

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart; Mayor G. Beaver; Police Chief T. Garlock; Treasurer Sheri Badman; Recording Secretary D. Long; Daily Item Reporter Marcia Moore; Borough Employee Janet Powers; Borough Residents Fran and Pete Carroll, Jeffrey Edmonds, Brian Farrell, Donald Foreman, Franklin and Shirley Hackenberg, Marvin Rudnitsky, Joseph and Margaret Siro; Borough Employee Robert Wendt; SARI Representatives Bill Gaskin, Pat Reilly and Jill Tomko; SEDA-COG Representatives Stacy Richards and Bill Seigel; SPI President Judy Spiegel

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 NOVEMBER 7, 2005 AND COUNCIL MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2005:

The November 7, 2005 minutes were approved as presented.

Regarding the November 21, 2005 minutes, C/P Kinney stated that there was no explanation that went along with his motion for dismissal. Mgr. Bickhart explained that during that part of the meeting the tape recorder malfunctioned and the explanation was not recorded. He asked C/P Kinney to restate the particulars so that the minutes can be amended. C/P Kinney stated that his motion to ask for Mgr. Bickhart's resignation resulted from his frustration regarding the increased cost of the sewer system which resulted in the need to raise sewer rates. He stated Council voted on a 14% increase in the sewer rate. The sewer system, which still is not done, has been four years in the making and this is what prompted him to make the motion asking for the resignation. He feels that had that sewer system been in place the rate increase may have been able to be prevented. He stated his motion was not just out of the blue.

Mayor Beaver stated that the first vote regarding sewer rate increase option #3 is incorrect; the total number of ayes should be three as reflected in the individual votes. C/P Christine corrected this, stating that he actually voted nay, so the total is correct but his vote is recorded incorrectly.

The minutes of November 21, 2005 were approved as corrected.

VISITORS TO BE HEARD:

Borough Police Chief, Thomas Garlock – Presentation of Police Report for October 2005 – Chief Garlock reported the police are in the new building. An open house is planned for sometime in January.

DH&L Fire Company, Ken Stettler – Ken reported there were 15 incidents in November as follows: 2 automatic alarms, 1 false alarm, 3 miscellaneous, 1 medical assist, 3 local alarms, 3 vehicle accidents without extrication, and 2 structure fires. The loss within the jurisdiction was \$0.00. The incidents occurred as follows: 1 in Monroe Township, 9 in Penn Township, 3 in Selingsgrove, 1 in Union Township, 1 in Washington Township. November man hours total 629.

Ken reported the new vehicles have arrived and the tanker was placed in service the Sunday after it arrived. The rescue truck may be in service as early as this weekend. Ken also stated there is nothing new to report on the race track.

Mgr. Bickhart asked Ken when and with whom he should meet regarding the well problem. Ken replied that Mgr. Bickhart should talk with Greg Ulsh. He stated that Tom Feger is talking to Mr. Zartman about getting a crane in to move the steel. Some steel can be moved by hand but where it is thought that the wells actually are is under the largest I-beams for the building. Mgr. Bickhart stated this could wait until February but Ken stated the steel will probably not be moved by then anyway. Mgr. Bickhart explained to Council that when the County Commissioners bought the building the former occupants had some environmental issues. They hired a consultant to follow up on long-term testing of groundwater supplies and a number of monitoring wells were positioned around the site. Unfortunately two of the monitoring wells are under where the steel for the new building was placed.

CEDA-COG, Bill Seigel and Stacy Richards, to discuss proposed “Scope of Services” and “Fees” of the FFY 2006 CDBG program – Bill Seigel summarized the scope of work to include what has traditionally been provided to the Borough for the CDBG program. The contract is for the full five years of the 2006 CDBG grant. The total fees will be \$17,220.00 which represents a reduction from last year because last year’s fees included a small additional fee for the Labor Standards Enforcement work on Pine Street. He stated no action is needed on this proposal at this time; rather he would like a consensus that he should proceed with the 2006 grant program. SEDA-COG’s scope of services will not be approved until the Borough has an approved contract from DCED. The amount of the 2006 grant is estimated to be a 10% reduction from last year. Bill Seigel asked Stacy Richards to talk about the 2006 application schedule and the funds that the Borough has available. Stacy reported that there is about \$114,000 being proposed for 2006. She passed out a schedule of public hearings and review processes. The first public hearing and project review is scheduled for Monday, February 6. SEDA-COG will take care of the legal notice, which will appear on January 30 with Council’s approval. The application approval and final public hearing will take place on March 6 in order to support a deadline for submittal of the application on March 31. Stacy requested approval of the draft schedule.

Motion by C/P Kinney to approve the draft schedule. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Bill Seigel stated that at the October 3 meeting Council had asked that SEDA-COG provide an occasional periodic report of the work they do associated with the administration of the Borough’s CDBG program. He stated he was prepared to give the full review at this meeting, but given the audience and the agenda he will hold off on this until the January or February meeting. Pres. Mengel agreed that it could wait until January.

Stacy Richards reported that there is a budget modification that her office has been working on at the request of Council. This involves a reallocation of funds that must be approved by Council. The 2005 funds have been allocated and the CDBG funds for the Water Street improvement projects have closed. There is \$89.94 left. This money needs to be reallocated to the sidewalks improvement project. With Council’s approval Stacy will submit the paperwork to DCED tomorrow.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to approve this reallocation of funds. Seconded by C/P Kinney.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Joyce Hendricks Concerning Tractor Trailer Parking – C/P Hetherington stated he received a call from Ms. Hendricks on Wednesday. He told her that the Safety Committee is still working on this issue and this will be addressed at the next meeting, which will hopefully be held in January. Work has begun on identifying the trucks in the Borough. Pres. Mengel stated she thought a letter was sent out a few months ago and C/P Hetherington replied that there is a tentative letter to be mailed to the truck owners. If this does not work perhaps the Boroughs’ Association would have some sample ordinances or the

Safety Committee could look into what neighboring communities do regarding this issue. Options will be explored, including banning overnight parking, limiting trucks by weight, etc. Mgr. Bickhart stated he put a letter together but he felt the need to have the Safety Committee and Chief Garlock review it before it was sent out because some of the suggested provisions may be difficult to enforce. He would also like to identify some places where the trucks could be parked in the Borough. He listed these suggestions for the Committee to evaluate also. Chief Garlock stated he has not seen the letter yet but he has discussed the issues with Mgr. Bickhart and C/P Hetherington.

