

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: C/P Herb

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart; Mayor P. Carroll; Police Chief T. Garlock; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Recording Secretary Dawne Long; DH&L Representatives George Derk & Jason Kaufman; Borough Residents Ron Cowan, Joe Kleinbauer, Joseph and Margaret Siro; Irene's Restaurant Representatives Robert Hayes, Toby Skinner and Jill Tomko; Parks and Recreation Director Dick Norman; SARI Representatives Brian Burke and Patrick Reilly; SU Journalism Students Steph Bettich, S. McCleary-Harris, Sam Primak and Kirsten Sands; Teens Against Tobacco Use Representatives Matthew Edmiston, Nicole Raker and Megan Will

OTHERS ABSENT: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pres. Handlan called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mgr. Bickhart called the roll.

RECESS MEETING AT 7:02 P.M. TO ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING

Presentation by Bill Seigel on FFY 2007 CDBG Funding and past allocation of funds – Bill reported that tonight's meeting is not the final public hearing and it has not been advertised as such. Traditionally the process is done in two meetings and tonight would have been the final hearing; however, tonight is an additional project discussion meeting and not a formal public hearing. Mike Miller reviewed a summary of proposed projects for 2007. If Council approves these proposals, SEDA-COG will advertise them and include them in the final public hearing on March 5, 2007. Street reconstruction, removal of architectural barriers, and housing rehabilitation are projects that are being considered for funding. Mike noted that the housing rehabilitation program may be expanded to include street trees and water and sewer lines. The Borough's allocation for FFY 2007 is \$115,400. The recommended breakdown is as follows:

Pine Street Reimbursement:	\$77,000
Sidewalk Program including trees and water and sewer lines:	\$20,000
Administration:	\$17,720

Mike reported that a three-year plan is also included for future projects including Second and Front Streets on the Isle of Que. Any new projects that have been qualified by DCED as eligible should be started before the new census comes out. Some recreation project requests may be coming up in the next several years. If there is a cut in the CDBG Program and the Borough does not get \$115,400, SEDA-COG recommends that the money be cut from the Sidewalk Program in order to keep the first priority on the Borough reimbursing itself for the Pine Street project.

C/P Reuning stated that he heard that the federal government froze the block grant program. Bill Seigel replied that SEDA-COG has been trying to follow this. At one point they heard that the House was looking at a reduction and the Senate was looking at an increase. Under the continuing resolution all allocations remain unchanged. Last week Bill received an email indicating that the House had adopted a budget which was then being referred to the Senate that included some individual reductions in different programs. He heard there was a reduction in the CDBG program, but it was expected to be fiercely debated by the Senate. In summary, Bill stated that at this point there is no budget for the HUD CDBG program. He has been told to expect an average 2% reduction in funds, but as far as he knows there is no freeze in place.

Hear public comments on proposed activities or on proposals for new activities – None. Bill Seigel asked Council to take action on allocating funds consistent with SEDA-COG's recommendations or on some alternative to that. Bill reported that the outstanding balance for the Pine Street work is as Sheri had reported at the last meeting. Pres. Handlan asked if the recreational projects under the development plan would include the swimming pool. Bill stated this would be one of the projects along with others such as a skate park. These projects are of interest to the community and are of longer range than the projects that are funded this year. Challenges for the Borough include qualifying the projects to meet the criteria of the program and undertaking capital street improvements that have been prioritized. These projects can be explored more closely in several years as the recreational projects and the street projects develop. The highest priority for the Borough is to reimburse themselves for the improvements made on Pine Street. If the program would be cut and the Borough has not reimbursed itself, then they will not get the money.

Motion by C/P Mengel to concur with the funding allocation recommendations of SEDA-COG. Seconded by C/P Anderson.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Bill Seigel reported he will publish this and the final public hearing will be held March 5, 2007.

COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:12 P.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 27, 2006 AND REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2007:

C/P Anderson reported that on Page 10 of the January 8, 2007 meeting minutes Marcia Lehman should be changed to Marcia Lemons.

C/P Hetherington reported that on Page 12 of the January 8, 2007 meeting minutes under the appointment of new representative to replace Dave Faust, he had made a motion to appoint George Kinney. However, the motion was not seconded. This should be reflected in the minutes.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

VISITORS TO BE HEARD:

Borough Police Chief, Thomas Garlock – Presentation of Police Report for December 2006 and Presentation of Year End Statistical Summary for Police department – C/P Hetherington stated Council needs to read Chief Garlock's and respond with an increase in manpower. He stated he does not know where the Borough can come up with the money, but Council should consider hiring one more officer. Perhaps the Department could do without part-time officers or a vehicle. Council could look for other places to cut the budget. This should be discussed by the end of the year for the next year's budget. C/P Mengel asked what happened to the second part-time officer that Council had approved to be hired. Chief Garlock replied that that officer ended up taking a job with the federal government. Chief Garlock has applications on his desk now to go through to hire a second and third part-time officer. The process was delayed somewhat due to timing of insurance premiums.

Chief Garlock reported that the monthly report is self explanatory. He stated in the report he refers to a service and reporting reduction plan that he has instituted for 2007. The chief went over the annual report to give Council a better understanding of why the reduction plan was put into effect. The annual report shows 388 serious crimes in 2006 as compared to 369 serious crimes in 2005. The less serious crimes totaled 689 in 2006 as compared to 593 in 2005. This is a 16.2% increase. Less serious crimes are generally officer initiated crimes that are encountered by an officer on patrol. These include DUI,

disorderly conduct, underage drinking, and public drunkenness. Total crimes for 2006 were 1,077 as compared to 962 in 2005. This is an 11.9% increase in crimes reported to the police department. Chief Garlock stated he also added categories showing increases in Part 1, Part 2 and total crimes from 2004 to 2006. Clearance rates of crimes have also been indicated. Clearances are important to law enforcement agencies because they show not only what the Department has to deal with but how effectively they deal with the reports. Clearances are high in the Borough, although they have started to decrease. Part 1 crimes increased 0.3% from 2005 to 2006, which is negligible. Less serious crimes decreased. Overall there was a decrease of .03%. Chief Garlock stated that decreases in clearances are an earmark that something is going wrong and the Department is not as effective. He included violent crimes because there is an issue of state grants being available to hire a police officer for handgun violence in the state of Pennsylvania. However, the Borough's handgun violence is limited. There are instances of weapons violence but they are not as high as some other areas that qualify for these grants. The 2005 violent crime indices for the United States covering murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault were 4.69 incidents per 1,000 population. The 2006 indices for the Borough were 14.82 incidents per 1,000 population. This shows that the violent crime indices in the Borough are higher than the national average. This is to be expected with a small college environment and this does not alarm the chief. The total arrests for Part 1, Part 2 and overall crimes have increased steadily from 2004 to 2006. This indicates that more cases are being solved by arrest and prosecution of the individuals involved. Non-traffic citations have risen dramatically. Loss by property value has risen from \$175,000 in 2004 to \$400,000 in 2006, showing that the value of property being stolen has increased and the number of crimes has increased. Chief Garlock reported that his discussion of staffing and demand for services is self explanatory. In 2004 the Department handled 3,900 calls for service. These are reportable actions where an officer responds to a call or encounters an issue that has to be reported under the Department's reporting criteria. In 2005 the calls for service rose to 4,900 and in 2006 the calls for service rose to 5,600. Traffic enforcement has increased over the years. In 2004 there were 281 traffic citations issued as compared to 512 in 2006. Parking regulations have also increased. Chief Garlock stated that revenue is generated as part of enforcement.

