

**SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** C/P D. Anderson, C/P P. Carroll, C/P T. Charles, C/P B. Farrell, C/P S. Hendricks. C/P R. Mease and C/P E. Viker

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart (until 7:30 P.M.); Mayor S. Christine; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Recording Transcriptionist Dawne Long; Daily Item Reporter Tricia Pursell; Borough Property/Business Owners Darla & Jim Dunlap, Donnie \_\_\_\_\_, Dale & Stacey Martin, Jacque Reggia, Bobbi Steininger, and Roxana Williams; Borough Residents Greg & Pam Bailey, Cristi Beeler, Bill Burd, Bob & Linda Derr, Charles "Bo" Fasold, Donald Foreman, Elaine Herrold, Roger Hoffman, Joe Kleinbauer, Dale Martin, Leo Mendonca, Dee & Mike Moyer, Earl Moyer, Carol Norwood, Michael Savidge, Joseph & Margaret Siro, Jack & Kay Spigelmyer, Vince Stoops, Rob & Tracy Walshaw, Helen Wenrich, and Pamela White; DH&L Deputy Fire Chief Don Weirick; Lewisburg Resident Wanda Troutman; SPI President Pat Owens; Main Street Managers Mary Bannon and Tim Musser

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Junior C/P Maggie Lemons

**BI-ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Mayor Christine called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mgr. Bickhart verified the submission of certificates of election for all new and reelected Council members. Mayor Christine administered the oaths of office to the new and reelected Council members. Mgr. Bickhart then called the roll, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL:**

**President** – Nomination of C/P Anderson by C/P Viker. Nomination of C/P Farrell by C/P Carroll. Both nominees accepted the nomination. The first vote was taken on the nomination of C/P Anderson:

**AYES: THREE (3) – C/Ps Anderson, Mease and Viker**  
**NAYS: FOUR (4) – C/Ps Carroll, Charles, Farrell and Hendricks**  
**NOMINATION FAILED**

The second vote was taken on the nomination of C/P Farrell.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Vice President** – Nomination of C/P Carroll by C/P Farrell. C/P Carroll accepted the nomination.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

At this time Mayor Christine turned the meeting over to Pres. Farrell, who thanked everyone for their vote of confidence.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Borough Manager/Secretary** – Nomination of John Bickhart by C/P Anderson.

**AYES: THREE (3) – C/Ps Anderson, Mease and Viker**  
**NAYS: FOUR (4) – C/Ps Carroll, Charles, Farrell and Hendricks**  
**NOMINATION FAILED**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Council Meeting recessed to an Executive Session at 7:09 P.M. for discussion of Personnel Issues. Council meeting reconvened at 7:26 P.M.**

No action was taken in the Executive Session. John Bickhart left the meeting and Pres. Farrell stated that Sheri Badman will be moved temporarily into the Borough Manager's position until such time as the position is advertised. Solicitor Cravitz noted that this is because Sheri Badman is already the Assistant Borough Manager. Pres. Farrell also reseated some people, moving V. Pres. Carroll to his right and Solicitor Cravitz to his left at the center of the Council table. Acting Mgr. Badman took the place at the Council table vacated by John Bickhart.

**Borough Treasurer** – Nomination of Sheri Badman by C/P Anderson.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Borough Solicitor** – Nomination of Bob Cravitz by C/P Viker.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Borough Engineer** – Nomination of Coukart & Associates by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Borough Depositories** – Nomination of First National Bank (formerly Omega Bank) as primary bank, Pennsylvania Local Government Interest Trust for investment of reserve funds, and Susquehanna Bank for grant funds to maximize coverage by the FDIC by C/P Anderson.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Vacancy Board Citizen Representative** – Nomination of former Councilperson Dianne Mengel by C/P Carroll, who has spoken with Ms. Mengel and determined that she is willing to serve in this position.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**President Pro Tem** – Nomination of C/P Hendricks by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Central Keystone Council of Governments Representative** – Pres. Farrell stated he is willing to continue to serve as the representative for a 3-year term to expire 12/31/2012.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

An alternate representative was not appointed at this time.

**Code Official under the Rental Unit Occupancy Regulations, aka Property Maintenance Code Official and Municipal Code Official in other regulations included by reference only** – Nomination of CKCOG by C/P Anderson.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**North-Eastern Snyder County Joint Authority Co-Representatives** – Pres. Farrell recommended keeping Bill Hetherington on but removing John Bickhart.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      RECOMMENDATION APPROVED**

C/P Viker asked if two representatives are required and Solicitor Cravitz stated they are. Pres. Farrell stated Council will go back to this in a future meeting.

**Advisors/Consultants to the "Ordinance #752 Advisory Committee"** – This is the Skateboard Committee currently served by Mitchell Wilson, Brendan Troutman and Ron Cohen. Pres. Farrell recommended keeping these same people in place.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      RECOMMENDATION APPROVED**

**Snyder County Tax Collection Committee Member** – Recommendation by Pres. Farrell to keep Sheri Badman as first alternate delegate and to remove Carol Handlan as second alternate delegate.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      RECOMMENDATION APPROVED**

The second alternate will be appointed at the February Council meeting.

**Snyder County Watershed Stormwater Planning Advisory Committee** – C/P Hendricks stated he is willing to continue serving on this committee.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      NOMINATION CARRIED**

**Sewage Enforcement Officers, appointed as employees of CKCOG** – Recommendation by Pres. Farrell to keep Russell Goodling, SEO #02177, as primary and Thomas McBryan, SEO #00536, as alternate.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)                      NAYS: NONE                      RECOMMENDATION APPROVED**

**Francis R. Gelnett Irrevocable Trust Fund Advisory Committee** – Pres. Farrell recommended leaving this open for now in order to have more discussion in the Finance Committee. C/P Anderson agreed, stating she feels more people need to be given the opportunity to speak up about it. C/P Viker stated that since there are a lot of people in attendance tonight this is a good opportunity to let people know that Council is looking for people to serve on the board that will advise Council on how the Gelnett Trust Fund monies should be used. Pres. Farrell stated that if anyone is interested in serving a two-year term they can submit a letter of interest to the Borough office.

Motion by C/P Charles to rescind Resolution #2011-10, the Francis R. Gelnett Irrevocable Trust Fund. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

C/P Charles feels that the resolution as it stands is seriously flawed and it appears to have a conflict of interest in it. He stated some suggestions were made at the last meeting for alterations but it does not look like those will be followed up on so he would like to rescind the resolution in order to come up with something better.

