

## SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY, April 4, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pres. D. Mengel, V. Pres. W. Hetherington, C/P C. Handlan, C/P M. Inch, C/P G. Kinney, and C/P W. Reuning

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** C/P S. Christine

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart; Mayor G. Beaver; Police Chief T. Garlock; Recording Secretary D. Long; Daily Item Reporter Marcia Moore; Borough Residents Pete Carroll, Joseph and Margaret Siro; Gannett Fleming Representative Matt Sauers; Monroe Township Officials Luke Glick and Tim Wolfe; Omega Bank Official Bud Mertz; Susquehanna University Students Douglas Cirillo, Erin Markel, Cristina Tolmer and Lindsay Weller

**OTHERS ABSENT:** None

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Pres. Mengel called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2005 AND RECESSED MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2005:**

In the minutes of March 7, C/P Inch reported that on Page 7 the total of the Borough's bills for the Streetscape Project was reported as \$7,585.00. He had given this figure in error. The next day he located another bill and discovered that the figure is actually \$11,181.43. This cannot be changed in the minutes but C/P Inch wanted to bring this amount to Council's attention and he passed out information explaining this. C/P Reuning stated that at the end of the second paragraph on Page 3 the sentence "Is this not unequal, unfair and discriminatory" should be changed to "Is this unequal, unfair and discriminatory" as "not unequal" is a double negative, which makes it a positive. The minutes of March 7 were accepted as changed. There were no changes to the minutes of March 14 so they were accepted as changed and presented.

Pres. Mengel stated that in Mgr. Bickhart's Manager's Report, under the Market Street Enhancement Project it states that due to the low bid exceeding the available funds the bids were rejected and the project was referred to the committee for reevaluation. Pres. Mengel stated that the bids were rejected due to the fact that Beck was not approved and was rejected as a bidder. Mgr. Bickhart replied that that was the first consequence which led to the second consequence.

### **VISITORS TO BE HEARD:**

**DH&L Fire Company, Ken Stettler** – Ken reported that for March there were a total of 12 incidents: 1 in Chapman Township, 1 in Middlecreek Township, 1 in Monroe Township, 1 in Perry Township, 6 in the Borough of Selinsgrove, 1 in Union Township, and 1 in Washington Township. There was no loss in DH&L's jurisdiction. These incidents include 3 Automatic Alarm, 1 Brushfire, 1 Good Intent, 1 HazMat Call, 2 Miscellaneous, 1 Vehicle Accident without Extrication, and 3 Structure Fires. A total of 506 man hours was spent on the various activities.

C/P Kinney asked if the fire company's fair association has sold the fairgrounds. Ken replied that there is no sales agreement yet, but there is an interested party. C/P Hetherington asked if there is a clause stating that the land can be sold but that nothing can be done on it for five years. Ken replied that this is correct and it runs through September or October of 2010. Mayor Beaver asked why the fair association wants to get rid of the land. Ken replied that they do not have a choice. If the fire company wants to put up the social hall they have to liquidate their assets. Also, the asset is sitting there with no financial gain

from it other than the appreciation on the land. The money from the sale, invested wisely in some sound investments, will return more money for the fire company. What the fair association gets from the lease just covers their bills, with money being put back in for maintenance of the track, etc. In looking at the long-term good of the fire company, it makes better financial sense to sell it. C/P Inch asked how big the fairgrounds are and if the fair association is selling the entire property. Ken replied it is 101 acres, plus or minus, and it will all be sold. There are 92 good acres and 10 acres that are right now part of Penn's Creek due to the flooding.

C/P Kinney asked if the sale has been completed on the old DH&L building. Ken replied that the settlement took place on March 15. The fire company is leasing the old building from Farrell, who is starting to do construction in the parts of the building that the fire company does not need, such as the truck rooms and the upstairs. He is painting and remodeling. Farrell would like the fire company out as soon as possible, but until the bank financing is arranged the fire company still needs that space. Hopefully by the end of this week the permits will be obtained and then they can proceed once the financing is in order, but that is contingent on several other things that need to happen.

**Borough Police Chief, Thomas Garlock – Presentation of Police Report for February 2005** – Chief Garlock had nothing to report other than the handout of the monthly report. C/P Inch expressed Council's appreciation for the monthly report, which shows the calls that are made and the problem areas in the Borough.

**Bud Mertz, Omega Bank – Official Delivery of Deed to Trust Company Building** – Mr. Mertz presented Pres. Mengel with an official letter, as the deed is not back yet. However, the deed was recorded about two weeks ago and the Borough is now the owner of the former Trust building.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**

**Review List of Council Issues** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that the most recent addition to the list is the washout along Weiser Run. Gary Klingler has spoken with the school district and he is awaiting their response. The recent rains have not caused any more damage to occur.

**Decorative Street Lighting** – C/P Kinney asked if the bid for this was supposed to be let at the end of March in order to be accepted in April. Mgr. Bickhart replied that John Coukart's report states that the project has been re-advertised and the pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19 and the bid opening for Tuesday, April 26.

#### **COMMITTEE / COMMISSION / BOARD REPORTS:**

##### **FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE: C/P Inch, Chairman**

**Reconsideration of bill on the Streetscape Project from J. A. Coukart Associates in the amount of \$1,585** – C/P Inch reported that this \$1,585 bill does belong to the Borough. He has given Council a copy of the letters and documentation regarding this bill. The total Streetscape Project bills to the Borough now total \$11,181.43, as stated previously.

Motion by C/P Inch to include this bill and pay it. There was no second to this motion.

C/P Hetherington stated that this is \$6,000 over the originally estimated \$5,000. C/P Inch replied that Sheri stated that there was \$5,000 set aside under Community Acquisitions for engineering and the bills have gone over this. Mgr. Bickhart stated that some of this came out of prior budgets, as the total goes back over three budget years. C/P Hetherington stated that the figure of \$7,682 includes bills from January, February and March of this year.

**Payment and Ratification of Bills** – C/P Inch stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the bills and found everything to be in order.

Motion by C/P Kinney to pay the bills as presented including the \$1,585 bill from last month. Seconded by C/P Hetherington. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. - Exoneration Requests** – Mgr. Bickhart reported requests for exoneration from the following: Jeff Miller and Jennifer Miller for 1995 for \$5.50 each due to their being nonresidents; Larry Hogan for 2003 due to being deceased; William Hayes for 2004 due to being deceased.

Motion by C/P Hetherington for exoneration of these people. Seconded by C/P Kinney. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:**

**Market Street Enhancement Project / Streetscape Project – Report on Inspection and reimbursements to PennDOT** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that this was discussed last month and a question was raised about the inspection. A number of months ago he had submitted documentation in response to requests from PennDOT as far as who was going to do the local inspection; he had himself approved as the inspector on the project. Regarding reimbursements from PennDOT, Mgr. Bickhart reported he has not received an answer from PennDOT on whether there will be charges from PennDOT to the Borough on this project. It is his understanding that there will not be, but Council raised the question so it has been forwarded to PennDOT. C/P Kinney stated if there is any cost it will be taken care of by the Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce. C/P Inch agreed, stating that the traffic lights are the Borough's responsibility and the streetlights are the Chamber's responsibility. Pres. Mengel asked if there are any conflicts regarding Mgr. Bickhart being the engineer on the job and also doing the inspection. Mgr. Bickhart replied there is no conflict. He stated between Gary Klingler and himself, they will keep up with the inspections of the project. Coukart does not do the inspection work on the projects he designs so Gary usually does the inspections.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE: C/P Reuning, Chairman** – No Report