Chief Garlock stated the final section of the annual report is the same as the final section of the December 2006 report – manpower utilization. In the semiannual report he had gone over staffing calculations based upon calls for service under the International Association of Chiefs of Police model. This has been condensed in the annual report. Using the staffing calculations for the appropriate number and eliminating traffic citations, which the IACP model does not hold, the total calls for service for 2006 are reduced to 5,186. Based on this figure, 7.03 patrol officer elements are justifiable under the IACP model. The Borough has 4 patrol officer elements in the Department. Chief Garlock stated his officers approached him in 2006 indicating that the number of calls for services, crime reports, traffic enforcement and parking enforcement being handled was becoming too much for the patrol force to adequately or responsibly do. Officers had to respond to calls, report them accurately, investigate what needs to be investigated and conclude investigations through proper means such as arrest, victim refusing prosecution or other exceptional means to clear the case. Clearances have been decreasing and the amount of work is increasing. The officers felt it was increasing to the point that it was detrimental and they would soon not be able to handle what was coming in. Chief Garlock reviewed the statistics and agreed that there was too much. The officers were handling over 1,200 calls for service per officer per year. The officers have to spend an extraordinary amount of time taking reports, writing reports, responding to the scene, investigating the scene and making subsequent investigations. The officers were also handling in excess of 800 investigations per officer per year. In order to make this manageable administratively and for the officers, and to attain operational goals of services for the Borough, Chief Garlock has initiated a service and reporting reduction plan. The services that the officers are no longer performing on a regular basis include community policing services that the Department instituted in response to the requirements of the federal government when the Borough participated in the COPS program, where two police officers were hired. The program required the Department to institute operational policies and goals and objectives under community policing ideas. Because of the high number of calls for service and other work the Department is doing, the majority of those kinds of services had to be eliminated. The police will still do what they can do, but it will be on an individual basis rather than on an operational policy basis. Chief Garlock stated he will not go over specifics of what has been eliminated in a public forum, but if anyone wishes to know he will explain it in a committee. Other

services that were not reduced had some reporting requirements removed. The newspaper listings show a dramatic difference in the numbers of calls that the Department is reporting. Many of the services are still being done but they are logged under the officers' daily logs and not accountable under independent calls for service. Officer-initiated calls for service are not being tracked under those criteria. With the service and reporting reduction plan, Chief Garlock estimates that by the end of 2007 there will be a 29% reduction in total call volume for the police department as reported and recorded by the police department as a call for service. So far in January this estimate seems to be on track, with a 22% reduction from January 2006 to January 2007.

Chief Garlock pointed out that manpower calculations are based on calls for service. He is reducing the calls for service. Reducing the calls for service from 2006 by 29% would bring the 2007 calls for service down to 4,300. By going into the staffing calculations and eliminating the traffic enforcement, which is not on the IACP model, this brings the staffing estimates below this year's calculations. The reduced numbers being reported to Council are from the service reduction plan. The officers now have more time to report, investigate and enforce basic police services within the Borough.

C/P Anderson asked for further clarification, stating that eliminating calls for service does not mean that the police department is not answering the phone. Chief Garlock explained that there are certain calls the Department will not take any more and certain functions they will not do that they had done in the past. Some of these would include foot patrols, vehicle lockouts unless there is an endangerment, and assisting outside agencies, such as responding to vehicle lockouts at CVS, which is outside the Borough. He stated for some things they have just reduced the reporting. The Department will still respond to calls for service but they will not do the community policing issues, some of which have been eliminated outright and others of which have had the reporting requirements reduced. The officer only has to report these on his daily log, stating something like, "I did a building check," rather than writing a report. This eliminates a lot of paperwork and some of the call types that the Department had been responding to. Chief Garlock stated that he did a tasking analysis of what the officers do or were expected to do, and he did an operational needs analysis. He has gotten back to the basic things that the Department must do to provide service to the community under the function of preserving the public peace and protecting property and persons. Another emphasis due to the reduction in clearances is that the Department is stressing criminal investigations and completions of those. While the officers' reporting has gone down, Chief Garlock's has gone up. C/P Anderson stated she understands that none of these reductions eliminate the need for the Department to be larger. Chief Garlock agreed, stating the need for more officers still exists. He just wants Council to know that the figures will look different from now on. He asked that anyone with questions give him a call and he can go over the plan.

DH&L Fire Company, Jason Kaufman – Jason introduced George Derk, a DH&L equipment engineer and one of the main drivers. A different firefighter will attend each Council meeting. Jason reported there were 30 incidents in January as follows: 8 in Selinsgrove, 6 in Penn Township, 8 in Monroe Township, 2 in Middlecreek, 2 in Chapman Township, 1 in Union Township, 2 in Washington Township and 1 in Upper Augusta Township, Northumberland County. The loss within the jurisdiction was \$0.00. January man hours total 595. DH&L performed three large public service details in the Borough in working at the skating pond to get it filled for the 2007 skating season.

Jason reported the Department took delivery of a 1985 pickup truck from DCNR Department of Forestry. This will be put in service as a brush truck for brush fires and at the racetrack to save wear and tear on frontline fire apparatus. The costs on the truck will be minimal. The truck was donated by DCNR. The light bars were donated by the police department. Most other parts are being donated. The total budget for the truck is around \$5,000 including equipment, with \$2,000 having been spent to date. Keller's Auto Body has donated labor and the truck will be painted at a cost of \$200 to \$300.

Jason noted that Monday nights are training and work nights and he invited people to stop in. There is a large group of about eight college students that joined the Department this year. These people have already been trained in other areas and they are out at the station three or four nights a week.