**AYES: FIVE (5)                      NAYS: TWO (2) – C/Ps Anderson and Viker  
MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:** Pres. Farrell noted that past practice has deferred this, as an action by the President of Council, to a later meeting, with all committee assignments of sitting Council Members remaining unchanged until such action.

**TYPICAL MONTHLY MEETING AGENDA FORMAT:**

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2011 AND RECESSED MEETING OF DECEMBER 28, 2011:** C/P Viker noted that while the minutes of December 5 are correct in that they reflect what was said at the meeting, there is an informational correction that he feels should be made. He stated that former Pres. Handlan had stated that the meeting

minutes go directly from the recording transcriptionist to the Councilpersons. However, this is incorrect. The minutes go by way of the Borough Secretary. Margaret Siro asked for clarification of this information. C/P Viker explained further that the meeting minutes go from the recording transcriptionist to the Borough Secretary, who then disseminates them to the members of Council. C/P Hendricks stated there are no changes or editing done by the Borough Secretary before the dissemination of the minutes. C/P Viker stated Council decides whether the minutes are correct regardless of what happens between the transcriptionist and Council.

Motion by C/P Hendricks to approve the minutes as presented with the informational change to be made as noted. Seconded by C/P Charles.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD:**

**DH&L Fire Company** – Deputy Fire Chief Don Weirick reported the annual statistics. There were 365 calls for 2011. The largest number of calls included 47 automatic fire alarms, 13 motor vehicle accidents with extrication, 81 motor vehicle accidents without extrication, and 26 structure fires. Of these, 64 calls were in Monroe Township, 115 in Penn Township with a fire loss of \$320,000, and 96 in Selinsgrove Borough with a fire loss of \$168,000. Man hours for the 365 calls in 2011 totaled 5,725.

**Selinsgrove Projects, Inc., Pat Owens, President** – Pres. Farrell reported that at the December meeting he had asked for someone to be present from SPI tonight due to some concerns in the community. At the request of SPI, he forwarded some questions to be answered at tonight's meeting. Pres. Farrell read from the memo that he sent to Borough Council and SPI, which noted that in Pres. Farrell's opinion there is no denying that SPI's presence in the community has a huge positive impact on downtown Selinsgrove and that their efforts in creating a better town are evident wherever one looks, from the new clock in the center of town to the many festive community gatherings and fundraisers that they do. However, in the interests of transparency, many would like to see more openness regarding SPI and Peppers. There are no questions or concerns that should require preplanning on SPI's part except for the following: What are the guidelines for the façade grant approval? How many Selinsgrove business owners applied for grant money for façade improvements? How many were denied, and for what reasons were they denied? How many people sitting on the board of SPI and/or family members have received money allocated for building façade improvements? Please provide a total amount of façade grant monies disbursed to date and who received them. How much money did SPI receive from the Chamber of Commerce in 2011 and what was it used for? Pres. Farrell also asked for copies of the 990 tax returns for 2008, 2009 and 2010, plus copies of bank statements for all the accounts under SPI, including Peppers, for the last year, and a copy of the treasurer's report for 2010 and 2011. Any other questions from Council or the public would not likely require additional documentation. Pres. Farrell stated that he hoped these questions could open up lines of communication between the mayor, the Borough Council members, SPI, and the residents and business owners of the community. Pres. Farrell introduced SPI President Pat Owens and asked him to explain SPI's mission statement.

Pat Owens stated SPI has put a document together that includes all the guidelines for the façade. This is about 300 pages long. Pres. Farrell stated that Council will review this document over time; however, this will not be done tonight. It will be reviewed at Council meetings a couple times per year. Pat Owens stated that after the newspaper article appeared, SPI had a meeting to discuss how they found themselves in the position they were in and to discuss what to do about it. He stated that in looking at SPI's minutes going back to 2008, there has been good representation at the meetings from Borough Council or Borough officials. When there were concerns, they were expressed during the meetings; however, there were not a lot of concerns. SPI identified two areas that need to be addressed. The first is recruitment as the question came up as to why there are two Owens on the board. Had SPI done better recruitment in 2009 and 2010 this would not have happened. When Pat stepped off the board due to a change in work schedule, his wife went on the board. At the end of 2010, with the term limits, SPI was down to seven board members. Since six are needed for a quorum, it was hard to maintain a quorum. The second area that needs to be addressed is informing the public of who SPI is and what they

do, and informing people about upcoming projects and getting input from the public. SPI put a plan together to address these areas of concern. As far as recruitment, each board member is bringing a potential board candidate to the January meeting. As far as information and public awareness, Carol Handlan put a plan together which should be implemented before the end of the first quarter. Main Street Manager Tim Musser distributed copies of this plan to Borough Council.

Regarding the guidelines for façade grant approval, Pat Owens reported that in January 2009 the Pennsylvania Downtown Center approved the façade guidelines. Donna Schuck and Ann Madison did a lot of hard work on this as part of the design committee. The guidelines are in a 30 to 40-page document. Façade prioritizing was approved in June 2010 at four levels. Market Street businesses received first priority, Market Street residents received second priority, off Market Street businesses received third priority, and off Market Street residents received fourth priority. SPI received 24 applications with 18 projects completed, 1 pending (which is the clock in front of the bank), 1 denied because the project was started before the grant was applied for which is against the guidelines, 1 on the third priority level that had already received funding in the first round and did qualify for the second round so they went ahead with the project, 1 on the fourth priority level that did not follow through with the process, 1 that applied but there was no follow-through on the application process, and 1 that declined to continue because following the guidelines would have required removal of the bow windows and T1-11 from the façade which would have been an additional expense to the owner. Of the monies that were disbursed \$58,091.90 came from the Department of Community and Economic Development and \$105,267.12 came from private contributions for a total of \$163,359.02 in total improvements. None of the checks were disbursed by SPI. This is a reimbursement program. The property owner goes through the application process and completes the project. When it meets the requirements of the guidelines the check is cut to reimburse the owner for the grant amount awarded. That reimbursement money does not come through SPI. Mayor Christine asked about the actual boundaries of Market Street, whether it is the entire street or the central business district. Tim Musser replied that the footprint goes from the railroad tracks at the north end of Market Street to Bamboo Palace at Bough Street. There is an extension up Pine Street to approximately Dawn's Luncheonette and it also includes Water Street. Pat Owens stated defining the central business district was one of the requirements of the Pennsylvania Downtown Center.

