

SELINGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: V. Pres. Pete Carroll, C/P Marvin Rudnitsky, C/P Tim Charles, C/P Shane Hendricks, C/P Rich Mease, and C/P Erik Viker

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Pres. Brian Farrell

OTHERS PRESENT: Borough Manager/Secretary Paul Williams; Solicitor Bob Cravitz; Mayor Jeff Reed; Junior C/P Jonah Markle; Borough Treasurer/Assistant Borough Manager Sheri Badman; Recording Secretary Chele' Weaver; DH&L Fire Company Gary Griner and Drew Heintzleman; Daily Item Marcia Moore; PA State Representative Union/Snyder Counties Fred Keller; Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce Sue Gilbert; Parks and Recreation Meg Will; Selinsgrove Borough residents Vincent Stoops and Ben Walter

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

V/P Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Mgr. Williams called the roll, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM MEETING OF June 1, 2015

Motion made by C/P Charles to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by C/P Rudnitsky.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

DH&L Fire Company/DH&L Ambulance League

Gary Griner reported that for the month of June 2015 there were 31 incidents and they are as follows: Four (4) automatic alarms; one (1) false alarm; one (1) pedestrian accident; seven (7) medical assists; six (6) motor vehicle accidents without extrication; two (2) lightning strikes; three (3) power lines down; one (1) public service; three (3) structure fires; one (1) smoke in structure and two (2) trees down. Mr. Griner reported that the pedestrian accident has resulted in the person being transferred from the hospital into a rehab center.

Incidents by Township are as follows: Three (3) in Chapman Township; two (2) in Monroe Township; thirteen (13) in Penn Township; eleven (11) in the Borough of Selinsgrove; one (1) in Union Township and one (1) in Washington Township. Total estimated losses is \$0.00. The total staff count was 218 for a grand total of 235.63 man hours.

Selinsgrove Projects, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes – Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams stated that Selinsgrove Projects, Inc. (SPI) did agree to donate \$1,000.00 to the Selinsgrove Pool.

The Economic Revitalization Committee will be working on their own strategic plan. A planning committee will be formed and will be meeting in the very near future.

KIZ Meeting Minutes – Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams stated that a number of persons met on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 to discuss the Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) with the idea of looking to identify a location and sources of funding and support for a business incubator in the downtown Central Business District of Selinsgrove Borough. A presentation has been made before the Finance Committee.

Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes – Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams stated that the Chamber recognized the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and that Maria Lucchi (she is working with the Main Street Managers Office as a Summer PHEAA student) and her parents were recognized at the luncheon.

SARI (Pool) – Richard Mease

Approve Proposed Cell Tower at the Pool – Copy Provided

C/P Mease stated the site is on Borough property. There was a lease agreement drawn up on December 5, 2005. The proposed Entry and Testing Agreement is for Baker Acquisition, LLC to perform a site evaluation.

Sol. Cravitz stated it will most likely take a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board. He does believe that cell towers are allowed in this zone. This is just a pilot to see if they can put a tower here and receive the proper signals.

C/P Rudnitsky stated that there is a navigation easement that needs to be watched. It looks like a big upside down saucer for planes to glide in and glide out. C/P Mease stated that Horvath Towers has already contacted the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and they are not directly in the path of where the tower is being proposed. Horvath will take care of all the regulations thru the FAA to proceed.

V/P Carroll stated that Council is just giving the right to enter and perform the testing. This is all that is being voted on. The area involved is 20' x 50'.

Sol. Cravitz noted that on the lease it is stated that "each party acknowledges that the other has made no representations or commitments and that a lease agreement concerning the property will be entered into in the future." There is no commitment here.

Motion made by C/P Rudnitsky to approve. Motion seconded by C/P Hendricks.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Emergency Request for Gelnett Funds for Diving Board

C/P Mease stated that on Sunday, July 5, 2015 the diving board broke. This is only one (1) that the pool owns. They did check into pricing and the total amount for it to be replaced is \$1,976.25. SARI has worked with this company before and they are willing to give SARI 30 days to pay for it.

C/P Charles stated that the Finance Committee did review this and the Committee is prepared to recommend that Council approve up to \$2,000.00 for the board replacement. Motion seconded by C/P Viker.

