

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: C/P W. Hetherington

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 Dawayne Betzer and Ken Stettler; Daily Item Reporter Asten Smith; Borough Residents Diane Alderson, Joseph and Margaret Siro, Judy Spiegel, Arthur Watt; Northumberland Resident Brendan Troutman; Patriot-News Joe Elint; PA Department of Environmental Protection Representative Robert Yowell; PA Department of Health Representatives Elizabeth Casale and Richard McGarvey; SARI Representatives Brian Burke and Pat Reilly; SEDA-COG Representatives Michael Miller and Bill Seigel; Smoking Ban in Parks Issue Representatives Matthew Edmiston and Megan Will; Snyder County District Attorney Candidate John Reed

OTHERS ABSENT: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pres. Handlan called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M. Mgr. Bickhart called the roll.

RECESS MEETING TO A FINAL PUBLIC HEARING at 7:07 PM

Presentation by Bill Seigel and Michael Miller on FFY 2007 CDBG Funding and past allocation of funds – Bill Seigel reported that the following three activities have been identified: Pine Street Reimbursement at \$77,680; Sidewalk Reconstruction Program at \$20,000; Administration at \$17,720. The total of these is \$115,400, which is the estimated entitlement for Federal Fiscal Year 2007. The federal budget was just adopted under continuing resolution and HUD has not yet published the allocation by municipality. Borough Council has decided to make any minor adjustments to the Sidewalk Reconstruction Program.

Hear public comments on proposed activities or on proposals for new additions – None

RECONVENE MEETING at 7:12 PM to approve CDBG Application for FFY 2007, authorizing the President and Secretary to sign all documents related thereto, and accept proposal from SEDA-COG for the administration of the FFY 2007 CDB Grant

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve the application. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2006:

C/P Mengel stated that she felt the minutes did not properly reflect all discussion that took place during the election of the Council's representative to ESCRA. She states the minutes accurately record the vote but there was much more discussion that she feels should be added. Pres. Handlan disagreed, stating nothing more needs to be put into the minutes. C/P Reuning agreed with Pres. Handlan that there is no need to expand the minutes any further.

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by C/P Reuning.

AYES: FIVE (5)

NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Mengel
MOTION CARRIED

VISITORS TO BE HEARD:

Borough Police Chief, Thomas Garlock – Presentation of Police Report for January 2007 –

Chief Garlock reported there were 69 crime reports for the month, 26 serious and 43 other. There were 273 total calls for service in January. Because of the reduction in reporting that he discussed with Council last month, this is lower than the 430 calls for service in January 2006. He reported that 94% of the shifts for the month were staffed. A 29% reduction was anticipated but for this month the reduction was actually 37%. Factoring in the things that the officers are still doing but are no longer writing reports on, the calls for service would come to 403 rather than 273.

DH&L Fire Company, Ken Stettler – Ken reported there were 20 incidents in February as follows: 2 automatic alarms, 1 false alarm, 1 good intent service call, 3 miscellaneous fires, 1 medical assist, 6 vehicle accidents without extrication, 1 power line down, 4 structure fires, and 1 fire arson investigation. The incidents occurred as follows: 2 in Chapman Township, 1 in Middlecreek Township, 3 in Monroe Township, 3 in Penn Township, 8 in Selinsgrove, 1 in Union Township and 2 in Washington Township. The loss within the jurisdiction was \$80,000 from the fire on Chestnut Street. February man hours = 616.

DH&L Request for exemption from “Noise Ordinance” (§ 105-1) for band at Open House in July 2007 – Mgr. Bickhart stated that Jason had called him with this request and was told that Council would need something in writing to define the hours. Ken does not feel the event would go past midnight.

Dick Norman, Selinsgrove Parks and Recreation Board – Pres. Handlan recognized and congratulated Dick on his recent award by the Kiwanis. She stated there will now be an annual youth award in Dick’s name. She stated this is quite an honor and very well deserved. Mgr. Bickhart stated he received a copy of the award from the Kiwanis. It is framed and on display in the Borough Council room.

Brian Burke, Selinsgrove Area Recreation, Inc. – Brian reported that a final rough draft of the feasibility study has been authorized. This information will be used to work with SEDA-COG in applying for a grant. The feasibility study identifies a complete upgrade of the pool since it was built in 1967 at a base bid cost of approximately \$1.2 million with add-ons at a cost of approximately \$380,000 if the fundraising is successful enough for consideration of these extras. The DCNR grant is a 50% grant with the rest coming from local fundraising and initiatives. A resolution is needed from the Borough at their April meeting and a draft has been presented to Council for their information. Mike Miller from SEDA-COG reported that the application deadline has changed from September to April 13. The applicant is required to be a municipality, with a commitment of match. Bill Seigel reported that SARI is in a better position than most communities to pursue the application this year because of the application deadline change. He stated that the Borough must be the applicant because SARI is not eligible for DCNR funding. There is a match commitment that the Borough must make within the application, but those funds will be raised by SARI. When the grant is approved Council can accept the grant and have the control of going to bid and awarding the contract or they can reject the grant if the funds have not been raised. Other control measures available to Council are the refusal to grant authorization for the bidding and/or refusal to enter into a contract for construction. SEDA-COG recommends the Borough negotiate an agreement with SARI to designate SARI as having the responsibility for the fundraising. This would formalize the relationship that already exists. Bill Seigel reported that \$600,000 – 50% of the base bid cost – is an optimistic amount and the grant would probably not be awarded for that much. DCNR’s awards have typically been in the \$300,000 range. However, since there is a short deadline this year, some staff at DCNR believe there will be a limited number of applications and Selinsgrove might be successful in receiving a larger than usual grant. C/P Anderson asked if anyone involved with the project is able to give an estimate of how successful the fundraising will be and how much money can be raised. Brian Burke reported that SARI’s next meeting is on Tuesday, March 13, and after that he hopes to return to Council with some realistic goals and expectations. He stated the hope is to have a fundraising