Regarding any conflicts of interest, Pat Owens stated there is no question that there is the appearance of a conflict of interest. This is not unique to Selinsgrove. Bill Fontana from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center says that this is happening throughout the state and he has received a lot of concerns. This is something that is being addressed right now at the state level. Tim Musser read from a letter from Bill Fontana, which stated in part that every downtown revitalization organization that he is aware of has board members who are property owners and/or business owners who may want to take advantage of the façade grant program and it is absolutely a potential conflict of interest for these board members to take advantage of a façade grant program by getting a grant. Pat Owens stated that Mr. Fontana is working on guidelines for the state of Pennsylvania. They will be reviewed by attorneys and will hopefully be ready by the end of the first quarter. The guidelines state that organizations like SPI must have recently reviewed their conflict of interest provisions in the bylaws and have the most current legal verbiage in that document. Mr. Owens stated that this was done by SPI in November. SPI must publicize that the façade money is available. Mr. Owens stated that SPI sent letters out as far as Montana. They held a town hall meeting, it was publicized in the newspaper, and there was door-to-door contact within the qualifying footprint area. Mr. Owens stated that he was not on the board when this was done. As far as board members publicly disclosing a conflict of interest, this was not done. It was not published in the newspaper and a board member was awarded façade monies. Any conflicts of interest are reflected in the minutes and any board members with a conflict refrained from voting, as set forth in the guidelines. The board members also stepped down from the sub-committee during that period. They had no discussion as far as their particular building receiving grant money and their award was no greater than anyone else's, again per the guidelines. No preferential treatment was given to board members. Pat Owens stated he had received some questions about whether board members' projects were approved prior to other people's projects. Tim Musser handed out copies of the approval timeline to Council members showing that this did not happen. Most approvals were in chronological order.

Regarding monies received from the Chamber of Commerce in 2011, Pat Owens reported that there were only three transactions with the Chamber. The Chamber gave SPI \$5,000 for startup costs for Peppers and \$200 toward the movies on the Commons which are now at the Rotary Field. The third transaction was SPI paying the Chamber \$60 in annual dues. Pres. Farrell asked if SPI was approved for \$7,500 for startup costs for Peppers. Pat Owens replied that the Chamber approved \$5,000 initial startup funds and if SPI needed additional money as the project moved forward the Chamber committed up to \$2,500 more. SPI has not needed those additional funds. Pres. Farrell stated that he would hope startup money would be available to all businesses downtown and not just Peppers. Mr. Owens stated he cannot answer for the Chamber, but he does know that anyone can ask for money.

Regarding Peppers, Pat Owens reported this was SPI's first effort to incubate businesses downtown and hopefully it will not be the last. Tim Musser handed out an annual report to Council members. Mr. Owens reported the vacancy rate downtown has dropped since SPI began its incubation efforts. "Main Street Now" is a national publication that has Selinsgrove on their radar because they think what they are doing is unique. The idea of the incubation is to get business started. It was hoped that people would open up their own businesses using Peppers as a model; however, it does not look like this will happen. There are 62 local artists in Peppers, not counting the children. So far \$28,073.50 has been disbursed to the artists themselves. With startup costs and rental fees the local economy has seen a boost of approximately \$60,000 since April. SPI is taking a "wait and see" approach as far as Peppers is concerned for the first year. If this works out and the numbers look like it will be successful it reduces the risk for someone to possibly buy the business from SPI. If it turns into a revenue stream for SPI, they can use the money. Mr. Owens stated that some people have the idea that SPI has a lot of money; however, all the money is dedicated. Tim Musser reported that SPI only has about \$2,000 in the bank for operating costs. Pat Owens stated the year will be up for Peppers in April.

Stacey Martin, the owner of the Post & Lintel Art Gallery, asked if SPI is taking credit for the number of businesses that have gone into the downtown. Pat Owens replied that the Main Street Manager program is part of SPI, and the managers are actively soliciting people to come downtown. He stated that the building that houses the Post & Lintel, Peppers, and Daystar is becoming the anchor for South Market Street. There was a lot of traffic in that area on Late Shoppers' Night. C/P Viker stated it is not that SPI can claim causation of any effort that has resulted in an increase in business, but there is a correlation. While SPI was operating Peppers there was an increase in occupied stores in town, but SPI cannot claim that it is because of them. Pat Owens agreed, stating there is a synergy that takes place, and he noted that Selinsgrove is starting to look pretty good. Stacey Martin noted that Peppers has 62 artists. She stated that there was an agreement in April between the Borough Manager, Main Street Manager Mary Bannon, SPI President Pat Owens, Selinsgrove Mayor Sean Christine, and herself that Mrs. Martin would have the right of first refusal for every single potential Peppers artist. Mrs. Martin stated that she was not allowed to have their name or their contact information, but Peppers would give the artist the information that the Post & Lintel Fine Art Gallery was interested in having their work. Mrs. Martin stated that she has only seen about half of the artists that are in Peppers. She stated she does not charge the artists to display in the Post & Lintel, and as far as she knows Peppers does charge the artists. Mrs. Martin asked why the agreement has not been upheld by SPI and Peppers. Pat Owens stated that he spent a lot of personal time on trying to set up meetings and work out arrangements, noting that this is a reciprocal relationship. He stated he would not say that Mrs. Martin fulfilled everything on her part or that SPI fulfilled everything on its part. He suggested that everyone could agree to just let Peppers evolve. Mrs. Martin replied that she wants answers and that this has been going on since February. She stated that as a sole proprietor, she has opened her store with all her own money. She stated she has had to endure lies and even though she is very professional, she is sick of being treated the way she has been treated. She would like some answers as to why SPI and Peppers have not held up their end of the bargain. Of the 62 artists Peppers has, she has only seen about 30 of them. Dale Martin, Stacey's husband, stated that he disagrees with Pat Owens' statement that Stacey has not upheld her end of the agreement. The agreement was that the artists apply to Peppers, who would then contact Stacey so she could review the artists. Peppers has not presented the artists even though the Post & Lintel is right next door and are also available by email. Mr. Martin also asked why Stacey has not been contacted as per the agreement. Main Street Manager Mary Bannon replied that part of the agreement was that it is up to the artist to decide where to display their work. Pat Owens stated he does not want to get into throwing

stones back and forth. He stated that when this began everything was very well intentioned and it did not pan out the way everyone had hoped. If the parties involved wish to go back to the table on this, SPI would have no problem with that. Stacey Martin stated that Joyce Hendricks, who is in charge of the Snyder County Arts Council, had said that until last month, when Mrs. Martin corrected them, the Arts Council believed that the Post & Lintel was funded by SPI and being run by SPI. They also believed that if someone were to apply to Peppers and pay the display fee they would also be in the Post & Lintel. Pat Owens replied that SPI is hoping to do a better job of informing the public and would be willing to appear before Council every quarter. Pres. Farrell stated it could be every six months or as needed. He is happy that SPI is represented here tonight to address concerns. Pat Owens stated that there is no question that SPI fell short in getting information to the public and they will address this using the plan developed by Carol Handlan.