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION / PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: C/P Kinney, Chairman** – No Report

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: C/P Handlan, Chairwoman** – No Report

**PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: C/P Christine, Chairman**

**Review Revised Draft of Employee Manual** – No Report

**Consider new policy pertaining to health insurance for employees 65 years of age and older** – Mgr. Bickhart gave Council copies of the text of the draft for the medical insurance amendment to deal with employees age 65 and older. It is a relatively simple statement, paralleling the language in the statement that pertains to employees younger than age 65 and simply refers to the Signature 65 Plan with the prescription insurance option that was discussed with Christine Miller the other night. The only other issue that was discussed and which needs a recommendation is the issue of the deductible that pertains to changing plans in mid-year. Solicitor Cravitz reported on information that was faxed to him by the Borough Association, which states that the EEOC ruled on April 22, 2004 that different policies can be set up for people who reach age 65 based upon their Medicare eligibility. The Borough Association has the statutory authority to let the rules stand as presented. C/P Kinney stated that at the work session Plan I was discussed at approximately \$149 and Council talked about the fact that the employee may be taxed on that revenue as an income. Solicitor Cravitz stated he called two different accountants and they both said they would get back to him, but it is tax crunch time and they have not gotten back to him yet. C/P Kinney stated that if Medicare (Part D) is changing in January (to change the cap on prescription

coverage) up to \$2,500, then Council should look at that plan (Medi-Gap Plan I) rather than Plan J. There are six months at a difference of \$300 a month. If Medicare is changing and raising their allocation then Council should look at that plan. C/P Reuning stated that the new plan in January will replace Plan J for AARP members. It may be the same or different for Blue Shield. There is a \$250 deductible, which everybody has. C/P Inch asked if there was anything in writing from what was decided the other night. C/P Kinney stated there was no decision made. Mgr. Bickhart reported that two plans were discussed, Plan I and Plan J. C/P Kinney is referring to Plan I, which is what he has and which Council was told by their insurance broker is not available to the employer. It is only available to an individual. If Council would choose that option, the Borough could choose to reimburse the employee for his premium costs that he would have to pay, but then the employee may have to pay taxes on that money if it is determined to be income. The second part of the difference between Plan I and Plan J is the ceiling on the annual prescription benefits. The difference was almost equal to the difference in premium per month. Plan I has a maximum of \$1,250 and Plan J has a maximum of \$3,000. The difference between these maximums is just about equal to the total of the \$149 premium per person per month, which would be approximately \$300 per month for the employee. C/P Kinney stated that if Medicare will change the maximum from \$1,250 to \$2,500 in January there is a six-month window where the employee would not be covered. He asked if it would be better to self insure for medication during that six-month period and go with the \$149 premium. Between July and December the employee has a \$1,250 cap. If he goes over this cap the Borough could pick up the difference until January, when the new cap goes into effect. Solicitor Cravitz asked if this would be self insured for any amount or for a maximum amount of \$2,500. C/P Kinney stated there would have to be a cap put on it. He stated he is not opposed to any of the plans, but is looking at the cost factor. C/P Reuning stated that the employee would have to buy the prescriptions himself and if the Borough reimburses him he may have to pay taxes on that money. The same is true with the \$78.20 that is paid for Medicare B. Taxes are paid on that anyway, but it is only 85 percent or 50 percent, whichever the case may be. If the Borough pays the employee the \$78 he has to pay tax on that as income. He does not think this should be done. Pres. Mengel asked if, once the employee signs into one of these plans, the Borough can opt out of it at some point. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Christine Miller's advice was that it is not easy to change plans and in some cases it is impossible to change plans in mid-stream. C/P Reuning stated it is especially difficult if there is some type of medical condition that develops. Mgr. Bickhart stated that if Council puts (Medi-Gap) Plan J in place and something happens with (Medicare Part) D, Plan J should be changed accordingly and the Borough's policy will change on January 1, 2006. That is a change that is initiated by the company and he has no concerns about that. Changes initiated by the employee or the employer are much more difficult, and this continuation of coverage is a big issue. An employee who reaches the age of 65 cannot stay in the current plan and has to pick up a different plan. The employee has to make some decisions, some of which are set forever. Pres. Mengel stated that it was her initial suggestion last week to go with Plan I, but by the end of the evening she had swayed over to Plan J. C/P Kinney stated he is not set on either one, but is just wondering if it is worth the cost for the \$500 difference after January 1. What is now being said is that it is not 100 percent known that this will be the case and he does not want to play around with someone's insurance. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the employee is counting on a decision from Council tonight so that he can then sign up for the things that he needs to sign up for by a May 1 deadline. Pres. Mengel stated that she thinks Council needs to go with Plan J, and she also believes that the Borough should be picking up the additional \$500 deductible that the employee will incur until January 1. C/P Kinney stated he will support going with Plan J but he will not support picking up the additional deductible. C/P Inch agreed with C/P Kinney. C/P Handlan stated that she agrees with Pres. Mengel that the Borough should pay the additional deductible for the employee. C/P Hetherington asked what the cost of Plan J was and Pres. Mengel replied that it was \$300 as opposed to \$149 per person, making Plan J \$600 per month.

Motion by C/P Kinney to go with Plan J in Signature 65 to provide medical insurance to the employee who will be 65 and continue working. Seconded by C/P Inch. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion by C/P Handlan that in addition to Signature 65 Plan J the Borough also pay the additional \$500 deductible that the employee will have to assume. Seconded by Pres. Mengel.

C/P Inch asked if this will be done every year and Pres. Mengel replied this is a one-time situation. Mgr. Bickhart asked if the motion is specific to this employee or if the motion is to amend the Borough policy in the Employee Handbook. The difference is that the motion for the employee by himself would be subject to review on a case-by-base basis. If the motion is to put it in the Borough's policy handbook, then it applies across the board. C/P Handlan stated it is dependent on when an employee retires as to what additional deductible will be assessed, so this has to be a case-by-case basis. If it so happens with another employee then this does need to be in the Borough's policy that the deductible will be picked up for other employees who elect to work beyond age 65. C/P Kinney stated this is setting a precedent. Solicitor Cravitz stated that the policy covers a person who reaches retirement age but chooses not to retire and continues to work. The only reason why Council is in this predicament is that the Borough's coverage does not provide cover to a person who is retirement age but continues to work under the present insurance policy. C/P Reuning stated it should be done on an individual basis and the employee should apply for it as an individual. This could be stated in the Employee Handbook in that way. Pres. Mengel asked C/P Handlan if her motion is to include this in Borough policy. C/P Handlan stated that that is her intention.

Pres. Mengel called for a roll-call vote on the motion.

**AYES: TWO (2) – C/P Handlan; Pres. Mengel**  
**NAYS: FOUR (4) – C/P Hetherington; C/P Inch; C/P Kinney; C/P Reuning**  
**MOTION FAILED**

C/P Handlan asked if the Employee Handbook will be revised regarding the last sentence in the second paragraph. She asked if this is meant for everyone regardless of what plan they are in and is not just attached to the Signature 65. Mgr. Bickhart stated this sentence was added and perhaps it should be added to the first sentence of the first paragraph. There are so many other requirements associated with this and so many things the employee must do: He must sign up for Medicare Part A; he must take Medicare Part B; he must sign up for Social Security. These requirements were not put in specifically but it was added to the paragraph because of those additional requirements and it needed to be indicated that there was a special connection to someone 65 and older. C/P Inch asked about the next paragraph regarding vision and dental care. There is no additional cost for this, as it is a carryover from the group plan. Mgr. Bickhart agreed, stating that those group plans do not terminate at age 65; an employee can continue vision and dental coverage without any notice of change.