V/P Carroll stated that apparently the pool does not have the funds to cover this. C/P Mease stated that if SARI does not get the money from Gelnett then SARI has to transfer funds from their fundraising account which is being used to go towards the ceilings and it will put this project behind schedule.

There is a two (2) year warranty that comes with the board. SARI believes that the board that broke was the original board.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

C/P Mease stated that Saturday, July 4, 2015 was designated as a FREE day at the pool with DH&L Fire Company having a fundraiser and running the concession stand. 94KX was to be there for two (2) hours broadcasting, but unfortunately it rained all day. The event was moved to Sunday, July 5, 2015 with all the proceeds from the concession stand going to DH&L. Borough resident Vince Stoops stated that DH&L broke even.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Megan Will

Meeting Minutes – Copy Provided

Little Norway II – they are still looking for wood to use in the fireplace over the winter. Anyone who is wanting to donate wood can drop it off at the site and Walt Nichols will stack it.

Major Anthony Selin Park – Board member Judy Guest asked if people can reserve the park area for large gatherings. Mgr. Williams stated that the pavilion could be rented, though the larger area around it would still be open to the public. Ms. Will suggested that Kidsgrove might be an alternative sight as the pavilion in that park is available for reservation, as well as the grassy area in front of the park.

Boat Launch/Environmental Center - There is a need to install a no-smoking/no-tobacco use sign at the boat launch; the park rules, which prohibit tobacco use in all Borough parks and on Borough properties, do include this area. The Parks and Recreation Board (PnR) recommended asking Council to have a sign installed.

Ms. Will did state that PnR Coordinator Jessie Runkle and Shawn Park had a meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 with Professor Niles from Susquehanna University to talk about the Ecology Adventure Day which is to take place Saturday, August 8, 2015 with a rain date of Sunday, August 9, 2015. They are looking for an audience of mostly school age children. They are also looking for volunteers (juniors and seniors in high school).

Shawn Park has been working on the Rivertown Project. He will be getting a group of volunteers together to complete the process. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Keystone Room.

Moose Park – The PnR Board has decided to contact the Moose to confer with them about ideas that PnR has about installing surveillance cameras in the area. PnR would like to contact Shane Ulrich of The Country Squire and also the leadership team at St. Paul's United Church of Christ to see if cameras could be installed on their buildings.

V/P Carroll asked Sol. Cravitz if signs need to be posted stating that the grounds are under surveillance. Sol. Cravitz answered yes, just out of courtesy.

Summer Kids Park Program – Ms. Will stated that she has spoken with PnR Coordinator Jessie Runkle and that the program has been doing great and they are averaging between 25-30 children per day. Camp was closed the week of soccer camp (Tuesday, June 23 – Thursday, June 25, 2015) because the Summer Kids Camp was mixing with the soccer camp kids. This was turning into a safety issue, so camp was canceled for the rest of the week.

Kidsgrove – Efforts are still ongoing to finish gathering funds to complete the restroom renovation.

The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2015.

A partnership with theatre students from Selinsgrove Area High School is in the works with the hopes of hosting at least one (1) production.

Recreation Coordinator – A FREE introduction to scuba diving class will be held on Sunday, July 12, 2015 at the Selinsgrove Pool from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Participants should be over 10 years of age. All the equipment will be provided.

The Stone Barn will be hosting some beginner kayak classes.

Other Business – The Pump House Park sign has a logo in its center that represents the park; Mgr. Williams has been working with a sign-design company to develop logos/icons for the other parks for which PnR is in the process of installing signs. Designs that have come from this company have so far been unsatisfactory. Any suggestions for these logos is welcome and those ideas should be sent via email to Mgr. Williams at (williams@selinsgrove.org) or to PnR Coordinator Jessie Runkle at (jrunkle@selinsgrove.org).

PnR is in the process of trying to find a Jr. Board member.

Others in Attendance

Vince Stoops – Mr. Stoops would like to talk about special privileges and the apparent privileges that some people are allowed to have versus the rest of the community.

Mr. Stoops would like to know whether or not there is still a prohibition of alcohol on public property in the Borough of Selinsgrove. The Hops, Vines and Wines Brew Fest uses public property and has been given a variance for several years. If Mr. Stoops were a private individual and wanted to throw a wedding reception at the Pump House, he would be denied because the Borough has a prohibition.