C/P Viker stated that the responsibility of local government in this situation lies in the fact that the Borough is managing a certain chunk of money that comes from government organizations like the state and this is something that SPI cannot manage. Therefore, the management of the funds happens alongside SPI through the Borough Council. While there may be a good faith interest in economic development, it does not necessarily fall within the responsibilities of Borough Council. He wanted the audience to understand that local government does not have a responsibility to manage what a nonprofit corporation is doing even in downtown revitalization. Just because the questions that Mrs. Martin is asking are being asked in a public forum does not mean it is a Borough Council responsibility. Pres. Farrell stated that Borough Council does do business with SPI and the public would like to hear from SPI maybe once a year or once every six months. The Borough closes streets for SPI events and does business with SPI. SPI's moneys are filtered through the Borough's coffers and the public has a right to answers. C/P Viker agreed but wanted it to be understood that the two entities are not mixed together. Elected officials have a limited ability to make changes in what a nonprofit corporation is doing except to the extent that the Borough has to be a coffer recipient. However, he totally respects the idea that Council can provide a venue for a public conversation.

Cristi Beeler, the art teacher at the high school and a member of the Arts Council, stated that the Arts Council was led to believe that they were not allowed to have representation at SPI. Pat Owens replied that the minutes will reflect that SPI has had representatives from Susquehanna University, the Borough, the Selinsgrove Area School District, the swimming pool, and the Arts Council. In fact, the Arts Council was just added to the agenda in February. SPI has had a broad range of organizations represented and this is something they wish to get back to with recruiting. Ms. Beeler stated it was felt that an application had to be submitted to attend a SPI meeting. Pat Owens announced that anyone who wishes to come to a SPI meeting is welcome to attend. C/P Anderson also stated that anyone can attend a SPI meeting; they are open to the public. She stated it is unfortunate that people have begun to view SPI as a closed corporation, which it is not. Margaret Siro stated that if SPI should fail, the upkeep and the responsibility falls back on the Borough. Solicitor Cravitz stated this would only happen if no other nonprofit corporation comes forward. Before SPI would fail, the Attorney General, who is in charge of all nonprofit corporations, would become involved. If someone feels anything inappropriate is happening he or she can ask for an investigation by the Attorney General's office. Mrs. Siro questioned what C/P Viker had said earlier about Council overseeing SPI. C/P Viker explained that there is a limit to how much authority Borough Council has over a nonprofit corporation. Until such time as SPI would fail and the responsibilities would fall to the Borough, there is only so much that Borough Council can do regarding telling a nonprofit corporation what to do. Mrs. Siro stated it is important for Council to keep an eye on what SPI is doing, and C/P Viker agreed, stating that is why Pres. Farrell requested that SPI be represented tonight to address concerns that have arisen. Pat Owens stated that of all the private citizens in the community, Mrs. Siro has the best attendance at SPI meetings. Mrs. Siro stated she does not see how someone can be an active member of a community and not attend meetings to find out what is going on and how one entity impacts another and so on.

In concluding the questions that Pres. Farrell had sent to SPI, Pat Owens stated that SPI is not required to supply 990 tax returns to the public but SPI is open to having a mutually agreed upon designated person or persons on Borough Council review these returns.

Roxana Williams, co-owner with her sisters of the property at 6-8 North Market Street, stated that they have had experiences with SPI that they wish to make the public aware of. When SPI had the CVS building next to her property torn down, the roof of her building was damaged. SPI gave her and her sisters very little advance notice of the demolition and did not report the damage of the roof to them. A subsequent rainstorm caused thousands of dollars of damage to the interior of her building. Repairs and renovations resulting from the demolition cost them \$25,000. In November 2009 their property at 6 North Market Street was illegally entered without their knowledge or consent. They discovered the illegal entry when a light was left on in the basement, which they knew had no electric service. In the basement of their property a breaker panel had been installed giving complete electric service to the basement with a branch circuit that ran underground to the Commons in order to facilitate the lighting of the Christmas tree. One of the meters on the outside of the building was used and all costs from the electric service were billed to SPI by PPL. All of this took place a few days before the tree lighting ceremony at the Commons. A representative of SPI contacted Ms. Williams and her sisters when it was discovered they had had the power to the Commons shut off. After discussion, it was decided that the power would be restored so the tree lighting ceremony in the Commons could take place on the scheduled date. A deadline of January 6, 2010 was set for SPI to remove all electrical service from the building and that deadline was met. SPI then reimbursed the owners for all the fees they had to pay to their electrician. Ms. Williams stated that SPI may be operating in the best interests of the community, but she and her sisters question their means and motives. Laws were broken to accomplish the tree lighting ceremony and no consideration was given to her and her sisters before and after the demolition of the CVS building. SPI assumed no responsibility for the damage to her and her sisters' building and they feel they have been more than patient with SPI.

C/P Viker asked, if there are people in the community who believe that SPI is being poorly run or not doing what it should be doing, how do they get involved in SPI to put their interests into it. Pat Owens stated SPI is looking for eight additional board members by the end of January. They would like to get a good cross-section of people. C/P Viker asked how one becomes a member of the board. Mr. Owens replied that names are submitted and everything is done by a voting process. He stated board members also serve on a committee, similar to how Borough Council works. In this way people can have input into SPI's activities. He stated the next meeting is January 17 here in the pump house.

Darla Dunlap, property owner of 34-36 South Market Street, which is occupied by The Post & Lintel, which is owned by Stacey Martin, and by Peppers, stated she lives in Liverpool. She stated in January 2008 her building was vacated. The Main Street Manager at that time was Jessica Newell, who tried to put together an artist venue such as Peppers with the help of John Bickhart and several other people. This failed and the building sat empty. Mrs. Dunlap stated that she received a phone call in the beginning of 2010 from Main Street Manager Mary Bannon stating that they were trying to put together Peppers, along with the people in SPI. Mrs. Dunlap stated that Beverley Owens works voluntarily in Peppers as do many other people. She stated some people may be paid to work there since nonprofit organizations can apply for grant money, as can minority and/or women business owners such as herself. She stated that she is very proud to see what SPI and Mary Bannon and the artists have done with Peppers. She stated she is also very happy with what the Post & Lintel is doing. She stated they should all be allowed to resolve their conflicts privately and not by Mayor Christine granting an interview that was printed in the newspaper a couple of weeks ago. Mrs. Dunlap stated that was unprofessional and if it was her call he would do a retraction or she would ask for his resignation. She stated the newspaper comes out in Liverpool also and she had to face some worrisome questions about the issue.