committee led by local people who are not SARI Board members, but who have fundraising abilities. Brian stated the entire project can be reduced depending on the results of the fundraising. C/P Anderson asked if the consultant who is writing the report has a reputation for underestimating costs or of being pretty close to realistic costs. Brian stated that Wallover Architects has been involved in the DCNR process in the past and they have had successful applications. Wallover has said that the proposal is realistic based on the age of the pool. They anticipate a 25-year life for the work that would be done. Bill Seigel stated that SEDA-COG believes Wallover has come up with a realistic estimate. The bidding climate on other projects that SEDA-COG has been working with shows that price increases in building products are starting to level off but these are being offset by increases in wages. He stated most projects come in right around budget, although Bloomsburg's street project recently came in under budget. Mgr. Bickhart stated he has been working with the committee to determine the scope of the project. The architects provided three options and the project has been reduced down to its lowest common denominator in terms of making a meaningful improvement to the pool. He also shared with SARI the reality of the bidding process, including bids, alternate bids, deducts and adds, in order to have adjustment room in a bid package so that the project can be configured to whatever money is available. There are places all through the process, even to the end of construction, to make adjustments and alter the course if necessary. SARI is well aware of the magnitude of the fundraising effort. If the grant comes in at \$300,000 a significant reevaluation will have to take place because there is minimal room for adjustment to the major pool project. Brian Burke stated that he hopes Council sees that there is an effort being made by SARI for cooperation and communication with the Borough. He stated Mgr. Bickhart has taken that role very seriously, offering his time and experience in working with architects and with Bill Seigel. Borough resident Arthur Watt asked if the pool has had an audit done, as this was a past concern of Council's. Brian replied that a formal audit has not been done. However, SARI's accountant, Jerry McClellan, stated that if there were any procedural errors he would identify those and he could not sign the papers to close out the year 2006. No discrepancies with accounting or funds have been found. SARI is close to signing a contract with the Sunbury YMCA to take control of the physical pool operation and management for 2007. This would not be a financial contract for them to take care of the books, but best practices would be implemented. Bill Seigel stated that DCNR requires that all the funds for the project go through a project account under the Borough's management. The revenue raised by SARI will be deposited into the account and the bills will be paid by the Borough from that account. The terms of the DCNR contract require a full audit of the project, which would be a matter of public record. Brian reported that two of the four years of income taxes have been abated by the IRS, and the other two years are currently under review. He stated these were late filing issues and not issues on withholding of funds.

Attorney John Reed, Candidate for Snyder County District Attorney – Mr. Reed is a local attorney in Selinsgrove. His wife also practices law in the Borough. Mr. Reed stated much of his career was spent working outside the Snyder County area. He is currently a public defender. He spent 17 years of his career as a prosecutor. He was an assistant D.A. for quite a few years. He was a deputy attorney general and a senior deputy attorney general out of Harrisburg. He became a federal prosecutor and was head of an organized crime drug enforcement task force in the United States. In that capacity he was responsible for taking on special projects and getting groups such as different states, counties and law enforcement agencies to work together. He stated Snyder County does not have a local drug task force, but one is needed because drugs and alcohol abuse are behind most criminal activity. There is a great deal of heroin addiction in the western areas of Snyder County. Mr. Reed stated a lot of time and resources are wasted on minor crimes that do not get sorted out quickly enough by the district attorney's office. As full-time district attorney, Mr. Reed would work with the police and make better use of the three magistrates. Many cases can be addressed in creative ways in the lower courts to free up more resources to address the larger problems in the county court system, which has a larger carrying cost. He stated he would like to see cameras in all police cars, including the state police, to protect the safety of the officers and eliminate junk cases. He would also like to see more done in the schools. D.A.R.E. is an important program but it should start at an earlier age. The business, educational, civic and religious communities need to work together to discourage young people from getting involved with drugs. Mr. Reed offered to answer any questions in person or by telephone.

