

COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2013

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 17th, in Council Chambers at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order by Council President Felch at 7:01 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

No opening ceremonies.

Roll call was taken by Manager Paashaus. Also present were Council Members Balascak, Nalichowski (arrived late), Minarik, Greenland, Solicitor Gittinger, and Engineer Erdman and Jr. Council Member Hewins. Mayor Mack, Council Members Walters, and Lundy were absent.

AGENDA

A Motion was made by Minarik and seconded by Greenland to accept the Agenda as written. **The Agenda passed by a vote of 4-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Hawkey – State Street Resident – voiced concern regarding the speed of traffic on West State Street. As a long time resident he feels that it is a major concern, and the police enforcement is minimal. Further discussion surrounded the police speed board, enforcement, sidewalk additions and other speed concerns.

Council Member Nalichowski arrived late at 7:10 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Nalichowski to receive the Monthly Financial Statements, receive the Monthly Reports (Council information, Police Report & Vehicle Roster), and approve the Previous Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2013. **Consent Agenda passed by a vote of 5-0.**

ACTION ITEMS

- a. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Minarik to approve the final payment for Professional Services & Inspection of the 2013 Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Project from ARRO Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,882.00. **Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**
- b. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Minarik to approve the final payment for Contract “A” to Mr. Rehab for the 2013 Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$5,553.88. **Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.**
- c. A Motion was made by Balascak and seconded by Minarik to approve the final payment for Contract “B” to SWERP, Inc. for the 2013 Sanitary Sewer System Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$33,482.18. **Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.** The CDBG work is complete and all payments have been approved. The project closure paperwork will be submitted to Lehigh County for reimbursement. Engineer Erdman stated that the extra work helped meet and exceed the grant allocation as agreed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Infrastructure
 - a. Water – Council Member Balascak reported that there were 670 water meters installed to date.

- b. Highway – Council Member Balascak reported that the Landis Street Storm Sewer project is continuing and should be complete by winter.
 - c. Septic – No additional report.
2. Public Safety
- a. Manager Paashaus reported that preliminary estimates had been received to renovate the EMS building into a police station. The estimates ranged from \$35,000 - \$45,000 with additional monies needed for HVAC work. This will be a future agenda and budget discussion item. No action was taken.
 - b. Manager Paashaus reported that the Police Chief Search Committee was reviewing several resumes for the position. Felch stated that the committee advertised for the future vacancy and the advertisement was re-advertised by other outlets resulting in a broader audience. Felch stated there were 5 resumes submitted by credible police applicants. The hiring of the next Chief will include details regarding the job and contract. There will be further discussion in the future and ultimately, the position will be given based on Council’s desires.
3. Government Relations
- a. Council Member Minarik stated that she is willing to serve as a representative to the Saucon Rail Trail Commission after her term as Council Member expires.
 - b. MECAB – Council Member Nalichowski reported that MECAB will meet the last Wednesday of September at Wilson Borough. The speaker will discuss Worker’s Comp Insurance and how it relates to the Volunteer Fire Company.
4. Administration and Finance
- a. Council President Felch reported that the next Committee meeting on October 7th will be a Budget hearing. Felch will be absent and Council Vice President Balascak will be the chairman of that meeting.

REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

- 1. Jr. Council: No Report
- 2. Solicitor: Solicitor Gittinger reported that the Borough has a total of 7 tax assessment appeals pending. The 2 appeals filed by the Borough will be heard on October 15th.
- 3. Engineer: No Report
- 4. Borough Manager: No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. Rails to Trails – Addressed earlier by Minarik.
- 2. Consolidation of the Compost Site – Remains on Agenda
- 3. Ambulance Building – Remains on Agenda
- 4. Police Speed Board – There was further discussion regarding the cost of an updated speed board. The use of a future gaming grant may be the solution to keeping costs low.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Council Member Minarik requested further information regarding the resident petition for 551 East Station Avenue. The petition was submitted with concerns about a proposed preschool that would impact pedestrian and auto traffic. Felch stated that these concerns and procedures are being looked at for future zoning code changes as well. The use of terms such as “conditional use” versus “special exception” indicates the process of approval and permission. There was further discussion regarding future revisions of the zoning code, as well as, the burden of proof for the variance or special use

being on the applicant. Minarik and Balascak plan on attending the zoning hearing board meeting on September 26th. They will represent Council without taking a position.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Minarik. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

John Felch, Jr. – Council President