

**SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pres. C. Handlan, V. Pres. E. Viker, C/P D. Anderson, C/P P. Carroll, C/P B. Farrell, C/P S. Hendricks, and C/P M. Siro

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Solicitor R. Cravitz; Mgr. J. Bickhart; Mayor S. Christine; Borough Treasurer Sheri Badman; Recording Transcriptionist Dawne Long; Daily Item Reporter Tricia Pursell; WKOK Reporter Matt Farrand; Borough Residents Kim Riegel, Earl Moyer, Mike Moyer and Joseph Siro; SEDA-COG Representative Glenda Ruch; Sunbury Resident Debbie Brouse; Womer Property Subdivision Representatives Gene Kreamer and Michael Zettlemoyer

**OTHERS ABSENT:** Junior C/P Kathryn "Katie" Kirchner

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Pres. Handlan called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. Mgr. Bickhart called the roll, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2010 AND RECESSED COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 23, 2010:**

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

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RECESS TO PUBLIC HEARING:** The Council meeting recessed to a Public Hearing at 7:04 P.M.

Glenda Ruch from SEDA-COG stated that Mike Miller has accepted a position as the South Williamsport Borough Manager, so Glenda is now assigned to facilitate the CDBG program for Selingsgrove. She gave a quick overview of the CDBG program. She also discussed the regulatory requirements of the CDBG program and the proposed projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2011. She asked for any new project proposals from the public and Council, noting that once the public hearing tonight closes, the opportunity to introduce new projects also closes. Last year Selingsgrove received \$122,250; this year it is expected that the amount will be slightly lower. Glenda went over the CDBG schedule which was given to Council. She also went over eligible activities, funding requirements and national objectives. She explained how it is determined whether a project would benefit mostly low to moderate income citizens, which is required for 70% of the Borough's projects to be eligible. She noted that last year was the first time in a long time in which income limits were lowered for HUD eligibility. The other 30% of eligibility can be allocated to the elimination of slum or blight problems. Funds can also be used to address a disaster or eliminate an emergency situation. Glenda then went over the Fair Housing Act, which Selingsgrove has adopted. If displacement of residents were to occur due to a federally funded Borough project, the Borough would have to provide substitute housing for those residents. Pres. Handlan noted that this does not apply to the Pine Meadows situation in the Borough, as the purchase of Pine Meadows and displacement of the residents is being done through Susquehanna University and not the Borough itself and no federal monies are being used. Glenda reviewed the projects currently under consideration. These include the Second and Front Street reconstruction project which is completed and is now a reimbursement project, a removal of architectural barriers project to install an elevator in the proposed new Borough building and library, and SEDA-COG administration expenses of \$18,220. Once the actual amount of the CDBG funding is known, amounts for each project can be finalized.

Glenda reported to Council on a project that the Union-Snyder Agency on Aging has proposed and that they would like help with. They operate an adult daily living center in Penn's Creek. Printed information was supplied to Council on this \$20,200 project which will focus on replacing the floor and installing an observation window. The USAA is asking the Borough to contribute a fair share allocation of \$1,319. Since 2007, 42 residents from Union and Snyder Counties have been served at this center, 7 of whom reside in Selinsgrove. C/P Siro had some questions on the USAA and Glenda said if people would make a list of questions and give them to Treasurer Badman, Glenda would take those questions to the USAA and get the answers. Pres. Handlan asked when a decision would have to be made by Council on whether to contribute to this project, and Glenda said it could be done at the February meeting.

Glenda asked if there were any additional projects that the public or Council would like to have considered for CDBG funding. A female audience member who had not signed in asked about a ramp in front of BJ's because it is not very handicapped accessible. Glenda stated that would be an economic development activity, but it would be difficult to qualify it for CDBG funding because it would only benefit BJ's. Glenda stated that any project has to go through an environmental review, which SEDA-COG does for the Borough. This has never stopped a project from going forward but sometimes adjustments have to be made within the project. SEDA-COG consults with a number of agencies to ensure that the project can move forward. Glenda then went over Section 3 information. C/P Siro asked if the CDBG process is related to the integrity policy that was adopted by Council last month. Glenda stated that it is, noting that SEDA-COG put the policy together for Council's adoption. It deals with privacy, confidentiality, and potential conflicts of interest and how those should be handled by the Borough and its employees. C/P Siro stated she had some issues with the policy. C/P Anderson gave an example that confidentiality does not deal with keeping projects confidential but rather with keeping citizens' incomes confidential. Pres. Handlan thanked Glenda for her presentation.