Health Insurance, Medicare and Prescription Issues for Borough Employee Robert Wendt –

Mgr. Bickhart reported that the middle of last year Council talked about the Medicare coverages that Mr. Wendt and his wife would acquire and which the Borough would pay for as part of the Borough's medical insurance plan for employees and their families. Council initially talked about Plan J and then due to some concerns about the implementation of the Medicare Part D coverage for prescriptions it was modified to Plan I and put in place for the rest of 2005. Mr. Wendt is asking what Council will agree to for prescription coverage for himself and his wife given the existence of Medicare Part D. Council has received some confusing information about coverages and plans. There are public meetings coming up that Mr. Wendt and his wife will be attending to learn more information. It appears that what will happen is that the Medicare Part D plan will add a significantly lower premium than the Medigap coverage which exists now. Mr. Wendt will try to get the cost of the Medigap insurance for next year without the prescription coverage. C/P Reuning stated that the premium for Medicare D for prescriptions is \$30 per month which is deducted from Social Security payments. If Plan D is elected then it must be requested from the Medigap policy issuer that the rates be reduced. He stated that for himself with Plan I the reduction would be approximately \$70 per month. There is no standard figure on this; it depends on what the drugs are. The AARP plan has four tiers: Tier 1 is for generic drugs and costs \$5 per prescription of 30. Tier 2 is for brand name drugs and costs \$30 per 30. He stated the government is still negotiating prescription drug costs. There is also a doughnut hole for the difference between \$2,250 and \$3600, and there is no deductible. However, this is with his plan and Mr. Wendt may have a different plan. Blue Shield Highmark has different things in its plan. C/P Reuning feels that the only thing Council will be able to decide on is what to do about the Social Security \$30 and what to do about the prescriptions. Mr. Wendt needs to know what tier his prescriptions are on, and each plan is different. A plan election must be made by May 15 and after that it goes up 1% per month as a penalty. Pres. Mengel stated Council has committed to paying the cost for the employees so hopefully it will be a reasonable amount. Mr. Wendt stated he has learned that the prescription plans can run from \$10 a month to about \$70 a month and what plan is chosen depends on what medications are being taken because every plan does not cover every drug. C/P Reuning stated this can change as a plan drops one drug and picks up another one. The plan is only good for a year and then it can change. C/P Hetherington stated this could be a problem if a doctor changes a patient's medication to something that is not on their current plan. Pres. Mengel asked Mr. Wendt to do some investigating, decide what he feels he needs and then come back and talk to Council, who will examine the particular plan. C/P Reuning suggested that Council cover the \$30 that will be deducted from the Social Security income as well as the money that is deducted by the company, but then there is a co-pay for each drug and each prescription is for only 30 pills. A person could get 90 pills but then would have to pay three times.

Mgr. Bickhart reported that Mr. Wendt is also concerned with his insurance deductibles. Mr. Wendt stated that he paid one deductible for the first six months of this year and then another deductible from July on. The deductible was met both times. He feels he should not have to pay twice in a 12-month period when the rest of the employees only have to pay once. C/P Kinney stated he thought Council made a motion to pay that deductible. Mr. Wendt stated the motion was made but defeated by a 2-4 vote. Mr. Wendt stated the second plan's deductible was \$110 each for him and his wife and \$250 each for him and his wife, or a total of \$720 if the deductibles were fully met. He stated his deductible has not been met yet on the \$250 but his wife's has been. Both he and his wife have met their \$110 deductibles. Mgr. Bickhart explained that Plan J's premium paid the Part B deductible. When the Borough went back to Plan I it does not pay the Part B deductible. C/P Reuning stated the Part B deductible is \$110 and everybody pays that. Mgr. Bickhart explained that the deductible for the medical coverage for prescriptions is \$250 per person, which Plan I does not pay.

Motion by C/P Kinney to pay up to \$720 as a one-time payment amount for the deductibles. Seconded by C/P Handlan.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Pres. Mengel asked Mr. Wendt to get with Mgr. Bickhart with his total figures and to come back to Council when he decides on a prescription plan.

Selinsgrove Projects, Inc., Judy Spiegel, President – Judy thanked Council for the time and effort they put into approving the boat launch grant. Council had requested a letter that SPI would fund the maintenance of the restrooms at the boat launch. She presented Council with a letter stating this. SPI will do some floats and fundraisers throughout the summer to raise money for this. She also thanked Mgr. Bickhart for expressing some of SPI's concerns to the Fish and Boat Commission, resulting in the Fish and Boat Commission funding the full amount of the grant, or \$88,000. This brings the total grants for the year that SPI has obtained for the community to \$250,000. Some money has also been brought in from the Degenstein Foundation and the Tourism Board. Judy stated that she had never written a grant application before and Mgr. Bickhart's help was instrumental in SPI's success. Judy expressed appreciation for Dianne Mengel serving as the Council representative to SPI. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Borough Council chambers. Judy reminded Council that tomorrow night is the Selinsgrove Late Shopper's Night, and SPI is continuing to sell Selinsgrove memorabilia to continue to raise money for the street lights. Judy reported that SPI decided to step back and not do as much fundraising for the CVS property through the fall due to other fundraising efforts in the Borough, such as for the street lights and the pool. People also were donating to Hurricane Katrina relief and the United Way campaign. SPI is now 40% of the way to the total funds needed to demolish the CVS building and the Sampsell property. Starting in January SPI will refocus on fundraising for this. C/P Inch asked if anything is planned for the CVS property beyond demolition. Judy replied that the proposed amount includes putting in a temporary park so the property will not be an eyesore. C/P Kinney asked if the CVS lot is for sale if a commercial entity would come into town and want to buy the property. Judy replied that it is not for sale because it was purchased with the condition that it would be used for a community project. She has researched some of the options for the property, but selling it is not one of those options. She stated SPI will keep Council informed on the progress of the project. Pres. Mengel thanked Judy for her hard work for the community.

