

## **SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL RECESSED MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart; Mayor P. Carroll; Borough Engineer John Coukart; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Borough Resident Joseph Siro; SPI Representatives Judy Spiegel and Pat Owens

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Police Chief T. Garlock

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

Pres. Handlan called the recessed meeting of August 7, 2006 to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

**Pat Owens regarding Isle of Que Boat Launch** – Pat reported that work has begun on the boat launch on the Isle of Que, with Dave Bowersox making his equipment available. Mgr. Bickhart reported that last year at this time Dave Bowersox had asked if he could volunteer his equipment to clean up some of the debris that comes out of the old dump site that was there. A permit was obtained from the Conservation District to go in and clean up as much as possible. With the water being low it is easier to get well out into the river for cleanup. Dave has cleaned up almost all of the dump that was there so the continual migration of broken glass and metal should be at an end in the short term. In the long term the riverbank will be returned to the way it used to be just downstream from the boat launch. This work was Dave Bowersox's donation to the community. C/P Hetherington stated he talked to Dave on Saturday and Dave showed him a spot that is higher than his own property. Due to this C/P Hetherington stated he is reconsidering his stand on permanent restrooms. Dave has never had water over his property since he lived there. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Dave makes some compelling arguments and if some sort of permanent bathroom facility is built it can be made from materials that are more durable and easier to prohibit vandalism. C/P Hetherington stated he got to thinking about the NIMS information and then he got to wondering who would be in charge of moving the portable restrooms. Mgr. Bickhart stated on September 5 there will be detailed plans available for discussion. C/P Mengel asked if the grant money has been received and if not what has to be done to receive the money. Mgr. Bickhart replied that the grant has been approved and the contract has been signed. This is a grant in which the money is spent and then reimbursement is requested. Pat Owens stated Dave Bowersox's donation has saved the project about \$20,000 in equipment rentals. In about two weeks Dave gets into a bigger project so if SPI could get some of the materials that Dave needs to the site he would be able to continue his work and have his part of it done. The materials will cost about \$12,000. Mgr. Bickhart reported that Dave has done about all he can do and the next step is to have the Boat Commission and the Conservation District Office look at what has been done and look at the plans and then give the go-ahead to proceed to the next phase. Council also needs to look at what has been done. Dave Bowersox came up with some cheap materials and some good ways to build retaining walls. This will enable work to be done in terraces and be done very conveniently. C/P Mengel questioned why, when the grant has already been approved, every step of the project has to be approved. Mgr. Bickhart replied that the final designs have to be approved. The Boat Commission approved the grant money based upon a concept in words but nothing was ever drawn. They now need to see the details. The plans are being drawn up now. Pat stated he would like to continue to take advantage of Dave's equipment as it is available. Mgr. Bickhart agreed, but stated there is only so much that can be done without final plan approval. Council thanked Pat Owens for working on this project. C/P Hetherington stated that Dave Bowersox said if any Council

member wants to see what he has done or has any questions they should call him and he will find time to go over things.

### **Judy Spiegel, SPI President**

**Report on CVS property** – Judy reported that the CVS buildings are down and this weekend smaller stone will be coming to the site for a nice surface area so the lot can be used during the Market Street Festival, perhaps for the stage site. Some of the drawings that the Penn State students did could be put out for people to see during the festival also. SPI accepted the conceptual design of the park that will go there. They are now working on figuring out costs and fundraising issues. C/P Reuning asked how strong or weak the walls are that are now visible and if something can be done to cover them. Judy stated that the Main Street Program includes façade matching money for business owners who want to redo not just the front of their buildings but also the backs or the sides. The only thing the money could not be spent on is the roof. The brick wall is great but the other wall was a big surprise to everyone. Mgr. Bickhart replied that no one in the room has ever seen that wall. Judy stated it rained the day that part of the CVS wall came down and the owners of the adjacent building were quick to put tar paper where it was needed. Judy reported that through the plans for the site SPI may be able to work with the owner of the building to help with some way to make the wall more attractive. Mgr. Bickhart showed a final copy that he brought along of the publication put together by the Penn State Landscape Architecture Department that summarizes their research into Selinsgrove as a part of a region, Selinsgrove as a community, and its strengths. This publication has much more detail than shown in the exhibits. A limited number of the publication are available. Council members may borrow the Borough's copy. The information is also on CD and Mgr. Bickhart will see if it can be put onto the Borough's web page. He stated there are 25 copies of the CD available and he will make more copies of the CD as needed. He stated the things that are being recommended will not be done in 20 years and maybe not even in 50 years but the document will serve as a guide for a long, long time.