**RECONVENE COUNCIL MEETING:** The Council meeting reconvened at 7:43 P.M. C/P Viker asked if Council has to take any action tonight and Pres. Handlan replied they do not. There will be further discussion in February. She asked that anyone with questions on the USAA get those to Treasurer Badman so she can get those answered and sent to the Council members before the February meeting. C/P Anderson stated the USAA has a very good brochure that describes all their services. C/P Viker stated that C/P Carroll had pointed out that 17% of the people who use the Penn's Creek facility are from the Borough and the USAA is only asking for a fair share contribution of significantly less than 10%, noting that this is a good deal to benefit the citizens of the Borough. C/P Farrell stated that \$1,300 out of the \$122,000 that is available to the Borough seems like a good deal to him also.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD:**

**DH&L Fire Company, Ken Stettler – No Report.**

**PLANNING COMMISSION: Earl Moyer, Chair**

**Review and consider Final Plan approval for Subdivision for Justin Womer –** Gene Kreamer, the surveyor for this property, explained the proposed subdivision. Information was given to Council and the Planning Commission is recommending approval. Mr. Kreamer stated there have been no comments from Snyder County regarding the project. C/P Anderson stated this was also reviewed by the Borough engineer. Mr. Kreamer stated he addressed comments from the engineer.

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve the subdivision. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

C/P Viker asked if there is any cost to the citizens of Selinsgrove if the Council approves this. Pres. Handlan said there is not. She then called for a vote on the motion.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD:**

**Michael Moyer regarding Boat Ramp** – Mr. Moyer about the status of this. Mgr. Bickhart stated he got a call from the Fish and Boat Commission just before Christmas stating that they were reviewing the information on the cross slope. Pres. Handlan stated that at the last Council meeting, Joe Siro brought to Council’s attention that there are some other issues with the boat ramp, including a crack in the concrete. She explained that the boat ramp is under SPI’s jurisdiction, although the grant money comes through the Borough. C/P Siro expressed concern about the heavy use as listed in C/P Hendricks’ report and wondered if it should be used until it is fixed. C/P Farrell stated the one crack has been there for almost a year but there are also some newer cracks. Mgr. Bickhart stated they appear to be expansion cracks and there are reinforcing bars in the concrete. C/P Hendricks stated his report’s reference to heavy traffic was during the warmer months; there is not heavy traffic on it now during the winter. C/P Viker asked if there is any reason to believe the cracks would cause harm to citizens or damage to vehicles. Pres. Handlan stated not at this time. C/P Hendricks asked about vulcanizing and C/P Farrell stated he did not think that could be done with concrete. Mgr. Bickhart stated caulk could be put into the crack. It is not a structural crack and there is no instability because of it. Mr. Moyer expressed concern about water freezing on the ramp and there being danger due to the slope of the ramp. Mgr. Bickhart stated the ramp is closed if it freezes.

**Matt Farrand from WKOK** – Mr. Farrand stated he had nothing to contribute to the meeting, but he would like to speak with Mgr. Bickhart after tonight’s meeting.

**Earl Moyer regarding Isle of Que Access** – Mr. Moyer asked about the status of this project and Mgr. Bickhart stated it has been bid, the contract has been awarded, and the contractor had originally planned to start in December. Mgr. Bickhart stated he does not know why he did not start yet but work should begin soon. Pres. Handlan stated the Borough is highly dependent on this access because the bridge to the Isle of Que will be closed for a period of a couple months during which time the emergency access will be the means to get on and off the Isle. C/P Hendricks read from the Borough Engineer’s report which notes the contractor will begin work the second week of January pending precast deliveries. C/P Viker stated it is a 90-day contract so the work will be done quickly. Pres. Handlan stated the project has been held up for a long time as the Borough waited for the funds, which they have fortunately now received. C/P Farrell pointed out that people could get information about what is going on by looking online at the minutes of the Council meetings. C/P Viker stated they are at [www.selinsgrove.org](http://www.selinsgrove.org).

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**Central Keystone Council of Governments Representative and Alternate Representative** – C/P Farrell stated he thought he agreed to be the alternate, but after some discussion he agreed to be the representative since Pres. Handlan cannot be appointed to a 3-year term. An alternate is also needed, and C/P Carroll recommended C/P Siro. C/P Siro stated she would like to learn more about the code so she agreed to be the alternate. Pres. Handlan stated this involves an annual meeting which rotates meeting locations. It is a public meeting with multiple municipalities being represented.