Mr. Stoops stated that this is a fantastic event and he would love to see the prohibition against alcohol on public property go away. Unless someone is being a nuisance, there is no reason to prohibit them from using property that the tax payers already paid for.

Another item that Mr. Stoops would like to address is the sign ordinance. It appears that some people have to follow the sign ordinance, while others are allowed to hang banners from their front porches for as long as they want and no one says a word.

Mr. Stoops would like to know why there is so much of an appearance of some people being allowed to do things that are clearly against the ordinances or the commonwealth's laws, while other people are strictly held to the standard.

What Mr. Stoops is advocating is that if the Borough is going to continue to live in a rule under law, then make everyone receive the same standard.

V/P Carroll stated that Mr. Stoops has come to Council numerous times and sometimes maybe he is letting all of us know – but there are things he can bring right to the Borough Manager and maybe work those things out and find out what is and what is not being done and of course, you can always come to Borough Council, that is why we have this public meeting. V/P Carroll did state that he appreciates Mr. Stoops attending the meetings and sharing these things with Council. Council does, however, need to address just like anyone else, the need to work with the Borough Manager.

Mr. Stoops would also like to thank V/P Carroll for putting together the Community Crime Awareness meeting and based on how successful it was, Mr. Stoops was wondering if the Public Safety Chairperson C/P Viker could give an update on the campus rape from a few years ago. C/P Viker stated that the Police Department is the place to go to request information. The Public Safety Committee will not be commenting on ongoing investigations.

PA State Representative Fred Keller – Rep. Keller stated that he would like to address Council about what is happening in Harrisburg with the budget. It has been a few years since they have had a budget that has not passed between the General Assembly and the Governor. Rep. Keller would like to assure the Council that the General Assembly is just as concerned as the Governor is about coming to a solution on the budget. Their main goal was to have the budget on the Governor's desk ready to sign. Unfortunately, as the General Assembly progressed thru the month of June they saw as they negotiated with the Governor that it was prudent that they run a parallel path to make sure the budget was in place to make sure the government had the funds that they needed to continue. It was a little disheartening that the Governor vetoed the entire budget. This is the first time this has happened in 40 years.

Rep. Keller stated the Governor was frustrated because they didn't spend more money. There is a reason they didn't. The Governor stated that their budget was out of balance. The numbers that the General Assembly used were gotten from the Independent Fiscal Office and they estimated the revenue and that is what the General Assembly used to build the budget. If there is not a tax revenue, you can't spend money.

At the beginning of June when the General Assembly started the process and the bill was brought out of committee and debated on the House floor the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee (Democrats) put an amendment on the Governor's spending plans. Before they could vote on the spending plan there had to be revenue. Not a single Democrat guaranteed the Governors tax plan.

The Governors tax plan in the House of Representatives did not get one (1) single vote. It was bipartisan that the representatives did not want to support this kind of tax increase. Therefore, the General Assembly could not constitutionally spend the money that the Governor wants them to spend. Negotiations are continuing to happen between the House, Senate and the Governor's Office.

Please keep in mind that their proposed budget is 3.6% higher than it was last year. Over a billion dollars more. This is because they have increased revenue because of the economy.

Rep. Keller asked if anyone had any questions and V/P Carroll stated that there is Resolution 2015-06 that Council is being asked to pass on medicinal cannabis in PA. What are Rep. Keller's thoughts about this issue? Rep. Keller stated that if anyone looks at children that are suffering from diseases – the parents will try anything to give their child comfort even if it isn't proven. This may not be proven and most parents have tried everything else – they do not care that it isn't proven – they will still try it. Rep. Keller feels that we should allow those parents/families to be able to try this alternative. It is an alternative form of medicating for their illness. Recreational use is a whole separate issue for Rep. Keller, but as far as medical use he is for it.

C/P Charles asked if it is federally legal and Rep. Keller stated that no it is not. C/P Charles stated that federal government states that it isn't legal and Council is going to pass a law that says that it is legal. C/P Charles stated that Council is supposed to vote on something that personally he is in favor of, but what is Borough Council (who only has six (6) people voting) going to say – we can't speak for the town of Selinsgrove. Rep. Keller stated that currently the state (it is not legal in the commonwealth either) has been debating this legislation in Harrisburg.