**Report on Main Street Manager Program** – Judy reported that a man from Phillipsburg who is now working for the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber was an old Main Street Manager. He spoke at the local Chamber meeting a couple weeks ago and SPI is thinking it might be helpful to have him come in to talk about what the Main Street program is like on a day-to-day basis. At the Chamber meeting he broke down what he did throughout the month which was helpful because the information that SPI is getting from the state does not have such detailed information. Judy said she was surprised at all the things this man did. He talked about going into the businesses and helping them with their displays. He helped coordinate events and fundraising. Pres. Handlan stated Judy can work with Mgr. Bickhart to arrange a presentation but it would have to be limited to 10 to 15 minutes. Judy said the presentation at the Chamber meeting was about 15 minutes. She expressed gratitude for Council's continuing support of all of SPI's projects. Pres. Handlan stated she has minutes from the last SPI meeting to give to everyone at the September Council meeting. This will be done on a regular basis to keep Council informed. She stated she will email these or she can bring a hard copy to the meeting.

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

**Report on Change Order required to complete 2006 Utility Project** – Mgr. Bickhart reported Council has been brought up to date on this issue. John Coukart reported that in 27 years of working in the Borough this is the biggest challenge he has come across. He stated that the original water line was supposed to come down the north side of the street. What was encountered was an unknown sanitary sewer line that was right where they wanted to go with the water line. They started digging the water line in and realized that a house was connected to the sewer line and it was a live sewer line. They tried to televise the line and lost three cameras. Some of the pipes were dug up and a fourth camera used. Part of the problem is that there is an elbow and the camera could only go so far. A small camera used for laterals was tried and it did not get as far as necessary either. It was concluded that the best thing to do was to abandon the line because it was a 6-inch line with a bend in it and no manhole access. The deeper line on the south side of the street is ten feet deep and is a 12-inch diameter line. The homes on the north side of the street had to have their laterals run to this line. It was unknown why this line was so deep because usually they were put in by hand and they were not put in that deep unless there was a