C/P Kinney asked if C/P Christine has gone over the Employee Handbook with the employees yet. Mgr. Bickhart stated that C/P Christine wanted Council to finish it first and then he would review it with the employees. C/P Christine is currently at Fort Dix and is hoping to be able to return.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: C/P Hetherington, Chairman – No Report**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LANDLORD ORDINANCE: Pres. Mengel, C/Ps Handlan and Kinney**

**Recommendation on Ordinance** – C/P Handlan stated she has a hard copy and would like it put on a disk so that she can black-line the document. Solicitor Cravitz stated he can have his secretary put it on a disk. C/P Handlan stated she still has to leave in everything she is taking out. She stated that the Committee needs to have one more meeting before this is presented to Council. She hopes to have it ready for the May meeting.

**PLANNING COMMISSION: Earl Moyer, Chairman – No Report**

**ZONING HEARING BOARD: Glen Rohrer, Chairman – No Report**

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Wilhelm Reuning, Acting Chairman** – Mgr. Bickhart stated that the Civil Service Commission did meet the end of last week and contacted a person to fill the vacancy and they are waiting for a response from that person.

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: Richard Norman, Chairman**

**Receipt of \$500 grant toward recreational equipment and supplies for the community playground from the Fern & Gladys Moyer Memorial Trust** – Mgr. Bickhart stated that this grant was received due to the efforts of Dick Norman, with the assistance of Sheri Badman.

**Report on meeting with DCNR concerning Regional Comprehensive Recreation Planning** – The following people introduced themselves and their relationship to Monroe Township: Luke Glick, Zoning Officer; Tim Wolfe, Supervisor; Matt Sauers, Gannett Fleming. C/P Handlan reported that a number of months ago, possibly in October, Council received a request from Monroe Township to submit a letter of recommendation that they could submit with their proposal. There was a meeting last week with representatives from Penn Township, Monroe Township, Selinsgrove and Shamokin Dam, along with two representatives from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, DCNR, from Harrisburg. Monroe Township had submitted a comprehensive recreation, parks and open space application to receive grant funding to develop a plan. DCNR is looking to do a regional comprehensive plan and is looking to the other three municipalities to piggyback Monroe Township's proposal. The benefit to the Borough would be the fact that the Borough would be in a better position going forward for any grant funds that the Borough would seek by working together regionally with the other entities. At the meeting it was noted that the costs would be shared among all the municipalities. The County Commissioners said that they could possibly assist each municipality with some money. The Borough's portion was about \$7,200 or \$7,500, and with the commissioners putting in \$5,000 on behalf of each municipality, this brings the Borough to a contribution of just under \$3,000.

Mgr. Bickhart has done some analysis and found that some of the costs could be reduced because the Borough has some of the necessary information already compiled. He stated that this is a fairly complicated agreement to join the four municipalities together and work toward a regional study. It is complex and there is very little time to make a decision. C/P Handlan stated that timing is everything and DCNR was looking for an answer tonight. Realistically that will not happen, so an extension has been obtained, although the timeline is still tight. She stated that she hopes Council will keep an open mind, as this is something that Selinsgrove can really benefit from. Mgr. Bickhart stated that he wanted to take the complex proposal for Monroe Township that lists various tasks and segments, because the scope of the study is defined in words, and he wanted to break it down to give Council individual bits and pieces. He has produced a spreadsheet with the proposal's descriptions listed in the left-hand column. The next column talks about reading the details of the proposal itself with the intent of explaining in a little bit more detail as far as what each task accomplishes. Then there is the cost estimate that was in the proposal as given to Monroe Township. After that, the proposal was revisited by the consultant and a combined cost for all four municipalities working together was identified, and that is what the next column is, the "Regional Plan Combined Costs." Those costs in Monroe's proposal were proportioned and inflated in the fashion of the new proposal. Then there was an assessment made by the consultant that they would be divided up among the four municipalities, with the relative proportions being 30 percent Monroe Township, 30 percent Penn Township, 20 percent Selinsgrove Borough and 20 percent Shamokin Dam. These percentages were applied so that Council can see the relative costs. Mgr. Bickhart was trying to figure out what Selinsgrove's proportional share of that proposal was by breaking it down into various tasks. It is his opinion that all the tasks do not need to be accomplished. Each of the municipalities is in a different position relative to where they are in comprehensive planning. Of the four, Selinsgrove is the most advanced in the facilities that they have, the plans that they have, and the agencies that they have that have been taking care of these kinds of considerations for decades. For this reason, Selinsgrove's needs are relatively low compared to the needs of a municipality such as Penn Township, who has some facilities but has planned well beyond what they currently have. They have large plans, as does Monroe Township. Penn Township has gone through a process with a consultant and has some comprehensive planning done, but it is not a totally completed study at this point in time. Mgr. Bickhart has gone through the scope of work and injected his comments in terms of the elements that Selinsgrove could do on its own, the elements that are not needed at all, and the elements of the plan that Selinsgrove would definitely profit from, some more than others. One of the most notable things that Selinsgrove would gain by participating in this comprehensive study includes the mechanism that exists in DCNR's life. DCNR

needs municipalities to work regionally. If municipalities do so they are held in higher regard and in a priority rating system with points associated with projects submitted that are in compliance with a regional comprehensive plan. The game as it is played today is such that projects need to be considered regionally, then each of the municipalities following that plan would submit proposals over time for development projects and to develop facilities that are consistent with this regional plan. Some of the other benefits to Selinsgrove are that it would allow them to delineate all the current facilities in a list. The consultants would assist Selinsgrove in making sure that they have facilities that were appropriate to all ages and abilities; that the facilities were consistent with ADA requirements and consistent with product safety reviews; that the risks associated with having the playgrounds are considered and there are programs in place to evaluate some of these risks that go along with having a playground. At the end of the comprehensive planning study there will be a listing of future facilities that the region needs and an identification of where in the region it would be best to position these facilities. That is the heart of this plan, locating the facilities inside the region to its best advantage. Then the municipalities or the multi-municipal entity can work toward developing those programs consistent with a plan. For instance, each municipality does not need a swimming pool, each one does not need a skating rink, and each one does not need a skateboard park. This is a relatively homogeneous, fairly closely oriented set of four municipalities and Selinsgrove could benefit from this analysis. The first cut that Mgr. Bickhart has done is a somewhat educated guess, projecting to take the overall costs and to reduce the \$17,840 cost down to a \$12,259 cost. Half of those costs would be borne by DCNR. The \$5,000 that was offered to each municipality by the county is subtracted off and so Selinsgrove is looking at a maximum of \$3,920 to participate in this multi-municipal plan as it was configured by the consultant. This cost may be reduced to \$1,000 or \$2,000 by modifying the scope to reflect the kinds of things that Selinsgrove needs to have done and by submitting some of the documentation to the consultant from incorporation of data that already exists. Another benefit of this plan is that it would allow a paid consultant to assist Selinsgrove in trying to look for links between various groups that exist in the community. There are many groups such as the Parks and Recreation Commission, Kidsgrove, Selinsgrove Area Recreation, Inc. which runs the swimming pool, Selinsgrove Area Youth Foundation which deals with recreational facilities in the whole region, the Selinsgrove Rotary with the Rotary field, the Little League field and the adjacent soccer fields, the Selinsgrove Area School District with a tremendous asset of recreational facilities, and Susquehanna University with an extensive set of recreational facilities, some of which have been recently constructed. One of the objectives of the plan is to look for ways to link all of those facilities together so that no more are built if they do not need to be built. If a way can be found to better use what already exists, Selinsgrove can avoid capital expenditures for constructing facilities that could just as easily be part of a well-thought-out plan of partnerships and interrelationship with the entities, even inside the Borough of Selinsgrove. This same philosophy could be extended to some degree outside the Borough of Selinsgrove into the region and that is what this plan is all about. Mgr. Bickhart suggested that Council have a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission. He spoke with Dick Norman today, who suggested Wednesday, April 20 at 7:00 P.M. This discussion could result in a recommendation for a final decision by Council at the May meeting. DCNR is looking for a signed agreement indicating joint participation with the other entities toward the completion of a multi-municipal comprehensive planning effort at a defined level of financial contribution from Selinsgrove, Shamokin Dam and Penn Township. In the meantime, Council needs to verify if the County does in fact have \$5,000 to put toward the plan, and the scope of the work needs to be discussed with the Commission and DCNR and Gannett Fleming to make sure that Selinsgrove is on the right track with the correct assessment of what the cost would be for a scope of study that would be somewhat different than the scope of study that was presented to Monroe Township. Mgr. Bickhart stated that he expects that Penn Township and Shamokin Dam are going through the same process, and he encourages them to do the same process because they are just as different from Monroe Township as Selinsgrove is and each municipality is different from each other one. Mgr. Bickhart has forwarded his spreadsheets, minus the last two columns, to Shamokin Dam and Penn Township so they can also understand what is in the scope of study, what the details are regarding each activity, and what the costs are as they have been apportioned right now.

