

**BOROUGH OF LAWRENCEVILLE
REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER

President Marian Russell called the Regular Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Robert Abel
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
Tom Rotsell

Rob Fell-DeWalt

Al Beach

Ervin Williamee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Hepfer made a motion to approve the minutes of January 3, 2005, seconded by Rob Abel. All members present voted yea.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Rob Fell-DeWalt from the Tioga County Housing Authority spoke regarding installing drainage from Center Street and to connect to the storm system on Mechanic Street. Rob Fell-DeWalt supplied us with a map that shows the scope of work they plan to do. They want to install a new storm drain line, storm structures and connections to ensure positive drainage from the existing parking lot to the municipal storm system on Mechanic Street. By the use of a large pipe, it will make it a gradual slope. The timeframe of the project will be May, June and July. There will be a one year warranty from the contractor regarding any ground settling problems. The Council stated that the North side of Mechanic Street belongs to the Borough and the Southside belongs to the State, per Eric Lundberg at Penn Dot. The Council stated they would like to put in new storm drainage on the corner of Cross and Mechanic Street when the Housing Authority has the street dug up. Rob Fell-DeWalt stated that the design could be changed to accommodate us. Rob Abel and Steve Hepfer will work with Rob Fell-DeWalt regarding any revisions that need to be made. Rob Fell-DeWalt would like written permission from the State that the Housing Authority is allowed to do this project. He also needs to know if they need a

Permit from the Mansfield office. The Borough Secretary will call Shawn Forrest of Mansfield to see if there is any Permit required from the Mansfield office. Mildred Bliss made a Motion to give the Street Committee the authority to work on this project with the Tioga Housing Authority. Ed Lockhart seconded the Motion.

Steve Hepfer expressed concern about the neighbor's fence and his mailbox. Rob Fell-DeWalt stated that the neighbors fence will not be a problem, but Steve would have to move his mailbox.

Ervin Williamee expressed his anger regarding a snow removal citation that he received and that he would not pay it. He also stated that the price of water and sewer was high in the Borough.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were reviewed. The February Association Meeting will be held February 24, 2005 at the Tioga Baptist Church. Social Hour at begin at 6:00, and followed by dinner at 7:00.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Steve Hepfer made a Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Rob Abel. All members present voted yea.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

The Council discussed the \$400 Retainer Fee bill for Lawrence Mansfield. The bill will be mailed to Ken Leone of the Zoning Board for his approval. Additional bills to pay: Tioga Office Products for copier repair \$119.00, grand total \$8,308.19. Steve Hepfer made a Motion to pay the bills with the addition, seconded by Mildred Bliss.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taft read the Police Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library-Karen Flynn suggested combining the Commonwealth Telephone and EPIX bill to get at \$5.00 credit. The Borough Secretary will look into this for the Borough.

B. Building Enforcement/Zoning Officer

The Borough had received a Complaint regarding property on Ryon Circle. We need Code Enforcement Officer to look into this.

Marian Russell spoke with Shawn Forest and he stated that any Permits that were issued prior to July 6, 2004, the residents have 1 year from the start date to complete their construction. Any project that did not require a Permit needs to be completed in 2 years.

A letter of violation needs to be sent to a property on Cross and Mechanic as their Permit has expired. Shawn Forest will need to be contacted if a new Permit is to be issued. Marian Russell contacted Tioga and they have gone with Richmond Township for Code Enforcement, which is expensive.

The Personnel Committee will decide on the Advertising for the Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Part-time position. Steve Hepfer will submit the Ad to the Borough Secretary by the end of this week, so it can be advertised.

C. Public Works: Streets and Dikes

Rob Abel is still working on getting more surveys completed. Rob Abel will give the surveys to the Borough Secretary to send to Mike Egan.

Rob Abel stated that a sluice pipe that drains into Stermers corn field needs to be fixed. Al Beach stated he needs to know if there is a Right Of Way from the Dike into the cornfield, as it is hard to mow that side of the dike. Rob Abel will check with the Lindley Town Clerk and at the Steuben County Court House for the Deed, to see if there is a Right of Way on George/Paul Stermers property.

Melvin Davis stated that we already received one load of Cinders and 2 more loads are coming.

Rob Abel stated that he has not heard from the Army Corp., in regards to the Dike. Steve Hepfer stated that Grant Money is scarce. There are no Grants that will pay for it all. Steve Hepfer will handle FEMA and the PEMA is in process. We can't prove damage so we will get turned down.