purpose. The engineer thought maybe it tied into another system but there was no manhole. The line was televised up to see if there were any "T"s coming from the other sewer line but nothing was found. Finally, in the last day of televising, the line was cleaned up enough to show that the sewer lines goes to the yellow line in Broad Street and just stops. Every time the line was jetted they were actually drilling into the earth. The deeper line was in good shape and had a large capacity. It is recommended that a manhole be installed near Broad Street to enable the line to be accessed and cleaned out as needed. The dirt and gravel went all the way through the line. The flush truck was there twice in one day to run the nozzle up and back, four flushings in one day. Jet-Vac came back on another trip and brought their own vacuum truck and finally got it cleaned out. Using maps, John Coukart showed the existing water and sewer lines. He stated the depth was to the Borough's advantage because there was enough of a grade to connect the homes that had been on the smaller sewer line. The line will be cut and a manhole installed. The 6-inch sewer line was removed. Because the lines could not be televised it was unknown where any of the laterals were or even how many there were. Mgr. Bickhart reported the changeover price was for the contractor to reconnect those homes that were connected to the sanitary sewer line that was abandoned and to bring them across the street and tie them into the other sewer line. This required a change order and the obvious recommendation was to fix this once and for all while the street was ripped up. Since this was the beginning area of the project it would have been more expensive to try to go by the sewer lines, keep them hooked up and then come back and do the work. The contractor had already been off the job for a week or more. John Coukart stated the contractor was cooperative in waiting until the Borough could find out what was going on. C/P Inch asked if there is any guesstimate as to the age of the line and Coukart replied he thinks it was installed in the 1930s. He stated the other end of the block at the west end of the project shows a mapped sewer line but when the TV was being used they had problems getting past a connection and bend in the line. The line was actually on one side of the street with a bend in it, although not as severe as the other bend, and there was no manhole where the line came up through. This appeared to be the same situation and a radio beacon sensor was run on the end of a nozzle to clean the line. The people above-ground were actually able to trace the line and estimate its depth. Coukart knows the location of this line and is recommending the same thing, which is to install a manhole to eliminate a dead-end sewer line. The laterals can be left alone in that block but the water line was brought down and tied into the water line on Eighth Street. There is no additional cost for the water work but there are issues with the sanitary sewer lines. This is on the block between Orange and Eighth Streets. Coukart reported they just started this project this morning and will be finishing it up. In response to a question he reported that the minimum depth required for a water line in a street is four feet of cover. The existing line was about three feet deep. The 6-inch sanitary sewer line was actually shallower and the crew had to dig through that line to get down to where the water line was to go. C/P Anderson asked, since this problem was in one street, will this problem likely be encountered in more streets in the Borough. Coukart replied that in talking to Gary he learned that this was the only street that had not been televised. A lot of extensive televising was done when they were "in-situ forming" the lines because the contractor would do the televising at no cost to the Borough. C/P Mengel asked if it is unusual for that line to be in good enough shape to continue using it. John Coukart replied that it is in fairly good shape, although not perfect, and it is something that the Borough would want to consider "in-situ forming" sometime in the future. He feels comfortable with it at this point. He stated it bothered him to put sewer into a line without knowing why it was there and why it was so deep. No one wants to do something that would be detrimental to the system. The homes on the south side of the street had been connected to the deep line. The other side of the street, the north side, is now connected also. C/P Mengel asked where the homes' sewage went since the lines were so dirty. John Coukart stated the line was not solidly clogged but it contained enough gravel that the cameras could not get through because they were bottoming out on the gravel. C/P Hetherington stated the homes on the north side of the street were probably built before the homes on the south side of the street. Coukart stated that is logical, assuming that the shallow line was put in first. Perhaps there were overflow problems years ago and another line was put in deep enough because it is at about the same depth of the sewer lines in Broad Street. Mgr. Bickhart stated the situation was made even worse because there was 12 inches of concrete to dig through. Pres. Handlan asked what can be done for the residents and C/P Anderson suggested writing a letter to them to thank them for their cooperation and patience with the extensive project. Mgr. Bickhart stated he talked to a few of the residents and they understand. C/P Inch asked how long it will be before the project is finished and John Coukart stated it should be done by the end of the month. He stated there will a bituminous surface over the trenches but it will not be very thick

because next year the whole street will be replaced. C/P Anderson suggested that a letter to the residents include that information so people will understand the complications of the issue and not think the contractor or the Borough is being inefficient. John Coukart stated he estimated a change order to be about \$12,000. He does not have exact figures for the laterals. He is recommending that two manholes be installed, one on each end. He has asked Dave Maneval for a price on the manholes. He has not heard back from him yet but Coukart estimates about \$2,500 for each manhole. He stated the contractor had some down time and had to do some temporary connections of sewer until the Borough decided what to do so he is asking for about \$4,200 to cover that. This brings the total amount needed to finish the job to around \$20,000.

