

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2007

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. The meeting was called to order by President Balascak. Others present were Mayor Mack, Councilwoman Bell, Councilmen Greenland, Nalichowski, Hovis and Pummer, Manager Stonehouse, Mr. Snyder, Chief Trexler, Engineer Erdman and Attorney Higgins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by the roll call. Mr. Novak and Mr. Nace were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT - There was no public comment at this time.

MEETING MINUTES - Motion by Mr. Hovis to accept the minutes for the May 8, 2007 meeting as amended. Second by Mr. Pummer. Motion passed 6-0.

BUDGET/FINANCE Mr. Hovis said there was no report for the meeting.

HEALTH/SANITATION/WATER

I & I - Mr. Snyder said he was working in area J on the sewer laterals with Roto-Rooter. He has scheduled with Roto-Rooter for repairs in the upcoming weeks.

There was no water report for the meeting.

There was no health inspector report for the meeting.

Fritzingers - A date of June 22nd has been scheduled with the judge for a hearing. Manager Stonehouse said he has received some phone calls regarding the purchase of the property.

Mr. Erdman said there is no date set for the appeal of the CAP with the EHB.

Funding for Sewer Repairs - Mr. Balascak noted Engineer Erdman's letter of Friday with a recommendation of a loan in the amount of \$500,000 for sewer repairs. A ten percent increase in sewer rates will pay for the debt service on the new loan. The committee has struggled with the amount of the loan. It makes sense to take out a large enough loan to pay for all the repairs for now and in the future. The loan money needs to be earmarked for sewer repairs, and legal and engineering costs associated with the repairs.

Mr. Pummer asked if \$300,000 is a definitive cost for the end of the repairs.

Mr. Erdman said the estimate is as best as it is going to get. It will repair all known sewer concerns as of the last storm event. The next storm event may show additional repairs that are needed.

Mr. Pummer said he is concerned that the Borough will keep chasing the repairs. He would like a more definitive number.

Mr. Balascak said he can not provide a comfortable dollar amount for the work. We can only continue on and work with the known facts.

Mr. Pummer asked when we can get to a point where we don't need a loan to repair the system.

Mr. Erdman said the system is 35 years old. Many leaks are very old and have never been found before. Technology only recently got good enough to make these repairs where they are cost effective. He is not sure if there will be a storm event at this time of year to capture any data for identification of leaks. The repairs could be in a holding pattern because of a lack of new data. There are meters waiting for the next storm event to identify the leaking areas. The loan will also put the Borough in a strong position with the EHB showing the Borough to be proactive in repairing the known leaks.

Discussion ensued when there might be an end to the sewer system repairs.

Mr. Hovis said he wants the sewer rates to be publicized to the property owners to make them aware of the increase.

Mr. Nalichowski said he wants to go on record that he will not approve another loan for sewer repairs after this one.

Mr. Balascak said that he has arranged a meeting with our state legislators for June 18th at 8:30 AM in Borough Hall to discuss any financial resources from the state that might be available for the sewer repairs. He said the debt service on the new loan would be approximately \$9,280 per month on the \$891,000 loan amount at 4.60%. He wants the loan to be dedicated to sewer repairs only.

Manager Stonehouse outlined the loan process for Council.

Mr. Nalichowski made a motion to approve the bank loan for \$500,000 for sewer repairs and sewer related purposes only. Second by Ms. Bell. Motion passed 6-0.

Calvary Bible Fellowship Church Erosion Repair - in committee.

Mr. Balascak said USTMA desires that the six excess EDUs from the Lafayette Ambassador Bank be distributed to the Critter Corral and Turkey Hill to resolve the excess water usage concern. He reminded Council that Attorney Marles will attend the Council meeting on June 12th to update Council on sewer related matters.

Mr. Nalichowski asked if any EDUs can go to the Cooper Mansion.

Mr. Balascak said that six EDUs have already been allocated by the committee.

HIGHWAY

Mr. Balascak said the Highway Committee has to finalize the curb and sidewalk letters for the 2008 road projects. The committee has reviewed the tape of the slab jacking process.

Lutron/Fairmount Street-KCE is awaiting the new plans for the intersection.

Motion by Mr. Nalichowski, second by Mr. Hovis to award the 2007 construction material bids to Eastern Industries for both picked up and delivered materials. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Snyder reported that the lawns on Linden Street has been completed.

LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SUBDIVISION

Mr. Balascak said that Surman has begun to remove more of the material from the property. The smelting pots are still on the grounds. The two old vehicle axles are still there. The old lean-to sawmill has been fenced in.

Ms. Higgins said that Surman's Attorney said they are completed with the cleanup and they suggested another inspection by the committee. They did not want an inspection by a code official to save money.

Mr. Balascak suggested an inspection by a code official in accordance with the court order.

Mr. Erdman recommended to Council to deny the subdivision application from Mr. Kavanaugh because the Borough has not received a request for extension from the applicant and the previous extension will expire prior to the next Council meeting on June 12th.

Motion by Mr. Pummer, second by Ms. Bell to reject the Kavanaugh's subdivision plan in accordance with the Borough Engineer's letter of October 2, 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

POLICE

Mayor Mack said the Monthly was in the binders for the meeting.

The Police Committee met with Officer Kipp on May 10th. He was cleared by his physician to return to full duty.

Chief Trexler interviewed another part time officer (Kurt Shumberger)

Car 503 was removed from the impound lot by the insurance company. All of the officers have completed their marksmanship training.

EMERGENCY SERVICES/ COMMUNITY PLANNING

Mr. Nalichowski told Council the minutes for the park were in the binders.

Mr. Nalichowski reminded Council the next MECAB meeting was on May 30th. The cost was \$15.00 for the bus trip.

He is still interested in doing an evacuation exercise at Liberty Bell Elementary in the fall.

PROPERTY & HOUSE/ADMINISTRATION

There was no report for the meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER/SOLICITOR/ENGINEER

Mr. Stonehouse said the sidewalk sale and 5K race for the weekend begins at 8:00 AM.

Ms. Higgins said she had nothing further for the meeting.

The Engineer wanted to meet with the Highway Committee onsite to discuss the improvements to be made on 2nd Street.

BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Mack asked how much the asphalt zipper was used.

Mr. Snyder said that the zipper was used last year to mill the entire length of Linden Street during the reconstruction and it proved to do a good job. The zipper was also used on Fairmount Street to do the water repairs there. It is not used very much but is very useful when used. The zipper allows you to reuse the milled material again to save additional costs for stone backfill.

A motion was made by Mr. Hovis and seconded by Mr. Pummer to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Dennis M. Balascak
Council President

Borough Secretary

Date