Tom Rotsell stated he would continue as the Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer only if the Council will stand behind him. He will not continue if the Council becomes indecisive and does not enforce evenly. Steve Hepfer and Mildred Bliss will meet with Tom Rotsell. Tom will look into the complaint on Ryon Circle.

D. New Building

Attached is a report in accordance with Council approval to purchase the Ripic property. It has been completed at a price of \$79,900 plus settlement charges of \$974.77, making the total price \$80,874.77. Mr. Ripic will remain in the premises as a tenant for one month until February 28, 2005 at an agreed upon rental of \$550.00 plus payment of all utilities. Provided is a copy of the settlement statement for your review. A Motion to ratify all actions is required to complete the purchase of the Ripic Property. Steve Hepfer made the Motion, seconded by Ed Lockhart. Roll call vote-All members present voted yea. Larry Barnes was absent from the meeting.

Marian Russell stated that Duane Wetmore is surveying, but is unable to find all the pins until the snow is gone. It was suggested that the 2 Deeds to the property be combined into one.

The Borough of Lawrenceville was approved by the County for \$29,000 Grant for a Handicapped Ramp outside. The next step is for State Approval. Peter Titlow, PE drew up the sketch for the ramp. The material of the ramp will be vinyl then there will be no maintenance to it. We can not start the ramp until we get the Grant money. We need to get approval from Shawn Forest regarding installing a slot in the door for payment drop off and a handicapped doorbell, to allow us to move in before the ramp is built.

The Borough submitted paperwork to Sharon Grau for the \$40,000 loan. The money will be available in 3 to 6 weeks.

Ed Lockhart stated that the roof of the house was installed in 1986.

E. Public Safety

Walt Beach stated that there is no one to site for snow removal on vacant property, like the Sika and Ashley property.

Mildred Bliss made a Motion to authorize maintenance to snowplow sidewalks of vacant homes at the cost of \$65, after a 24 hour period has lapsed, seconded by Stephen Hepfer.

Mildred Bliss mad a Motion to charge \$65 for sidewalk snow removal, 48 hours after a Citation is issued, seconded by Ed Lockhart. All members present voted yea. This will be advertised in the Wellsboro Gazette, the Penny Saver, and the Free Press Courier and posted around town.

F. Personnel and Appointment

None

G. Unfinished Business

The No Right on Red Sign was discussed and it should be put back up. Penn Dot says that the No Turn on Red restrictions must remain on Route 49. Al Beach is to check with the Borough Secretary to order a new sign.

Tom Rotsell requested the Fire Department to meet with the Council regarding the parking lot next door.

Website-Steve Hepfer says the website may be finished in a couple of months. We will need to buy Microsoft Front Page Software for maintenance for around \$200.

Recodification- This information is available on disk at \$250, plus a dollar a page for any updates. Once we locate the 7 manuscripts, we can begin working on reviewing the sections of it.

Walt Beach asked if there was a Change of Use Permit issued on the property next to the Borough Office. It has used cars on it now. The council stated that there was not a Permit issued. **Steve Hepfer** will meet with **Tom Rotsell** on this matter.

H. New Business

The Emergency and Municipal Services Tax (EMST) was discussed. The Council decided to leave the tax at \$10.

Marian Russell stated that she attended the Ground Breaking Ceremony for Route 15 and the new Highway is expected to be completed in 2008. The new Highway may cause some of the gas stations to leave the Borough. The Council discussed that DEP needs to be contacted regarding gas tank removal, when gas stations leave the area. The Borough Secretary will call DEP.

Copier-The copier has had repairs of \$261.50 since December 2004 and still needs more parts. The copier was purchased in June of 2000. The Council gave the Borough Secretary the authority to purchase a new copier for \$800. There may be a Grant available to help with the purchase.

The Council is looking for Furniture and Office chairs for the new building. **Marian Russell** purchased 4 filing cabinets at \$1 a drawer.

Al Beach stated he spoke with **Mr. Stratton** at **AJ's** regarding parts for the tractor. He was given an estimate of \$300. Al will go down to **AJ's** and look at them.

Ed Lockhart made a Motion to adjourn at 9:17 PM, seconded by **Mildred Bliss**.

Minutes were recorded and printed by:
Judy Woythal, Secretary