming up the river on barges; COG is monitoring this issue and if it becomes a problem it may be a legal issue; the sales are limited to only bidders of COG. Mr. Sivy stated issues like this were part of the decision to build a salt shed like we have, we do not want to run into a predicament like that.

Mrs. Mutschler questioned the whole Road Department going to an equipment show seminar in Monroeville on February 5<sup>th</sup>; was this discussed at a meeting? Mr. Googins stated it was discussed among the Road Department Committee and the borough manager. Mrs. Mutschler stated that it should have been brought up at a meeting so all of Council would be aware that no one from the Road Department was in the borough if we would have an emergency; if it wasn't, would appreciate it if next time that it be brought up. Mr. Thomas stated he was in the discussion with Mr. Kunkle and Mr. Googins after a Public Utility Committee meeting; it was brought up; the timing was bad as this was scheduled to happen a few days later; it was decided that Mr. Kunkle would know where they would be and if nothing pressing in the borough that day they all would be allowed to go; did not have a problem with it, but thinks it should be brought up to all of Council. Mr. Googins stated even after the fact it should be brought up to Council at the next meeting.

### **ORDINANCE and RECREATION:**

Mr. Thomas reported he would meet with Mr. Kunkle about finances for Sunset Hills Park; the next DCNR Grant will be applied for; this will be an \$80,000 project (50-50 match) for a pavilion at Recreation Drive Park; application deadline is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Thomas asked the status of the sporadic street light at Bock Lane and Mary Reed Road. Mr. Kunkle will check on this.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES:**

Mr. Googins advised Ambridge Water Authority has begun the construction of the new water tower on Conway Wallrose Road.

### **PROPERTY and BUILDING:**

Mr. Sivy reported the HVAC bids came in today and were opened by Mr. Shoup at 2:00 PM; bids ranged from \$12,719 to \$26,500.

***MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to refer all bids for the HVAC to the Engineer and the Property and Building Committee for review and recommendation. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Mr. Sivy reported the lights on Kenneth Campbell Way were found to be shorted out due to wet bird's nests in the base; they have been repaired, that includes the breaker; covers for the lights are needed.

Mr. Sivy reported he has obtained prices and will contact the vendor to discuss options on the flag pole at the police department that is leaning and will have information for Council hopefully for the next meeting; there is no danger of it falling. Mr. Googins asked Mr. Campbell to explain the problem. Mr. Campbell stated the representative from Tremble told him the 2 most important things were the big sleeve down in the ground that the flag pole sits it, then the void area in the sleeve would be filled in full of dry, very fine sand; it filters down and locks the pipe in, they wedge it on the top to hold it in place until all the sand is put in there; what happened to ours is for some reason the sand settled and a couple wedges moved and rotten; this can be corrected; they can slurry the sand up with water, pump it out, re-plumb the pole and put new dry sand in; this is the same vendor for the Veterans Memorial.

Mr. Sivy requested the custodian repair the 2 overhead lights in Council Chambers.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Mutschler introduced the new part time police officer, Jim Dempsey; Economy Borough resident; recently retired from Sewickley Heights Police Department.

Mrs. Mutschler requested a copy of the committee reports read and put on file. Mr. Googins requested reports copied to all elected officials.

## **REPORTS:**

## **SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Fouse advised it was planned to adopt the Zoning Ordinance tonight, however there are 2 additional text changes Council wished the Economy Borough Planning Commission to consider. Mr. Kunkle reported the EB Planning Commission did do that and recommended some additional changes. Mr. Fouse advised Council is not considering the Zoning Ordinance tonight and will include the changes when considered. Mr. Kunkle reported Beaver County Planning Commission has a 30 day review period for the amendments so the Zoning Ordinance will be considered at the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, with the amendments.

Mr. Fouse stated he has met with the attorneys of all the developers working on development projects we are working on; has talked with Council concerning having a revision done to the requested right of way we have acquired; the engineers have gotten together and hopefully we may not have to consider doing a revision which would extend the time another 30 days.

***MOTION by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Mutschler – to authorize the advertising of the proposed Zoning Ordinance that contains the 2 signage amendments as recommended by the Economy Borough Planning Commission CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

## **SECRETARY:**

No Report

## **ENGINEER:**

Mr. Shoup reported meeting with Mr. Fitzgerald at the Cooney Hollow Bridge; it appears that part of the decking has deteriorated due to age; the outside edges of the bridge can be shoveled up; that bridge was inspected by Macklin Engineering (contracted by PennDOT) early last year; under the State program all bridges over a 20' span have to be inspected once every two years; last year they found no signs of any significant problems with the bridge; the edges of the deck were covered with stone; due to the high water was not able to get under the bridge; later this week will get under the bridge to make sure the underside steel still looks adequate; also clean off the edges of the road to see the extent of the deterioration; panels/cones are in place to divert traffic to the center of the bridge; Earl will be made aware of what is going on and will communicate it to the committee. Mr. Googins verified that this is precautionary until it is looked at.

Mr. Googins reminded Council the deadline for the PSAB Conference registration is March 17, 2008.

Mr. Googins reported the Local Government Academy is having a seminar this Thursday on Discipline and Discharge at Greentree from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at a cost of \$35.00.

Mr. Sivy asked the status of finding a floor buffing company. Mr. Thomas will get the information of the company who did the fire department floors for the next meeting.

**Hear the Public II:**

Mr. Mecchia said a possible solution to the earlier salt shed discussion would be when a large endeavor is taken on, to run a story in the Beaver County Times to let borough residents know when it would be discussed and that they could have impute.

Mr. Mecchia requested the speed timing device be brought back out from winter storage; it does a lot to slow down traffic. Mr. Googins stated the plan is to complete the work that needs to be done on it and get it back out on the road.

Mr. Campbell reported dual wheel tracks causing a big hole by the mailbox at the police department and eating up the asphalt, needs corrected; asked if the expense would come out of the general fund or the police department fund as this is a public road. Officer Lively reported they moved the mail box down the driveway some because the mailman hit the mail box when he turned around; with the snow on the ground you can't tell where the asphalt ends and the grass begins. Mr. Googins asked that Mayor Poling get with Mr. Kunkle to look at this; the expense line item will be determined after it is looked at.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOTION by Mr. Sivy, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 9:20 PM  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum  
Borough Secretary  
March 17, 2008