Marvin Rudnitsky regarding firing of Mgr. Bickhart – Mr. Rudnitsky stated that what he read in the paper troubled him, disappointed him and even angered him because he has known every person who has served as Borough Manager since the inception of the Borough. He has worked with many of them. Some of them have been highly qualified people and some have been less qualified. Mr. Rudnitsky said that when he saw that the Borough had John Bickhart a couple years ago he rejoiced because he had worked with him for many, many years in a private context and with the airport. He stated that the little airport is what it is today in no small measure because of the volunteer work of Mr. Bickhart. He stated when he saw the progress made at the airport and the opportunity for the Borough to obtain the value of Mr. Bickhart's talent and his training he was very happy. Mr. Rudnitsky stated that the Council members around the table tonight would not squander the Borough's money and they would not squander the Borough's assets or resources. He asked why Council squandered the resource of Mr. Bickhart. He stated that the way it was done was an embarrassment to himself because the Council represents the citizens of the Borough. He stated some people on Council have fired people before and find that it is not difficult to take that action. Mr. Rudnitsky stated he has been an employer for many, many years and he can count only one person he ever fired. He stated that he hopes Council will keep in mind that many people are upset about what appeared to be government in the dark. When the issue is brought to the light and it has to be discussed in public, it makes people think harder about what they are about to do. He stated he is hoping that Council will change their decision.

Donald Foreman regarding firing of Mgr. Bickhart – Mr. Foreman stated that a motion was made by the judge in 2003 to tear down a building and nothing was ever done about it. He stated he came to Borough Council on January 6, 2004 and Mgr. Bickhart did not do anything. Mr. Foreman stated that he asked where the anchors were in the building that was to be torn down and he alleges that Mgr. Bickhart,

an engineer, went and drilled doorknob holes and put anchors in them. He stated if water ever hit the building it would have floated right over to his house. He alleged that the Borough has a liar for a manager. Mr. Foreman also alleged that people in the coffee shop called him at 8:30 one morning to tell him that Mgr. Bickhart was going to have his flowers cut down and a construction fence erected in front of his picture window. Mr. Foreman stated that he paid twice for his real estate. He stated he pays taxes in the Borough and he had to pay \$8,000 for a lawyer for something that should have been taken care of in the Borough office. He stated people leave the Borough because of things like this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

Review List of Council Issues

Mgr. Bickhart reported that the end of the contract time on the decorative street lighting project is January 20, 2006 and although there are some issues with respect to the manufacturer, he believes that the project will be completed on time. Request for reimbursement No. 1 has been submitted and this is being processed by PennDOT.

The Sassafra Street/Sand Hill Road project construction is anticipated to be completed by 12/23/05.

C/P Kinney asked what the big green things are in the yard that look like bases to a light. Mgr. Bickhart replied that they are the decorative bases for the traffic signal poles. The traffic signal poles have been installed and the bases will then be put around them. He stated the decorative street light bases are about half that size but the same basic shape.

The University Avenue sanitary sewer line is progressing. The Borough has the easements and the preconstruction meeting was held. Start date is anticipated to be December 12. It will take about two weeks to do the work along the street, finishing by December 23. Restoration of grass, etc. cannot be done this year so the contract allows that to be finished in April or May. Mgr. Bickhart has notified all the property owners by letter and has given them a copy of the plans as they pertain to each of their homes because now they have to make arrangements to connect their laterals into the new line. Mgr. Bickhart has offered whatever assistance he can provide them. As one moves up the hill they go from being relatively easy to being difficult. He stated he has not heard back from any of the property owners yet.

Mgr. Bickhart reported that making changes to the Subdivision Land Development Ordinance has been discussed and the Planning Commission finally has the other things off their agenda so in December they will talk about that. After the Planning Commission meets in December a final draft of the revisions to Chapter 65, floodplain regulations that take into consideration new construction codes, should be available. Council should have that by January to review as an Ordinance.

Mgr. Bickhart reported that regarding the Weiser Run washout, Gary is looking to get some sandbags together to begin the process. Mgr. Bickhart talked to the Conservation District office today and they are going to allow the Borough to proceed as a repair without having to go through a permit process.

Mgr. Bickhart reported that the other Weiser Run issue that is not on the issues list is that the Borough was thanked for their application but it was denied. He stated that he will reapply, and he also talked to Russ Fairchild. Russ indicated that someone had contacted his office to express interest in that project through a different funding source. Russ has the documentation and asked that Mgr. Bickhart keep his administrative staff aware of what is going on with that project.

C/P Kinney asked how the meeting went last week at the SEDA-COG offices in Winfield regarding the Streetscape Program. Mgr. Bickhart replied that it went extremely well. He had asked for the "three presidents" to join him, thinking it would make more sense to talk about what the project means to the Borough. Dianne Mengel provided a letter. Judy Spiegel, whose father was going into open heart surgery that afternoon, was there via speaker phone. Pam White and Mgr. Bickhart attended the meeting in person. This was the only project in Snyder County that was submitted, which has been the case from the beginning of this funding program. No other municipalities or entities in Snyder County have seen fit

to apply. Mgr. Bickhart reported an application was submitted for \$230,000 for doing three more blocks of decorative street lights. He stated the Borough should hear conclusively in April. If the Borough is successful in getting the funding then the block from Chestnut Street to All Saints church would be done, as well as the block from the post office down to Sharon Lutheran and the block from Market Street to High Street on Pine Street. These were included in the original five blocks that were in the application from the very beginning. Mgr. Bickhart stated that because SPI and the Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce have already funded the design costs the grant application estimated that \$9,600 would be the local contribution. He submitted documentation showing that the Borough has more than met the 80/20% on the project. He stated it took five years and a lot of sweat to get through Phase 1 and now Phase 2 can probably be done in five months and for relatively few dollars. C/P Handlan thanked Mgr. Bickhart for doing this.

Consider the Appointment of Dan Greak to the Civil Service Commission – Mgr. Bickhart stated this was brought up two months ago and Council wanted to seek some other candidates. The Civil Service Commission would like to reconvene to look over the rules and regulations while the reality of using the procedures to get a new police officer is fresh in their minds. They can then update them to match what actually occurred to make sure that the next time it is better documented. Dalton “Buzz” Savidge is the chairman and he would like to reconvene his committee with the new appointment.