Luke Glick stated that Penn Township has done a lot of planning with a consultant and wants to look at what they already have in place and will use some of the cost of that to offset their match, using in-kind money. The same thing can be done with Selinsgrove and Shamokin Dam. There is no need for Monroe Township to duplicate something that has already been done and they do not want to spend money that

has already been spent. There is some time to get together with Gannett Fleming to see what is in place. The whole process started just recently and has been evolving as it goes. Hopefully a way will be figured out for everyone to work together. Matt Sauers from Gannett Fleming gave Mgr. Bickhart a revised cost with the (Other Direct Costs) ODCs rolled in. He stated that the figure of \$3,920 presented by Mgr. Bickhart would actually be \$3,625. C/P Kinney wondered why the County is giving the municipalities \$5,000. Luke Glick stated that he is hoping that the commissioners are recognizing the importance of recreation in the municipalities and in the county and are also recognizing the value of regional planning. C/P Kinney stated he is 100 percent behind regional planning on a lot of things, such as police departments and fire departments. He stated that he hopes this is a way to build up trust between the municipalities in their working together. C/P Reuning stated he feels the same way.

Mgr. Bickhart reported that he wanted to make sure that everyone understands that this is not Monroe Township's doing. Monroe Township very innocently started the process by submitting an application to do comprehensive planning for the township. It is DCNR's initiative to look at things regionally. This will happen all the time when anybody does this because this is the way that planning is now done. Monroe Township has been patient in allowing this situation to progress and has made every effort to make it as easy as possible for the other municipalities to participate in this in a very short period of time. This does not do anything to Monroe Township except make sure that they are part of a regional plan. It does not change their cost outlay. The beneficial contribution from the commissioners helps everyone. Selinsgrove started out by trying to support Monroe Township's efforts and then the game got changed on everyone. C/P Handlan stated it is a small price to pay for some great benefits that will result from the process. Pres. Mengel asked what costs there are beyond those already stated. C/P Handlan stated there would be the cost of any projects for which Selinsgrove would submit grant applications. Mgr. Bickhart stated that this generates the overall plan of what kinds of things Selinsgrove should have, when they should think about doing them, where they should be placed, making present things better, and possibly taking some things that Selinsgrove has and deleting them. It may be decided that a facility that Selinsgrove has would be better located in another municipality, so Selinsgrove would not put any more enhancement into their facility in its present location. This process sets the framework in place. Selinsgrove has a swimming pool with some serious upcoming money needs. DCNR is the agency that Selinsgrove would apply to for those funds. The swimming pool projects in the future need to be part of this comprehensive plan. This is a perfect example of how this plan works, because the swimming pool is already a regional facility. It is in the Borough and is called the Selinsgrove pool, but it does not just serve the Borough. The only other pools in Snyder County are the Country Club, Middleburg and McClure pools, and the indoor pool at Susquehanna University. Council needs to make sure that the pool is considered in the regional planning as an existing facility that needs renovations.

C/P Inch stated that he would like some more information. Selinsgrove has done these things alone for so long and, while he can see the advantages of regional planning in such things as police and fire departments, he would like to know what the final costs will be and whether the \$5,000 will actually come from the county. He stated if a vote were taken at this point that he is not quite sure where he stands. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Council has not gotten enough information to this point to take a vote tonight. He stated a vote is not expected from Council tonight. C/P Handlan stated that this is why an extension has been obtained. Mgr. Bickhart stated tonight's opportunity was just for Council to learn what his thoughts are and to meet Luke Glick, Tim Wolfe and Matt Sauers and to learn what their thoughts are on this effort. Another meeting needs to be held with the Parks and Recreation Commission. It might be a good idea to invite someone from the Selinsgrove Area Youth Foundation and someone from the pool also because those are outlying entities as well. This would continue the joint effort from the first meeting among Council. The results of this meeting should be a recommendation back to Council in terms of how and to what degree Selinsgrove should participate in this. Council is currently waiting for an answer from the county commissioners. C/P Kinney stated he thought he saw an article in the paper stating that the commissioners were going to give each of the municipalities \$5,000. Pres. Mengel stated that she does not see that, once Council enters into this initial stage, they would want to opt out at any point, but they may. She asked if this would be an option. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the agreement that is being looked at would commit to finishing the comprehensive planning effort. After that there is nothing defined. The comprehensive planning effort would speak to ways to organize the four municipalities to work beyond that if necessary. This is a part of the comprehensive planning process. C/P Handlan stated that this

