

**BOROUGH OF LAWRENCEVILLE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 06, 2004**

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
Larry Barnes
Mildred Bliss
Melvin Davis
Steven Hepfer
Marian Russell

Chief of Police:

Walter Beach

Mayor:

Bryce Taft

Secretary:

Darcy Wood

Visitors:

Fern Deming
Matthew Woodruff
Karen Flynn
Donna Blend
Kristi Gleason
James Schultz- Mansfield Code

Virginia Whitney
Judy Woythal
Wayne Hopper
Jonathan Gleason
Shawn Forrest- Mansfield Code

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 01, 2004 were approved as presented.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fern Deming- questioned why the Christmas lights have not been installed on the four corners; Rob will look into this.

Virginia Whitney-mentioned the repair work on James Street was not done; it appears the weather gave out before Jody Fisher could repair James Street.

John & Christi Gleason- voiced a complaint that litter and rats from the Dandy Mart are ending up on his property. Council suggested they contact the manager as this is a private issue not related to the borough.

Shawn Forrest, Code Administrator for Lawrenceville Borough gave a presentation as there have been changes since Act 45 was made the Statewide Building Code. This summer the governor signed into law Act 93 which made some changes to the building code, exempting several structures and construction. Shawn explained the pertinent changes; distributed hand-outs of the changes and answered questions.

Wayne Hopper- expressed his concern with the Lockhart property. The structure that supports the column that was taken out has wood rotting and suggested the borough have the property inspected.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were reviewed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was a discussion on the Levee account; Steve Hepfer made a motion for the secretary to move the money from the Levee account into the General account, seconded by Rob Abel. All members present voted yea.

Larry Barnes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Rob Abel. All members present voted yea.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Additional bills to pay: United Refining \$96.18, Tioga Publishing 171.75, PSAB 21.60, Northwest Uniform 194.75 total additions \$484.28, grand total \$6570.50. Mildred Bliss made a motion to pay the bills with the additions, seconded by Larry Barnes. All members present voted yea.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taft read the Police Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library

Karen Flynn requested the library timer be changed to go off at 8:15 PM instead of 7:45 PM.

B. Building Enforcement/Zoning Officer

Chief Beach mentioned several properties that need to be addressed; several years ago Lloyd Bieri 10 Cross St. received an extension from council to bring his property up to compliance, the work was never finished and he has now rented the property to someone else. Has George Butler applied for a zoning permit to have a parking lot, junkyard or vehicle salvage yard on his Mechanic St. property? Marian mentioned asking Tom Rotsell about these problems. Establishing a rental property ordinance was discussed.

The committee members are looking for any money in grants.

C. Public Works: Streets and Dikes

Steve Hepfer reported the paperwork he was given at the last meeting pertained to work already completed; what we need is a grant. Steve is in the process of searching for grant money. Rob will contact Pax Whipple with the Army Corps of Engineers to get an idea of what work needs to be done on the dike.

Kevin Patt w/Tioga County Housing Authority has been in contact with Rob Abel pertaining to the drainage problem on Center Street. They want permission to tie into our drains on Mechanic Street. Council determined they want to see a plan before approving anything and Rob will contact Kevin.

Marian is looking into a Community Block Grant thru Tioga County Housing. We could apply this to making the borough building handicapped accessible and for street repair on State Street. She will be attending the meeting Tuesday December 7th @ 9:00 AM.

Melvin will finish removing the tree of the dike and put up the Christmas decorations.

D. New Building

Larry Barnes stated we are in the waiting mode on the house.

E. Public Safety: Fire and Police

None

F. Personnel and Appointment

Rob Abel made a motion to hire Judy Woythal, seconded by Steve Hepfer. Roll call vote is noted with all members present voting yea.

G. Grant Writing

Steve Hepfer is searching for grants.

H. Budget

The 2005 mills are 4.978 with an $8 \frac{1}{2}$ % increase. Chief Beach requested a meeting with the Fire and Police Committee to give reasons for the figures he put in his budget however, no one from the committee met with him. Larry mentioned they had met several times but everyone failed to mention looking over the budget figures. Fern voiced her displeasure over raising the taxes that high. Chief Beach brought up several projects that never transpired and how it was a waste of money, also he questioned the large amount of monies just sitting in the savings account. Steve Hepfer suggested taking a portion of the money in savings and put it to immediate use and raising the taxes 2% over the next 5 years.

It was decided that the Finance Committee meet again and rework the budget; also the committee will meet with the Police Dept.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Larry Barnes made a motion to adopt Ordinance #220 Engine Suppression/Brake Retarder/Engine Brake, seconded by Rob Abel. A roll call vote is noted with all members present voting yea.

A request was submitted to Penn Dot to eliminate the "no right on red" sign for the east bound traffic on Rt. 49 which they turned down. Marian took the paperwork to pursue farther as some people felt the sign doesn't need to be there anymore as the old hardware store has been torn down and the view is not blocked.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Hepfer was given the approval to pursue a possible website for the borough. A discussion continued on the possibilities.

The Penn Wells dinner will be December 17, council members are free, and spouses will have to be paid for by the council member.

Meeting will be continued Monday December 13 @ 5:00 PM.

December 13, 2004 5:00 PM

Council discussed the interest in the Ripic property on Mechanic Street. There is another party interested in this property and had been given an extension in November and no one is sure where things stand. Council is anxious to have a building and discussed the real possibility of having to look elsewhere. Steve Hepfer made a motion to put plans out for a new building, seconded by Larry Barnes. Roll call vote is noted with all members present voting yes, except Ed Lockhart who voted no.

A new budget figure was presented with a 2.04% raise. There was a discussion on using some of the reserve monies if a police car would need to be purchased.

Larry Barnes made a motion to accept the new rate as 4.674 mills, seconded by Steve Hepfer. All members present voted yea.

Steve Hepfer made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 PM, seconded by Rob Abel.

Minutes were recorded and printed by:

Darcy Wood

Secretary