Motion by C/P Reuning to appoint Dan Greak to the Civil Service Commission. Seconded by C/P Christine.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE / COMMISSION / BOARD REPORTS:

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE: C/P Inch, Chairman

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 Inch to pay the bills. Seconded by C/P Reuning.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. - Exoneration Requests – None

Review of Sewer Rates – Sheri Badman reported that ESCRA states that they are increasing their depreciation costs by \$100,000 in 2007. This year they increased \$100,000 but the Borough’s cost to ESCRA increased by \$118,000. The Borough is only responsible for 40% of the cost of the \$100,000, or \$40,000. The Borough is concerned about ESCRA increasing another \$100,000 plus additional operating costs in 2007 and whether the Borough will make enough money. C/P Inch is requesting that Council review this issue once again and decide whether to raise the sewer rates to the 29% now based on the fact that \$125,000 was carried over in the general fund. It is highly likely that the Borough will need a real estate tax increase in 2007 and it would not be good to hit residents with another sewer rate increase at the same time. C/P Kinney suggested deferring this until there is one quarter under the new meter system. He stated the meters should be in place by December 23 and he would like to see some accurate readings. He stated that he really thinks the Borough will see a substantial reduction in its sewer bill. Currently, after the meters are read everything else is being paid by the Borough. This means that all of the trunk lines and all of the I&I is being paid for by the Borough. The Borough is paying 38% of the operation of the sewer plant and he thinks there will be a substantial reduction. He hopes the reduction will be at least 5% to take it down to 33% of the operation of the sewer plant. C/P Kinney suggested waiting until the first quarter of 2006 to get a feel of how much the Borough’s rates will be. C/P Reuning asked if Council could legally do that and Solicitor Cravitz indicated that they could. C/P Inch stated that his concern is that at the end of the year on a 14% raise in the rates the Borough will lose \$46,000. C/P Kinney stated that the Borough will make \$18,000 in excess of what the bill is. He

stated if Council waits until the middle of the year to raise rates they will still get one quarter under this year, which will take the \$18,000 up even higher. He stated he does not see what the urgency is to make a decision at this point. C/P Inch stated that the Borough may be another quarter behind until everything is enacted. C/P Kinney stated that if it were done in May or June, the September bill will have the rate increase in place and there will be two billings to take the surplus of \$18,000 up even higher. C/P Inch stated he feels that the Borough is slipping too far behind even by leaving it at the 14%. The Borough is doing \$960,000 in business this year as a company and has a return of \$18,000. C/P Kinney stated that that is not taking into consideration putting meters in and correcting a system that is in need of correction. C/P Inch stated if he were even 60 or 70% sure there would be a savings then it would be okay, but he would rather do the rate increase and if C/P Kinney's predictions are true then try to adjust it some other way. He feels that if this is left go then the Borough will be playing catch-up and they will be further behind. He stated that even a 5% savings in the overall scheme is not a lot of money. Sheri stated that a \$1 million business should make more than \$18,000 in a year. C/P Inch stated that with the 14% increase at the end of 2007 as projected the Borough would only have a \$6,676 profit. He stated a business could not make it in the real world with those figures. C/P Reuning asked what kind of balance the Borough would have left along with the \$18,000 in case something happened. Sheri stated the Borough will carry over about \$200,000 in the sewer reserve. C/P Inch stated that in the year 2000 there was \$1,063,000 in the reserve. C/P Kinney asked how much money was owed to the sewer account from other accounts. Sheri replied that nothing is owed at this time. C/P Kinney asked why the current costs include both water and sewer. Sheri stated she wrote it up that way because everyone is looking at the total bill. C/P Handlan stated either Council raises it now or they raise it later. She is comfortable with a 14% increase as Council agreed upon. She stated that 29% is too much after just increasing the rates 54%. She stated it makes sense to wait, as C/P Kinney suggested, to see how the meters are performing. If Council agrees to the 14% increase they need to preface it by letting people know that there could be another increase coming right behind this. C/P Kinney stated that Council voted on the 14% increase. C/P Inch stated he would like Council to at least consider the 29% because they have already been told that there will be another raise at the end of December of \$100,000. At the 14% increase the Borough will show a loss at the end of the year 2007. Sheri stated that the \$100,000 is only the depreciation, of which the Borough pays \$40,000. She stated ESCRA will have additional operating costs so in 2007 and the Borough will only have \$6,000 to play with. This year the Borough's \$40,000 ended up being \$118,000. C/P Christine asked if the 2007 budget is anticipating another 14% increase or a no-change budget. Sheri stated the first column on Council's paperwork is 14% and the next column is 29%. C/P Christine stated that there is a 14% increase shown for 2006 but there is not a 14% increase shown on top of that for 2007, so the projections show no increase for 2007. Sheri agreed that this is correct. C/P Christine asked why Council is worrying about 2007 now because with no increase between 2006 and 2007 the Borough is at least even, or a little bit ahead. C/P Inch stated he just cannot see an almost-million-dollar business making a profit of only \$18,000 one year and \$6,000 the next year. C/P Kinney stated if there was a capital construction project going on and there was \$50,000 in each one of those years and if there was a major project going on in each one of those outgoing two years he could see the Borough having to do something, but as it is Sheri only put \$50,000 in. She stated these are just guesses. C/P Kinney stated that with the sewer replacements on Sassafras Street and University Avenue the Borough is in pretty good shape. Millions of dollars have been spent rehabbing the sewer system over the years so there are not many things that need to be done that could not be put off a year or two to save the Borough some money. He stated that he really feels the metering chambers will be in the Borough's favor, which should substantially increase the Borough's balance. He stated this is too much at one time for the general public to absorb along with all the other increases, such as heating gas, heating oil, electricity, gasoline, etc. He stated the Borough does not have stock and does not have to pay dividends to anybody. He stated he will not vote for another increase. Council should look at this in May. In June there will be meter readings with accurate numbers and then the rates can be adjusted accordingly. He stated after the meters are read the 29% may not be enough if it goes the other way. C/P Inch stated his concern with going with the 14% and then the Borough getting an additional increase and having to raise rates at the end of the year, plus a tax increase combined with that. C/P Kinney stated he is suggesting not going to the end of the year but to the middle of the year. An increase could be made in the summer months when it will not hurt so much because there will not be heating oil bills during the summer months. Now in winter time is a bad time to do raise the rates. C/P Hetherington stated for the elderly on a fixed income any time is a bad time for an increase of any kind.