Cancer Issue – Pres. Handlan introduced Elizabeth Casale from the Department of Health and Robert Yowell from Department of Environmental Protection. Pres. Handlan stated earlier today she met in

Harrisburg with several individuals from Susquehanna University, Senator Gordner, Representative Fairchild, Pennsylvania Department of Health Secretary Johnson and several senior officials from the Department of Environmental Protection. They discussed the recent media articles and the concerns raised by some Borough residents. During the meeting, the officials gave the Borough their complete confidence in the findings of the state regarding the rates of cancer in Selinsgrove, the environmental monitoring of the community, and the safety of the environment. The officials assured the Borough, as they have in the past, that they believe Selinsgrove is a safe place to live and work. However, because of the high value the Borough places on the health and safety of the citizens, the Departments of Health and Environmental Protection have agreed to undertake additional study to reconfirm their findings in order to assure residents of the health and safety of Selinsgrove. Both the Borough and Susquehanna University pledge their full cooperation with the Departments to help ensure the reconfirming studies speed along.

Elizabeth Casale, District Executive Director for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, stated her Department is interested in protecting the health and welfare of all the citizens of the state. She had a statement from Dr. Gene Weinberg, the state's cancer epidemiologist, responding to the studies undertaken by the Department of Health with regard Snyder County. Dr. Weinberg stated that the Department of Health reviewed information regarding the ambient environment for the incidences of cancer in the area of Zip Code 17870. There have been allegations made that the rates for cancer are elevated as a direct result of area pollutants. There are several sources of pollutants that were studied, including air pollution in the form of documented visible particulates from building materials manufacturing in Sunbury. However, those pollutants are not recognized as a causative agent for lung or other cancers. Reference was also made to ionizing radiation emissions from the Three Mile Island and Berwick power plants. Radiation exposure from nuclear power plants is extremely low, ranging from .0001 millirams to a high of .05 millirams. In contrast to this, the average dose to persons in the United States from all radiation sources is between 100 and 300 millirams per year. Also implicated were chemical pollutants from in-ground sources feeding into the local public water supply. There is no evidence to support this. The Department of Health reviewed local cancer incidence data. Each year nearly 75,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed statewide among Pennsylvania citizens. Based on this information, the number of local cancer cases is lower than what would be expected. Between 1996 and 2003 a total of 679 new cases occurred compared to the 757 that would be expected. This indicates that the risk for this area is actually 10% lower than the state average. The types of cancers observed were identical the rest of the state and the rates were similar or lower than the state rates. The Department of Health examined both causative factors and the types and frequencies of cancers that occur in the Selinsgrove area. Based on the types of cancer and their rates, there is no indication that the surrounding environment contributes to incidences of cancer. There are no environmental data to demonstrate that there are any exposures to carcinogens at sufficiently high doses to increase the rate or risk to area residents. The Department of Health is committed to reexamining any additional data that they may determine to be necessary. The available data will be reviewed and a fresh look will be taken based on people's concerns. Margaret Siro asked if the Department of Health has communicated with the Harrisburg Patriot regarding their findings in order to compare notes. Richard McGarvey, a secretary with the Department of Health, stated that the Department has not communicated with the reporter directly, but they do have much of the information that the reporter has and they are reviewing that information.

Robert Yowell, Department of Environmental Protection, stated that his Department became aware of the Rhoads Mills site and the tank releases in 2004. The release was cleaned up, soil was removed, the site was tested, and the property owners at that time were required to test the groundwater. They did this after the cleanup onsite and DEP has continued to require the monitoring of three or four monitoring wells currently on that site. The results for the petroleum products which had contaminated the site were at very low levels and met the DEP cleanup standards. However, because of the concerns that have been raised recently, DEP will work with the Department of Health and the Borough to expand the sampling parameters. Samples will be taken this month for more things than just petroleum products to see what else might be out there that may have gone unnoticed in the past. The surface water in Weiser Run, the groundwater wells on the site, and the soil will be sampled. Because the situation occurred in the 1990s, an extensive file search will be done and employees who may have retired will be interviewed to see what they might remember about the site and the situation there. DEP will also interview people who may have been around during that time to see if anything may have been missed. He stated this will be done

quickly and the information will be turned over to the Department of Health for interpretation. C/P Herb asked if samples will only be taken from the area of the former Rhoads Mills, stating that in order to lay the doubts to rest the study area should be expanded. He expressed his gratitude that DEP was willing to do more studies. Mr. Yowell replied that the sampling area will most likely be expanded, but the area has yet to be determined by the field staff of hydrogeologists who determine this. Much will depend on the areas where pollutants might potentially be, where they might come from, and whether property owner permission can be obtained to take samples in those areas. Pres. Handlan stated that one of her requests to DEP was that they go back to the places that the Patriot-News identified on their map. Mr. Yowell replied that he is not sure how large an area is being considered for sampling. Mgr. Bickhart suggested the samplers stop in his office to share information. He stated some citizens are concerned that Weiser Run is an environmental hazard. If this additional sampling is intended to lay to rest the fears of the public, then DEP needs to have a sense of where those fears reside in the Borough.