DH&L Ambulance League – No Report

Brian Burke, Selinsgrove Area Recreation, Inc. – Brian Burke reported that the pool board has committed to having a greater presence at Borough Council meetings and to encourage dialogue back and forth so that the pool will be the community asset that it was intended to be. Brian reported that he was elected president. Dave Stroup, who runs one of the local water authorities, is vice president. Richard Reilly is the secretary and Janet Pawling is the treasurer, replacing Brian Burke. Two new members have been added to the Board, Attorney Jeff Edmunds, a Selinsgrove resident who practices in Sunbury, and Bob Soper, who was part of the original Board that constructed the pool back in 1967. Another proposed addition who has agreed to serve but has not yet been approved by the full Board is Don Harnum. The Board plans to have committees that will involve more members of the community. Joe Kleinbauer, Ann Madison and another person will sit down as a round table to discuss fundraising and public relations. The pool board meetings will be announced in the Daily Item on their community activities pages. The meetings will be held in the Borough Council chambers. The meetings will begin as executive sessions to deal with certain issues. By the time the pool opens, the by-laws will be restructured to allow for a community voice on the pool board. Input will be taken from the public and the board will no longer be perceived as a closed group.

Brian stated that Steve Slaton is the CPA/attorney working with the pool board on the outstanding IRS issues. Two of the years have been fully abated by the IRS. This was never an issue of money not being paid to the federal government. This was a reporting issue where “0” should have been written on the records and the records were not submitted in a timely fashion. There were four years in question whose forms were submitted by the CPA. 2001 and 2004 have been forgiven; 2002 and 2003 are still outstanding at an amount of \$6,531. The pool board has renewed its contract with the accounting firm of Karchner, McClellan and Riddell for 2007. This allows for a routine reporting schedule.

The pool board has entered into discussion with the YMCA to take over the operational management of the pool. The board will contract the YMCA to actually be the manager of the pool and to provide the assistant manager. The pool board would no longer have any employees. The staffing, certification and training of the lifeguards would all be handled by the YMCA. A contract has been proposed and approved by the YMCA board but has not yet been signed and is awaiting a decision in the next month or two. This relationship would provide outside experience to the pool board. The inside volunteerism is very positive, but limited. The YMCA manages four other pools and the managers work as a collective effort to have best practices in place. Prior to signing a contract with the YMCA, a list of items will be sent that the pool boards needs to address. This gives the pool board a firm action plan to prepare for the opening of the pool. This requires diligence and action, something that was neglected in the past due to the voluntary nature of the organization. The pool board has received input from the Department of Health, noting action points that need to be addressed prior to the pool being authorized to open. The communication was positive in the sense that what was written by the Department of Health was mirrored by the YMCA letter. The pool board has already had a meeting with the YMCA people and the Department of Health and gone over the items point by point to determine what would be done prior to the pool opening. Everyone involved – the pool board, the YMCA and the State of Pennsylvania – is committed to a safe and healthy swimming pool environment for the community. The pool board may need to come back to Council for a letter of support to be given to the Department of Health as work is done throughout 2007. The list of work to be done is not an easy list but the pool board has asked for permission to systematically go through the list with the pool inspector to continue operations versus having someone from the outside say that the pool cannot be open for certain days. The pool board does not believe they should ask for a complete deferment of any one topic on the to-do lists. However, the board may need a letter from Council stating that the pool is important to the community and as long as there is accountability and communication that some discretion could be extended. Mgr. Bickhart provided a letter for the Department of Health regarding the restructuring of the pool. The feasibility study is being finalized and the board is working with SEDA-COG to make sure that the pool is included in all regional activities. This will be used as a base for fundraising in 2007.

Pat Reilly stated that SARI has been working with Wolever and Associates to complete the details for a feasibility study. Bill Seigel from SEDA-COG and Wes Ferringer from DCNR are assisting with the process to ensure that it meets DCNR standards and will be acceptable in applying for grants. There is

an opportunity in April for SARI to have more than 14 months to satisfy the matching grants. SARI feels that with the feasibility study and a network of dedicated people this goal can be easily met. Selinsgrove Borough will need to submit the grant and act as a guarantor for the process. SARI will take on the responsibility of having the grant written. SARI is asking that Council consider this over the next month and SARI will return with more information at Council's March meeting. C/P Mengel asked what dollar amount SARI is anticipating and Pat replied that it will be in the area of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. The grant has to be prepared and submitted in April. Bill Seigel stated that Selinsgrove is one of the first municipalities in the state to realize that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, who is the agency that manages development grants for recreation including swimming pools, has made a policy decision which has not yet been published. Historically their applications for planning were taken in April and the applications for construction or development projects were taken in the fall, usually September or October. DCNR has been slow in announcing approvals and getting them through the process so they would lose an entire construction year. DCNR has now made a policy decision that starting in 2007 they will take the development applications in April and not have a development application phase in the fall. With that short notice many municipalities will be blindsided by this. Bill stated when it was brought to his attention he raised a concern with DCNR and asked them to reconsider the decision by allowing an application in April and again in the fall for 2007, and then in 2008 go to April only. The good news is that if the municipality is able to submit its application in April they have a reasonably good chance of not having much competition. SARI saw this opportunity and the challenge it provides to the group. The first challenge is that the feasibility study, an important element of the application, is not complete. A meeting is scheduled for this Thursday with Wolever to try to resolve this issue. Mgr. Bickhart is helping out with this process. The second challenge is that SARI, as a not-for-profit organization, is not an eligible application for the DCNR recreation program. SARI can apply with a lease-back arrangement wherein the swimming pool is put under the control of the Borough and the Borough leases all the responsibilities for operation, maintenance, liability, etc. back to SARI. DCNR requires a municipal applicant and a commitment that the facility will not go private during the life of the investment, which is a 20 or 25-year lease. The Borough would ultimately have to agree to be the applicant to DCNR. The official April application due date has not yet been published and this is short notice for Council to take action. Bill cautioned Council that they would by resolution be required to demonstrate a commitment of match. SARI would have a year to develop and provide the match, and the Borough would not be bound until they were to let a contract for construction. While Council would be pledging match, they would be pledging it if they were to accept and use the DCNR funds. They would pledge match, the application would be submitted on behalf of SARI, there would be several months until DCNR rendered a pro or con decision on the grant application, the design stage would take place, bid documents would be developed, advertising and solicitation would take place, and then a decision by the Borough would be made to award or not award the bid and concurrent with that to accept or not accept the grant. Bill stated there is an exposure because Council would be adopting a resolution to pledge match, but the risk is limited in that Council controls the cards that spend the money. They would be able to back away from the commitment if the funds were not raised by SARI before going to bid or awarding the contract. The window for the application is very short. It is an opportunity for SARI if they can get themselves in position to do it, but it will be a challenge for them. It is as difficult for SARI to meet the deadlines as it is for Council to consider the request. SARI will have the meeting this Thursday with Wolever and most likely will come to Council for a resolution at the March meeting. Bill suggested Council do two things: 1) consider what they want to see from SARI in terms of a commitment to Council in order for Council to pass the resolution to apply and 2) determine what documentation Council wants from SARI before Council actually authorizes the design for the improvements. This second part gives SARI the months while DCNR is reviewing the application to raise funds and prepare to provide the match for the project.