Vince Stoops, a resident of Selinsgrove, asked about SPI President Pat Owens calling the place of employment of a public official in order to influence his employment status. He asked if the failure of SPI to follow through on their agreement with Stacey Martin and SPI's attempts to influence the employment of public officials is a policy of SPI. Pat Owens stated he will not respond to conjecture. He stated that he agreed with Darla Dunlap in that any matter between Peppers and the Post & Lintel should be handled at that level. He has offered to go back to the table. He also stated that he does not know of anyone on the SPI board that has had any conversation with Vince Stoops about any of the inner workings between Peppers and the Post & Lintel. However, Mr. Stoops may have picked up information at the one SPI meeting that he attended. Mr. Owens stated that he does not know that Mr. Stoops is as informed as he

thinks he is. He suggested that if he wishes to be more informed and to have his voice heard he should attend more of the meetings. He stated there is no problem with Mr. Stoops being involved with the inner workings of what SPI does. He would rather Mr. Stoops do that first and then Mr. Owens would respond to his questions. Mr. Owens stated he is not trying to give Mr. Stoops a hard time but merely stating that he should be better informed so that his question could be clearer. He stated there is no written policy stating that if SPI has a verbal agreement they will not follow through with it. He stated that is ludicrous. No one has that kind of intention. Margaret Siro stated that she has been to many SPI meetings. Pat Owens agreed, stating that Mrs. Siro stopped attending when she was elected to Council. Mrs. Siro stated she has never felt comfortable because it is not a welcoming atmosphere and people do not get answers. She stated after a while she stopped attending. She stated there are the powerful and the powerless, and she felt like one of the powerless. Vince Stoops stated, regarding conflicts of interest, that Main Street Manager Mary Bannon is affiliated with Susquehanna University and was recently elected to the Selinsgrove School Board. Mr. Stoops asked if the intent is to ask her to step down as the Main Street Manager due to these obvious conflicts of interest. Pat Owens replied he does not see any obvious conflicts of interest. Ms. Bannon is not a voting member of SPI. She is an employee of the Borough so that question is better directed to Borough Council. SPI manages the program but Ms. Bannon's checks are not cut from SPI. Mr. Stoops asked if it is true that the Main Street Manager is a Borough employee. Mr. Owens asked Ms. Bannon where her checks come from and she replied from the Borough.

C/P Charles stated that since every elected official in the Borough is sitting in this room right now, he wants to know that it is not SPI's policy nor would they ever go after an elected official at his place of employment if he happens to disagree with SPI. He stated that he is sure that is not SPI's policy and that SPI would never condone something like that. However, he wants someone to say that publicly in front of the eight elected officials of the Borough. Pat Owens replied that this is not a policy of SPI. He stated that it was unfortunate and it was not the intention at all, and he did send Mayor Christine a written apology letter for influencing that and he also spoke with Mayor Christine on the phone and apologized. C/P Charles stated he just wanted to know that. As an example, he stated that C/P Carroll works for the school district and C/P Charles just wants to know that if SPI is upset with C/P Carroll that there will not be any chance that people associated with SPI will contact the school administration. Pat Owens stated that Carol Handlan was president of Council at that time and Mr. Owens explained to her that his personal life is pretty clean. He told her that if he has one regret in his life it was that conversation. He stated that is not the policy of SPI and he personally supports things that Mayor Christine has done, such as the emergency personnel banquet. He stated he heard from many people during the flooding and he defended Mayor Christine's decision for a curfew at that time.

**BREAK** – Meeting took a short break at 8:41 P.M. and reconvened at 8:51 P.M.

Donald Foreman stated that Pat Owens, who had left the meeting during the break, was asked two questions and he talked in circles while Council did nothing. Solicitor Cravitz replied that this is not a court of law and no one is under oath. Mr. Owens was giving information as he understood the question and Council cannot force him to say something. Council cannot tell anyone what to say. Pres. Farrell stated that everyone had the opportunity to ask questions. C/P Viker stated that not every question is based on accurate premises. As an example, he stated he could ask Mayor Christine, "How did you get so ugly?" Mayor Christine does not have to answer that question because the assumption is that he is ugly and that might not be true. Mr. Foreman then asked how many veterans are in the room, and then stated that he feels it is "pretty sick" that a veterans' memorial was put on top of the main sewer down at the end of Water and Sassafras Street. He stated where the two sewers come together there is a veterans' memorial. C/P Hendricks stated that that is the kayak launch that he and Dave Bowersox put in. Mr. Foreman interrupted to shout that he did not care who did it. C/P Hendricks stated that he would not answer if Mr. Foreman continued to interrupt. Pres. Farrell stated there are other issues before Council, and FEMA people are waiting for information, so conversations should be held in a calm manner. Mr. Foreman stated he just asked a question. C/P Carroll stated that C/P Hendricks tried to answer but Mr. Foreman hollered at him. He suggested that Mr. Foreman allow C/P Hendricks to answer the question. Mr. Foreman may not like the answer but he asked a question and someone did try to answer it. C/P Viker asked if the memorial is actually at the confluence of two sewer lines. C/P Hendricks replied

that there is no memorial at the kayak launch. He stated there is a manhole there that stuck a foot out of the ground. When the kayak launch was finished it was decided to put landscape stone over the manhole. C/P Hendricks bought a flag pole and put up a flag at his own expense so it did not cost the Borough anything. He has done the same thing at Little League fields. He stated the veteran's memorial will be located at the new Borough building. Mr. Foreman stated it was in the newspaper the day the kayak launch was dedicated. C/P Hendricks stated he and Dave Bowersox worked on the project. He was again interrupted by Mr. Foreman and the discussion was ended.

