

***Borough of New Stanton Council meeting
November 20, 2008***

The November 20, 2008 Council meeting of the Borough of New Stanton was called to order by Council President Scott Sitek at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the New Stanton Fire Hall, 108 Main Street, New Stanton, Pennsylvania. A Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited.

Members present were Scott Sitek, Todd Bartlow, Thomas Smith, Sally Kintigh, Robert Quinn, and James Mack who arrived at 7:10 p.m. Also present was Mayor Joseph Kazan and Code Enforcement Officer Melvin Steele. Councilman Bussard was absent.

General Business

A motion was made by Todd Bartlow second by Thomas Smith to pay bills in the amount of 11,503.07. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Thomas Smith second by Todd Bartlow to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2008 Council meeting. The motion carried.

Mayor Kazan said that we have a member of the audience recording our session and I assume that is possible. Council President said yes it is provided under the Borough Code.

Public Comment

Mr. Philip Keilbach asked if there was any word from the County on the water and sewage for Broadview Road. Council President said no we have not heard anything yet and they have not prepared their budget for 2009. Mr. Keilbach said the people are inconvenienced and there is raw sewage running down the streams. Do you have any contacts that we could call? Council President said you can call the Commissioners. There was some discussion about the water and sewage on Broadview Road.

Mr. Bitar said I was sadly informed by Denise that Anita's position was cut and some people got raises. I don't know much about insurance but surely there must be some insurance out there that will not cost as much. Council President and Councilman Bartlow tried to explain why her hours were cut and no benefits given. Council President said it is all part of the budget for next year.

Council President said a couple of meetings ago there was a decision to buy this building from the Fire Department for their debt owed which is approximately \$140,000.00. Mr. Bitar said on that topic I heard that the Fire Hall Real Estate declined the offer of \$140 some thousand. They are saying that since the property was appraised for \$300 some thousand why are they selling it for \$100 some. Councilman Smith said that was not said. There was no vote that we know of. They did not know what the payoff was. They would have to contact the bank. There was some discussion about the Fire Hall.

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Mr. Bitar said back to the budget. Is this the only way you thought you could save money by cutting her hours? I want to go back to the insurance here; I am just curious and I don't know Mary Ann that well but why is her insurance twice as much as the average Borough employee. Council President said all the other Borough employees are the Borough employees hers is her and her husband which is provided for. Mr. Bitar said is there other ways that we could help Mary Ann without costing the Borough \$1,300.00? Councilman Bartlow said we have looked and are continuing to look. Mrs. Quinn said he doesn't even work for the Borough. Anita does work for us and you terminated her benefits. Councilman Mack said there is another way they just choose not to do it. Councilman Quinn said it is perfectly legal. Council President said it is not the insurance issue even if we did find something that was suitable to take care of her situation, that is not going to change the fact that what we looked at was there is only so much work that can be done and so much work is being done and that is what we have to consider whether we need two full-time employees or not. Councilman Bartlow said we looked at the work that is being done and we did not feel that two full-time secretaries were needed. Council President said Mel would have more responsibility. Mr. Bitar said are you going to hire an assistant to help Mel then? Councilman Bartlow said no; actually we felt that maybe we will have to hire a part-time person for roads. The road department has a ton of work. Mr. Bitar along with other residents had a very lengthy discussion with Council about why Anita's hours were cut and benefits taken away when the rest of the employees received raises. Mr. Hathaway said the Borough is growing and you need two full-time secretaries. There was more discussion about Councils actions on cutting Anita's hours and benefits.

Mr. Fox said I would like to address Council on behalf of the larger land owners on Broadview Road. We have been trying to get water and sewage on Broadview Road for over a year. There has been no committee appointed to foresee this goal. However, in light of the corruption and heavy handed action of Council and the way Anita has been treated we have decided to leave the Borough and rejoin Hempfield Township. After the first of the year we will hire an attorney and circulate petitions to residents from Hunker Waltz Mill Road and I- 70 excluding the new arena project but including the Weyandt and Keys property. If additional residents on Broadview wish to join us, we will pursue all of Broadview Road. It is with deep regret that this action is being taken. However we will share in all the growth and prosperity Hempfield has to offer. Mrs. Fox said Topper and Lynch are joining us they said it is time to leave. There was some discussion about Mr. and Mrs. Fox leaving the Borough.

Agenda

A motion was made by Todd Bartlow second by Sally Kintigh to acknowledge vacation request by Melvin Steele for December 1 and December 2, 2008. The motion carried.

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A motion was made by Thomas Smith second by Sally Kintigh to acknowledge personal day request by Richard Ramsay for November 26, 2008 and December 12, 2008. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Todd Bartlow second by Thomas Smith to adopt Ordinance Number 2008-228 on the Zoning changes and amendments. The motion carried.

Anita Hoffman asked if Council was going to distribute hams or turkeys to the employees this year like they have done in years past.

A motion was made by Thomas Smith second by Todd Bartlow to give the Borough employees a ham or turkey for Christmas. The motion carried.

**Announcement
Borough Christmas Party will be December 12, 2008**

Anita Hoffman said that Bove Engineering is holding a Christmas Party for the secretaries of the Boroughs that they represent and that is going to be held on December 3, 2008 at noon at Rodney's. Would it be ok for Mary Ann and me to close the office or have someone at the office so that we can attend?

A motion was made by Thomas Smith second by Todd Bartlow to allow the secretaries to attend a Christmas Party given by Bove Engineering on December 3, 2008 at Rodney's at noon. The motion carried.

Reports

Council President

Scott C. Sistek

Council President said we received a thank you letter from the Youngwood Area Public Library for our recent contribution.

Mayor

Joseph Kazan

Mayor Kazan said I wish Council would start considering all aspects of some of the decisions that they make and realize that in order to grow this Borough we have to start focusing on the future and moving forward rather than standing pat or moving backwards.

A motion was made by James Mack second by Robert Quinn to reinstate Anita Hoffman to her previous status of thirty-six (36) hours a week plus benefits. Scott Sistek, Todd Bartlow and Sally Kintigh voted no. Thomas Smith, Robert Quinn and James Mack voted yes. Since there is a tie vote, Mayor Kazan broke the tie by voting yes. The motion then carried with four yes votes.

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A motion was made by Sally Kintigh to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Roll

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Secretary