Pres. Handlan asked if the project will be done in phases. Brian stated that SARI hopes to structure the project to address infrastructure issues and then aesthetic issues. He stated this whole process puts the pool into the eyes of the community as a community asset. This, along with the partnership of Council on the pool as a community asset, should help in fundraising within the community. C/P Anderson asked whether the issues that need to be addressed per the Department of Health prior to opening related to the need to have the grant. Brian replied that those items are not related to the grant. C/P Anderson asked for an idea of what the Department of Health requirements are for the pool prior to opening. Brian replied that these issues include addressing leaks of pipes in a given room, placement of timers and whether

they are operational, and safe electrical operation. C/Ps Anderson and Inch asked if SARI has the financial resources to address these issues prior to opening and Brian replied that they do. SARI is working along with the health inspector to make sure there are no surprises. The YMCA will also be working with SARI and the health inspector regarding water quality and other issues. The consensus of Council was that the professional management with the YMCA is a terrific idea.

C/P Anderson asked if this grant situation should be referred to a committee for review to help determine whether Council feels ready to make such a commitment in a month's time or to identify what Council needs to know. She asked if she understood correctly that the Borough would take ownership of the pool. Bill Seigel replied that the Borough will lease the pool for a period of 25 years and then the operating responsibilities will be turned back to SARI. In the eyes of DCNR the Borough will be the owner and controller of the pool facility. C/P Anderson asked whether this was the case when the pool was built and was told no. Bill stated that this is not an atypical relationship. It has been done many times. Projects are funded where the pool or recreation facility is owned by a private entity. The most significant project of this type is in Montour County, where the county actually owns a portion of the Pennsylvania Power and Light Montour Preserve in order to fund the Montour Preserve Environmental Center with DCNR funding. He stated this is done with fire departments in townships and with Rotary Club parks. He stated he has been involved in at least 15 of these lease-back arrangements with municipalities. C/P Anderson asked if the Borough Council would contract the operations back to SARI or would the Borough contract with the YMCA. Bill replied that SARI would lease the facility to the Council and in the same agreement the Council would make SARI responsible to maintain, operate, report, pay liability, etc. so it basically becomes a paper control process. Mgr. Bickhart stated that an agreement was submitted months ago that stated that the Borough actually is a lessee of the equipment of the pool but has nothing to do with the operational maintenance. The grant is funding equipment refurbishment.

Bill Seigel stated that in addition to the lease, Council will also be asked to sign a resolution to apply for the grant. One of the requirements of the DCNR grant is that the facility must remain public. That means if SARI were to dissolve, the pool would have to remain public and it could not be made a private facility. The unknown is if SARI were to dissolve because of financial operations and they could not afford to keep the pool, would DCNR mandate the Borough to operate the pool for the remainder of the lease. That has not occurred in any community so Bill does not have the answer to that question. His guess is that if the Borough could show that it was not financially feasible to maintain and operate the pool and the Borough elected to close it, DCNR would allow that. It is not something that anyone wants to envision happening, but it has to be considered. C/P Inch asked for everything to be put in writing that Council needs to consider, including the obligations as well as the benefits to the Borough. Bill stated SEDA-COG will work with SARI to develop the application. Because of the time frame Council may not be able to see the entire application. However, at a minimum the budget, the resolution and the lease agreement will be on the table. The lease agreement has actually been bounced around for several years and is available now. The resolution is a model and it can be made available to council. The unknown is the budget, the phasing and the procedure. This will be addressed at the Thursday meeting with Wolever. Bill stated that great strides have been made by SARI in a sincere and honest effort to move the process forward. He stated he has respect for the people who have stepped up to the plate to take this responsibility on and while there is some risk that needs to be mitigated, there is a great opportunity.

C/P Mengel asked if there is an option for the grand amount to be decreased to match what is raised in the event that SARI doesn't raise the total amount of the match. Bill replied that this is possible with certain limitations. DCNR will require that certain minimum tasks be accomplished because if these tasks are not accomplished the facility may not be compliant with health codes or will not be able to maintain any level of sustainability. DCNR will allow the scope of the grant to be reduced within reason based on available funds. They will only give \$1 back for every \$2 that SARI demonstrates they spent, which by default will reduce the amount of the grant. Bill stated this is another issue that has not been discussed yet. This is a reimbursement grant so there will need to be bridge financing, whether from the Borough, the budget, local banks or wherever. DCNR is not the fastest agency to reimburse expenditures so there may be an issue of interest for 12 months.

Mgr. Bickhart stated that because there are so many unknowns, Thursday's meeting is essential. The promise of the consultant to produce a feasibility study in a specific time period is essential. If the meeting goes well there will be a lot of information before Council next month and the discussion would not have time to go to a committee. It will be an issue that Council discusses as a committee of the whole. A group of three probably cannot make an effective recommendation to the full Council. Everyone needs to hear all the details and then it will come up for a motion and a vote. C/P Anderson stated if the grant application is due before the April Council meeting a second special Council meeting could be held in March. Bill Seigel stated the deadline might be late in April or even later, as he brought up to DCNR that municipalities begin work on applications a year in advance, not two months in advance. There is a requirement for a public meeting and public notices. Pennsylvania Natural Diverse Index has to be completed as part of the application. If a natural resource is hit on the PNDI search, six weeks can be lost resolving that issue.

Sheri asked when construction would start if the grant were approved. Bill stated that this is new territory because April has never been an application phase. Typically it takes from September until April or May to make announcements. With an April application the announcement would come late in 2007. In a perfect world design could be done through the winter and possibly bid it for construction in early 2008 but the reality will probably be after the pool closes in 2008. Best case scenario is that construction would occur fall 2008 through spring 2009.

Pres. Handlan and Council thanked Brian Burke and SARI for their hard work on this project and for helping the organization come together.