Motion by C/P Inch to adopt the 29% rate increase. No second.

MOTION FAILS

C/P Kinney suggested putting this on the issues list to be reviewed after the meter readings in March or June. Mgr. Bickhart replied that the Borough can get meter readings for one month, two months, or five months. The problem is if Council waits until June the rates will not be in place for the third quarter which means the Borough will not get the receipts any time this year. Pres. Mengel suggested looking at this after March. Sheri stated any time up until May the rates could be changed effective July 1 for the July, August and September billing. Solicitor Cravitz asked about a rollback from ESCRA and Mgr. Bickhart stated they adjust the fourth quarter if the Borough is way ahead.

Tentative Adoption of 2006 Budget and authorization for publication of proposed Ordinance No. 742, levying the taxes required by the Budget, for adoption at a Special Meeting to be held prior to the end of December

Motion by C/P Inch to tentatively adopt the budget for the year 2006 in the amount of \$3,078,857 total expenditures. Seconded by C/P Reuning.

C/P Kinney stated for the record that this amount includes the general fund, the sewer fund, the water fund, recycling and disposables, parks and recreation, capital reserve, equipment, community acquisition and improvement, pension fund, and highway aid fund. Mgr. Bickhart stated that C/P Inch's motion is to adopt the tentative budget as submitted by the attorney. C/P Inch agreed to this.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Hetherington

MOTION CARRIED

Establish date(s) and time(s) for Continued/Special Meeting(s) to further consider 2006 Budget and/or to adopt Tax Levy Ordinance (proposed Ordinance No. 742) – It was decided that this meeting will be Wednesday, December 28 at 4:00 p.m. There was enough of a commitment to have a quorum.

Tax Levy at 13 mils per Ordinance 742

Motion by C/P Inch to authorize the publication of Ordinance 742 for adoption at the special meeting on Wednesday, December 28 at 4:00 p.m. The tax rate would be at the rate of 13 mils, which is the current rate. Seconded by C/P Kinney.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Request approval to pay all bills received through end of 2005, to the extent that revenues are available for this purpose and following the review and approval of the Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee

Motion by C/P Kinney for Sheri to be given permission to pay the bills up until the end of the year as money becomes available. Seconded by C/P Christine.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE: C/P Reuning, Chairman

Review of 2006 Street/Capital Improvement Program with estimated costs added and with the determination that alley improvements may be assessed against property owners – C/P Reuning stated that the water fund will be paid back for the next two years. The street project will be limited to the liquid fuels monies. Mgr. Bickhart stated that originally a top priority was Strawberry Alley between

Chestnut and Pine Streets because of the traffic. The cost estimate for that project exceeded the budget authorization amount so projects were switched around so that they were within the means of the budget. A suggestion was made by Solicitor Cravitz that property owners could be assessed for the alley improvements and the storm sewer improvements in that alley. In this case the committee could go back to the original priority and look to rework that. This is a detail that can be worked out as the engineer develops the bid documents and the Borough can proceed forward with it. If Council has no objections with this evaluation Strawberry Alley as priority one will be looked at again. Pres. Mengel asked if property owners have ever been assessed for alley work and Solicitor Cravitz replied that this has not been done but the Borough Code does provide that the Borough can assess the property owners, including for drainage. C/P Reuning stated the Borough has to go off the alleyway onto the shoulders to make that paving stand up. Solicitor Cravitz stated this is where there might be a problem because it is only a 16-foot alley in through there and then the Borough gets into right-of-way issues. C/P Reuning stated that most of the work will be paving, with no digging of streets and sewer construction. In February the Committee will meet regarding the sidewalks. Pres. Mengel asked if Council will be revisiting the alley situation. C/P Reuning stated some money is allotted for alleys. C/P Kinney stated it is worth revisiting. Solicitor Cravitz reported eminent domain depends on how much the Borough is taking and where. If they are just doing the general improvement they are okay with the drainage because the Code provides that any improvements to alleyways can be assessed on the footprint basis. He stated there should not be a problem with assessments on the alley unless the Borough would want to take 20 feet on each side; then there would be a problem. Sheri stated the Borough could get easements from everybody. C/P Reuning stated the main thing is to stay within budget. If necessary the Committee will meet on this again and discuss it.

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: C/P Handlan, Chairwoman – C/P Handlan stated that the Wednesday luncheon meeting with the University will take place this Wednesday at noon. Pres. Mengel, Mgr. Bickhart, C/P Reuning and C/P Handlan will be attending.

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: C/P Christine, Chairman – No Report

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

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LANDLORD ORDINANCE: Pres. Mengel, C/Ps Handlan and Kinney – No Report

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: C/P Inch, C/P Hetherington, C/P Reuning – No Report

PLANNING COMMISSION: Earl Moyer, Chairman

Recommendation on Conditional Use request for Day Care at 16 North Water Street/16 East Chestnut Street – Mgr. Bickhart reported that this is the situation where Karen Moyer and Deborah Brosious submitted a conditional use request to put a daycare facility on this property for 25 children and six employees. There was no opportunity for off-street parking. The Planning Commission heard the request and recommended that the conditional use not be granted based upon concerns about increased traffic and congestion in the area. Mgr. Bickhart was notified today by the owner of the property that she has sold the property to another entity so this request no longer has any merit. However, the application was made and Council should probably still process it. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Council could choose not to take action on the basis that the application is incomplete in that the property it applies to is not theirs. However, Council could also just deny the conditional use request.

Motion by C/P Kinney to deny the conditional use request of Karen Moyer and Deborah Brosious for a daycare center at 16 North Water Street. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Recommendation on the preparation of an Application under the Mitigation Grant Program of the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project – Mgr. Bickhart reported that some money from the Wyoming Valley Levee Raising Project was designated for Snyder County. The project has been stalled for some time but recently he was advised by Dave Nichols that he would entertain any application that the Borough would make for spending some of that money for some floodplain mitigation measures for the Borough. The original listing includes the original items included under Snyder County that would be projects submitted for consideration on a pre-application basis. The Planning Commission has evaluated this list and is recommending that Council authorize the preparation of an application for the projects that are on the list that are still viable. Some of the projects are no longer viable, such as the acquisition and demolition of the old DH&L Fire Company building and one of the properties on the Isle of Que which has already been torn down and a new building constructed in full compliance with the Ordinance. Most of the property owners have been contacted to see if they are still interested in participating. The Planning Commission is recommending preparing an application for private property projects and for the emergency access off the Isle of Que onto the bypass that was originally proposed as well. A lane would be constructed from the intersection of Bough and Third Streets to the right which would merge with traffic on the bypass and to retain the current lane that comes down off the bypass and turns onto the intersection. This would be improved by elevating it and making it more functional in the event of a flood.