Motion by C/P Carroll to appoint C/P Farrell to a 3-year term as Borough Representative to CK-COG with C/P Siro as the Alternate Representative. Seconded by C/P Viker.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

C/P Siro asked to speak, stating that it is extremely important that the visitors at tonight’s meeting attend Council meetings and that they tell other people to attend Council meetings so that they can understand what is going on in the Borough and be an active part of the community. She stated it is very important and she cannot emphasize it enough. Pres. Handlan stated that as Council begins a new year, there are a lot of things that Council is involved in. Each Council member sits on multiple committees which meet throughout the year, not just at a monthly Council meeting. A lot of work is done and lot of education is done throughout the year.

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

**Review List of Council Issues** – Mgr. Bickhart stated that he, C/P Siro and Chief Garlock did complete the evaluation of the police department clerk. C/P Siro stated she does not have Mgr. Bickhart's completed evaluation for the clerk. Mgr. Bickhart stated that at the end there is an opportunity for him to make some final comments and he wishes to do that before he turns in his completed evaluation. Chief Garlock can then respond to this. Mayor Christine asked if he could get a copy of all the information. C/P Siro stated it is personal information. Solicitor Cravitz stated the clerk is not a uniformed part of the police department and therefore reports to Mgr. Bickhart. Mgr. Bickhart stated he will supply any information that does not violate confidentiality issues. He stated the general public would be prohibited from viewing the files. The mayor is in a gray area. C/P Siro stated there was a question in the evaluation as to where the position of police department clerk belongs.

## **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** – Mgr. Bickhart stated there are no exoneration requests. However, he does have a notice from Statewide Tax Recovery that they will no longer be pursuing the 1992/1993 taxes owed by Michael Keith because he has recently filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

C/P Viker expressed appreciation to the Finance & Budget Committee for the very, very challenging work they did in putting together a no-tax-increase budget. C/P Viker regretted that he could not be present for the vote on the budget because the recessed meeting fell on the date of his holiday travel. However, had he been present he would have been consistent with his record of fiscal conservatism and he would have voted in favor of a no-tax-increase budget.

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

### **BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION / PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT: C/P Carroll, Chair**

**Report on Selinsgrove Municipal Building and Community Center Library Renovation and Expansion Project** – C/P Carroll stated there were no meetings in November or December. He asked if the 99-year lease has been worked out. Solicitor Cravitz stated that he provided the attorney for the library with the lease and the AIA contract. Mgr. Bickhart has a clean copy of the AIA contract, which Council should pass tonight. Mgr. Bickhart stated the lease is not needed yet and there will probably be some additional items before the lease agreement is actually entered into. Solicitor Cravitz stated there will be a secondary agreement which will have to be put into place between the Borough and the library which will say who will pay for what in the construction process. The lease itself will be finalized after construction is completed. C/P Siro stated the next joint meeting will be on January 12 at 9:00 a.m. C/P Carroll asked for an update on the geothermal testing. Mgr. Bickhart reported that the geothermal testing is done. He was hoping to have had some preliminary reports back by now but he has not received anything. The most recent test involved geotechnical testing for foundation design. He stated from counting the number of blows it took to drive the hammer into the ground, the ground is plenty hard. Pres. Handlan asked what will be used if geothermal is not an option. Mgr. Bickhart replied it would be some sort of conventional heat pump. This is one of the things that will have to be put into the final lease agreement. When heating was first brought up, it was agreed to pursue joint use as long as the architect could measure the use separately. C/P Viker stated without geothermal it makes more sense to have two separate HVAC units. Mgr. Bickhart stated that is correct because the cost was tens of thousands of

dollars more to have two separate geothermal systems. Therefore, Council decided two separate systems were not needed as long as the usage could be measured and billed responsibly. C/P Carroll reported that someone has willed the library around \$300,000 which puts them in a good position. Pres. Handlan stated that the library is in very good position. They have raised over \$700,000 already, and the capital campaign has not yet been launched. She stated there is no reason for concern that the library will not be able to pay their part. She clarified that the AIA contract has been reviewed by both the Borough's and the library's attorneys and is ready for signing by the Borough. She is not sure whether the library is ready to sign it or not. She will check on this tomorrow. Solicitor Cravitz stated that Council can approve the contract separately from the library doing so. Mgr. Bickhart clarified it is a contract between three parties: the Borough, the library and EI Associates. At this time the architect is working without a contract so this needs to be moved along. C/P Siro stated her concern related to the library's maintaining of their portion of the new building. Pres. Handlan stated that in the capital campaign, 15% of everything raised will be put aside for maintenance, so the library is in good shape. She stated that the lease situation needs to be solidified before the capital campaign kicks off because the library cannot say they have something that they do not have. Solicitor Cravitz stated the Borough is all set on its end.