Megan Will, Facilitator, and Student Representatives of Selinsgrove High School Teens Against Tobacco – Megan Will is the youth program coordinator for a small, private non-profit organization that operates in the six-county region including Snyder County. Teens Against Tobacco is part of a statewide program called BUSTED, which is a group of high school students from across the state who work together to encourage their younger peers not to use tobacco and also to get their communities to create healthier environments for everyone including kids.

Students Matt Edmiston and Nicole Raker introduced themselves. Nicole requested that Council enact an ordinance to make all the playgrounds and parks in the Borough smoke-free. Their reasoning is that when kids frequent playgrounds and parks and see people smoking, they think it is okay to smoke. Smoking shortens a person's lifespan by 13 years and it is the number one cause of preventable death. Five million children alive today will eventually die as a result of smoking. Matt stated that positive role models are needed. Children are more likely to become tobacco users when they are regularly exposed to tobacco use in their everyday lives. Creating a family-friendly environment free of tobacco helps to change social norms in the lives of children. This helps children to understand that a tobacco-free lifestyle is healthy, normal and enjoyed by most of society. Minors see tobacco use as part of an image. It has been scientifically proven that if children see people smoking they will want to smoke, but if they do not see people smoking they will not smoke. Safety and litter cleanup need to be increased. Cigarettes in areas frequented by children can be a safety issue. Cigarette litter costs the Borough money for cleanup and looks ugly.

Megan stated that they spoke to the Parks and Recreation Commission. She is requesting that Council piggyback the recent ordinance making Borough buildings and vehicles smoke-free with this ordinance to make the Borough parks and playgrounds smoke-free. She stated it has been proven through studies in universities across the United States that children who see less tobacco use are less likely to use tobacco. If children see tobacco use as an adult or tough-guy image they are more likely to try it. Nicotine is one of the most addictive drugs in the world. It's more addictive than heroine or cocaine. Beyond protecting the kids, there is the cleanup issue. It is unsightly to go to the park and see cigarette butts. Small children pick them up and put them in their mouths. There is also the issue of secondhand smoke. Even though parks and playgrounds are outside, the playground area is a confined space. If the Borough had an ordinance they would have more authority to ask people to go outside the playground area to smoke.

C/P Anderson asked how this would be enforced. Megan handed out some information from her company, Clinical Outcomes, showing what happened in Schuylkill Haven, a small town beyond Pottsville in Schuylkill County. Their park has been smoke free for 2½ years. A website called www.smokefreeyouth.org had some suggestions to train Borough staff and people who will enforce the ordinance. The handout included an announcement that could be used at a special event, which Megan stated her group would be happy to host should Council decide to enact the ordinance. They would partner with an area agency such as Kiwanis or Lion's Club or Rotary and have a free movie night or a concert at the park, with the theme being the announcement of the new policy at all Selinsgrove parks. This event would emphasize the positive. It is not about persecuting smokers but about making sure that the people who choose not to smoke get to live the clean, healthy lives that they have chosen to live. The majority of people, over 75%, are non-smokers.

Mayor Carroll stated that he attended the meeting last week with Parks and Rec, and at that time the organization stated that they would pay for signage. Megan stated that there is a standard size sign that the organization will provide with whatever wording the Borough would want. She stated it is important to make this positive and not anti-smoking but pro-health. She stated last summer Kidsburg in Bloomsburg went tobacco free due to the efforts of the Teens Against Tobacco group in Columbia County. Channel 16 was there to cover the event and there was much positive feedback from the community.

Megan reported on some activities the students have been involved in, such as mall events, an upcoming State College rally, and an upcoming rally on the Capitol steps in Harrisburg to lobby for clean indoor air legislation.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to authorize Solicitor Cravitz to come up with an ordinance against smoking in the parks and playgrounds.

There was some discussion as to whether this should be an ordinance, which implies that the police must enforce it, or a resolution, which might be a better alternative. Mgr. Bickhart stated the difference between ordinances and resolutions is the term. It would be more appropriate to be an ordinance. It could also be a policy that Council adopts pursuant to the use of the Borough's parks and playgrounds and it could be put in the rules that the Borough has adopted for the use of the parks and playgrounds. Solicitor Cravitz stated the only enforcement on this would be asking someone to leave as they would be trespassers at that point, rather than having the police arrest someone. Mgr. Bickhart stated he could find out what other communities have done, whether ordinances or resolutions.

C/P Hetherington stated he would not rescind his motion, which then died for lack of a second.

Motion by C/P Anderson that Council adopt a policy to modify the parks and playgrounds rules and regulations to reflect no smoking in all the Borough parks and playgrounds. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

SU Journalism Students – Mgr. Bickhart recognized the four college journalism students who were attending the Council meeting.

Request for Consideration of Economic Development Projects and Issuance of Liquor License – Irene's of Selin's Grove – Jill Tomko stated that the former M&T Bank building was bought by her mother and it will become a fine dining restaurant with a 1925 theme, named after her grandmother, Irene. She stated the emphasis is on dining and not liquor, so the requirement of this liquor license that 70% of the business's income derive from food sales is not a problem. She stated she spoke with someone at the PLCB who indicated that the restaurant could also include a BYOB policy. Mgr. Bickhart suggested Jill double check on this, as once a license is granted he does not think a BYOB element would be allowed. He stated the opportunity for this particular liquor license has been advertised and the only application received was the one for Irene's. Brian Farrell, who last year had obtained approval from Council to pursue this license, is no longer interested in doing so. One of these licenses is available per year per county as long as no other liquor license is available in the county. The license is not

transferable and is only for the named owner in the named location. Mgr. Bickhart stated that there was an article in *The Patriot* involving one of these liquor licenses in Hampton Township for a TGI Friday's.

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve the request of Irene's of Selin's Grove fine dining restaurant for the economic development liquor license. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Request for Conditional Use approval for waiver of 13 of the required 22 off-street parking spaces for Irene's of Selin's Grove – Jill Tomko reported that there are a few less seats than originally thought, 52 rather than 60. She is waiting to hear from the architect as to the requirements for opening the upstairs. This reduction in seating drops the number of off-street parking spaces requiring a waiver from 18 to 13. Jill stated they will also look into other parking areas that are nearby for spaces that they can utilize. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the current parking for the building includes 9 parking spaces so a waiver is needed for 13 parking spaces. He stated this is a conditional use process that is in the Ordinance. It allows Council to establish reasonable conditions when granting the waiver from the zoning ordinance regarding parking.