called for a representative of each of the municipalities to form a group to continue on and meet several times a year. C/P Kinney asked if, rather than meeting on April 20, the various commissions should get together to come up with a recommendation back to Council. He stated Council does not know what their needs are or what they want, and he is wondering if Parks and Recreation will be able to answer for all the rest. He thinks that to speed this up the other commissions need to meet to come back with recommendations for Council to go over. C/P Handlan stated they could all be part of the April 20 meeting. Mgr. Bickhart stated it was his suggestion that Council meet jointly with the Commission and some of the outlying agencies that may have something to offer. The recommendation to Council should come from a committee of Council or be made by Council at the next meeting. Council could recess to that meeting and it would not have to be advertised. All Council members could be present for deliberation on recommendations and invite the other agencies to participate also. In answer to a question from C/P Inch, C/P Handlan stated that the extension that has been obtained runs to May 18. Luke Glick stated this was extended to give all the municipalities at least two meetings to consider the agreement. Pres. Mengel asked what happens if one municipality does not participate. Mr. Glick replied that for everybody that drops out, the cost to the remaining participants will go up but the process could continue. Monroe Township will do this by themselves if no one else participates, so anyone else who participates will be a benefit to Monroe Township. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the change in the scope of study and the costs, when it went from just a proposal for Monroe Township to a multi-municipal study involving four municipalities, was a tripling of the price. That tripled price was distributed 30/30/20/20 among the two townships and the two boroughs. Since the price was tripled and Monroe Township's cost is 30 percent, their price is about the same as it was to begin with. If this were a three-municipality comprehensive plan the cost would be scaled back somewhat and the unit cost may not increase that much and maybe not at all. The level of work was multiplied by four times and the price went up three times so there is some economy of scale which works both ways, up and down. With two municipalities there might be more of a difference. C/P Handlan stated that she had some reservations when she first heard about this due to the fact that the Borough of Selinsgrove is small and it is landlocked. Selinsgrove has been successful in a lot of its projects, but going forward things will change and because of the way things are scored on the grant applications, the Borough may not be as fortunate as they have been in the past. This program will make things that much easier for Selinsgrove to secure future funds and there are some costs coming up, including some big costs with the pool. The cost to participate in the regional plan is a small price to pay for this. Mgr. Bickhart stated Selinsgrove has a lot to gain from the parts of the study that pertain to just Selinsgrove Borough. He feels positive about the benefits that Selinsgrove will realize, from how to better analyze our facilities, how to make sure that there are no unnecessary risks or exposures, addressing handicapped accessibility, evaluating safety and making routine inspections. These are things that are asked about every year when the insurance company comes to reevaluate the liability insurance. They ask what programs are in place, when the facilities have been last inspected, etc. The Borough's answers to those questions are very weak. This will make the answers to those questions correct and as strong as they need to be. Pres. Mengel asked who will be responsible for the liability. For instance, the swimming pool is the regional pool in the area. Is Selinsgrove still responsible for it or is it the regional facility? Tim Wolfe answered this by stating that a LARA (Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority)-type deal is not being proposed. Each municipality is pretty much still on its own. What this does is open the door for the municipalities to receive grants of up to 50 percent plus in-kind (service credits). This is tough to get nowadays unless the municipality has direct comp plans. The municipalities are divided by corporate borders. Years ago a project of a township pool was brought up and he could not see any reason why there should be two pools in an area this size. The municipalities share the same facilities now and the funds can be channeled into improving what already exists rather than duplicating services. C/P Inch stated that he read that areas that regionalize get better grants. Tim Wolfe stated that the McClure area has been very successful with this. Matt Sauers stated that DCNR has told Gannett Fleming that the grants will be much better. Luke Glick stated that when a grant application is filled out there is a score sheet right in it. There are points for different things and 20 points of that is having a plan. If an application with a plan is being scored against one without a plan, the one without a plan does not have a chance until all the grants that have plans get funded. If there is anything left over then an application without a plan may get some funding, but that is unlikely. DCNR has a big emphasis on planning right now and it is one of the major things they are looking for in the grant applications. They want to know that they are putting their money where it will do the most good.

C/P Inch stated he has been to the McClure Rec Center and he was amazed that they could get that kind of money for that area. He knows there are some big local contributors involved, though, also.

Pres. Mengel suggested that this meeting recess until April 20 at 7:00 p.m. and the other groups and organizations will be invited to come to that meeting. Mgr. Bickhart stated that he has approved the date with Dick Norman to have the Parks and Recreation Commission meet with Council that night. Some other entities can also be invited to attend if they are available.

Motion by C/P Kinney to recess the meeting until April 20 at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by C/P Inch. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)                      NAYS: NONE                      MOTION CARRIED**

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION: Mark Vergauwen, Chairman**

**Appoint Karl Maul, 203 Magnolia Avenue, for an initial term of one year, followed by a full term of 5 years, to expire in January of 2011** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that Karl Maul is a person who works for the Bureau of Forestry. He lives on Magnolia Avenue raising a family there and has been working with the Shade Tree Commission for almost a year now. He was found when they made inquiries about grants and programs and he has been coming ever since.

Motion by C/P Kinney to appoint Karl Maul to the one-year term of the Shade Tree Commission. Seconded by C/P Inch. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)                      NAYS: NONE                      MOTION CARRIED**

C/P Handlan stated that the motion ended with a one-year term. C/P Kinney stated Council cannot go any further than that. Solicitor Cravitz stated the terms need to be staggered. C/P Kinney stated that after Karl Maul's term expires he can then be reappointed for a five-year term.

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**MAYOR: Garry Beaver** – Mayor Beaver asked if Council has made a decision yet on the former Trust building. The sooner the police department can get started, if they are given the building, the better off they will be. C/P Kinney asked what the bank left in the building. Mgr. Bickhart replied that they left all the shelving and several very nice desks. None of the metal shelving is left in the basement and the dehumidifier is no longer there. Mayor Beaver stated the Borough definitely needs to purchase a dehumidifier if there is none there regardless of who uses the building. Pres. Mengel stated that it is her opinion that that is where the police department should be going.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to use the former Trust building for the Selinsgrove Borough Police Department. Seconded by C/P Reuning. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)                      NAYS: NONE                      MOTION CARRIED**

C/P Handlan asked if Council is including the possibility of anything else moving into that building. Mayor Beaver replied that the police department will need the entire building. Pres. Mengel stated according to Chief Garlock's plan, he has utilized the entire building. C/P Handlan stated she does not remember seeing this plan in her packet from the last meeting, which she was unable to attend. C/P Hetherington asked if it would be possible for the Borough employees to construct a security wall such as what Chief Garlock wants. He stated there is \$10,000 allotted to the building. Mayor Beaver then stated that there is actually \$13,000 because the police department had set aside \$3,000 to remodel downstairs. Since this will not be done this money can be used in the former Trust building. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the security wall that Chief Garlock is talking about is actually a metal, bulletproof doorway with bulletproof glass and a counter. Most of this will come prefabricated and it is just a matter of installing it. The Borough employees may be able to do this. C/P Kinney stated the busy time of year is coming up for the

Borough employees and they are stretched pretty thin. He would like to have a contractor come in and get it done. Pres. Mengel stated the price would probably include installation. C/P Inch stated there are security alarms available to be installed with it. C/P Hetherington stated the police should be moved into their new building as soon as possible. Mgr. Bickhart stated he will get prices right away for the initial renovations and the building could be painted while it is empty. The police department, when talking about renovating downstairs, was talking about doing it themselves so they may be willing to do some work in their new building. C/P Kinney stated the police department will be short one person for the summer months and he would prefer the Borough get a contractor to come in and do the job and get it done and get the police moved into the building. Mgr. Bickhart stated he will work with Chief Garlock to get a list completed of the things they want to do, he will get prices, and he will bring that information back to Council. Mayor Beaver stated the engineer, upon touring the building, suggested putting in a metal basement staircase with an exterior door so that there is a dual exit from the basement. There is currently only an interior door. Mgr. Bickhart stated that was suggested only if there was a proposed use in the basement that would require a second exit from that space under the building codes, such as a space to which the public would be taken. Storage would not require that.

C/P Hetherington suggested having a work session to decide what will be done with the Borough building in regards to the library. He stated it is cheaper for the Borough offices to stay in the building than it would be to put an addition on next door and move into that. C/P Handlan asked if Council is waiting for the library board to come back with their three different plans, one of which was to try to locate the Borough offices out of the building if the library wanted to use the entire building. C/P Hetherington stated because it is a county library, the county commissioners should also be involved. C/P Kinney stated the commissioners are involved through the representation of Ed Mihalik on the library board. C/P Kinney suggested on his own that the library board look at adding an addition onto the building, building a stand-alone building in the lot, or taking over the entire Borough building and relocating the Borough offices, all of which would be at the library's expense. The library board replied by stating that they cannot raise money to build a Borough building when it is actually for the library. C/P Kinney told them they just do not say that because that is part of the cost of building the library, but the library board is blaming Council for holding them up because Council does not know what it wants to do. Mayor Beaver stated the library should build new Borough offices and take over the present building. C/P Kinney stated that this should be done only if the present building would suit the library's needs. The library is trying to find a building where they can have a central station to cut down on steps and so they can see the majority of the area and not have to have several extra employees. They are still in the studying phase and have to do surveys on what the public wants and does not want. C/P Reuning stated they have to do a needs assessment and then will have to come up with funds and then see what facilities are available for building a building that has what they need. C/P Kinney stated the current Borough building will need some work within the next couple of years. The windows are all framed and they are all shot and leak like a sieve. The termites are coming through the front door and it is now showing on the inside. Someone will have to pay for some renovations to this building in the near future.