Motion by C/P Carroll to approve the AIA contract. Seconded by C/P Farrell.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Pump House Renovation Update** – C/P Carroll reported that the new carpet has been installed. C/P Siro reported that she went to Old Trail Fabric Center looking for material and asking for suggestions of people who would cover the chair seats. She thought perhaps Dena Gentner would be interested, but Ms. Gentner decided she did not have the expertise to do this. Farnsworth Auto would do it for \$15 per chair with the customer providing material. This would amount to \$450 plus material. Fike Brothers Carpet One suggested cleaning the chair covers. Treasurer Badman had told C/P Siro that the Borough crew had cleaned the chairs but Fike Brothers would do it professionally at a cost of \$5 per chair, or \$150 total. C/P Siro left a chair cover there so they could see if it cleans up well. If it does, they would go to the pump house to clean the rest of the chairs but the room must be heated for them to do so. Pres. Handlan asked if anything has been installed in place of the stove that was removed. C/P Carroll stated that Mgr. Bickhart was going to speak with Corby about possibly putting in a shelf and a microwave, per Treasurer Badman's recommendation. C/P Siro stated that she has not been back to the pump house since she took the photos that she circulated a couple months ago. She asked if anything has been done with the bathroom floor. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Corby indicated the Borough crew would do that through the winter. It is on his list of things to do if he has a chance. C/P Siro stated she feels this is more important than the carpet and the chairs.

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

**Establish appropriate conditions/limitations/waivers necessary for the conduct of special community events** – Council discussed the list provided. Pres. Handlan stated there will be something different for the Hops, Vines and Wines Festival in July because they will have to relocate due to construction beginning in March. She will be speaking to the university to see if they can use some of their property and will also consider University Avenue rather than Pine Street. C/P Anderson pointed out that the list provided does not stipulate a specific location. Pres. Handlan agreed it does not, but it has been on Pine Street the last three years so this is a deviation. C/P Farrell stated that when a location is determined that portion of the list could be adopted at that time. Pres. Handlan stated that the PLCB permits require the specific streets to be designated. C/P Viker stated that the other events on the list do not have location changes so the rest could be adopted. C/P Carroll asked if the motorcycle group ever approached the Borough again. Mgr. Bickhart and C/P Farrell stated they have not heard anything.

Motion by C/P Viker to authorize the waivers, conditions and limitations as listed with the exception of Item 3a. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Pine Meadows Update** – C/P Farrell reported that SU is waiting for the rezoning approval to take place on March 7. Solicitor Cravitz stated this was pushed back due to notice requirements. There will be a public hearing at the February meeting and then Council can act on it at the March meeting. C/P Farrell stated that this week SU will be distributing invitations to all the landlords in the Borough to try to coordinate tenants and determine the availability of HUD properties in the Borough. SU is working on their inspection process, which must be finalized by January 31. This includes surveying, inspecting for mold, inspecting for radon, etc. If this is not completed by January 31 the university would have to pay to get out of the sales contract if they wished to. The tentative closing date is November 16, 2011. C/P Viker asked if he heard that the university was brokering relocation options to residents. C/P Farrell replied that the university is inviting landlords to a meeting to inform them of the situation and to check on the availability of HUD housing. He did not know if tenants would be at that meeting. Pres. Handlan stated that one of the things brought up at the public hearing was that the university would meet with the landlords and she is glad to see that this is moving forward. C/P Farrell stated he wants to attend that meeting also and he has asked that the university to notify him of any and all meetings that will take place regarding this issue. Pres. Handlan stated that while the municipal government has no part in this, it is important to have a presence due to wanting to understand a situation that affects Borough residents.

**PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: C/P Siro, Chair** – C/P Siro requested an Executive Session.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: C/P Viker, Chair**

**Update on request for PennDOT to consider replacing traffic signals at Market and Mill Streets with two-way stop intersection** – C/P Viker stated no action has been taken on this as the Borough is still waiting to see if they will get funding from their grant request. Pres. Handlan stated that she has received questions from people concerned about the traffic light being taken out and replaced by stop signs. Mgr. Bickhart stated that per PennDOT there is a procedure they need to go through to evaluate whether it makes sense to remove an existing traffic signal. Mgr. Bickhart is researching that procedure to see if the Borough can justify the removal. Some things to be considered include number of accidents, traffic counts, etc. C/P Viker stated he is not getting a sense that replacing the light with stop signs is an idea that really appeals to anyone so his committee has pretty much indefinitely tabled this issue. He stated if the Borough gets a grant to cover most of the cost of replacing the traffic light he feels the Borough should move forward with it.

**PLANNING COMMISSION: Earl Moyer, Chair**

**Consider the reappointments of Earl Moyer and Kurt Knitter to serve on the Planning Commission for an additional 4-year term, until 12/31/14** – Mgr. Bickhart stated he contacted everyone on the agenda tonight to ask if they would consider reappointment. Mr. Moyer and Mr. Knitter have both agreed.

Motion by C/P Viker to approve these reappointments. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SIX (6)                      NAYS: NONE                      MOTION CARRIED**  
**NOTE: C/P Farrell was absent from the room when this vote was taken.**

**ZONING HEARING BOARD: Cyril Runkle, Chair**

**Consider the reappointment of Edward Mann to serve on the Zoning Hearing Board for an additional 5-year term, until 12/31/15** – Mgr. Bickhart has received Mr. Mann's consent.

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve this reappointment. Seconded by C/P Viker.

**AYES: SIX (6)                      NAYS: NONE                      MOTION CARRIED**  
**NOTE: C/P Farrell was absent from the room when this vote was taken.**

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: Dalton Savidge, Chair**

**Report from Hearing held on December 2, 2010 – Continued Hearing January 12, 2011 at 4:00 P.M.**  
– Solicitor Cravitz has notified all parties of this date.

**Consider the reappointment of Dalton Savidge to serve on the Civil Service Commission for an additional 6-year term, until 12/31/16** – Mgr. Bickhart has received Mr. Savidge's consent.

Motion by C/P Anderson to approve this reappointment. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SIX (6)                      NAYS: NONE                      MOTION CARRIED**  
**NOTE: C/P Farrell was absent from the room when this vote was taken.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD: Shane Hendricks, Chair**

**Consider the appointment of Rocky Baer to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board for a 5-year term, until 12/31/15** – C/P Hendricks made this recommendation, noting that Mr. Baer has recently moved to Selinsgrove. He is an engineer working out of State College who desires to become involved in the community. Mr. Baer will meet C/P Hendricks at the skating rink on Saturday to discuss the Board and see if he is interested in serving. A decision on this was deferred until after C/P Hendricks meets Mr. Baer. Mgr. Bickhart stated that Richard Vascellaro is currently on the Board. Mgr. Bickhart contacted him about being reappointed but Mr. Vascellaro did not respond.

**DCNR C2P2 Grant Workshop, 1/6 in Harrisburg or 2/10 in Boalsburg** – C/P Hendricks stated he went to a grant workshop a year or two ago. He stated he has materials in a filing cabinet if anyone wants information on how to write a grant.

C/P Hendricks supplied his written report. He stated the ice skating rink could use some firewood for February. C/P Viker stated someone with a chain saw could join him at the Borough mulch pile some time in the next two weeks. He will bring his splitter. Pres. Handlan stated there are people not cleaning up after their dogs at the dog park, but that may be due to running out of bags. C/P Hendricks stated the bags ran out more quickly than anticipated. He stated he did not realize there would be so much use even into December. He stated the park went through 1,000 bags in no time. Pres. Handlan asked if the Borough is paying for the bags or if they are being donated. C/P Hendricks stated the Companion Animal Hospital is purchasing them and donating them to the dog park. However, several boxes should be purchased and kept on hand for backup. C/P Hendricks reported that things have been done to make Little Norway more energy efficient. They got rid of halogen lights and put in fluorescents. He stated electricity is the only expense as everything else is absorbed through the concession stand. Volunteers are always needed. C/P Hendricks supplied a written list of highlights from 2010. C/P Carroll asked C/P Hendricks to be sure to tell the Fleming family that Council appreciates all their help. Pres. Handlan stated that Mike Fleming is an incredible person who spends an amazing amount of time helping out in the Borough. He even patrols outside the ice rink area to be sure kids are not doing anything they should not be doing. She stated the Borough is lucky to have him. C/P Hendricks stated the next Board meeting is Tuesday, January 25 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_, Chair** – No Report