Resolution 2015-06 Legalization of Medicinal Cannabis in Pennsylvania

Motion made by C/P Viker to adopt Resolution 2015-06 in support of the legalization of medicinal cannabis in the state of Pennsylvania. Motion seconded by C/P Rudnitsky.

Mgr. Williams stated that this information came from a source that he has not been able to confirm. Was it sanctioned by the Borough's Association? Mgr. Williams stated that the email he received states that the gentleman is a member of a Borough Council and that he serves on the Executive Board of the PSAB (Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs). It is interesting that the email came out on the eve of a holiday and Mgr. Williams feels it may be premature to take action tonight and it may be more appropriate to await a request from the organization (the Borough's Association) rather than this individual. It may be

that this person has a personal interest in promoting the resolution at this time. This gentleman was able to acquire a database of all the Borough's in the Commonwealth of PA.

V/P Carroll agrees with Mgr. Williams that Council needs a little more insight on this and how it came to be.

C/P Rudnitsky stated that he always likes guidance from the Borough's Association, but this is a topic that he has experienced in his law practice – a lot more with elderly people suffering from ALS and Huntingtons Disease – people who get no joy out of life other than from this kind of relief. If this is 40 – 7 in the Senate and as they say 80 – 90% of Pennsylvanians agree for medical use – C/P Rudnitsky doesn't feel he has to wait for the Borough's Association to endorse something that seems so right.

C/P Viker stated that he feels it is important to recognize that while we should never allow personal issues to affect our work – there is not a one (1) of us who doesn't have someone in their lives who has suffered from cancer, ALS, multiple sclerosis or any number of illnesses that medical cannabis can absolutely help the symptoms abate or at least help the person receive some sort of relief. This is medicine – it is medicine that people can choose to have or not.

C/P Charles stated he is in favor of medical cannabis – but what is Borough Council doing passing a resolution when we have federal law and now Council is going to pick the federal laws we want to enforce and the ones we don't want to enforce. C/P Charles does not understand what Borough Council is doing voting on something like this – it is only what six (6) people think – not what the Borough of Selinsgrove thinks. He has been elected to represent the citizens of Selinsgrove. He does not think that they elected him to vote on a resolution that he has not studied. There is an email received and then all of sudden there is a resolution. If Council is going to do this, then maybe we ought to have a resolution to enforce the Second Amendment to encourage our citizens to take advantage of the Second Amendment decided by the existing U.S. Supreme Court and then everything that comes down the line we will have a resolution. This will be based on what seven (7) people think. We are supposed to run the Borough and look out for the interests of the people in the Borough and stay out of state and federal politics. This is a waste of Councils time.

C/P Hendricks stated that as he understands it, it has been referred to the Rules Committee – it is having action taken in the House. Rep. Keller stated that to answer why the Borough's Association or someone would want you to do this – this would be so when people talk to the representatives about it they can say these organizations are in support of this. A whole list of people who support this will be given to them. Rep. Keller does not pay a whole lot of attention to these lists.

Rep. Keller stated you are not voting to break the law you are voting to change the law. Personal experiences do guide some of the decisions individuals make.

Sol. Cravitz quoted from Resolution 2015-06 "that the duly elected representatives of the Borough of Selinsgrove hereby petition the Representatives duly elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to support the passage of Senate Bill 3, to end the prohibition unduly imposed on the use of the Cannabis plant and its applications for medicinal purposes within the borders of the state of Pennsylvania". This is what is being voted on. We are not passing a law saying that cannabis is allowed in Selinsgrove – this is beyond the power of Borough Council. This is allowed to be petitioned to Congress, the President or anybody who is a representative for the Borough. Is Council speaking for everyone in the Borough – most likely not, but Council wasn't elected by everyone in the Borough.

AYES: THREE (3)

NAYS: THREE (3) – C/P Hendricks, C/P Charles and V/P Carroll

Mayor Reed was asked to vote to break the tie. He voted aye which makes the vote - ayes four (4) and nays three (3).

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE / COMMISSION / BOARD REPORTS:

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE – Tim Charles, Chairman

Payment and Ratification of Bills

Motion made by C/P Charles to approve the bills as presented. Motion seconded by C/P Hendricks.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc. – Exoneration Request

Mgr. Williams stated there is one (1) and the person's name is Harry Rathfon – he is deceased – this would be for the year 2013 in the amount of \$5.50.