Motion by C/P Kinney that Council authorize the preparation of the application for the projects as recommended by the Planning Commission. Seconded by C/P Reuning.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

ZONING HEARING BOARD: Glen Rohrer, Chairman – Informational only; no action required.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Dalton Savidge, Chairman – No Report

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: Richard Norman, Chairman – No Report

SHADE TREE COMMISSION: Mark Vergauwen, Chairman – No Report

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR: Garry Beaver – Mayor Beaver stated it has been a pleasure working with this Council and with the Borough for the last 12 years that he has served as Mayor. He wished the best of luck to Mayor-Elect Pete Carroll. He also highly recommended that Council reconsider the dismissal of John Bickhart as Borough Manager. Mayor Beaver stated that he feels Council has made a mistake in taking this action. Pres. Mengel thanked Mayor Beaver for his service to the Borough.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Robert Cravitz

Update on Real Estate Tax Assessment appeals from Middleburg Yarn and Sunbury New Enterprises – Solicitor Cravitz reported that this appeal has been resolved by way of Stipulation of the parties, the judge accepted it, and it has been recorded accordingly.

Update on Real Estate Tax Assessment appeals from High Street Manor and Market Street Manor – Solicitor Cravitz reported that these are two new cases brought by Rudnitsky and Hackman on behalf of the landowners. They are seeking adjustments. Case management orders have been brought into effect. Richard Drzewiecki is appearing for the landowners. He was the Borough's expert on a number of cases and now he has switched sides to work with the landowners. The boards have reduced their assessments to a certain extent. The elderly housing, which is High Street Manor, has a fair market value of \$1,345,000 with an assessed value of \$213,850. Their expert said that it should be assessed at about \$50,000 less than that and based upon the income method it should be reduced down to \$780,000 which is more than a \$500,000 difference. Market Street Manor Associates are basing their appeal on the income basis. It had initially been assessed at a fair market value of \$1,195,854. The board went ahead and reduced it down to \$975,000. They want to reduce it down to \$520,000. Solicitor Cravitz stated he

talked to Attorney Clark, who is looking at this with the school board. The school board is going to take action tonight and their recommendation is that an expert be obtained to go forward and oppose these assessments. The amounts are quite significant and Attorney Clark thinks there might be a chance to beat this. In the recent Wal-Mart case, it was reduced several million dollars, with Judge Woelfel splitting the difference between the requests of Wal-Mart and the county. This seems to be how Judge Woelfel handles these disputes, meeting somewhere in the middle. C/P Kinney stated he thought it cost more than \$500,000 to build the Market Street Manor. Solicitor Cravitz stated they are going strictly on income because the housing is subject to age limits and the amount of income they can collect. They are saying that based upon those restrictions they are entitled to the reduction because using the income method of valuation it means that those properties with those restrictions are worth less. Attorney Clark is looking at a fairly rapid return rate on this, with a trial date on April 10, 11 and 12, a pretrial conference on March 13, and all discovery to be completed by January 16. If Council wants to enjoin with the county and school district they need to act accordingly and proceed. The costs will be split between the three entities. On the other cases the costs were divided proportionately with the school district paying the most and then the county and then the Borough. C/P Kinney stated he feels the Borough needs to do this because they cannot afford to keep losing tax revenue.

Motion by C/P Kinney to obtain an expert and proceed with the litigation and the defense of the appeal along with the school district and the county. Seconded by C/P Inch.

Solicitor Cravitz stated the Borough will answer the appeal and then proceed with the litigation. He stated he spoke with Attorney Clark today about an expert. There is an expert from Downingtown who had been used in a case involving Pine Meadows. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the appraiser who stood against the Borough for the French property might be someone to contact also. He could not remember the name but thought he was from the Bloomsburg or Danville area. He stated he was impressed with this person. Solicitor Cravitz stated that Attorney Clark will be the solicitor for both the school district and the county so it will be done with just the two of them. The school district and the county will take the lead because they are footing the bill. Pres. Mengel called for a vote on the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Adopt Resolution No. 2005-10 pertaining to the waiver of required police pension plan member contributions for 2006

Adopt Resolution No. 2005-11 pertaining to the waiver of required non-uniformed municipal employee pension plan member contributions for 2006

Solicitor Cravitz stated that Council enacted these two resolutions last year because the Borough is not contributing anything with regard to the pensions for this year. Sheri stated the Borough does not have to make contributions again this year. Solicitor Cravitz stated that this does not have to be advertised. The resolutions are basically the same but are listed separately because there are different dates on the agreements between the county and between the Borough and the board, one for the uniformed and one for the non-uniformed employees.

Motion by C/P Kinney to adopt Resolutions 2005-10 and 2005-11. Seconded by C/P Handlan.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Report on the David P. Bowersox Hearing 12/13/05 – Solicitor Cravitz reported that a notice was received today that the insurance company will be providing the Borough with a defense of the David Bowersox claim. The hearing set for December 13 will be continued because the counsel they appointed has a conflict. This is the issue involving Dave Bowersox and the sewer problem that Dave addressed Council on, asking for reimbursement. Council denied the request and Dave Bowersox is taking it to Jack Robinson. Solicitor Cravitz reported that it is for \$2,132.74 for damages incurred while the Borough was repairing a shutoff leak, having to hire a contractor to finish the job when the Borough crew pulled out before finishing the job, etc. plus the cost of filing suit.

Adopt Ordinance No. 743 pertaining to increasing the sewer rates effective 1/1/2006 – This will done at the December 28 Council meeting. It was not advertised for tonight.