C/P Inch asked John Coukart about the project at Weiser Run. John Coukart reported that in a nutshell the school district's contractor did not build what Council was expecting to see, which was what was on the original plans that were approved about ten years ago. The repairs are not up to the standard of the original design and Coukart stated he still has concerns that the problem will reoccur and in fact is already occurring after one major storm. The rip rap has slid down off the textile fabric and is of no use any more. The banks are not properly seeded and are not properly protected. The problem is going to reoccur and a hole will form where it transitions from the rock into the stream bank. This is what happened previously. The school district needs to do a design to get the velocities back to the channel properly. This is called an inlet structure. It is not like a manhole or a street inlet because the school district is inletting their channel into a natural channel. Some additional rip rapping could be done all the way down through the channel. Mgr. Bickhart stated he sent the school district superintendent a letter asking him to get in touch with whoever the right person is and to have that person get in touch with Mgr. Bickhart so they can sit down and talk about what needs to be done. He has not heard anything from the superintendent or anyone else yet. C/P Inch asked if the Borough should consider letting Solicitor Cravitz take care of this since the school district went ahead and had the work done without notifying either Mgr. Bickhart or John Coukart for approval of the design and now it is failing. He stated that if this is let go the problem that the Borough has already fixed will reoccur downstream it will have to be fixed again. Mgr. Bickhart recommended giving this a chance to resolve itself. He pointed out that the Borough already heard from the school district's solicitor in their first approach to this issue and the school district's stance is that it was not their fault because it was an act of God. Solicitor Cravitz stated rather than stir things up it would be better to try the route that Mgr. Bickhart has suggested. Mgr. Bickhart stated if the school district absolutely refuses then legal means can be pursued. John Coukart stated if the school district's intent was to go with what was originally designed then they got taken for a ride. Mgr. Bickhart agreed, stating that if the school district gave their contractor the plans and told him to rebuild it then they did not get what they paid for. C/P Anderson stated the school district may not know that they got ripped off. C/P Inch asked if the school district would have recourse to go back to the contractor and Council thought they did. C/P Hetherington asked about putting a cement wall instead of rip rap around the bend. John Coukart stated it is not doing too badly there. A cement wall could be built but there would still be a problem where it straightens out and there will still be a problem where higher velocities are going over the soil. In 1996 reviews were done which noted that it was a very erodable soil and special attention should be paid to that fact; however, the school district did not do this. C/P Inch asked if John Coukart felt the school district proceeded with the best intent and their contractor erred. John Coukart stated that he believes this is the case. The erodable soils were probably more extreme than expected. He feels the intent was good and he would have thought the original design would have been adequate but it has proven itself to be a unique situation. The problem is that there is water traveling down a rock channel at a good velocity. The water then hits the soft clay silt and scoops it right out. The silt is then coming down into the Borough's system. John Coukart feels that the school district was taken advantage of by their contractor. They did put bigger rock in but the plan called for 18 inches of rock and they put in rock that was typically 9, 12 or 14 inches and they only installed one layer of rock. Normally with that size rock you would put it in deeper; you always want more than one layer of rock because you want it to interlock. John Coukart stated that the rock just washed right off the woven plastic nylon matting, which is a slick surface, because there was not enough rock interlocked together to keep it in place. C/P Inch asked if the school district has an engineer that signs off on these projects and John Coukart replied that they do and this bothers him. He stated he would like the school district to pass on his and Council's comments to the school's engineer and let the school engineer get together with the Borough to discuss this because it is an issue that needs some more design work done on it. The original design failed and then

the repair failed even more quickly than the original design did. C/P Hetherington stated Weiser Run can be practically dry and then there will be rain and it's like a flash flood and then it's back down again. John Coukart stated there is also a length of Weiser Run that currently has no protection. He stated there is a channel of Weiser Run that goes through Pine Meadows that is showing textbook signs of erosion. He stated that area needs some attention too.