Pres. Mengel stated that before the meeting recesses tonight she would like to have a short executive session regarding the property issues in town.

#### **BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Robert Cravitz**

**Adopt Ordinance # 737 Pertaining to Revisions to the Requirements of the Property Maintenance Code for Smoke Detectors** – Solicitor Cravitz reported that this Ordinance will bring the Property Maintenance Code into compliance with the state regulations with regard to smoke alarm stations. The way the Code reads now, in the Group R residential occupancies and buildings not regulated as Group R occupancies, single station smoke alarms shall get their primary power from the building wiring system. This means that all smoke alarms must be hardwired into the main wiring system. This Ordinance will include an exception to that requirement, where it will be permitted to allow battery-operated smoke alarms in buildings where no construction has taken place and buildings are not served as a commercial power source and existing buildings that are undergoing alterations and repairs. This means that the Code will allow properties to have battery-operated smoke alarms in areas now that are not under construction. In 704.4, Interconnections, it says that if there is more than one smoke alarm in a building

they should be hard-wired together so that if there is a fire in one part of the building it will set the smoke alarms off in all the rooms that have them, enabling everyone to get out at the same time. The Code is saying that interconnections would not be required in buildings that are not undergoing alterations, repair or construction of any kind. This will bring the Borough into state-wide compliance. C/P Reuning asked if legislation passed modifying those rules and Mgr. Bickhart and Solicitor Cravitz replied that this Ordinance is in response to that change.

Motion by C/P Kinney to adopt Ordinance # 737. Seconded by C/P Inch. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BOROUGH ENGINEER: J. A. Coukart & Associates**

**South Tributary Interceptor and Sanitary Sewage Metering Project – No bids received. Project being re-bid without changes** – Mgr. Bickhart stated that John Coukart reports that due to simultaneous bidding that was going on for a \$5 million project in Lycoming County, there was only one contractor who picked up a copy of the bid document and no bids were received. Coukart has rescheduled it, re-advertised it, and it will be re-bid after it is known who loses from the Lycoming County bid. Mgr. Bickhart spoke to a couple contractors and this is exactly what they told him; that they were not interested in bidding because they already had a fair amount of work contracted that they needed to complete and because they had a proposal in for a much larger project. If they were awarded the bid on that contract they would be done for the year. Those contractors who do not get the larger project will be looking for more, smaller projects. This is the same circumstance that ESCRA found themselves in a year or so ago when they put a bid out and got no bidders. C/P Kinney asked if there is a current, up-to-date estimated cost on this project. Mgr. Bickhart replied there is none.

**Curb/Steel Plate Installation on Eighth Street Project – Identification of Other Contractors – No Report** – Mgr. Bickhart will remind Coukart of this issue.

**University Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that this project is under final design and will be ready for bidding soon.

**2005 Street and Alley Project** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that updated estimates on the costs of the items that were included in the 2005 street program are now listed for Council. He added these costs to the sheet that is typically used to keep track of capital improvement programs, and in discussing this with Sheri, all of the projects will be funded out of the liquid fuels fund and there are adequate funds to pay for these projects. C/P Kinney stated he thought there was a surplus of about \$40,000. Mgr. Bickhart replied that there will still be a surplus as they are not spending down all of their funds. They are proposing to complete down to S6 on the list of roads and streets. They are all marked with 2005 in brackets in the left column. It is also planned to do A1 at the bottom of the list, which is also noted as 2005. This is Union Alley, Pine and Chestnut Street.

C/P Hetherington stated he saw there was some patching done on Broad Street in different places. C/P Kinney stated he understood there was a problem with a manhole on Broad Street. Mgr. Bickhart replied that the rim apparently broke and the cover came out and the Borough employees were working on it today. This was not a result of flooding. C/P Kinney stated he understood some damage was done to someone's vehicle transmission. Mgr. Bickhart stated the manhole cover is not seated correctly when the rim is broken and as vehicles drive over it it flips. This was pretty dangerous for a while.

C/P Kinney asked if there were any problems with the flooding over on the Isle of Que. Mgr. Bickhart replied that actually there were no problems. Snyder County Emergency Communications had a meeting at 10:00 Sunday morning to review what was expected. Based upon those expectations people on the Isle of Que were advised via flyers passed out by the police department. The reports had been that this would be worse than the flooding with Ivan, and this was true if you were above the juncture of the North branch and the West branch, but the West branch had relatively little floodwaters and Selinsgrove gets

the combination of the two. There was water on Front Street just a little bit north of the boat launch. There was no water in the intersections of Second and Walnut, Second and Bough, Second and Chestnut, and Chestnut at the river alley, which are the four low intersections that back up from the river. It did not come out on the streets there. Mgr. Bickhart stated that if the river had been at the projected height of over 27 feet, it would have ranked as the fifth highest flood on record and Selinsgrove would have had the fifth and the fourth highest floods on record inside of six months.

**BOROUGH TREASURER: Sharon Badman**

**Review Treasurer's Report for March 2005** - Pres. Mengel asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's report. Hearing none, she stated that it is on file for audit.

**BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY / ZONING OFFICER: Mgr. Bickhart**

**Non-Police Matter Suggestions Update** – The second item on the list is the only new item. It is regarding complaints about dogs on North High Street. There are no Ordinances limiting the number of dogs that a person can have but Mgr. Bickhart is looking into whether any of these things would constitute a Code violation under the Property Maintenance Code. He stated he does not think that they will so he does not know that there will be much response. The last one is actually a tenant on a rental property.

**Status Report on Mary Searer property, 700 Orange Street concerning Violation Notice and Declaration of Property Unfit for Human Habitation** – No update on this issue. Mgr. Bickhart has spoken with Tom Sauers, who promised to get him an update. Nothing has been done on this since the winter.

**Update of PROPERTY TRANSFERS and BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED, Janet Powers, Deputy Zoning and Permit Officer** – Copy provided to Council.