Motion by C/P Anderson to waive the requirement. Seconded by C/P Mengel.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Ron Cowan, Skateboarding Issue – Ron thanked the Safety Committee for meeting with his group and listening to their concerns.

Joe Kleinbauer – Joe extended his compliments for the way the skateboarding issue was handled, stating it was a good for the community and he was very proud of Council and the community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

Review List of Council Issues – No Report

COMMITTEE / COMMISSION / BOARD REPORTS:

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE: C/P Inch, Chairman

Payment and Ratification of Bills

Motion by C/P Inch to pay the bills. Seconded by C/P Hetherington.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. - Exoneration Requests – Mgr. Bickhart reported one exoneration request for Albert E. Snyder for the year 1992 – deceased.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to grant the exoneration as read by Borough Manager. Seconded by C/P Mengel.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE: C/P Reuning, Chairman – C/P Reuning reported that the Committee will be walking the sidewalks when the weather warms up.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION / PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: C/P Mengel, Chairwoman – C/P Mengel reported that there was a meeting with the Library Building Committee last Tuesday. She stated nothing has changed other than that the library is pushing for a stand-alone building. She stated

her Committee expressed concern for how the library would be able to finance this. She stated the library is pursuing several sites and when a decision is made the library will get back to her Committee. Pres. Handlan asked if the modifications to the current building were discussed. C/Ps Mengel and Anderson stated that at this point the library does not even want to consider that option. They feel there is no room for future expansion. C/Ps Mengel and Hetherington stated the library has discussed building the shell of a stand-alone building, with a minimum of 19,000 square feet on one floor, and finishing it as funds permit. Mgr. Bickhart suggested referring this to the Borough's Committee to come up with a plan for the current building to present to the library. Pres. Handlan stated the library's last plan for the modification of the current building did not include any expansion to include closing the alley if necessary. C/P Anderson stated the library has been given input regarding Borough offices possibly being downstairs as long as they were not an afterthought, adding an elevator, and other suggestions. The library's plans showed the Borough's utilization as blank space on the plans. They also did not show any use for the former police facility that the Borough has already donated to the library for their use. The library made the cost of renovating and expanding the present building virtually the same as the cost for a new stand-alone facility. C/P Anderson pointed out that the new facility has no budget figure for site preparation or land purchase. She stated the library's operating issues were discussed and the fact that much of their operating money comes from the Borough's support which allows matching money from the state. She did not feel the library had much understanding of their economic realities in terms of their operations. C/P Mengel stated it is not the Borough's obligation to do a design for the library. Mgr. Bickhart stated his concern is that the library has their mind set and the architect needs to be given some direction to explore a pragmatic solution. The library consultant stated the library should be on one floor to allow one person to supervise the entire area. If the library stays on their current path, nothing will happen. They will not raise the money and the library will not be expanded. Someone has to come up with an alternate view, describe it, justify it, identify its pros and cons, and offer it to the library. He stated he had hoped the consultant would come to him or to Council for ideas to help an architect design an appropriate utilization of the space of the current building. He stated the space can be utilized in such a way that the library will have a long future in its current location. He stated if Council feels strongly that the library needs to stay in its current location then Council needs to develop the concept to present to the library. C/P Hetherington stated he has mixed feelings about the library relocating. If the land surrounding Selinsgrove were to be totally developed then the population center will not be in Selinsgrove. It may be better for the library to be located in another area, such as near Grayson View. He expressed concern about closing the alley for an expansion, which may block delivery trucks from the stores on Market Street. He also expressed concern about parking for an expanded library in the Borough. C/P Anderson stated libraries are changing and many resources are online or on tape, so to build a large space to house books is not the reality of the future. She stated the Committee told the library that if they moved too far out of town they would have an obligation to provide a branch in the Borough. This was not well received. Pres. Handlan asked if SPI was present at the meeting and C/P Anderson stated that Judy Spiegel was there and was equally frustrated with the library's lack of progress. Margaret Siro noted that the Snyder County Library Board could build a new library anywhere in the county and it would not have to be in Selinsgrove itself. Mgr. Bickhart stated the Library Board basically said that if they moved the Selinsgrove branch out of town then the Borough would not have a library of its own any more. Margaret asked if there is a new library director and Pres. Handlan stated the position is currently vacant. Barbara Gary is the interim director. C/P Anderson stated she does not know how to move the library along in their building process. C/P Mengel stated the library is pursuing their land options at this point. C/P Reuning asked where the library would get the money to buy the land and C/P Anderson replied that the library has enough money for a deposit. C/P Anderson stated the Committee did not ask the library why they have not made use of the additional space they were given downstairs. Pres. Handlan stated the library does not have the money to do the renovations and they are waiting for grant funds. Joe Siro stated the architects recently went through every room in the building so he thought a plan would have been drawn up and presented to the Borough. Mgr. Bickhart stated the architects are aware of the available space but they did not propose uses for all the space. Pres. Handlan stated she will have a discussion with the Library Board. She stated there are a few individuals who are holding things up and they do not reflect the consensus of the Board as a whole. C/P Hetherington asked if the County Commissioners have any knowledge of this issue and C/P Anderson stated the commissioners have not been involved in this at all.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE: C/P Inch, Chairman

PMRS Retirement Buy-Back Option – Mgr. Bickhart stated this would allow the employees to buy back retirement time for the time that they were working as a probationary employee. Council had passed a motion authorizing information to be gathered. The Finance Committee now has the exact numbers pertaining to non-uniformed employees, which applies to Sheri, Rick and Sheeny as well as the numbers pertaining to the uniformed employees, which applies to Tom and Mark. There is an amount of money the employees would have to pay into the system over a number of years and also an amount that the Borough would have to pay in over ten years. The Borough's obligation for the non-uniformed employees is \$440 a year for ten years and for the uniformed employees is about \$472 a year for ten years. If the employees want to have the benefit of their amount right away, they must pay it right away. The Borough's share will be paid over ten years no matter what the employee's elect to do. Sheri stated this is just a decrease in actuarial surplus. There is no actual money sent by the Borough. She stated one employee is looking at retirement and this buy-back option increases the years of service, which is a multiplier in the final pension amount. Mgr. Bickhart stated PMRS will do the study and give the Borough the text of the change in the plans, and Council can adopt it.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: C/P Herb, Chairman – No Report

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: C/P Anderson, Chairwoman – No Report

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: C/P Hetherington, Chairman – C/P Hetherington reported the Committee met with Selinsgrove Kids Acting To End the Restrictions of Skateboarding – SKATERS. They went over information about skateboards, bicycles, roller blades, and scooters. Solicitor Cravitz found some sample ordinances for consideration. Chief Garlock and Mgr. Bickhart will come up with some things they feel should be in the ordinance, such as prohibitions from using certain streets. When a tentative ordinance is drawn up there will be another Committee meeting to go over it. Pres. Handlan asked if there was any more talk about the potential land to be donated for a skate park. C/P Hetherington stated the Committee knows the land is there but did not talk about it. Mgr. Bickhart stated this is in Dick Norman's very capable hands.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Earl Moyer, Chairman – No Report

ZONING HEARING BOARD: Glen Rohrer, Chairman – No Report

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Dalton Savidge, Chairman – No Report

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: Richard Norman, Chairman

Consider filling the vacancy of two members of the Parks and Recreation Commission – Mgr. Bickhart reported that the Board is recommending that Council appoint Jane Coyne, Marcia Lemons and Richard Vascellaro as new members of the Commission.