Pres. Handlan reported that in today's meeting there was a spirit of cooperation from everyone to work together on this issue. Joe Siro asked about the monitoring wells at the former AMP site. Mgr. Bickhart replied that these are still being monitored under DEP's jurisdiction. C/P Anderson stated that the Patriot-News listed some of the types of cancers that people had. Her understanding is that those cancers would not have been caused by the environmental issues that are being studied at this time. Ms. Casale replied that the types of cancers that have been reported are the same types of cancers that are seen statewide or nationally. She again stated that the rates in this area are actually 10% lower than what is seen across the state. Brendan Troutman asked whether radon in the Central Susquehanna Valley is an issue and if it has been looked into due to its link to lung cancer. Mr. Yowell stated he does not know what the radon rate is in downtown Selinsgrove. He stated this testing is usually done building by building because it is a geological issue and not a man-made issue. Mr. Troutman stated his understanding is that radon presence is higher in valley areas due to the bedrock in the area. Mr. Yowell disagreed with this, but stated he will put it on the list of parameters to be reviewed. At this point there were no more questions for the Departments of Health or Environmental Protection. Pres. Handlan thanked the representatives for traveling to Selinsgrove for tonight's meeting to address concerns and offer comments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

Review List of Council Issues – No report

Review and adopt revised Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Use of Borough Facilities, adding prohibition of smoking – Matthew Edmiston, a Selinsgrove student from Teens Against Tobacco, stated that he found it interesting that people are concerned about benzene in the ground and the possible contamination of groundwater yet some of them are putting the drug directly into their bodies by smoking cigarettes. Megan Will, from Clinical Outcomes Group, stated that at the last meeting there was discussion of her organization providing signs with the park rules including the no tobacco policy. She took this to her management, but they would prefer to donate generic aluminum No Tobacco Use signs that they already have made up because they do not have a lot of money in their budget. Their organization is completely driven by grants, and at this point the only grant they have is with the Department of Health under the Master Settlement Agreement of 1998 wherein 46 states and the District of Columbia settled with five of the largest tobacco companies, who agreed to pay \$206 billion over the course of 25 years. The state and the governor decide how to spend that money and Clinical Outcomes gets a very small portion of it. Megan stated that her management has asked her to approach Council to ask if they would reconsider last month's decision and change from a resolution to an ordinance because an ordinance would be more enforceable and would be perceived as a more solid endorsement of the policy. Megan stated she does understand the concern that someone might call the police department on their cell phone and expect someone to be arrested for smoking in the park, but she stated she does not think this would happen. She stated that Clinical Outcomes has a level of expertise in this area, having worked with Schuylkill County for a number of years. She stated their director of regulations and enforcement can come and talk to Council about enforcement and how it can be done without the need for the police. She equated it to an ordinance against spitting on the sidewalk; no one calls the police to come and enforce that ordinance. C/P Herb asked if a resolution is incompatible with posting signs. Pres. Handlan replied that signs will be posted at the parks and playgrounds. Solicitor Cravitz explained

that an ordinance is a legislative act to pass a law; a resolution is a policy statement. The consensus of Council was that a resolution would be an easier transition for the community. Megan asked that the Borough let her know how many signs they need and she will deliver them. The Rotary Club is planning to host an event to announce the new policy. Pres. Handlan stated the Borough newsletter will be going out soon and can include information on this also. Megan Will reported that studies show that the human brain is not fully developed until 21 years of age. Adolescent brains are much more susceptible to addiction than are adult brains; 90% of people who start smoking sometime during their lives start before they are 21 and 80% before they are 18. The average age in the United States is 12½. The average age for starting to chew is 9½ and in this area of Snyder County chewing tobacco is a big issue as it is seen as a rite of passage in some communities. She stated that John Reed had brought up the gateway drug issue, and cigarettes are commonly known as a gateway drug. They do not cause a person to use other drugs but research shows a child on heroin or cocaine or other drugs probably started smoking first. She stated it is so important for Council to be behind this policy and to send the message to people that the children of the community are important and by not allowing people to smoke in front of them, children will not be encouraged to copy the smoking behavior. Pres. Handlan asked Megan to just drop the signs off at the Borough office. Dick Norman stated he would need at least 20 signs. Mayor Carroll challenged Teens Against Tobacco to work to get the mall to stop people from smoking right outside the doors. Megan said they are working on a lot of area businesses to eliminate this.

Addressing the “Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Use of Borough Facilities”, Mgr. Bickhart stated the no tobacco policy will echo the no alcohol policy that has been in effect for a long time. He stated he had thought it would be a good idea to include some of the other policies on the signage that will be put up, but he understands the financial limitations of Clinical Outcomes. C/P Anderson stated under snow removal, the word “propriety” should be “priority”. She also stated she did not understand the statement to contact the Borough office to coordinate this activity. She asked if someone is renting a facility and they want the snow removed from the parking lot, or if they want to use the Life Trail but there is snow on it, whether they should call the Borough office. Mgr. Bickhart stated this mainly applies to the rental of the pump house. Sheri stated this is discussed with people when they rent facilities. They are told that if the Borough has the opportunity to remove the snow, they will, but if they do not, the person will have to do it themselves. C/P Anderson suggested putting that wording on the paper. C/P Mengel suggested finishing out the sentence with something along the lines of, “You may be responsible for clearing it yourself.” Dick asked for a copy of the rules and regulations. Megan Will asked for one also.