**Update on Request for Banking Service Proposals** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that proposals were received from all the local banks. These proposals have been reviewed with the Finance and Budget Committee. The conclusion is that there does not appear to be any benefit toward developing a full banking relationship with a particular bank at this time. It is the Committee's recommendation to stay with the way things have been for the foreseeable future until circumstances would change. C/P Kinney stated this was gone through before M&T Bank was M&T Bank and the same conclusion was reached at that time. Mgr. Bickhart stated he and Sheri have worked to put together a more complicated request for proposals. Based upon the discussions with the banks they did learn a few things. The banks did give some good suggestions in terms of diversifying investments in different terms. Mgr. Bickhart and Sheri have taken a look at how long it would be until certain funds were needed and they have programmed out three-month investments, six-month investments, nine-month investments, and one-year investments. These have been broken down among the various funds where the money has to be kept separate and this will be given to the banks to get more complicated proposals that should result in the Borough having a better strategy to invest the funds. It should also result in better income but without leaving the Borough strapped. The instruments have to be turned over on a regular basis so liquid funds are always available. There was a pretty strong recommendation to look beyond six months at this point in time but not to look past a year. Because it is a little bit different than what has been done in the past, the rates will be shared with Council before anything is done. For varied reasons, a banking relationship does not do as well as the Borough can do on its own in this regard. C/P Kinney stated this gives the Borough more flexibility due to the competition. C/P Inch stated there was a concern regarding fees and it was discovered that the Borough may do better on its own without having to pay those fees. Pres. Mengel stated M&T has a nice 3 percent rate of return for a one-year investment, although she does not know whether that is just for individuals or not. C/P Kinney stated the Borough is paying a fee for the collection of the water and sewer bills. Pres. Mengel asked if people are being encouraged to come into the office to pay those bills. C/P Inch stated there is a discussion to move as much of those collections into the Borough office as possible, letting Sheri collect those fees. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Sheri pointed out that the one thing that would keep the Borough from doing this now is that there are a number of preprinted forms that indicate that people can pay at different banks. When the form supply is low this will

be reevaluated in terms of whether this information will be omitted from the new forms. C/P Handlan stated this does need to be reconsidered. C/P Kinney stated depending on how many forms the Borough has, it may cost less to order new forms that to continue to pay the banks' fees. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the forms should run out sometime next year. It is not an Ordinance issue so there is no encumbrance; it is just whether the Borough offers that or not. C/P Inch stated the information of where to pay could be printed on the bottom of the bills when they are sent out.

**Reject all bids received on the Recycling Center Site Improvements Project of February 2005 –**

Mgr. Bickhart reported that Janet sent out bid documents and based upon the estimates that she had she expected the total cost to be under the \$25,000 limitation for prevailing wages. They were not; they exceeded that limitation so those bids that were received need to be rejected. It needs to be re-bid and in the process of re-bidding there will be reconsideration of what is bid and how to try to not pay any more prevailing wage than necessary.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to reject all the bids received on the Recycling Center Site Improvements Project. Seconded by C/P Reuning. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Award contract to M&E Construction for sidewalk and curb construction under CDBG Program –**

Mgr. Bickhart reported that M&E Construction was the low bidder at the same unit cost that was submitted last year.

Motion by C/P Kinney to award the contract for sidewalk and curb construction under the CDBG Program to M&E Construction. Seconded by C/P Inch. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

C/P Kinney asked if there are any to be done and Mgr. Bickhart replied there probably will not be any this year because the Borough is not doing over any streets in the 2005 street program so there will not be any curbing done. C/P Hetherington asked about the property on South Market Street right before Chuck's Sports Bar. The property is off of Market Street but there is no sidewalk on Market Street. Mgr. Bickhart stated they are on the list for Phase 2.

Mayor Beaver asked if anything can be done with the abandoned property catty-corner from the Loving Care Nursing Home. He said it is really an eyesore and a rat trap, and as far as he knows there is no floor on the first floor. Mgr. Bickhart replied that something can be done with this. Mayor Beaver stated Council would probably have to condemn the building and take it over and tear it down, all of which would be done at the Borough's expense. C/P Kinney stated that Rathfon donated the building to one of his employees. Mgr. Bickhart stated he has spoken with this person, who lives in Port Trevorton, a couple of times and he is trying to sell it, but nobody wants to buy it. Pres. Mengel stated that there are a lot of properties in the Borough that are getting very junky again as far as junk in the yards. C/P Kinney stated he has gotten complaints about junk cars parked all over Selinsgrove. There is a property on South Market Street that has a lot of junk cars in the back yard. He also got a complaint on Ken Smith's property and another complaint on another property. C/P Hetherington stated there is also one where you turn to go down to the compost site with no license plate on it. Mgr. Bickhart stated this falls under the new Property Maintenance Code. Pres. Mengel stated that Council members need to get the addresses of properties that have complaints on them to Mgr. Bickhart so that he can send out letters. C/P Kinney asked if the Borough can enforce getting rid of junk cars on private property because this was a debate that went on ten years ago. Solicitor Cravitz stated if the vehicles are registered and operational they cannot be gotten rid of, but if they are not registered and their wheels are off or whatever, the property owners can be required to remove them. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the Property Maintenance Code superseded what was written for junk vehicles, which stated that there had to be some other hazard going on because of the way the Ordinance was written. This requirement does not exist in the Property Maintenance Code. If the vehicle is abandoned it has to go or be put in a garage. C/P Kinney asked if it has to be in a garage or just under cover, as the police department has suggested to people that they buy

a tarp or a blanket to put over the vehicle. Mgr. Bickhart replied the new Code requires that the vehicles be put in a garage. C/P Kinney stated that people need to be notified that the Borough is going to begin enforcing this Ordinance vigorously. Mayor Beaver stated that sometimes in the past people would say they were restoring the vehicles and the nothing could be done. Mgr. Bickhart stated this is in the Borough newsletter and it will be bolded, at C/P Kinney's suggestion.

**Notice concerning receipt of additional \$34,932 Recycling Development and Implementation Grant from DEP** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that the initial grant was submitted but it did not include some things. Janet submitted a supplemental grant and that is what this is. There is a third grant being submitted for the things that the Borough has come to learn about beyond this. This all goes toward the recycling center, including the roll-offs, the construction of the pad, etc. C/P Inch stated that he asked Sheri if she could be more detailed as far as what was spent and what money has been received. Mgr. Bickhart stated the grant receipt was based upon estimates and then the bids will be put together and the Council will get the total. Pres. Mengel stated Janet needs approval to proceed to get the bids right now.

Motion by C/P Kinney to grant Janet permission to proceed with getting bids for the additional expenditures for the recycling site. Seconded by C/P Hetherington. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Conditional Use request for Penn Township Municipal Authority for construction of Booster Pumping Station within Selinsgrove Reservoir property** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that Penn Township Municipal Authority has proposed putting a pumping facility at the Borough reservoir site inside the land that the Borough Municipal Authority owns. Penn Township has plans that the Borough has looked at. It is to the point that Penn Township is looking for a Zoning Building Permit and this is a conditional use under the Borough Ordinance in that zone so it requires it to be presented to Borough Council with an opportunity to impose any conditions that Council may have concerning the proposal. C/P Kinney stated the Borough Authority has already agreed to this. C/P Hetherington stated that if there are any damages Penn Township will pay for them and Mgr. Bickhart agreed, saying that that has been the understanding all along.

Motion by C/P Kinney to grant a conditional use approval to the Penn Township Municipal Authority for the construction of a booster pumping station in the Selinsgrove reservoir property. Seconded by C/P Hetherington. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

C/P Kinney stated this will give Penn Township the ability to use the fire hydrants in Breezewood and some of the other places. It is also their second source of backup and it will be a revenue-maker for the Borough. Mgr. Bickhart stated it is very encouraging to learn that Penn Township is proceeding on with the booster station because any time that it is used it leads directly to the Borough of Selinsgrove, so Penn Township will not just build it and let it sit there. It is a very good thing for the Borough to see that Penn Township and the Borough have been cooperating in putting this facility together to their mutual benefit because Penn Township gets the backup of the Borough's wells and the Borough gets the revenue from providing water to the township. It is still being discussed as to whether or not this translates into Selinsgrove Center. There is a lot of legislative support to try to get the state to back off of their proposal to drill new wells and develop their system at the Selinsgrove Center on their own as opposed to utilizing the facilities that the Borough has and has cooperatively worked to provide.