Consider Lease Agreement with Selinsgrove Area Recreation, Inc. (SARI) concerning Borough acquiring a lease interest in the Selinsgrove Community Pool, for grant eligibility purposes, and SARI retaining total operating authority and responsibility – Solicitor Cravitz reported that there are two ways to approach the pool situation. Through SEDA-COG a lease has been provided that would make Selinsgrove Area Recreation, Inc. as the present landowner the lessor and Selinsgrove Borough the lessee. Basically what this says is the Borough will do a long-term lease with the pool association and the pool association will do everything. The Borough as the lessee just provides the means by which grants can be obtained. This is a 25-year lease. The pool association pays for all the improvements and makes sure the insurance is paid and holds the Borough harmless from anything the pool association does. They agree to indemnify the Borough for anything the pool association does just as the Borough does for the pool association. This will work if SARI wants to retain ownership. Solicitor Cravitz questions whether the funding agency would think 25 years is long enough if they are going to give grants to the Borough for these kinds of improvements. Bill Seigel of SEDA-COG stated that this lease is a model lease that was developed early in the program and used in Kratzerville by the Kratzerville Fire Company. This lease is now distributed as a model lease for these situations and 25 years is deemed to be the useful life of the improvements to a swimming facility or a playground facility so the funding agency would view the 25 years as adequate. This lease agreement has a lot of precedent with DCNR. Solicitor Cravitz stated the second way to approach this and which was the initial way it was discussed is just the opposite. There would be a deed of dedication from the pool association over to the Borough. The Borough would own the fee simple ground and then the Borough would do a lease back, making the Borough a lessor and the pool association the lessee. The pool association would do everything and the Borough as a lessor would have no responsibilities. Solicitor Cravitz stated he looked at his notes from two years ago when the title search was done under the assumption that the Borough would get the property and have SARI dedicate it to the Borough. The two choices are that if the Borough does not want the ownership interest, Council should do the first lease; if the Borough does want the ownership interest, Council should do the second lease. Jill Tomko from SARI asked which lease would take less time because she wants to submit her 501(c)3 application as soon as possible. Solicitor Cravitz replied that both leases are completed and awaiting signatures at tonight's meeting. Jill stated that it does not matter to SARI but the IRS said that they would look at them more favorably because SARI would be lessening the burden on local government as far as operating the pool for them. After obtaining 501(c)3 status SARI will be eligible for grants that they have already applied for from foundations such as the Bon Ton Foundation, Boscov's, Edna Sheary Trust, etc. In the future SARI would not be eligible for United Way money without the 501(c) 3 status because the United Way requires this. Jill also reported that SARI will apply for a DCNR matching grant in 2006 because when they tried to get their gutters this year the estimate was \$226,000. Solicitor Cravitz stated that with most non-profits, if they would go out of business it would fall back to a like non-profit association or a corporation to take the asset over and run it or it would revert back to the Borough and the Borough would inherit it. That is how the pool is run today. C/P Kinney stated he thought that two years ago Council agreed to take over ownership of the property and lease it to SARI indefinitely to get grants. Solicitor Cravitz stated that that was the initial understanding back in 2003. C/P Kinney stated that if SARI feels that that is the best way then that is the way Council should go. Mgr. Bickhart stated that after hearing the Borough's concerns and thinking about the liability aspect for the past four years that he has been Borough Manager, it seems that the best way to go is for the pool association to own and operate the property in full. The only thing the Borough is taking a lease interest in is the improvements for the purposes of grant applications. In the past Council has been opposed to owning the pool for liability reasons and when this first lease agreement was offered it seemed to be the safest way for the Borough to go from a liability point of view. Solicitor Cravitz stated it basically turns the whole thing on its head because usually the lessee takes on all responsibility and the first lease agreement puts everything on SARI, with the Borough having no responsibility as the lessee. Pres. Mengel asked where this new lease has been all this time and Jill Tomko replied that it just became available when she started looking into it. She stated Stacy Richards had emailed it to her. The Middleburg Swimming Pool used the lease in agreement with the Middleburg Sewer Authority so that they would be eligible for grants also. Jill stated that she liked the way the lease looked so she changed the

name on it and presented it. C/P Handlan asked if the grant application would fall under the regionalization and Mgr. Bickhart replied that it is a DCNR grant and eventually SARI will get the bonus points. Jill stated that she has looked into that but it will not be moving forward quickly enough, probably not until 2007. Mgr. Bickhart restated that the first lease is the best step now. Council can always go to the other arrangement if circumstances present themselves later. Bill Seigel stated as a matter of record that the lease that Jill drafted and referred to as the Middleburg lease is actually a document that is used frequently. It was drafted as a boilerplate form and shared with the pool manager about a year or a year and a half ago. Pres. Mengel stated Council should have had the opportunity to take action on this a year and a half ago. Solicitor Cravitz stated Council had agreed to take the property itself and lease it back to the pool association, which is why he did a title search. The pool decided to do some other things and look at it in a different way and this new lease is the different way. C/P Handlan stated that the lease will provide SARI with a document showing that the pool has the relationship with the Borough. The relationship exists now but it is not documented. Jill Tomko needs the lease to attach to her grant applications and to send with her 501(c)3 application. Bill Gaskin asked who Bill Seigel shared the lease with when he stated he shared it with the pool manager a year or a year and a half ago. Bill Seigel replied that he does not remember the name of the person but the lease was developed as a draft form, a copy of which is in the SEDA-COG file. He stated over the last five or six years he has probably had not less than three or four conversations with either members of SARI or the Borough relative to financing swimming pool improvements and the like. One of the discussions that has frequently come up is how to apply for DCNR funding and the public ownership of the facility with public control. Bill Gaskin stated that he is the president of SARI and he does not understand why the lease was not shared with him or some of the board members rather than the pool manager. Bill Seigel stated he did not remember the name of the person he shared it with but it is in the file at his office. Bill Gaskin expressed his frustration that if the lease had been shared with the proper people a year and a half ago they would be well on their way to obtaining grant monies. Solicitor Cravitz stated that there should be an out clause that either party can terminate the lease with a year's notice. Bill Seigel replied that this is not possible. The issue that DCNR has is that the facility will remain accessible to public use for the minimum life, which is 25 years. Bill Gaskin asked if there is a possibility that the pool could come under the Borough's umbrella for their insurance in order to get a better price. Mgr. Bickhart stated if the lease is approved the same relationship and the same insurances as currently exist would have to be maintained. Even if the Borough went with the second lease the Borough would want all the responsibility for insurance, operation and maintenance put back on SARI in order to protect the Borough from lawsuits. So with either lease, it does not make sense to try to save money on insurance. C/P Kinney thought the Borough inquired about this at one time and Ken Miller told them that there was no savings. It used to be the Borough would get a savings but there is no savings now whether the Borough gets the insurance or whether SARI does. Solicitor Cravitz stated that he also remembers Ken Miller stating that there would be no break because pools are expensive to insure.