Motion by C/P Anderson to accept the rules and regulations as changed. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

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 Reuning.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. - Exoneration Requests – Mgr. Bickhart reported one exoneration request for Daniel A. Zuhotski for 2002 and 2003 because he was deceased.

Motion by C/P Anderson to grant the exoneration. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Bid Tabulation on Anticipated Spring Cleanup Costs and award of contract for waste hauling and disposal services – C/P Inch reported that Cocalamus Creek Disposal submitted the low bid.

Motion by C/P Anderson to award the contract to Cocalamus Creek Disposal. Seconded by C/P Inch.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Mgr. Bickhart stated he has included a tabulation to project how the spring cleanup will affect the Borough's budget. Because the price of steel is high, he does not anticipate a lot of materials with steel in them will be placed out for pickup. This reduces the total tonnage. Unless something unforeseen happens, the cleanup will come in under budget.

Payment Authorization for Payment Request No. 1 for Phase II of the Streetscape Project –

C/P Inch reported this was included in the bills that were just approved. Mgr. Bickhart stated this is similar to Phase I, where the funds are temporarily advanced and the reimbursement applied for. Last year the reimbursement was received very quickly and he anticipates it will be the same for Phase II.

Recommendations pertaining to the use/distribution of the information contained within the Pennsylvania Economic League's November 2006 report entitled "Impact on the Cost and Financing of Government Services in the Selected Host Municipalities of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education" –

C/P Inch asked everyone to read this study. He stated it is full of pertinent information and he feels the study articulates what the Borough has been trying to say to Susquehanna University. He stated he hopes the people in the higher echelons at Susquehanna received copies of this. Pres. Handlan stated she will send the study along with a cover letter from the Borough Council. C/P Inch also suggested discussing this at the next meeting between the Borough and the university. Mgr. Bickhart stated the study is 300-plus pages and is available online. He reviewed it and pulled out the pertinent parts to provide to Council. He also included a two-page summary. The study supports much of what the Borough has been saying and he wants to send copies under Pres. Handlan's signature to the administrative staff of Susquehanna with a request that, once they have had a chance to evaluate it, they meet to discuss it.

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE: C/P Reuning, Chairman – C/P Reuning stated when the weather improves a walking tour will be taken of the sidewalks.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION / PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: C/P Mengel, Chairwoman – No Report

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 – No Report

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

The next meeting of the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan Advisory Committee will be held March 15, 2007 at 7:00 PM at a location to be announced. Dick Norman reported that this process is taking very long, but a plan should be coming to Council soon.

The ice skating has been going well, although the season was short. Dick stated he cleaned the building out last week in anticipation of high water. He stated there was a good crowd each day over the Presidents Day weekend. Most of the skaters during the day were younger children, with older kids and

adults skating at night. The rink provided nets, pucks and sticks for the kids to play hockey. Everything was free except the refreshments. He has received many favorable comments and he thanked Council for allowing the skating rink to reopen. More skates are needed. Dick stated some work will be done over the summer. He has applied for a grant to buy 50 new pairs of skates of different sizes for next year. Many of the skates that were donated were not in very good condition. The blades are dull and some had been stored in basements and were dry rotted. An agreement has been made with the Sunbury rink to get all the skates sharpened for free. There will be an article in the newsletter about the skating rink.

The Life Trail is usable and almost finished. A sign has been ordered. A dedication will be held on Sunday, April 22, with a rain date of April 29. The preliminary time is 2:30 p.m. The mayor will be at the dedication for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Invitations have been sent out to donors and others who were involved in the project. Finger foods will be served. Evangelical Hospital and Playworld will participate. There will be an informational brochure and a card to sign up for the Selinsgrove Parks and Recreation – SPAR – program. There will be a points program for walking the trail. Accumulated points can be turned in for a pedometer or a T-shirt or other prizes. The prizes are provided by donations from local businesses including Evangelical Hospital. The programs will be continued through the summer, with people available at certain times for instruction on how to use the Life Trail. On April 21 a group is coming in from Susquehanna to spread the dirt and prepare it for grass seed. Benches are ordered from the school. Dick stated the plan is to extend the walking trail around the park. He has sent for a grant information packet from DCNR and he is working on another grant for matching funds. Pres. Handlan asked if any work has been done on trimming the trees around the Life Trail. Dick replied that he met with the Shade Tree Commission. They will trim the dead branches off the trees and will plant new trees along the ditch as well as in the park areas. Pres. Handlan encouraged everyone to use the Life Trail.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION: Karl Maul, Chairman – No Report

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR: Pete Carroll – Mayor Carroll reported he received some calls for the Borough crew and the supervisor during the snow. He stated that they responded very quickly to those calls and he commended them for that. Pres. Handlan thanked Mayor Carroll for the article in the newsletter on the junior council member. Mayor Carroll stated Harvey Edwards is working on finding an interested student.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Robert Cravitz