**Report on Personnel Management Committee pertaining to the hiring of a new Director of Public Works** – C/P Anderson reported that it is the Committee's intent to have a recommendation to make to Council at the next meeting. They are continuing with interviews and it is going well. Mgr. Bickhart stated they had hoped to have a recommendation tonight but based upon the readvertisement there was a candidate come in that the Committee had to talk to and they just met with him. He stated the Committee is being very deliberate and careful because this is a very important position and they do not want to make a mistake. They hope to have someone onboard effective October 1.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**C/P Hetherington** stated he would like to have a Safety Committee meeting next Monday evening at 7:00 P.M. to review PennDOT's report on the various streets. He asked Mayor Carroll to invite Chief Garlock to the meeting. Pres. Handlan asked if PennDOT could be asked to redo their review at another time based on Chief Garlock's concerns. C/P Hetherington stated he personally feels that more 25 mile per hour speed limit signs are needed on Broad Street or more enforcement needs to be done because drivers have not slowed down. He felt a sign should be in the middle of every block and the trees trimmed so the signs are visible. C/P Mengel suggested advertising it more. Mayor Carroll reported that Chief Garlock did go to the officers after the last Council meeting and instruct them to beef up their enforcement of the speed limit and to increase the citations in the areas of Broad and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets. C/P Herb said it is not just Broad Street. He said he was on Mill Street this past weekend and the speed of the traffic on that street is sometimes shocking. He stated it is not just cars either; it is commercial vehicles, trucks and vehicles that will not be able to stop on a dime. Mgr. Bickhart stated the speed limit is on the front page of the newsletter. C/P Herb stated it takes time for people to become accustomed to any change. Mayor Carroll encouraged Council to give the police department time to work through this, especially with the new part-time officers. VASCAR cabling will be installed, there are speed traps in effect and ticketing has increased.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Carroll handed out some information on additional FEMA training. It is a four-day training to follow up on the other training. Mgr. Bickhart stated he gets these things all the time and he cannot justify four days for training.

### **OTHERS**

**Pres. Handlan** stated Sheri is a committee of one for the newsletter. At the last meeting there were a lot of topics suggested for the newsletter. An article will feature the Public Works Department and Pres. Handlan asked if it would be appropriate to mention Gary's retirement. It was Sheri's opinion and the consensus of Council that this should wait until the next newsletter when Gary has actually retired. The upcoming issue of the newsletter usually comes out in September. Sheri stated there is a lot of information on the new flood map, the new speed limit, sidewalk information, parking prohibited in winter months on certain streets, recycling, snow and ice information, and Market Street Festival advertisements. Council should have a draft to look over and approve at the September 5 meeting. It will then be printed and distributed. Pres. Handlan asked Judy Spiegel if she would do a small article on the CVS property. Mgr. Bickhart asked that she mention that the exhibits and report are available for people to look at in the office. C/P Anderson suggested including something on the streetlight project and Pres. Handlan asked Judy to come up with something on SPI as an entity and on the next phase of the streetlight project if the information is available. Sheri stated sometimes Mgr. Bickhart will put this type of information into his article.

**Pres. Handlan** asked Solicitor Cravitz if he has gotten a response to letters he sent out on August 8 to Michael Andretta and Miller. Solicitor Cravitz replied that he has not heard anything yet.

**Mgr. Bickhart** handed out copies of the police department staffing evaluation and operational needs from Chief Garlock. Pres. Handlan suggested Council look through this and bring comments and questions to the September 5 meeting.

**Mgr. Bickhart** showed Council the County's All Hazard Mitigation Plan which he had commented on briefly before. It has been finalized and the Borough has an obligation to adopt it and the Borough Planning Commission has an obligation to recommend its adoption to Council. Mgr. Bickhart stated he was going to try to get a PowerPoint presentation of this and present it and run through at least the salient points as they apply to Selinsgrove at the September 5 meeting. The Borough is well represented in the document in terms of identification of the things that the Borough needs. The whole purpose of this is to open the door to additional funding. There are a lot of projects listed including Isle of Que properties listed property by property with information on flood mitigation measures proposed, the emergency access to the bypass and other things needed in the event of flooding or other hazards and this document will provide an additional avenue for funding those things. The plan will be in the office and Council is welcome to take a look at it. Since it includes all the municipalities in the County, if he cannot get a PowerPoint presentation together, Mgr. Bickhart will just make copies for Council of the salient information relative to Selinsgrove. He stated there is also a CD available of it.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. following Motion for Adjournment by C/P Herb and Second by C/P Hetherington.

Attachments: None