Motion by C/P Handlan that Council agree to the lease agreement with Selinsgrove Area Recreation, Inc. with the Borough as lessee. Seconded by C/P Christine.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

The lease was signed and presented to Jill Tomko.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: J. A. Coukart & Associates – Issues addressed earlier in meeting

BOROUGH TREASURER: Sharon Badman

Review Treasurer's Report for November 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.

Authorize the re-opening of Omega Bank Deposit Account No. 40319253 to receive wire transfers of funds from the Department of Justice Bryne Grant (formerly LLEBG) – Mgr. Bickhart reported that this account was closed by the bank due to inactivity but the Borough needs the account. He stated this is the account where they wire transfer what used to be the local law enforcement grant funds.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to reopen the Omega Bank Deposit Account No. 40319253. Seconded by C/P Kinney.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY / ZONING OFFICER: Mgr. Bickhart

Non-Police Matter Suggestions Update – Informational only for Council’s review

Update of PROPERTY TRANSFERS and BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED, Janet Powers, Deputy Zoning and Permit Officer – Mayor Beaver stated that Debbie Rathfon sold her property on High Street but he has never seen anything as far as a transfer on the sheet. Sheri stated it was during this month that it was sold. Mgr. Bickhart stated it takes a while for the Borough to get notification so the list may be a month or two behind.

Update on CK-COG inspection of property located at 309 South Market Street – Mgr. Bickhart reported that CK-COG inspected Cleon Bauman’s property at 309 South Market Street. At 10:00 a.m. on November 21 the property was condemned and posted. Mgr. Bickhart has not received the documentation on this yet. A letter will be sent to the property owner to get a schedule for correcting the violations. Mgr. Bickhart talked with Mr. Bauman, who understands the situation. Mr. Bauman is preparing to demolish the property. Mayor Beaver stated Mr. Bauman was seen stripping plumbing supplies out of the building last week or the week before.

Advertise Reorganization Meeting for Tuesday, January 3, 2006 as per PA Borough Code and review and approve Council Meeting dates for 2006 – Mgr. Bickhart called the July 10 meeting to Council’s attention. July 4 is a Tuesday and July 3 would be the normal meeting night but people may wish to take vacation on that date so the meeting was changed.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to advertise the meeting dates for 2006. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Reappoint the following:

- David D. Dagle to Selinsgrove Municipal Authority until 1/2010**
- Karl Rohrbach to Selinsgrove Borough Planning Commission until 1/2010**
- Karel Page to Selinsgrove Borough Planning Commission until 1/2010**
- Robert Burd to Selinsgrove Borough Zoning Hearing Board until 1/2011**
- David D. Dagle to Parks and Recreation Commission until 1/2009**
- Jodie Cope to Parks and Recreation Commission until 1/2009**
- Glenn Rohrer to Penn Valley Airport Authority until 1/2011**

Motion by C/P Kinney to reappoint all the people listed above. Seconded by C/P Reuning.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Consider vacancy of one member of Selinsgrove Borough Planning Commission – Mgr. Bickhart reported there is one vacancy on the Selinsgrove Borough Planning Commission so Council members can suggest names of people to serve. Pres. Mengel stated that Dan Weir might be interested.

Mary Searer Property – Solicitor Cravitz reported that the judge did not have the hearing yet but the property will be sold absolute at the next hearing, which should be this week.

SELINGSGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – No Report

EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Estimated Depreciation Values for 2007 Budget – This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

C/P Christine – C/P Christine stated it has been an honor and experience to serve on Council. He thanked everyone for their tutelage, stating he has learned a lot. He commended everyone for their hard work. Pres. Mengel thanked C/P Christine for his time and his expertise on the Finance Committee.

C/P Kinney – C/P Kinney thanked this Council and the previous Councils for serving with him. He stated that 34 years is a long time and he is not leaving with any sorrows. He stated he will miss the Council members and he will miss the Borough. He wished everyone well and thanked them for putting up with him, stating he would see people around town sometime.

C/P Hetherington – C/P Hetherington stated that when C/P Kinney first ran for Borough Manager he did not vote for him. He stated he does not wait around for phone calls and he works part time so he is not usually home during the day. He stated he does answer calls and messages and he destroys any unsigned letters that are mailed to him, whether they are good, bad or otherwise. He thanked C/P Kinney and C/P Christine for serving the Borough and stated it was a pleasure to be associated with them.

Pres. Mengel – Pres. Mengel stated she had a letter for C/P Kinney, which she read into the minutes. The letter is attached to the minutes.

Pres. Mengel – Pres. Mengel stated she received a letter from a Borough resident, Patrick Sipes at 18 Penn's Landing, who is requesting additional drop-off times for the recycling site, citing that he and his wife both work and to only have it open until 4:00 on Thursdays is a problem. Pres. Mengel stated she agrees with this for all the people who work. Mr. Sipes is seeking to have a commitment to have the recycling site open for a few hours on a Saturday even if it means staffing it by volunteers. Pres. Mengel suggested having Public Facilities look into this. Janet Powers stated that the recycling site is open the third Saturday of each month in the morning. Sheri stated that expanding the hours was discussed in the office. The recycling site is working well and the Saturday participation by residents has decreased drastically since they have the ability to come down every Thursday. Mgr. Bickhart stated the employees have been asked to observe Saturday usage and when the hours are published for next year there may be a recommendation to extend the hours if a way can be found to do so. Everything seems to indicate that the one Saturday a month serves the needs of people who cannot get there on Thursdays. Sheri suggested sending Mr. Sipes a schedule, stating that he may not be aware of the third Saturday hours.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by C/P Kinney at 9:28 P.M.

ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES:

- December 5, 2005 letter to Mr. George R. Kinney from Dianne K. Mengel