Review and comment on most recent draft of proposed Rental Unit Occupancy Regulations – Solicitor Cravitz reported that he reviewed this and there are some legality issues. C/P Anderson asked if this needs to be discussed by the landlord group and Pres. Handlan replied that it does. She stated the Borough needs to work in concert with the landlord association. Mgr. Bickhart stated that a notice will be sent to the landlords with their April water bills. This would be a good time to let them know about a meeting. C/P Inch stated he is concerned about the licensing procedure and the timing of the inspection procedures if one or two tenants are moving in and out during a year. He stated there has been no fee set as of yet. Mgr. Bickhart stated the landlords are being given the obligation to schedule the inspector, therefore keeping this out of the Borough's administration. The landlords only need to prove that the inspection was done. They will not be compelled to use CK-COG. They can use any PA certified inspector. As much of the administrative burden as possible is being shifted away from the Borough. CK-COG cannot do inspections for and receive payments from the landlords, so if a landlord does use CK-COG the Borough will have to be the intermediary on the payments. It would be CK-COG's preference to do the inspections, but that is administratively labor intensive and would require the addition of more staff. C/P Inch stated that the ordinance is progressing toward being more tenant friendly and more favorable to the landlords themselves. He stated rental income is a very important part of the Borough and positive progress is being made on the ordinance. Pres. Handlan stated that after the recent fire on Chestnut Street it was discovered that the students were in violation of the Borough's rental code, with four students in the rental. Mgr. Bickhart stated the registration licensing requirements on the landlord to say how many students they have will correct that administrative problem. The ordinance talks about a three-year sequence of inspections. In return for doing that, at subsequent changes of

tenancy the landlords must use the Borough's checklist as an agreement between the tenant and the landlord. This is something Mgr. Bickhart will check for when a landlord applies for relicensing. He stated the three-year requirement may need to be adjusted after a while, but there are 900 properties in the hands of 260 different landlords. The registration process and the initial inspection process will take some time. A lottery will initially be used to create a schedule for inspections to be done every month over a three-year period, and the cycle will continue. If it turns out that a landlord with two properties has one inspection due in 2007 and one in 2009 but would like them both done in 2007 that adjustment can be made. The ordinance will be landlord friendly and will focus on what is important to the Borough, which is to keep the quality up in the long run and not to hassle the landlords on a daily basis. Mgr. Bickhart and Solicitor Cravitz will meet to come up with another draft of the ordinance, followed by a meeting with the landlords in May or June and hopefully the ordinance can be adopted by the end of the summer. Pres. Handlan asked that Council members pass along any comments or concerns on the latest version of the ordinance to Mgr. Bickhart.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: J. A. Coukart & Associates

Update on pending projects – Mgr. Bickhart reported the 2007 program is being put together. Hopefully Council will have bids to consider at their next meeting. Mayor Carroll reported that Randy Varner from the school district passed away last month after a battle with cancer. The position has been advertised and there is someone temporarily in the position. Mgr. Bickhart stated the school board has not taken any action on the Borough's request to share the Weiser Run costs. The process was in Randy's hands so it may take some time to work itself out; however, some action will need to be taken soon.

BOROUGH TREASURER: Sharon Badman

Review Treasurer's Report for February 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.

BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY / ZONING OFFICER: Mgr. Bickhart

Non-Police Complaint Update – Mgr. Bickhart reported most of the complaints had to do with the snow. He stated the Borough crew did an admirable job and there were a minimal number of complaints involving the snow that was already shoveled being pushed back onto the sidewalks. He stated some of these issues involved state roads, especially Market Street. He stated he has approached PennDOT many times to get them to be more careful but they are not. He stated some people who had been cited for lack of snow removal along Market Street were not followed up because of the ice boulders that PennDOT had pushed onto their sidewalks. C/P Herb stated he has a friend who uses a wheelchair, and he wanted Council to know that the curb cuts were shoveled very well and he was able to get around. Mgr. Bickhart stated two years ago it was brought to the Borough's attention that the curb cuts were not being cleaned well, especially in the high traffic areas downtown. The skid steer and dump truck are used to completely remove the snow from those areas. C/P Herb also mentioned seeing people use their snowblowers to blow the snow into the street rather than into their yard. Pres. Handlan stated this is a violation that should be reported. Sheri stated this creates a hazard and the police did go out regarding several of these incidents. Pres. Handlan asked that the comments be taken back to Corby, who was worried about the snow removal issues. She stated he is doing an excellent job so far and he needs to hear these favorable comments.

Update of PROPERTY TRANSFERS and BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED, Janet Powers, Deputy Zoning and Permit Officer – Mgr. Bickhart reported there are 18 new businesses in the community in the last nine months or so. Some are vacated properties that are being reoccupied and some are brand new businesses. Laydee Lorayne is a business that got its start through the KIZ – Keystone Innovation Zone. She is next to the dry cleaners and makes custom-made post-surgical garments. Pres. Handlan asked if the Chamber of Commerce has a welcome packet for new businesses. Mgr. Bickhart stated the list has been shared with Kay Spigelmyer, who is the person from the Chamber who tries to contact new businesses to welcome them to the community and answer any questions they may have about the

community. The new bakery, Indulgences Bakery and Homemade Desserts, is not open to the public yet. The estimated opening date for Emma's is April, and Irene's estimated opening date is June.