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

**Report on and consideration of FEMA/PEMA "Flood" Hazard Mitigation Grant Application for "elevating" certain structures** – Pres. Farrell reported that eight people so far have applied for this elevation program grant. All of these people were substantially damaged. There is a February 22 deadline for the Borough to apply for the grant. People will not know whether the application is approved until the end of April. If anyone else wants to get on the application list they can call the Borough office. Wanda Troutman asked if there is a contact person to help with the application. C/P Farrell replied the Borough office actually does all the applications and submits them together to FEMA. He stated applications can be found online at the Borough's web site. The homeowner can fill in what they can and then bring the application to the Borough office for completion. Robert Walshaw stated he is one of the eight who have applied. He asked if this is for elevation or for acquisition. Pres. Farrell replied that it is for elevation. Mr. Walshaw stated he would like Council to look again at the acquisition program. Pres. Farrell replied that the deadline for that program has already passed. He stated the cutoff date for applications is set by the federal government, not the Borough. Mr. Walshaw asked if Council could go back and re-vote on that program. C/P Anderson said it would not matter since the application deadline has passed. Mr. Walshaw stated that if he wanted to sell the property he would have to disclose it is only good for one more flood event. He asked who would want to buy a property with a 20-year mortgage in that situation. He stated if he wanted to rent it out he would still have to have flood insurance and would still have to worry about the property. He also stated that he does not feel that the Borough Council did the right thing for the residents of Selinsgrove when they voted the other program down. He stated that in his opinion Council votes differently depending on whether a property is east or west of Market Street. He stated nine families wanted to participate in the other program but Council voted it down because the Borough would lose too much revenue. He stated that 150 families moved out of Pine Meadow, and Council probably could have stopped that sale one way or another but Council was not worried about that because it was going to a nonprofit organization. He asked if the Borough is losing revenue from that sale. C/P Anderson replied the Borough is not because the university will make that up. Mr. Walshaw asked if the Borough is losing revenue from the silk mill when it was bought. C/P Anderson stated she is not sure about that. C/P Viker stated it is important to recognize that the vote, which was close at 4-3, included those who did not vote no because of tax revenue loss. Mr. Walshaw stated that only one of those voting against the program, C/P Hendricks, was not associated with SU. C/P Carroll stated that he is not associated with SU. C/P Viker asked what connection Mr. Walshaw is suggesting. C/P Viker stated that maybe someone said they were voting no because of lost revenue but he voted no for other reasons. He stated that Borough Council should not meddle in the purchase of private property between two private entities and they should not meddle in the purchase of private property between people who live anywhere in the Borough. He stated that he believes in citizen liberty and liberty of government, noting that he would never interfere in the choices of two property owners to make a purchase one to the other provided nobody's rights were violated, nor would he suggest that individuals expect government to be involved in their private property ownership affairs. He stated he is a former Isle of Que resident and he has seen all the things described. He sold his property while the getting was good and he did not ask the government to help him. As an elected official he will always vote against government meddling in people's lives, people's business, and people's property. He stated this vote has nothing to do with tax revenue. Mr. Walshaw stated this would not be through the Borough; it would be through FEMA. C/P Viker explained that those properties become unusable space that the Borough of Selinsgrove has to maintain forever. Mr. Walshaw stated it could be a park. C/P Viker replied it is too small to be a park and that the Borough, meaning the taxpayers of Selinsgrove, would have to maintain the empty lot forever. The price of each property runs in the tens of thousands of dollars for maintenance forever. That is not necessarily in the best interests of all 6,000 Borough residents. C/P Viker stated he never votes based

on tax money, noting that as little tax money as he can get he will try to use responsibly. He always votes in the long-term best interests of fiscal conservatism and it is fiscally conservative to simply not meddle in people's business affairs or private property affairs. He stated other Councilpersons may have had other reasons for their vote. Roger Hoffman, an Isle of Que resident, questioned the figure of \$10,000 per property. C/P Viker stated that the cost of maintenance can go into many thousands of dollars per property into the future indefinitely. The people of Selinsgrove will have to maintain those properties forever. The properties cannot be sold or used as additional land for somebody next to them. They are just vacant lots. C/P Carroll noted that Solicitor Cravitz had explained that if the entire grant monies were paid back to the federal government, the land could then be put back into use but once the land is purchased with grant money it becomes an empty lot. The only thing that could be put on the property is a bathroom. The cleaning up of it, caring for it, shrub trimming, trash removal, etc. would all come back to the Borough crew to do. Mr. Hoffman again questioned the dollar amount. C/P Viker stated it is based on an estimate of \$600 per year per property times many years in the future, as in his great grandchildren will be still paying for that. Bo Fasold stated the figure is over many years. Mr. Hoffman stated \$600 per year seems high. Pres. Farrell stated that his vote is on the record. He feels that the Borough currently owns a lot of property such as alleys behind houses and lots in front of houses and he knows that many homeowners take care of the lots next to them. The homeowners along Front Street mow the grass that the Borough actually owns, and the same with unopened alleys throughout the Borough, such as near the schools. However, the deadline for that project has passed so nothing can be changed at this point. C/P Viker stated even if this could be voted on again he would still never vote for a government bailout. He stated people need to left alone to manage their affairs unless someone's rights are being violated.

Greg Bailey, an Isle of Que resident, asked if this new program is strictly for elevation. Pres. Farrell replied that it is. Mr. Bailey stated he was told that there might be a provision where the first floor could be turned into garage. Pres. Farrell stated that would be considered complying because the first floor becomes unlivable and the second floor becomes living space. Mr. Bailey asked who determines this. Pres. Farrell stated FEMA would send an inspector. After the homeowner complies and the property is inspected, the homeowner will get the final portion of the monies. Grants are given out a portion at a time. Robert Walshaw asked what happens if a building is not able to be raised. Pres. Farrell stated he is sympathetic because he has some property in the same situation. Mr. Bailey asked if this is something Council has to vote on. Acting Mgr. Badman stated Council needs to vote tonight on whether to submit an application. Pres. Farrell stated Council voted last month to look into this. He suggested waiting until the February meeting to make a decision so everyone who wants to can get on the list. He also stated Council could vote tonight to move forward and leave it open for more people to join in.

