

**BOROUGH OF LAWRENCEVILLE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

President Marian Russell called the Regular Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 7:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Robert Abel
Larry Barnes
Mildred Bliss
Melvin Davis
Steven Hepfer
Marian Russell
Ed Lockhart

Chief of Police:

Walter Beach

Mayor:

Bryce Taft

Secretary:

Judy Woythal

Visitors:

Karen Flynn
Donna Blend
Wayne Hopper

Theresa Lockhart

Al Beach

Tom Rotsell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Hepfer made a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2004, seconded by Larry Barnes. All members present voted yea.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Wayne Hopper-He questioned the pillar on the Lockhart property not being finished by the permit expiration date. He stated that he heard that Lockhart's had received grant money for the house restoration.

Theresa Lockhart-She stated that the pillar is very costly and hopefully it will be put up this spring. She stated that they Did Not receive any grant money.

Marian Russell praised the Lockhart's for all their hard work on the restoration they have done. It is nice to see a historical house being preserved.

Al Beach-He questioned the leniency of some of the permits issued in the Borough. He stated that Larry Barnes and Ed Lockhart's property are not the only properties that need attention. Why is it that some residents in the Borough are fined for not having the work done within the allowed permit time and others are not fined?

Marian stated that we had a code enforcement officer at the time the fine was issued and now we do not.

Bryce Taft- He agreed we should not show partiality to the residents.

Walt Beach-He suggested we hire the code enforcement officer from the Mansfield office. Marian stated we will discuss this under Building Enforcement.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were reviewed. The Time Warner Agreement will be discussed later under New Business.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was a discussion on the difference between the actual and budget figures and to earmark this money to the streets account. Larry Barnes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with the following change. On the Profit and Loss Report the difference of \$14,907.98 between the total income and total expenses is to be transferred into the Street Savings account. Rob Abel seconded the motion. Marian Russell stated that the amount of \$5112 that was budgeted for Streets in 2004 which was unused will be transferred into the Street Savings account.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Additional bills to pay: Chilson-Wilcox \$91.99, United Refining \$100.53, McAfee Virus Protection \$69.99, total additions \$262.51, grand total \$5,205.71. Steve Hepfer made a motion to pay the bills with the additions, seconded by Ed Lockhart. All members present voted yea.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taft read the Police Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library

B. Building Enforcement/Zoning Officer

There was a discussion regarding a Code Enforcement Officer and enforcing clean up on properties. The cost of hiring a Code Enforcement Officer from Mansfield would be \$45 an hour including travel time. This would be very expensive for the Borough. We need to hire someone for permits in the spring. The Ordinance #208 dated July 6, 1998 states that the position of Code Enforcement Officer and Zoning Officer is combined into one position.

Ed Lockhart questioned how far to take enforcement. Do we fine everyone that needs paint or windows?

Larry Barnes is working on taking a house down by himself. He feels that if a Resident is showing progress on their permit, that we should be lenient with them.

Marian Russell stated that we were lenient with a resident on Mechanic and Cross Street.

Walt Beach stated that for safety reasons it is the responsibility of the Borough to have a code enforcer.

Marian Russell stated she would check with Tioga and Elkland on how they handle Code Enforcement. Marian tabled this subject and moved on.

C. Public Works: Streets and Dikes

Rob Abel to write a letter, regarding the dikes, to Jude Harrington at the Army Corps of Engineers.

Steve Hepfer will look into state funds regarding 1 to 3 million to fix the dikes. He stated we didn't qualify for FEMA and it is a very slow process to find funding and a lot of red tape.

Rob Abel did not have a chance to contact Kevin Patt at the Tioga Housing Authority.

Walt Beach has a map of the water and sewer elevations. State Street has the lowest elevation.

We received an estimate of \$370,000 for drainage and curbing of State Street from Eric Lundberg. We must send in application for a Grant by Friday. Since the State took over Mechanic Street, then State Street ends at that point.

As part of the Grant application, Rob Abel will survey the people about the work we want to do on State Street.

Marian Russell is going to see Mike Eagan in Blossburg on Thursday. Rob Abel will report back to Marian with the survey information.

Rob Abel will fix the Jake brake signs.

D. New Building

Marian Russell reported an update on the New Building. We have cancelled the plans for a New Building. We will purchase the building at 6 Mechanic Street on January 28, 2005 and rent it back to John Ripic until February 28, 2005. We will apply for a Grant for the handicapped ramp and advertise for bids for the handicapped ramp.

E. Public Safety-None

F. Personnel and Appointment

Secretary Backup-Marian Russell stated that Darcy Wood offered to help us out.

G. Grant Writing-None

H. Budget

Marian Russell reported that the Budget was raised 2.04% and the new Millage is 4.674.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marian Russell will work on the paperwork for removal of the Right on Red sign.

Steve Hepfer is in the process of working on our Website. He is setting up a manual and will show us a sample when it is ready. Steve stated that the prices on setting up the website are locked in.

Recodification-we need to find the most recent copies. We will need to advertise any changes. We are not ready to adopt this yet. Karen Flynn asked if there was a computer disk available. Marian Russell stated we would call Penn Valley to inquire about this.

Snow Removal-Marian Russell stated we need to advertise in the Penny saver, Post Office, Bank, Pump-N-Pantry and the Dandy Mart.

Ed Lockhart suggested we should have an Ordinance to not allow an adult book store in the Borough. Walt Beach stated that we can not discriminate against the adult book store, but we could create a zoning district for it. Marian Russell stated that the Planning Commission should work on this.

Marian Russell will meet with the Building Committee in regards to the Block Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Time Warner Contract-Time Warner would like us to sign a 10 year contract. It was discussed that we do not sign the contract, as it would allow us to get service somewhere else. Time Warner had reneged on putting up a tower behind the building. This discussion was tabled.

Rob Abel made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 PM, seconded by Ed Lockhart.

**Minutes were recorded and printed by:
Judy Woythal, Secretary**