Notice of Borough Auction – Mgr. Bickhart reported the annual auction will be held March 31, 2007 starting at 10:00 AM at the Borough Shed. This will include mostly bicycles, along with six of the decorative, fluted streetlight poles that sold for \$100 each last time.

PEMA Weather Emergency Exercise – Mgr. Bickhart reported this exercise will take place Thursday, March 15 and Friday, March 16, 2007. This all started with PEMA wanting to test their notification systems. One of the big issues in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan is the potential of the Borough operating with a power failure. Mgr. Bickhart stated this is a real probability and the Borough is woefully inadequate in this area. With the assistance of Dave Nichols and his staff, Chief Garlock, Mgr. Bickhart, the fire company, the ambulance league, the school district and the university will try to create a tabletop exercise, taking the lead off the notification of the emergency weather conditions from PEMA. Dave will throw in conditions and serve in the capacity of guiding everyone through the NIMS process and the incident command process. This will be an instructional exercise for everyone. In the space of three to four hours, everyone should learn what has to be done to operate in the event of a power outage in the Borough. C/P Anderson asked if everyone should come in at some point or wait to be called. Mgr. Bickhart stated this exercise will not take it that far. They will create the incident command and assign some tasks, but it will not be the full incident command for which Council was given an outline. He stated Council members are welcome to come and observe, and if they do they may be given some tasks during the exercise. There would be serious problems for the Borough in the event of a power outage of a couple of days' duration. After about a day there would be no more water in the Borough. Without water there is no sanitation and without sanitation there is no public health. Part of the exercise is aimed at finding a generator big enough to help, finding out how quickly it can get to the Borough, and what can be done in the interim. The Borough crew will also be involved in the exercise. C/P Inch asked if only essential functions would be run in a circumstance such as this. Mgr. Bickhart replied that essential functions would be carried out and generators would be found and brought in to run essential parts of the Borough. Communications can be difficult, so an exercise scenario is planned where Internet access, phone communication and power are all lost. There would be cell phones for a while. These scenarios force the Borough to find some way to communicate with Snyder County Communications.

Review and comment on Draft of Borough Newsletter – Pres. Handlan stated she would like to see the no smoking in the parks added to the newsletter. She asked if the April 22 dedication for the Life Trail could also be added and Sheri replied that that was added after the proofs were printed. Mgr. Bickhart stated there was a lot that was taken out, showing that there is a lot to say about the Borough. C/P Anderson stated a newsletter could be done there times a year and Mgr. Bickhart said he would support that. He stated the newsletter is a valuable mechanism for getting information out to the citizens. Pres. Handlan asked if Susquehanna University gets newsletters because she mentioned the SU volunteers article to Tom Rambo, and he wanted to make sure they had copies on campus. Sheri stated that the university always gets a stack of newsletters delivered to them. Sheri will make the noted changes and get the newsletter out before the next Council meeting.

Agility Program – Mgr. Bickhart reported that it is time to renew the agility program, which is the agreement with PennDOT in which services are swapped. PennDOT currently owes the Borough \$5,500 in services and they have suggested some ways to pay that down with the street program. Council will need to authorize a resolution for Pres. Handlan and Mgr. Bickhart to sign the forms to enter into the agility program for another five years. It is basically just a renewal of the current program.

Motion by C/P Anderson to authorize this resolution. Seconded by C/P Herb.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Megan's Law Information – Mgr. Bickhart stated it was brought to his attention through the Borough's Association and through the state that Selinsgrove is being asked to adopt an ordinance at the Borough level. A sample has been given to Council to consider whether this type of law is needed in the Borough.

The ordinance would bar residency within a certain distance of certain areas where children congregate. It is coupled with probation officers directives in terms of proximity. C/P Anderson stated that she read somewhere that these laws are likely to be struck down because of violation of civil rights. Solicitor Cravitz stated there is talk of that, but so far no local ordinances have been struck down.