Motion by C/P Anderson to appoint these three people. Seconded by C/P Mengel.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Ice Skating Rink – Pres. Handlan reported that there were some vandalism problems at the rink each time they attempted to flood it. Vandals threw rocks and firewood into the water. The wood was removed, the rink was flooded and it did open yesterday from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. Pres. Handlan encouraged everyone to go down to see the work that was done by the Eagle Scouts and other volunteers. She stated the rink is being used already and refreshments are being served. Volunteers are needed to keep it open more hours. Mayor Carroll stated Dick Norman has asked that the police monitor the rink as much as possible. Dick appeared on Channel 16 this afternoon. Ron Cowan asked what the requirements are for volunteers and Mgr. Bickhart stated with supervisory volunteers they would want someone 18 or older. Sheri stated kids could do concessions or maintain the ice. Pres. Handlan stated a

sign will be posted to let people know when the rink is open. If it is closed people can still skate at their own risk but there will no lights or P.A. system or fireplace for warming up. She suggested putting a sandwich board up at the corner on Market Street to let people know the rink is there.

Life Trail Flyer – Mgr. Bickhart stated these flyers were put together by Dick and Sheri to send out to people as a thank you for their work on the project. Sheri stated there will be an open house/dedication in the spring. This information will be included in the newsletter.

Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee – Mgr. Bickhart reported the next meeting will be held February 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. He stated the Committee is getting closer to having an actual draft to share with Council. He stated he is making sure the swimming pool is recognized as a regional recreational facility.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION: Karl Maul, Chairman – No Report

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR: Pete Carroll – Mayor Carroll asked Council to take the time to read Chief Garlock's report, especially regarding the 29% reduction information. He encouraged Council to call the Chief with any questions they may have.

Mayor Carroll reported that he and Chief Garlock now have better communication, thanks in part to Mgr. Bickhart, Pres. Handlan, Solicitor Cravitz and the Council.

Pres. Handlan suggested that work continue on the Junior Council member program that was discussed a few months ago. Mayor Carroll has reminded her that this person must come from the Borough and not the entire Selinsgrove Area School District area. Some students have expressed interest but they reside outside the Borough. Pres. Handlan asked Mayor Carroll to draft an article for the newsletter. It is important to get youth involved so they can become Council members in the future.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Robert Cravitz

Consider adoption of Resolution 2007-01 pertaining to exoneration of Tax Collector for uncollected 2006 Real Estate and Per Capita Taxes – Solicitor Cravitz reported that this takes place every year. The Council exonerates the tax collector, Michael Bolig, from collecting delinquent real estate taxes. This year the amount is \$12,487.47 which Mr. Bolig will not be liable under his bond to collect. This resolution also exonerates Mr. Bolig from the 2006 per capita taxes that he believes are non-collectible in the amount of \$600 and those that are collectible in the amount of \$1,435. This does not mean the taxpayers do not have to pay the money, but that Mr. Bolig is released from having to pursue the people to try to collect the taxes.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to adopt Resolution 2007-01. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Notification to Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. of 2006 Delinquent Per Capita Taxes – Solicitor Cravitz reported that the real estate taxes will be referred to the County Tax Claim Bureau for collection, but the per capita taxes must be referred to the Statewide Tax Recovery.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to make this referral. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Regional Sewer System Extension to Outside Four-Municipality Area – Solicitor Cravitz reported that some months ago Mgr. Bickhart had mentioned that someone outside the ESCRA area wanted to have sewer service to a property south of the Borough owned by Gary Walter. Penn Township Municipal

Authority was informed last week that Mr. Walter has entered into an agreement of sale on the property and will not be going forward with his development plans at this time. He has withdrawn his inquiry to Penn Township Municipal Authority and they have refunded his escrow funds for development.

St. Pius X Groundbreaking – Solicitor Cravitz reported that the Catholic Church broke ground for their new building yesterday. They expect to have the first service in their new building at Christmas.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: J. A. Coukart & Associates

Update on pending projects – Mgr. Bickhart reported the design of the street and alley program for 2007 is in process, as is the utility program for 2007. Streetscape Phase 2 is ongoing and foundations are being put in. The School District has not gotten back yet regarding the Borough's suggestions on Weiser Run. Mgr. Bickhart stated he will let the engineer know that the Susquehanna housing issue has been resolved. C/P Anderson asked if Council needs to take action on the 2007 utility program. Mgr. Bickhart explained that this is a discussion between Rick, Roger and himself to figure out where they will position it. He is waiting to see the land development plans that Savidge Rental Group is putting together for the development of the property on the corner of Sand Hill Road and South High Street, as it might be a possibility to put it over there and have more accessibility to extensions in the future.

BOROUGH TREASURER: Sharon Badman

Review Treasurer's Report for January 2007 - Pres. Handlan asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's report. Hearing none, she stated that it is on file for audit.

Articles for Borough Newsletter – Sheri asked for articles to be submitted by the end of the month so she can get a draft copy ready for Council's review in March. After it is printed distribution to all Borough residents will take place via hand delivery along with the street cleaning schedules and CCR reports.

A BRIEF BREAK WAS HELD FROM 9:18 P.M. TO 9:23 P.M.

BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY / ZONING OFFICER: Mgr. Bickhart

Non-Police Complaint Update – No Report

Update of PROPERTY TRANSFERS and BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED, Janet Powers, Deputy Zoning and Permit Officer – Information only

PEMA Weather Emergency Exercise – Mgr. Bickhart reported that this exercise will take place on Thursday and Friday, March 15 and 16.