Motion by C/P Charles to move forward with the grant application to seek federal and state funds to elevate flood-damaged properties. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

C/P Viker clarified that this program does not bail out any homeowners. The homeowners retain ownership and responsibility for their property. They are not walking away from it and they still retain their mortgage. This puts the people of Selinsgrove under no burden whatsoever. The Borough is only serving as a clerk between the people and the federal government. The community is not accepting responsibility for any properties. Pres. Farrell stated this grant will help people comply with money over and above their insurance money. Greg Bailey stated in his case, he did not want the first program. He loves the Isle of Que and wants to stay there. Pres. Farrell called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**COMMITTEE / COMMISSION / BOARD REPORTS:**

**FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE: C/P Anderson, Chair**

**Payment and Ratification of Bills**

Motion by C/P Anderson to pay the bills. Seconded by C/P Hendricks.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. - Exoneration Requests – None**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE: C/P Hendricks, Chair – No Report**

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION / PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: C/P Carroll, Chair –** C/P Carroll reported that he spoke with Ed Krantz, the Clerk of the Works. The project is about three weeks behind at this point. A lot of interior work was done during the bad weather. The geothermal project is about halfway finished. The drilling issues have been resolved but the rest of the drilling cannot take place until the spring. C/P Charles asked if it would be possible for the Clerk of the Works to come to a Council meeting periodically to give an update. C/P Carroll stated that is possible. He stated it is also possible for Council to have a “field trip” to the construction site. C/P Charles stated if he can come to the next Council meeting it would be nice to let the library people know so they can attend also. C/P Viker asked if the every-other-week meetings are still happening between the involved parties. C/P Anderson replied they are. C/P Viker stated the three weeks overdue estimate, based on what he knows about construction from being in a peripheral industry, seems extraordinarily low. He stated that, especially with cold weather coming in, it is probably several times the three weeks. He suggested offering a respectful challenge to that estimate, noting that interior things should be happening this winter to spaces that do not exist yet. He is concerned that Council will have to start fighting about liquidated damages when the contract date comes around and the contractor realizes he has dropped a few dominoes in the wrong direction. Pres. Farrell stated that Mr. Krantz oversaw the project at the intermediate school, which he did a very good job on. He also suggested getting Mr. Krantz to a Council meeting to get the facts.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: C/P Farrell, Chair**

**Establish appropriate conditions/limitations/waivers necessary for the conduct of special community events –** C/P Anderson stated SU’s homecoming parade will be in September this year rather than October.

Motion by C/P Viker to approve the waivers. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Pine Meadow –** Pres. Farrell stated that he thinks there may still be one occupied unit. He does not know if a closing date has been set yet.

**PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: C/P Charles, Chair – No Report**

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: C/P Viker, Chair – No Report**

**PLANNING COMMISSION: Earl Moyer, Chair –** Nomination by C/P Viker for Robert Derr to serve a 4-year term until 12/31/15. C/P Carroll stated he knows that Dianne Mengel is interested in getting involved in things again and she was interested in this position as well. C/P Viker stated that Mr. Derr is also someone who has expressed an interest in community affairs and has been dedicated to showing up at meetings to learn all he can.

**AYES: SIX (6)**

**NAYS: ONE (1) – C/P Carroll**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

**ZONING HEARING BOARD: Cyril Runkle, Chair** – Nomination by C/P Viker for Cyril Runkle to serve an additional 5-year term until 12/31/16, noting that, with the exception of Borough Council, this board is the most potentially powerful board within the Borough and that Mr. Runkle, who currently chairs the board, has served with sobriety, moderation, discretion and a great deal of wisdom.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

Nomination by C/P Viker for Dena Gentner to serve as the first alternate member an additional 3-year term until 12/31/14

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

Nomination by C/P Viker for Warren Kann to serve as the second alternate member for a 3-year term until 12/31/14, referencing his qualifications in Monroe Township as set forth in a memo from Janet Powers.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Dalton Savidge, Chair** – No Report

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: Shane Hendricks, Chair** – C/P Hendricks expressed thanks to Marsha Lemons for her service on the board.

Nomination by C/P Hendricks for Richard Heimbach to serve an additional 5-year term until 12/31/16

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

Nomination by C/P Hendricks for Megan Will to serve a 5-year term until 12/31/16

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

C/P Hendricks stated he has some other people who may be interested in serving. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 P.M. in the pump house. One of the items of business will be Ordinance #587, which is commonly known as the skateboard advisory ordinance. It is required by ordinance to review this every year. The ice skating rink needs about two weeks of cold weather in order to open. The rink is mowed and the concession stand is restocked except for perishable items. Once the ground freezes it is saturated. Once that is frozen the rink is flooded with water. Due to the recent flooding, both contactors in the contactor box for the timer and the light switch are bad. These cost \$350 each for a total of \$700. The installation can be done in house. With the probable short skating season this year rather than replacing these they will be put on double breakers in the box. Budgeting for the contactors will be done in 2013. Hopefully by that time there will be a second story on the building and the electrical equipment can be elevated so this problem does not recur. The firewood is in good shape. C/P Carroll asked if the pole on the west side has been checked, since it looks like it is leaning. C/P Hendricks stated that is how it has been. C/P Viker volunteered to help split firewood with his maul if needed. He also stated that he has heard nothing but good things about the placement and design of the kayak launch. C/P Hendricks stated they just tried to cover up an eyesore and make it attractive for people who wish to sit by the creek. He stated that Dave Bowersox donated his time and equipment, spent a week there, and bought all the materials. This amounted to around \$15,000 in donated services. Mike Moyer asked if the Borough traded millings for labor on this project. C/P Hendricks stated the millings were used there. Mr. Moyer stated the Borough crew did the ramp. C/P Viker stated that he just wanted to clarify that, because a citizen was here earlier criticizing the project, he has heard nothing but praise from other citizens. C/P Hendricks stated once the board has more grant money or donation money he would like to install more lights at the south end. Vince Stoops stated that as a representative of the American Legion he wanted to state that the veterans appreciate and do not mind the flag at the kayak launch. He asked how much it would cost for the two lights. C/P Hendricks stated the lights themselves are about \$750 so per pole it would be about \$1,500. Mr. Stoops asked if \$3,000 would be enough to install the lights.

C/P Hendricks stated it depends on whether he can get the poles donated by the phone company and then also there is other infrastructure that needs to be run, such as all new underground wiring to the pole. He invited Mr. Stoops to the January 24 meeting to hash this out, noting it would be something to do in the off season.

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION:** \_\_\_\_\_, **Chair** – Nomination by C/P Viker for Jeremy Smallwood to serve a 5-year term until 12/31/16

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

Bo Fasold advised that the commission has been working many hours in the past couple of weeks at the Tree Museum off Sassafras Street next to the Borough shed and Anthony Selin Park. It really looks good in spite of the flooding. Once it dries out some more work can be done.

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**MAYOR: Sean Christine**

**Presentation of Police Report for November 2011** – Mayor Christine noted that thefts were up, which Chief Garlock states is typical for this time of year during the holiday season.

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Robert Cravitz, Esq.**

**Update on Real Estate Tax Appeals/Changes** – Solicitor Cravitz reported that Grayston Enterprise's appeal is in the Court of Common Pleas and is going through the discovery phase of litigation. The school district is paying 75% of the costs, the county 10-15% and the Borough 5-10%. Of those listed on the agenda, no one else has appealed.