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**MAYOR: Sean Christine**

**Presentation of Police Report for November 2010** – Mayor Christine reported no anomalies for the month. C/P Hendricks stated it seems as though the numbers for off campus housing have dropped considerably since last year. He stated whatever actions the police are taking seem to be working as 16% seems lower than normal. It was noted that students were gone for part of November.

**Continued discussion on Police Department Evaluation** – Mayor Christine stated the evaluation procedures for the chief will be instituted this month. Mayor Christine hopes to have that completed by some time next month based on last year and the initial counseling session. They will go over duties and responsibilities and expectations from the mayor to the chief.

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR: Robert Cravitz, Esq.** – No Report

**BOROUGH ENGINEER: J. A. Coukart & Associates**

**Update on pending projects** – No comments or questions

**BOROUGH TREASURER: Sharon Badman**

**Review Treasurer's Report for December 2010** - 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 noted the 11/29 issue involved the property occupied by a squatter. He will find a way to get the inspection done.

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

**Consider renewing Agreement with CKCOG, adopt resolution of fees and notify DEP of change in Primary and Secondary SEOs for Borough** – Mgr. Bickhart reported this agreement includes a reduction in the cost per hour for CK-COG's services. C/P Viker asked if this has to be advertised and was told it does not.

Motion by C/P Viker to enter into this cost-saving agreement. Seconded by C/P Carroll.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Resolution 2011-01, Resolution for Sewage Permit Fees Charged to the Public** – Mgr. Bickhart reported this resolution adopting sewage permit fees is needed because there are some properties in the Borough that may still have on-lot sewage systems, and there are some undeveloped properties that could be developed with on-lot sewage systems. Therefore, contact needs to be maintained with the Sewage Enforcement Officer to include this fee schedule.

Motion by C/P Viker to adopt the resolution and to officially adopt the list of SEOs. Seconded by C/P Farrell.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Sewage Mailer** – Mgr. Bickhart explained this is the procedure which must be followed with someone who wishes to add a new lot in the Borough and to connect the new lot to the Borough's sanitary sewer system. It is a simple statement that the Borough sewer system has capacity to handle one additional single family home. Mgr. Bickhart stated this would be used along with a proposal to subdivide a piece of property when there is no reason why a lot should not be permitted to be divided. C/P Anderson asked if this would be a Zoning Board issue or a land development plan issue. Mgr. Bickhart stated it will be a subdivision plan to be approved through the Planning Commission. In the copies Mgr. Bickhart provided there is a single family home with a proposal to divide the property and add a second single family home on the subdivided land. This would involve an additional point of connection to the sewer and an additional tapping fee for the Borough. Action tonight would be for approval for the connection to the Borough sewer. C/P Anderson stated this does not carry any other approval as the property owner would still have to go through proper channels to make changes.

Motion by C/P Viker to authorize the approval. Seconded by C/P Hendricks.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Event Reminders:**

- Public Officials Day Luncheon January 13, 2011 at noon in the Farm Show cafeteria
- Municipal Officials Training & Skills Development February 5, 2011 at the Sheraton in Hershey
- PSAB's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference & Celebration April 10-13, 2011

**Reminder** – State Ethics Commission's Statements of Financial Interest due by 5/1/11

**Manhole Investigations with ESCRA on Market Street** – C/P Siro asked what was happening on Market Street at University Avenue and at Pine Street this past week with the manholes and an ESCRA truck. Mgr. Bickhart stated that the Borough employees routinely check certain manholes in the sewer system to see if there is any evidence of obstructions that could lead to backups. The two manholes mentioned are some that occasionally show evidence of an obstruction. An obstruction was found and opened. It was not caused by grease. It was just the normal kind of sewage obstruction that is sometimes seen. ESCRA was asked to bring their vacuum truck to make sure the lines were open.

**SELINGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Donald Bottiger, Chairman**

**Consider the appointment of Shane Hendricks to serve on the Selingsrove Municipal Authority for a 5-year term, until 12/31/15** – Mgr. Bickhart stated that Dave Dagle has served on the Authority for a long time and has agreed to continue to serve until a replacement is found, but he would like to be replaced. C/P Hendricks asked if he would be eligible to serve on this authority and Solicitor Cravitz stated the he would be. Mgr. Bickhart stated this authority maintains ownership of the Borough's water system only.

Motion by C/P Viker to appointment Shane Hendricks to a 5-year term. Seconded by C/P Anderson.

**AYES: SEVEN (7)**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Mgr. Bickhart stated he will notify Mr. Dagle and thank him for his service.

**EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY – Bob Dagle and George Kinney, Chairmen**

Solicitor Cravitz had provided everyone with an evaluation of who is responsible to issue permits. He stated that this is similar to the mailer that Council went over earlier tonight, which was for residential properties. The Borough has full and complete control over that. Most commercial properties are handled the same way. The agreement with ESCRA states that the Borough agrees to adopt ESCRA's rules and regulations, which state that where there is a situation of industrial waste or waste other than domestic waste, ESCRA could require a discharge permit. The Borough has the enforcement responsibility for the requirements. The consumer deals directly with the Borough because they hook directly to the Borough's sewer lines. There is no direct connection from any customer to one of the ESCRA lines. Therefore, ESCRA cannot come into the Borough's system and turn anyone off. The Borough would have to do that. A discharge permit has to be signed by ESCRA, by the customer, by the Borough, and sometimes by DEP, if necessary. If ESCRA requires a discharge permit and the Borough is taking diligent steps to obtain one, ESCRA cannot do anything to the Borough. The agreement is designed to work amicably so that nothing that the Borough does or that ESCRA does will upset the overall treatment of sewage. If push comes to shove, the shove has to come from the Borough to the customer and not directly from ESCRA to the customer. Solicitor Cravitz spoke with ESCRA's solicitor a couple weeks ago, and she is not completely in agreement with this interpretation. However, she and ESCRA will just be asking the Borough to use its best judgment to preserve and protect ESCRA's treatment plant so that ESCRA's permits do not get violated. Ultimately, ESCRA could say they do not want sewage from a certain customer. In that case, ESCRA could cut off one of the Borough's major

interceptors which would affect whole sections of the Borough. Solicitor Cravitz stated he does not think DEP would let ESCRA do that. C/P Viker clarified that the discharge permit comes from the Borough. Solicitor Cravitz stated it is ESCRA's discharge permit and they can set a surcharge but they do not specify what mechanism they use to charge it or how it is to get paid. Mgr. Bickhart stated the way it is handled now, any customer that gets a surcharge, such as National Beef, pays that amount directly to ESCRA and not to the municipality. Solicitor Cravitz stated this is not spelled out in the agreement and those customers that currently have industrial waste discharge permits pay directly to ESCRA. He stated in order to be sure all the I's are dotted and all the T's are crossed, it might be a good idea for a committee of all the municipalities to sit down and write a more defined agreement.

Pres. Handlan asked if there is a final result from testing. Solicitor Cravitz stated that the Borough of Shamokin Dam does not like the results they have seen on their testing either. Mgr. Bickhart stated that he attended the last regular ESCRA meeting, at which they took action to direct John Abromitis to add a third location, to continue to use two outside labs with which to split samples, and to come up with five additional samplings to increase the database. The two points of information that were previously used do not include enough information to make any judgments. ESCRA has agreed to these actions and they will share the sampling information with the Borough.

Pres. Handlan stated she is still concerned with how ESCRA determines what is required to issue an industrial permit. She stated when she was at ESCRA's meeting several months ago, they were requiring Ethnogenesis and Chesapeake Gardens to do tests on a daily basis at \$400 per day per industry. She stated the industry should be able to do this testing monthly. She stated she wants to see fairness to everyone in the Borough regarding who gets assessed and what kind of testing is required. She stated that the Public Facilities & Services Committee should work in concert with ESCRA to try to resolve this. C/P Farrell stated he thought the determining factor for an industrial permit was how many gallons of product an industry made. C/P Carroll stated that Mr. Springman had stated that he had to have 60,000 gallons and he was nowhere near that amount. Pres. Handlan stated that it concerns her that ESCRA was going to require the industries to get a permit and was also going to require them to do daily testing. She stated she would like to see some equity in whatever ends up being done. However, without individual metering to determine that a specific location is a problem nothing more can be fairly done. Solicitor Cravitz stated the rules and regulations state that determinations are made based upon tests that ESCRA has at their disposal.