Motion made by C/P Charles to approve. Motion seconded by C/P Hendricks.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

2nd Quarter 2015 Revenues/Expenditures Review – Copy Provided

C/P Charles stated that the Borough is just about balanced. C/P Viker stated that this quarterly report is very helpful.

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – Shane Hendricks, Chairman – No Report

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATION / PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT – Pete Carroll, Chairman – No Report

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS – Richard P. Mease, Chairman

Request by St. Paul's UCC for a Street Closure on Sunday, September 13, 2015 – Union Alley (from Mill to Penn Streets) for a neighborhood block party – Copy Provided

Motion made by C/P Mease to approve. Motion seconded by C/P Charles.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Request by SPI for Hops, Vines & Wines Festival to be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015 – between Broad and West Pine Streets – Copy Provided

Motion made by C/P Mease to approve. Motion seconded by C/P Charles.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Marvin Rudnitsky, Chairman

C/P Rudnitsky stated that the police negotiating team has requested a meeting to change proposals for the next contract with the Selinsgrove Police Association. The committee is waiting for a response so they can setup a time to meet.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Erik Viker, Chairman – No Report

PLANNING COMMISSION – Earl Moyer, Chairman – No Report

ZONING HEARING BOARD – Cyril Runkle, Chairman – No Report

CIVIL SERVICES COMMISSION – Dalton Savidge, Chairman – No Report

SHADE TREE COMMISSION – Bo and Joan Fasold

Meeting Minutes – Copy Provided

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

MAYOR – Jeff Reed

Mayor Reed stated that the Borough's new Police Officer Adam Romig started on Thursday, June 25, 2015. He is currently in training and traveling with another officer.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR – Robert Cravitz, Esq.

Sol. Cravitz stated there is a request for an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at the end of the meeting.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

Update on pending projects – Coukart & Associates, Inc. – Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams stated that Phase III – Streetscape Lighting – the apparent low bid came in at \$394,151.48 from TRA Electric which is about \$45,000.00 above what the Borough had estimated the project cost to be.

The 2015 Street Program has been going well with the contractor New Enterprise (the former Eastern Industries).

The 2015 Curb Ramp Project has seen 37 days used of a 40 day contract. There are some issues with approximately five (5) of the ramps. They do not meet ADA specifications. A letter has been generated to the contractor dated Monday, July 6, 2015 along with some illustrated photographs. This will be communicated to the contractor and Mgr. Williams is sure there will be a subsequent site meeting with the contractor. The areas of failure have been identified by way of a pink color "x" on the cement.

The 2015 Public Works Project which is actually the Utility Project will start in mid-July. This has two (2) components to it – it has a storm water management extension of a storm pipe on Spruce Street and also an enhancement being done to the water supply line at the intersection of Broad & Spruce Streets.

Engineer Coukart has been monitoring construction at Northumberland National Bank and the Selinsgrove Middle School.

Update on pending projects – Larson Design Group – No Report

Mgr. Williams stated that Alan Zeigler suggested that the Borough schedule a number of meetings starting with ESCRA. A request to meet with ESCRA has been made. Mgr. Williams is waiting to hear of an available date.

BOROUGH TREASURER – Sharon M. Badman

Approve Treasurer's Report for Month of June 2015 – Copy Provided

Motion made by C/P Viker to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion seconded by C/P Hendricks.

AYES: SIX (6)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

BOROUGH MANAGER / SECRETARY – Paul A. Williams

Manager's Monthly Activity Report - Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams stated that under on-going projects there is an item that is not listed and it is the TAP Project which deals with the bid that the Borough has received from TRA Electric. This is for the ornamental streetlights that the Borough intended to add to existing Phase III. There is available to spend out of a reimbursable grant about \$348,000.00. The remaining portion or about \$52,500.00 would have been monies used to pay for the construction inspection which is separate from the TRA Electric contract. The Borough is approximately \$44,000.00 short in the award.

Unlike Selinsgrove Borough this project actually had to be bid thru the Department of Transportation and there was not an opportunity for add alternatives or options – it is all or nothing.