**BOROUGH ENGINEER: J. A. Coukart & Associates** – No Report – when received they will be put into the Council members' mailboxes.

**BOROUGH TREASURER: Sharon Badman**

**Review Treasurer's Report for December 2011** – Treasurer Badman stated she will have a more detailed report in January when the books are closed.

**SELINGSGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Donald Bottiger, Chairman** – Nomination by C/P Hendricks for Don Rowe to serve a 5-year term until 12/31/16

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**NOMINATION CARRIED**

**EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY – Bob Dagle and George Kinney, Chairs** – Nomination by C/P Viker for Bob Dagle to serve an additional 4-year term until 12/31/15. C/P Charles stated that Carol Handlan has stated a willingness to serve on ESCRA. Hearing this, C/P Viker withdrew his nomination, noting Council could use some new ways of getting information from ESCRA.

Nomination by C/P Charles to appoint Carol Handlan to serve a 4-year term until 12/31/15

**AYES: FIVE (5)**

**NAYS: TWO (2) – C/Ps Carroll and Farrell  
NOMINATION CARRIED**

**NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY JOINT AUTHORITY – Bill Hetherington and \_\_\_\_\_**

Pres. Farrell stated since no one knows if Mr. Hetherington wishes to remain on the authority, this appointment will be postponed until the next meeting. Solicitor Cravitz stated this is a six-person board so the Borough must supply two representatives. C/P Hendricks stated he would be willing to serve if

needed, although he really does not wish to sit on another board. Additional names suggested were Dianne Mengel and Warren Kann. Acting Mgr. Badman noted they only meet once or twice a year in Monroe Township.

#### **BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY / ZONING OFFICER: Acting Mgr. Badman**

**Consideration of adoption of “Rules of Order” and/or “Bylaws”** – C/P Charles asked if this needs to be acted on tonight. C/P Viker explained that this is on the agenda at every reorganization meeting. However, this Borough Council does not hold itself to the official Roberts Rules of Order or bylaws. C/P Carroll stated he had asked Solicitor Cravitz to see what other jurisdictions are doing to see if there might be something put into writing regarding rules of order. Solicitor Cravitz indicated that Roberts Rules of Order can get very cumbersome. He stated he could probably come up with something if Council wished him to. C/P Charles asked if there is anything wrong with the way things are done now and was told no. C/P Viker respectfully suggested that if it is not broken do not try to fix it. He stated he trusts the chairperson and the president to be able to rule when people can and cannot do what they wish. That is why these people are chosen. There is also a lawyer in the room so Council is fine as they are.

**Schedule of Community Development Block Grant Program Hearings** – C/P Charles asked if this needs to be acted on. Acting Mgr. Badman stated this is informational only.

#### **REMINDERS:**

- Statements of Financial Interest are to be completed and returned to the Borough office before May 1, 2012
- PSAB Newly Elected Municipal Officials Training – if interested let Acting Mgr. Badman know
  - January 27 & 28 in Harrisburg
  - February 24 & 25 in State College
- PSAB 2012 Annual Conference, April 29-May 2, Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, PA

**Update of PROPERTY TRANSFERS and BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED, Janet Powers, Deputy Zoning and Permit Officer** – A written report was supplied.

**Update on Zoning Permits related to flood damaged properties** – No Report

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

C/P Charles stated that Bo Fasold made him aware that Applebee’s has remodeled with phenomenal pictures from Selinsgrove from long ago. Some of these pictures were donated by Bo Fasold. There are also a lot of sports pictures.

#### **OTHERS**

Margaret Siro asked what will happen with the Borough Manager position. Pres. Farrell stated the position will be advertised to the public. Mrs. Siro asked if the Borough Manager is fired. Pres. Farrell stated Council chose not to renew his contract. It is a two-year position that comes up for a vote every two years. Council voted and John Bickhart did not get enough votes to retain the position. The Personnel Committee will come up with an advertisement to be distributed publicly and the Borough will seek the best-qualified candidate. Mrs. Siro asked if Sheri Badman is the acting Borough Manager. Pres. Farrell replied she is. She has always been the Assistant Borough Manager so she automatically becomes Acting Borough Manager.

Joe Siro asked about any progress on the boat ramp. C/P Hendricks stated Council had voted in November to award the contract to Dave Bowersox. After Council approved it, it had to go to the Fish and Boat Commission for their review. As of a couple days ago the Fish and Boat Commission is still

tweaking some of the details of the drawing. Since the contract was supposed to be completed by December 31, once the Fish and Boat Commission is finished then Council will have to decide whether to rebid it or whether to extend the contract. Dave Bowersox stated his concrete subcontractor would like to get the project done with the warm weather next week, but the project cannot move forward until the Fish and Boat Commission is finished. Mr. Siro asked who did the design and C/P Hendricks stated he believes John Bickhart did the drawings on the second design also. Pres. Farrell asked who talked to the Fish and Boat Commission. C/P Hendricks stated Dave Bowersox had met with John Bickhart, who had spoken with the Fish and Boat Commission.

Bo Fasold asked Mayor Christine about the results of the survey he took. He stated the people involved in White Christmas are particularly interested in the feedback. Mayor Christine stated he has the bulk of them and hopes to have them finalized by next month. Mr. Fasold asked if they will be presented at a Council meeting or in some other way. Mayor Christine stated he would like to put together a "State of the Borough" address that would encompass public safety, finance, and community development. He will look at the agenda for February to see if the Council is interested in having that presentation here or if he needs to do it at a separate time. He is also looking into contacting some individuals at SU that might be interested in doing a filmed press release that could be put on the web site for people to view. Mr. Fasold asked how many responses were received. Mayor Christine stated he has received around 50. He stated there were some misunderstandings about the survey, and these will be dispelled next month. It was a community development survey. Mr. Fasold asked if they were handed out within the main street footprint area. Mayor Christine stated it was from Sunoco to the liquor store area. Mr. Fasold asked if it was residences and businesses. Mayor Christine replied it was businesses only. He wanted to get an idea of what the business owners wanted to see for community development and get some feedback on one sheet that states what people do or do not want, as well as feedback on how the mayor is doing, how Council is doing, etc. So far the results are very favorable. There have been some criticisms also. White Christmas has gotten a lot of compliments. There have also been some out-of-the-box recommendations for things that might affect C/P Hendricks' work and some other things that affect the entire Borough.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 P.M.

Attachments: None

Respectfully submitted by  
Dawne R. Long, Independent Transcriptionist  
Recording Transcriptionist