

REGULAR SESSION ** ECONOMY BOROUGH COUNCIL ** SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Council President Ronald R. Rock 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, Arthur Mutschler, Audrey Mutschler, Renee Raymer, Donald Sivy, John C. Thomas, Ronald R. Rock

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor David N. Poling, Dale Fouse, Esq., Randy S. Kunkle, Borough Manager, Earl Fitzgerald, Road Foreman

HEAR THE PUBLIC:

Brian Padgett, 2445 Herr Road, came before Council representing the Ambridge Chamber of Commerce; they are reaching out to surrounding municipalities and inviting Council to appoint a member to their board to attend quarterly meeting (next meeting, Thursday, December 11, 2008); requesting use of Economy Borough safety cones for the September 27th Soap Box Derby on 8th Street in Ambridge (Bea Patterson will follow up on the cones); next partnered event will be Meet Santa at the Harmony Township Municipal Building. Mrs. Mutschler asked if other events would be planned in other communities. Mr. Padgett felt participating on the board would be good for business and Economy Borough and provide community events for families and kids. Mr. Rock asked Mayor Poling to consider being the Economy Borough representative on the board.

Susan Hill, 170 Third Avenue, came before Council requesting help to repair their private road which they feel was damaged by the big trucks that responded to a house fire at the end of Third Avenue last winter; since this is a private road the residents had paid to have the road resurfaced and now they feel it has been damaged by the salt and cinders that Economy Borough put on it to get the trucks out after the fire. Mr. Fouse advised there are legal issues; Economy Borough can not maintain a private road or assume ownership of a private road to bring it up to minimum borough specifications; suggested Shoup Engineering could evaluate the roadway to see what issues are present to bring it up to specifications and report back to Council; since this is a private road, there are rights of way in the individual deeds; all property owners need to be involved.

Dennis Pike, 150 Third Street, felt the damage was done by the fire trucks and the salt; requested help to get the road patched and the residents would do their best to maintain it after it was patched. Mr. Fouse again suggested Shoup Engineering look at the road and report back what can and can not be done. Mr. Googins suggested contacting their homeowners insurance to see if this is covered since it is a private road and they feel the damage was done due to the neighbors fire. Mr. Rock asked Mr. Kunkle to contact Shoup Engineering; asked Mrs. Hill to contact any neighbor not here tonight to make sure they are on board.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Googins, seconded by Mr. Sivy – to approve the Minutes of the September 9, 2008, Regular Session of Council, as written. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Poling reported he has received emails from Jeff Lehn, Golden Grove Road, about a drainage issue.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. Flu Shots: Mr. Kunkle advised for years Economy Borough has furnished flu shots to employees (spouses paid at cost) through Allegheny Medical; this year Allegheny's price is \$30.00/shot (\$23.00/shot in 2007); Giant Eagle also offers shots at \$30.00, however, Medfast will provide them at \$20.00; recommends that employees who want flu shots get them at Medfast on October 7th between 10 AM to Noon.

MOTION by Mr. Mutschler, seconded by Mr. Thomas – to authorize Economy Borough employees to obtain Flu Shots from Med Fast for the cost of \$20.00/shot. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mrs. Mutschler suggested partnering with Economy Ambulance with the flu shots; will contact Kathy Mattern tomorrow to see how they get their shots. Mr. Thomas felt it was worth a try.

2. UST Inspection: Mr. Kunkle reported DEP requires all UST owners to have them inspected every three years (it used to be every five years); our inspection is due and Shoup Engineering is making the arrangements. Mr. Thomas reported the Economy Volunteer Fire Department is having a problem with the diesel fuel from the borough tanks; have sent a sample out for testing, but does not have the results back yet. Mr. Fitzgerald reported the road department has had no problem.

3. Newsletter: Mr. Kunkle reported there was a concern about 2 of the proposed articles; both articles have been updated and needs Council approval. Mrs. Mutschler requested an article on the Veterans Memorial; that the bricks are still available and the flag poles are ordered and should be set this fall; something on the work done on the parks; felt one of the articles was negative. Mayor Poling felt an article was misleading and political propaganda. Mr. Sivy had no problem with the original article. Mr. Rock advised the newsletter will have the rewrites of the 2 articles with the addition of articles about the Veterans Memorial and the work done on the play areas.

Mr. Thomas would like to be notified when people move into Liberty Hills. Mr. Kunkle stated copies of the occupancy permits will be provided to Mr. Thomas.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and OTHER BUSINESS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Raymer reported the Finance Committee continues to work on the proposed 2009 Budget.

ROAD DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Mutschler reported Cliff Road has been paved.