Some time is being spent to discuss with stake holders (this is where the project actually got started – with the Chamber of Commerce) and being able to provide \$65,000.00 towards the engineering and design costs to make the project even viable and to see what they might have as other resources - possibly SPI.

There are some funds that have been identified as a resource, but at this time Mgr. Williams doesn't have a recommendation for Council to award the bid. At the Finance Committee meeting there was discussion about those stake holders and when their meetings would occur later this month.

Mgr. Williams is asking that this meeting be left in recess to a date certain, so advertising does not need to take place.

Mgr. Williams informed Council that the Borough needs to use proprietary poles because we would like to use the identical pole and lamp. The cost of this was underestimated. Mgr. Williams has some level of confidence in the bid procedure because the three (3) closest bids were closely grouped together – they were hovering just plus or minus \$400,000.00. They came in at \$394,000.00, \$406,000.00 and \$425,000.00. The shortfall does need addressed and the alternative is to not award the bid. The Borough would actually scale back the project to do fewer lights with the hopes that when the project is rebid that it will be within the budget that we have to spend. There is, however, a cost involved with the redesign.

Mgr. Williams did state that unspent Façade Grant monies could possibly cover \$20,000.00 of the \$40,000.00 the Borough would need to come up with.

C/P Viker stated there is a benefit to keeping this meeting open because Mgr. Williams could conceivably come back with a solution.

V/P Carroll stated that Mgr. Williams is going to proceed and see if SPI, the Selinsgrove Chamber of Commerce and other entities might be able to help offset the cost - they will be contacted.

Mgr. Williams would like to see the meeting recessed till Monday, July 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. This was discussed with the Council members and everyone agreed to meeting again on Monday, July 20, 2015.

ZONING – Jessie Runkle, Deputy Zoning and Permit Officer

Update of ZONING, SIGN, OCCUPANCY & DEMOLITION PERMITS ISSUED – Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams informed Council that Entoguard has moved into 6 North Market Street. They have relocated from Mifflinburg, PA.

PARKS & RECREATION COORDINATOR – Jessie Runkle

Monthly Report – Copy Provided

Mgr. Williams stated that the Ta-Ta Trot will be held this Saturday, July 11, 2015. The Borough is involved with this and also the Fire Police. They expect 2,000 to 2,500 people participating with as many as 4,000 attendees. Mgr. Williams hopes this is a successful and safe event.

SELINGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Donald Bottiger, Chairman – No Report

EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY – Ed Mann

Meeting Minutes – Copy Provided

NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER CO. JOINT AUTH. – Bill Hetherington/Dianne Mengel – No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHERS – Mgr. Williams stated that Christ United Methodist Church (they had the fire in May 2015) has identified a property on South High Street that they would like to lease for up to 24 months. This is the building that was vacated by the PA Department of Public Welfare. It is located in the Commercial 1 District (C1 District). Mgr. Williams is working with the Church as the applicant and the solicitor as the advisor/resource in making this happen. The use is not listed as a permitted use in this Zoning District. However, the Borough has some other uses that come very close to how a Church functions by its very nature as an assembly place.

Mgr. Williams will be structuring the Zoning Permit so this use can be granted. There is also a federal law that is known by an acronym RLUIPA (this is about religious education/freedom). The local municipality cannot have any rules or regulations that might cause an undue hardship against or for this particular use from being established. If this is the location that the congregation has identified as a place to stay within the Borough, Mgr. William's intent is to try to structure the Zoning Permit so it does in fact happen.

The Churches first concern is Agapeland Preschool. There is enough space in this building for the Church staff, meetings, choir practice and even to have worship on Sundays. They will be working with the surrounding businesses to have use of some of their off street parking spaces when their businesses are not open.

Sol. Cravitz stated that when Council looks thru the Borough's Zoning Ordinances there is not listed places of worship as being a permitted use in any zone. There is a special exception in one (1) zone and that is all. This location is not one (1) of them. All the other permitted uses that are listed for the Commercial Zone have segments listed that would fit the Church. Sol. Cravitz is recommending to Mgr. Williams to go ahead and issue the permit.

Adjourn to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 8:48 p.m.

Reconvene at 9:39 p.m. – No action taken.

Recess to Monday, July 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Chele' Weaver
Recording Secretary