Mgr. Bickhart stated that Treasurer Badman had asked John Abromitis to provide all of the BODs and suspended solids testing that they have done from April through the end of the year. This resulted in a complicated spreadsheet which is available for Council to review. It documents the entire system and points of connection, not just Selinsgrove and Shamokin Dam. C/P Hendricks asked if the results are fairly level or if the same types of spikes are still being seen that were seen in 2009 and early 2010. Mgr. Bickhart replied that those spikes are not being seen. However, the data is not reliable until ESCRA completes the split sampling and it is known for sure that ESCRA's tests are reliable. C/P Siro asked why the Borough has not worked with ESCRA from the very beginning. Pres. Handlan replied that she feels it is because it was never such an issue before, noting that there are no other industrial permits in the Borough. C/P Viker stated that there really was no weakness in that everything went well until the Borough had an instance of some sampling that showed a possible specific problem area. C/P Siro stated that she does not think everything went well, stating there was tension between the Borough and ESCRA's representatives. She stated she thought there would have been more working together. C/P Viker asked if C/P Siro is speaking of personal tensions, noting that the operations were unaffected up until the point that it was discovered that there was an industry that ESCRA identified as a possible violator and the Borough had to take action. Up until that point the Borough did not have to deal with ESCRA in any way that was anything other than business as usual. C/P Siro stated that is not her opinion, noting there was speculation and comments regarding whether ESCRA was possibly watching their budget for future expansion. C/P Viker stated that ESCRA does have to watch their budget for future expansion. C/P Siro again stated there was tension there. Pres. Handlan stated this is all in the past and the Borough needs to move forward. C/P Siro stated she hopes the Borough does not make the same mistake again, and Pres. Handlan stated she does not feel the Borough made a mistake. C/P Siro again stated that she feels mistakes were made. C/P Viker and Pres. Handlan disagreed. Pres. Handlan

stated things are moving forward positively, and she asked C/P Hendricks to have the Public Facilities & Services Committee oversee these issues.

**NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY JOINT AUTHORITY – Bill Hetherington and John C. Bickhart  
– No Report**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Market Street Sewage Pipe** – C/P Siro returned to this topic, asking what Mgr. Bickhart means by regular sewage. She asked if there is a problem with the pipe that it cannot handle regular sewage and if this is something that needs to be fixed. Mgr. Bickhart replied that the fix is very expensive. The line is relatively old and may have developed some bellies which will accumulate materials until such time that they obstruct the flow. That backup can be seen at the manhole upstream. When the Borough crew sees that, they know there is something obstructing the flow and they flush it out. C/P Siro asked if this is one of the main pipes collecting sewage that comes down University Avenue and Pine Street. She stated that is what the map shows that she copied from Mgr. Bickhart. Mgr. Bickhart stated he does not know that to be a major line. He stated it is no more than a block or two long. It comes down to Pine Street and goes down over the hill toward the sewage treatment plant. Part of the problem is that it is not used heavily. There are not a lot of people flushing toilets or draining drains so there is not a big push every once in a while to keep it cleaned as other neighborhoods have. C/P Viker asked if Mgr. Bickhart would characterize that a periodic maintenance procedure such as what was done recently is more fiscally responsible than a costly and time-consuming tear up and replacement. Mgr. Bickhart replied absolutely, stating that is why there is a common practice of routine evaluation of troublesome manholes that the Borough knows contain lines that for one reason or another accumulate enough material to back up the flow. They are simply flushed. C/P Siro asked if she could bring in her maps that Mgr. Bickhart allowed her to copy so that they can be explained to her. Mgr. Bickhart replied that he would look at the service area for that particular line with her.

**Question regarding streets that were dug up** – C/P Carroll asked about work that was being done on Pine, Bough, Sassafras and Water Streets where sections were dug up. Treasurer Badman replied this was water and sewer work that was being done.

**OTHERS**

**Borough Newsletter** – Treasurer Badman asked that articles for the newsletter be turned in to her by early February so that the newsletter can be finalized at the March Council meeting. C/P Siro asked if anyone can turn in an article for the newsletter and Pres. Handlan replied they can, as long as it is related to the Borough.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Council Meeting recessed to an Executive Session at 9:21 P.M. for discussion of Personnel Issues. Council meeting reconvened at 10:01 P.M. with no action being taken.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 P.M.

Attachments: None

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