Mr. Mutschler reported the Yard Waste Area has been overwhelmed with debris from hurricane Ike; Earl is working to obtain sample guidelines from other municipalities. The Yard Waste Area will be temporarily closed while the Road Committee and Property and Building Committee, Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Kunkle develop guidelines; Mr. Kunkle will contact Beaver County to see what the requirements and cost are to use their chipper and labor.

ORDINANCE and RECREATION:

Mr. Thomas advised he has provided the requested report from the Recreation Board with a letter.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Mr. Googins advised Ambridge Water Authority is reporting electrical problems at the new Conway Wallrose Road water tank.

PROPERTY and BUILDING:

Mr. Sivy reported 3 buildings were damaged during the wind storm on Sept. 14th; the police building took 3 bundles of shingles at a cost of \$700; the Community Building and Road Department each had shingles missing for a total cost of \$300.00; our insurance deductible is \$1,000.

Mr. Sivy reported the back up generator proved itself invaluable; provided electric to all 3 buildings; the electric was off until Thursday AM.

Mr. Thomas reported 2 or 3 years ago he requested additional outlets in the Conference Room of the Police Department (EOC Command Center) be hooked up to the emergency generator; Chief Harrington had someone look at it and said it could be done; is requesting this be done.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Mutschler read a letter from Captain McClure, Beaver County Emergency Services Unit, thanking Chief Harrington and his department for their assistance with the dignitary protective detail for Senator's Obama and Biden on August 29, 2008; presented a check in the amount of \$1,333.59 as reimbursement for overtime; requested this reimbursement be applied to the police overtime budget. This will be done at the end of the year when the Click it or Ticket money is adjusted in the budget.

Mrs. Mutschler reported researching Zee Medical vs. Moore Medical (sister company to Zee Medical); found in 2007 the road department spent \$371.90 and the police department spent \$613.00 for supplies from Zee Medical; feels the costs related to go to Costco, etc., to replenish the first aid kits is more than having Zee Medical continue the on site service. Mr. Googins agreed it is not worth the risk. Mrs. Mutschler will keep the Moore Medical book on file and recommends to keep Zee Medical. Mr. Rock thanked Mrs. Mutschler for doing the research.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY:

No Report

ENGINEER:

No Report

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Fouse reported on September 12, 2008, Judge Kwidis entered an order which denied Giant Eagles petition to intervene with the eminent domain; they can appeal; in the meantime Economy Borough will forge ahead and proceed under the eminent domain code; will keep Council posted.

Hear the Public II:

Butch Thompson, 115 First Street, asked if taxes would be raised in 2009; asked that expenses for each department be looked at hard for the 2009 Budget; feels Economy Borough needs to pare the expenses to the bare bones, tighten their belt, and look for ways to cut. Mayor Poling stated raised taxes in 2009 is just his opinion and assumption at this point; wait to see what the Finance Committee reports. Mr. Thompson suggested cutting back on the amount of salt used and use anti skid. Mr. Sivy reported the road committee is recalibrating the salt. Mr. Thompson asked if Economy Borough would make the year out without getting a loan. Mrs. Raymer stated Council is not looking to make a loan. Mr. Rock stated we have 3 months to go and that the proposed budget is subject to review by the citizens once it is advertised. Mr. Thompson felt Council spent money this year they should have held on to, i.e. the crack sealer; should have just rented it again this year and if it broke down, the renting company would be responsible to take care of the repairs. Mr. Googins stated Council could put off purchasing things; things will not get better or improve in the future; costs are going up; the only way a borough can get revenue is through taxes; Council has no intention of raising taxes; not saying Council may never have to do that; Council looks into purchases and tries to come up with the best solution for the residents; can put it off or buy it now; it was Councils opinion that continuing to spend \$5,500 per month to rent a machine that we anticipated that we were going to have to use was not good; Council curtailed for 2 years paving roads; the longer delayed the worse the roads are going to get; the purpose of sealing a road or tar and chipping a road is to make them last a little bit longer; PennDOT tar and chips a brand new paved road to make it longer; the road committee determined along with the engineer and the borough manager that it would be in the best interest to buy our own because we anticipated sealing a lot more sealing of the roads because we can't pave them; Council is postponing big money issues and waiting for income revenue to come in from new developments that will boost up to balance where we are at right now; the choice is to raise taxes or to cut services; if everyone is against raising taxes, services will have to be cut; there is a crisis in America. Mr. Thompson stated his point is to cut spending and hold on to what we have.

Mrs. Mutschler asked if the crack sealer has been ordered. Mr. Googins stated no, not until the 2% loan has been approved by DCED.

ADJOURNMENT:

***MOTION by Mrs. Mutschler, seconded by Mrs. Raymer – to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:31 PM
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

Respectfully submitted,

Susan A. Blum
Borough Secretary
October 9, 2008