**JAG application submitted with Agreement with Snyder County for 50/50 split of \$10,460 allocation for 2005** – Mgr. Bickhart reported he made the application for what was previously known as the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants. Last year the Borough was ineligible. This year they are eligible again for a grant which is now called a JAG grant. The Borough has applied for \$10,460 in a 50/50 split with the county commissioners. C/P Kinney stated that Chief Garlock talked about this several months ago and C/P Kinney thought the chief said it was no longer a split; that it would all go to the

Borough. Mgr. Bickhart stated it could be the Borough's but the county is entitled to half if they choose to have it.

**Review Draft of Borough Newsletter for April 2005** – Mgr. Bickhart asked Council to see Sheri with their comments on the newsletter by the end of the week. C/P Handlan stated in Dos and Don'ts in the last sentence in No. 1 it says something about drilling "two or three small hoes", which should be "holes". She stated there is another typo where "weeks" should be "weeds". She also stated the title should be cleaned up for consistency. C/P Hetherington stated Sheri should be given Council's thanks for doing this.

C/P Handlan asked how the reception is going to the new recycling facility. Mgr. Bickhart says it is tremendous and the public loves it. It is a little more walking and a little more stressful for the public, but they like the fact that they do not have to worry about whether it is Thursday or Saturday; they can bring all their recyclables either time. Gary Klingler is actually thinking about leaving the facility unsupervised. Originally two or three people were used for the prior form of recycling. This was reduced to one person and now Gary is thinking that that one person has so little to do that he may try to do it unsupervised. C/P Kinney stated he was down and had everything unloaded before the person, not a Borough employee, got out to where he could help him because the person moved so slowly. C/P Reuning stated he had tied his newspapers and no one told him he was not to do that. C/P Handlan stated this is in the newsletter now. Mgr. Bickhart stated this is something that is new to Cocolamus that did not exist with the last person it was taken to. He reported that the curbside recycling went very well and it takes almost no time to do. All of the predictions in terms of labor saving and cost saving are turning out to be true. The Borough was just told that the Lycoming Landfill will provide the Borough with hauls for free so that the cost estimates are better than thought because the Borough will not be paying for the pulls for the disposal of the recyclables. Lycoming will come and get them without cost to the Borough. By taking the steps of getting the roll-offs and increasing the number of areas that the roll-offs serve, Lycoming stepped up and said they would add a truck and a driver and would take care of the pulls, which they are doing. C/P Kinney stated they did that initially, then they stopped and could not do it because it was not part of a grant or something. He stated he does not know how they can provide service to a private enterprise to do the chipping and they could not do pulls for the Borough. He stated the chipper would be taken to a private enterprise before coming to the Borough sometimes, so the Borough had to wait until they are done with the private enterprises. He stated one year of grant money was used to buy the chipper initially, so the Borough is part owner of the chipper and receives a better rate.

**Reminder that the Statements of Financial Interest are to be completed and returned to the Borough Office before May 1, 2005** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that he still needs C/P Kinney's statement. C/P Kinney stated he turned in the copy that he had to give the county, but he still needs to do the other one.

**SELINGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY** – No Report

**EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY** – No Report

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS** – C/P Reuning reported that next Council meeting he will be in Ireland.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Beaver thanked Council for giving the police department the opportunity to move into the former Trust building. He stated that is the smartest thing Council has ever done.

#### **OTHERS**

**Mgr. Bickhart:**

**Library Break-In** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that the library was broken into Friday night or early Saturday morning. The culprit smashed one of the thermopane windows on the north side of the building.

Estimates show that it will be between \$258 and \$290 to repair the window. An insurance claim will not be filed for this. The culprit stood on the ledge and took a hand-held rock to smash through double thick, ¼-inch glass, then crawled through the jagged opening, rifled the change box and crawled back out through the broken window. Someone also broke into Jerry Inch's at the same time.

**2005 Street Program Ordinance** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that Council needs to authorize Solicitor Cravitz to prepare an Ordinance for Council concerning the 2005 Street Program. There are some places that the engineer is recommending that curbing be replaced before some of the overlays are done. There are two properties involved.

Motion by C/P Kinney to authorize Solicitor Cravitz to prepare the Ordinance for the 2005 Street Program based on the recommendation of the engineer, Gary Klingler and Mgr. Bickhart. Seconded by C/P Inch. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Stream Signs** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that the stream signs have been installed. The labor costs and materials costs are being reimbursed by Mid-State Community Partnerships. The signs were not up 24 hours and two of them were stolen, one being the Penn's Creek sign from the east side of the bridge and the other the Susquehanna River sign at the boat launch.

**Borough Auction** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that an auction has been advertised for this Saturday at the Borough shed, mostly to get rid of the bikes that the police department has collected. There are over 40 bikes, some of which are very nice. There is also some surplus equipment to be auctioned off. The auction will start at 9:00 A.M.

**PSAB** – Mgr. Bickhart reported that PSAB sends him notices about conventions and conferences. If there is something that Council members want to go to there is some money allocated in the budget and they should let him know.

**DEP/Rhoads Mills Property** – Mgr. Bickhart reported the Borough has received notice from DEP concerning the Rhoads Mills property and the environmental contamination that was discovered there. The soil has been piled up on plastic and covered over. This material is contaminated with fuel from a fuel tank that was there. They also suspected that there was some groundwater involved so there may be some groundwater pumping and remediation done. The Rhoads family is taking care of these things. Land development plans have been received for a 24-unit motel on that property. The Planning Commission will be looking at that this month and Council will see it next month. It is in the office if anyone wants to see it before next month's Council meeting. C/P Kinney asked why Council has to see it at all and Mgr. Bickhart replied Council will need to review and approve it because it is a land development plan. Mgr. Bickhart stated it will be a three-story building and there will not be anything else, no restaurant, bar, or swimming pool – just rooms. Pres. Mengel stated there is room for expansion. C/P Kinney asked if the store itself will be torn down and Mgr. Bickhart replied that it will be taken away. He stated the inside of the former Moose building is also being cleaned out, although he has no idea what is being done there. This is the white building at the end of the street where the Tai Kwan Do was. C/P Reuning stated he hopes the female college building will be preserved. Mgr. Bickhart stated the prognosis for that building is not good. It is in very poor repair and it questionable as to whether anyone could ever afford to bring it back. He stated most people in town do not know about it, although those that do seem to love it. C/P Reuning stated it was built almost simultaneously with Selinsgrove Hall, probably around 1859 or 1860.

**Joe Siro** – Mr. Siro asked if the loan from PSBA has been canceled. Mr. Siro thought PSBA was the Pennsylvania School Board Association. C/P Kinney stated that they were discussing PSAB, the Borough Association.

**Margaret Siro** – Mrs. Siro stated that she heard that a final decision was made on the old CVS building. Pres. Mengel stated that no comment can be made at this point.

**SU Student** – One of the SU students asked where the new fire house building is since the old one has been sold. Pres. Mengel stated it is in the old AMP building. Other Council members explained to her where it is, in the Career Link building and catty-corner from Weis Markets on Route 522. Another student stated that he knows where it is and will show her sometime. Pres. Mengel stated the fire department would be glad to give the students a tour. C/P Handlan stated that the old building was going to be renovated into a restaurant and marketplace.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Council Meeting recessed to an Executive Session at 9:23 P.M. for a discussion pertaining to the potential sale or lease of various parcels of real estate in the Borough.**

**RECESSION OF MEETING:**

With no additional business at this time, immediately following the Executive Session, the meeting recessed to a meeting on April 20, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.