Health and Wellness Notice – Mgr. Bickhart reported that changes have been made on the Borough's website regarding the health and wellness within the Borough in response to the cancer issues and the claims of the Borough being less than a safe place to live. There have been some modifications to make it more user friendly and Susquehanna University has added the resource of links to their website to enable people to read the documents they have been working on. This is a place where people can be directed to look for the Borough's and university's take on this whole issue. A cover letter speaking to the circumstances has been drafted. This will be on Borough letterhead, signed by Pres. Handlan and delivered door to door in the Borough. The language in the letter has been updated as of today, stating that the Borough has met with the state agencies, which have renewed their initial assurances and complete confidence regarding the safety of the Borough, along with the willingness to work with the Borough going forward. The main purpose of the letter and notice is to assure the citizens that they are safe and that everything is fine. C/P Anderson asked if something should be noted about the continuing monitoring that was addressed at tonight's meeting. Pres. Handlan stated that the letter notes that the Borough will provide the citizens with updates as they become available and there are more meetings coming up to decide what will be tested. She stated what is said in the letter is sufficient for now. Mgr. Bickhart asked Council to review the language to make sure that nothing is being said that Council could not support. C/P Anderson suggested addressing it as a letter, since it will be signed, rather than having a headline on it. She suggested using "Dear Borough Resident". Pres. Handlan agreed that this is a good idea. She stated the letter is important because not everyone gets the Daily Item and even fewer people get the Patriot-News. She wants the people to have information straight from the Borough and not rely on rumors and innuendos. C/P Anderson stated that the more people who read Dr. Weinberg's letter the better. The letter on the website is very affirming. Mgr. Bickhart stated the Arthur McTighe letter is also very reassuring. The full letter is now available on the university's website. It informs about what cancer is, how it develops, what causes it, etc. C/P Anderson suggested wording to direct people to the Borough's website as well as the university's website. She stated one of the more infuriating things in the Patriot-News was their implication that Dr. McTighe would be anything less than the professional that he is. Pres. Handlan stated at today's meeting she asked if the sample that the Patriot-News took was shared with the Department of Health or Environmental Protection, and it was not. C/P Anderson stated it is her understanding that benzene is gasoline and everyone is in contact with it whenever they fuel their cars. Mgr. Bickhart stated there is a 1% concentration of benzene in gasoline. C/P Anderson stated for this to have any effect on people they would have to drink it or ingest it in some way. Pres. Handlan stated it would have to be used in a prolonged way, such as a mechanic repeatedly using gasoline to clean grease from his hands. C/P Herb stated the investigation needs to focus on whether or not the issue has been looked into with sufficient thoroughness to set aside concerns, and there was a hint of a suggestion in the Patriot-News article that there is still some work to be done. It will not harm the Borough to go ahead with that work and DEP has indicated they will do so. Pres. Handlan stated that neither of the state agencies feels there is any need to go any further. However, they are doing this because of the heightened concern as a result of the article. They are going to do this for the Borough because for them to say that what they have already looked at and done is correct will not be sufficient now. This does not mean that what they did was wrong or that what they will do will prove anything else. With the Patriot-News, just the fact that this issue is being looked into suggests that there is something wrong. The article was very sensationalized and struck people at an emotional level. There is nothing out of the ordinary in Selinsgrove, but Pres. Handlan wants the citizens to have the comfort level of knowing that the Borough is safe and that Council is concerned about them. C/P Inch stated it was reassuring to have the state officials at tonight's meeting. Pres. Handlan stated she has concerns because she lives along Weiser Run and she made it clear to the state officials that the Borough is looking to them and relying on their expertise. She stated the people who read the Patriot-News article did not have all the facts because the Patriot-News people are not responsible journalists. Margaret Siro stated that someone with a lowered immune system or a weak genetic makeup may be adversely affected by something that would not affect a healthy person. She stated just the length of the article made people think that this was a serious issue. C/P Reuning stated it is important to have objective

facts and not the innuendos that were reported in the article. He stated the reporter had an agenda, possibly angling for some sort of prize. Pres. Handlan stated things are moving forward to the benefit of everyone. Margaret Siro stated she was very impressed with the amount of time, effort and research that Pres. Handlan has put into this. Pres. Handlan stated that is what she and the other Council members were elected to do. They were all kept informed throughout the weekend so they knew what was going on, and Mgr. Bickhart probably did not even sleep all weekend as he was staying on top of things. Pres. Handlan stated the damage that the article has caused to the Borough is yet to be seen. C/P Inch agreed, stating the damage will come from outside the community and not from the residents.

SELINGSGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Donald Bottiger, Chairman – No Report

EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY – Bob Dagle and George Kinney, Chairmen – No Report

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

NEW BUSINESS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pres. Handlan reported that last weekend she went to West Chester to take the course for Council members for rules and responsibilities. There were 22 other council members there, mostly from the Philadelphia region. She stated it was an excellent day and no one wanted to leave. It should really have been a two-day session. She stated she learned a lot, including that she was the only council member present who was not compensated for sitting on council.

C/P Herb asked if there will be a draft of the skateboarding ordinance available for the Safety Committee to look at before the next Council meeting. Mgr. Bickhart stated it is his intention to have one soon. He and Chief Garlock have met and reduced the outline to the issues that they believe can be reasonably enforced in an ordinance. He needs to convert that to verbiage for an ordinance.

MAYOR – Nothing further

OTHERS

Sheri Badman stated there is a breakfast meeting coming up in Lewisburg in April. She looked into hiring a van so everyone could go together, but the cost would be \$250. This would include having the driver pick everyone up, drive to Lewisburg, wait during the meeting, and return everyone. C/P Inch stated there are nine or ten people going and if each person drove himself the cost of gas would come to about \$150 total. He stated if everyone would like to hire a van he would pay the extra \$100 toward this. He felt it would be nice to go together as a group. Pres. Handlan suggested renting from Enterprise. C/P Mengel suggested carpooling. The consensus was to not hire the van.

Arthur Watt asked about the status of the house next to him. He stated the siding is now blowing and the house was supposed to be torn down several months ago. Solicitor Cravitz stated a letter has been sent to the owner. Mgr. Bickhart stated another letter will be sent to put this process back on schedule.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Attachments: None