Notification to FEMA of Borough's decision not to appeal proposed modifications to Base Flood Elevations (letter to be sent prior to February 8, 2007 end of 90-day appeals period) – Mgr. Bickhart reported that the Borough is requested to submit a letter stating they do not have any appeals. Mgr. Bickhart has drafted such a letter, stating the Borough of Selinsgrove has not received any appeal data from individuals and that the Council at its meeting tonight decided not to appeal the proposed modifications to the base flood elevations applicable to the Borough. He will submit it unless Council has an objection to this. C/P Anderson asked what there would be to appeal. Mgr. Bickhart replied that he studied the modifications and if there were something wrong he would have asked Council to appeal it. He stated he even asked his brother to verify this, and he got the PennDOT design drawings, converted the elevations and plotted the bypass. Mgr. Bickhart stated that if the water would not be very deep the Borough might get the Corps to think about some kind of dike, but the water would actually be 3 or 4 feet deep. Mgr. Bickhart stated Penn Township does have something to appeal. Where Bridge Street joins Route 204 the map shows the flood plain to be into the homes, which is not correct. This is a drafting error which Penn Township will appeal. The Borough does not have anything like that in its maps. Pres. Handlan instructed Mgr. Bickhart to send the letter.

“Complete Report to Council on the Financial and Administrative Activities of the Borough for FY 2006” as per Selinsgrove Borough Code § 25-6.B.(9) – Pres. Handlan and Council expressed their appreciation for this information that was compiled by Mgr. Bickhart, who stated the financial items worked out well. He credited Sheri, the police department and other Department heads for being considerate of expenditures. He stated Council spends the citizens’ tax money better than anyone he has ever seen.

Statements of Financial Interest are to be completed and returned to the Borough Office before May 1, 2007 – Reminder

Snyder County Solid Waste Management Authority informational meeting on “Pay As You Throw” program – Mgr. Bickhart reported this will be held Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. and a second time at 6:30 p.m. at Career Link. He plans to attend this meeting to ask some questions as to how this relates to the Borough. Solicitor Cravitz stated under the county umbrella, each municipality in the county will pick one hauler through a bidding process. There will be a franchise fee that will go to the municipality. The county is discussing some changes in the administrative process. However, if the county would take this on with one hauler for all municipalities in the county then an administration fee would be paid to the county. Mgr. Bickhart did not feel that municipalities would want to administer a franchise fee, so he thought the county would do the administration and would take a portion of the franchise fee for doing so. Solicitor Cravitz stated it will be like the sewage enforcement; if a municipality wants to do it themselves and hire their own hauler they can do so, or they can participate in the program under the county umbrella. He stated that theoretically this helps everyone by eliminating duplicate services and having everyone on the same schedule, which should save money on hauling costs because pickups will be on each street only once per week. Participants will only pay for what they put out. This program has been tried in Lancaster, but it has been challenged in the lower courts on the commerce clause, stating the program interferes with interstate commerce. However, in other places this program has been successful. C/P Inch asked if this program is for garbage or recyclables. Solicitor Cravitz replied it is a garbage program but the trucks will also pick up recyclables at the same time, at no cost to the participant. If one bag of garbage is put out along with one bag of recyclables, the participant pays for the bag of garbage, but both bags are picked up. C/P Mengel asked if the recycling center would still be utilized. Solicitor Cravitz replied that residents could still use the center or they could put their recyclables out curbside. There are actually two proposals. In rural parts of the county there will still be recycling centers because it would not be economical to pick up recycling curbside at remote houses. He stated Selinsgrove is not a mandated recycling center. They can choose to keep it open or close it, and this can be negotiated with Debbie. Pres. Handlan and several Council members stated they did not see how this would save participants money. Solicitor Cravitz replied that the theory is that participants would pay less because there would be one hauler making economized trips. Council expressed concern that one hauler will set the fee higher. Solicitor Cravitz responded that the bid process would ensure lower prices. He stated Waste Management is happy about this program, but the smaller garbage haulers may not be able to compete.

PSAB “Wake Up to the Issues Breakfast” – Mgr. Bickhart reported this breakfast meeting will be held at Perkins Restaurant in Lewisburg on Thursday, April 5, 2007 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. He asked that anyone who wants to attend let Sheri know and she will make the reservations. Pres. Handlan stated she will be attending the meeting in Lemoyne on March 9.

Snyder County Libraries Board – Mgr. Bickhart reported that Council needs to approve Pres. Handlan as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Snyder County Libraries.

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve Pres. Handlan. Seconded by C/P Reuning.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

SELINGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Donald Bottiger, Chairman – No Report

EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY – Bob Dagle, Chairman

Appointment of new representative to replace Dave Faust – Pres. Handlan reported that Jim Black has declined this position. Bill Ward has also declined for now but would like to be kept in consideration for future openings. George Kinney and Don Sheldon would accept the appointment. Pres. Handlan stated that for future openings a notice should be put out to the community through the Daily Item because there may be people who may be interested and qualified but they are not aware of the opportunity. C/P Hetherington stated that for Council members there is a 30-day deadline before it goes to the Vacancy Board. He stated 30 days is not enough time to properly advertise an opening. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Leon Fetterolf is the Borough's representative to this Board. Solicitor Cravitz stated that the Vacancy Board has 15 days and then it goes to the President Judge for the judicial district, Judge Woelfel. C/P Anderson suggested a newsletter article be written to ask people who may be interested in future openings to let the Borough office know so that a list can be compiled. Pres. Handlan stated more information needs to be given to people about what the different positions involve. She suggested putting this information together for all the positions. Sheri stated SEDA-COG is working on descriptions of what Council, Parks and Recreation and other agencies do. This information will be included on the web pages for people to access.

Motion by C/P Hetherington to appoint George Kinney to be the Borough's representative on ESCRA. Seconded by C/P Mengel.

C/P Hetherington stated that George has the experience. He has been a member of Council and a Borough Manager since the sewer facility was built, and he has a good working relationship with John Abromitis. Pres. Handlan called for a vote on the motion.

AYES: FIVE (5)

NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Anderson

MOTION CARRIED

C/P Hetherington expressed his frustration that this process took so long. He felt that it was dragged out for months in an effort to find someone else and to avoid appointing George to fill the vacancy. Mgr. Bickhart stated he will write George a letter informing him that his appointment was approved, with a copy to ESCRA. Pres. Handlan stated she will give George a call tomorrow also.

NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY JOINT AUTHORITY – C/P Hetherington and Mgr. Bickhart –
No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS – Nothing further

MAYOR – Nothing further

OTHERS – Nothing further

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m. following Motion for adjournment by C/P Reuning.

Attachments: None