

**LAWRENCEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 05, 2003**

CALL TO ORDER

President Marian Russell called the Regular Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Mildred Bliss
Melvin Davis
William Dincher
Edward Lockhart
Alan Losey
John Ripic
Marian Russell

Chief of Police:

Walter Beach

Secretary:

Darcy Wood

Mayor:

Bryce Taft

Visitors:

Fern Deming
Donna Blend
Karen Flynn
Tom Rotsell
Larry Keeney

Mary Graham
Fred LaVancher
Ken Windows

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 07, 2003 were approved as presented.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Fred LaVancher- brought a brief update for the Regional Planning Commission; he mentioned the plans background studies are almost complete. The plan will develop a series of goals and objectives. Some of which, will involve the coordination with Rt.15 and future 1-99.

The new amendment to the planning code encourages community cooperation. The state, through Penn Dot, has indicated they will commit an additional \$15,000.00 to this project, if we as a community, are willing to do a multi-municipal zoning ordinance. We would have one zoning ordinance for our region and would be administered by one zoning hearing board. This would be based upon the comprehensive plan we are currently developing. In order to do that, they are looking for a matching share. Up to this point in time we have committed \$1250.00 in 2002 & 2003, which makes up our local share for the current comprehensive plan. Fred gave some examples as to the benefit of multi-municipal zoning, asked for our support in the approach, and to consider budgeting another \$1200.00 for 2004 to match the state funds. This will be discussed later in the meeting and secretary will contact Fred with the decision.

Mary Graham- with Hawk Engineering was present about a year ago and discussed her area of expertise and her experience in locating funding. She is interested in the progress of the plans for the municipal bldg and will submit a proposal from the consultant firm.

Fern Deming- asked about the DUI Task Force and what the town gets out of it. Walt explained it was state funded, about \$29,000 reimbursement money and we keep all the equipment purchased with those funds providing we stay with the project. Mildred Bliss questioned if there was any reimbursement for the police car for wear and tear; the answer was no but Walt did explain all the other items that are reimbursed. Walt stated he has an inventory of all the equipment, which the state mandates. There will be 9 checkpoints, 15 roaming patrols, and 11 cops and shops this year. Everyone agreed this was a good project; some people wanted a better understanding.

Tom Rotsell- ask how things are progressing in turning the land over to the fire department, as they are seven weeks away from the start date and they cannot procure financing or anything else without a legal commitment. They also need the fees (mils) for the fire department in black and white. Marian Russell tabled this discussion until the Building Committee.

Karen Flynn- reported the old house is torn down and they applied for a permit for the new building.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were reviewed.

We received a letter from Penn Dot that the traffic signal needs the yearly maintenance, which is done by Lecce Electric in Williamsport.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was a discussion about liquid fuels paying for some of the electric for the streetlights; one month out of the year liquid fuels is charged for the electricity. Secretary will research the exact amount for Mildred Bliss. Mildred Bliss made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by John Ripic. All members present voted yea.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Additional bills to be approved: Cornell County Plaza \$43.89, Cerchies 149.99, Wilson Dodge 270.00. Additional bills total \$463.88. Grand total for general checking is \$5,375.58.

Mildred Bliss questioned one of the bills from Penelec, which shows the council building being on Franklin St. Al Losey made a motion to approve paying the bills with the additions and for the secretary to contact Penelec for the bill in question, seconded by Mildred Bliss. All members present voted yea.

Mildred Bliss made a motion for the utilities (electric, gas, phone) to be pre-approved when they are due before the monthly meeting, seconded by Ed Lockhart. All members present voted yea.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Taft read the police report for Chief Walter Beach and patrolman Cory Mosher. Mayor Taft reported someone at the church backed up over a sign, which has been taken care of.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Library

Lynn Warso would like to know the balance in the library checking account and will be shopping around for a new carpet. Two boys have senior projects to complete and would like to do work around the library. It was approved for the materials to be purchased for this project. The council discussed the placement of a motion light, a sidewalk, and parking area. These issues will be discussed at a later date.

B. Building Enforcement/ Zoning Officer

John Ripic suggested placing a time limit for having a temporary building code officer. Al Losey explained the hold up with Mansfield and he will get an update from Shawn Forrest. Mildred Bliss stated the importance for council members to go to the monthly meetings, as that's where you get a lot of information. Marian mentioned Cleo Russell was doing this as a favor to the borough and would be done just as soon as we can join with Mansfield.

Al Losey made a motion to approve two permits; Steve Flynn for new construction, Al Beach for a driveway, seconded by Melvin Davis. All members present voted yea, except Bill Dincher voted no.

C. Public Works: Streets and Dikes

There was a discussion on the procedure for filling the potholes. Talked about sweeping the streets and hiring school kids to help. There are several catch basins that need to be cleaned out. Melvin and Al will take care of the problems.

Karen Flynn will be putting flowers at Bradshaw Park in memory of Ed Deming.

Someone questioned how often the dikes get mowed, which is twice a year.

Tractor is scheduled for delivery this week. Diesel fuel is needed for this and Al Beach will be added to the list of names that can charge on the account at Kwik-Fill. Al will turn his slips into the secretary.

D. Building and Recreation

Ed Lockhart showed everyone on council a copy of the survey map that will be used for the sub-division, which still needs approval from the Lawrenceville Borough Planning Commission, and County Planning Commission. There was a discussion on the size of the municipal building, location, and if we should use the existing basement or put a garage behind the building.

Marian refreshed everyone's memory and read the agreement the solicitor composed last year. John Ripic made a motion that the contract between the borough and fire dept would be written from this letter, seconded by Al Losey. Motion carried by roll call vote with all members present voting yea. Tom Rotsell stated this was sufficient for the financing but not the construction, they would like to be excavating now but that requires the deed.

There was a discussion on the building permit for the fire dept. Al will contract Shawn Forest and ask him to do the inspections and find out the cost.

More discussion on the municipal building; there was a discussion on where to have the driveway and Tom mentioned the original thought was to have a joint driveway and share the parking. Bill Dincher asked if the basement would automatically be filled in. Tom stated the original agreement was to raze the building and fill it with gravel. Bill Dincher mentioned there hasn't been a decision on whether we are going to be our own contractor or hire an architect. Discussion continued on this matter. Tom is willing to do a complete set of plans for free to move things along for the borough. Marian suggested maybe renting a building, while they tear down this one, and taking our time deciding what we're going to do with this lot.

Building committee will meet with Tom on the 8th and he will work up a drawing for the 19th. Secretary will advertise for a special meeting for that date.

Marian is waiting for an answer from Theresa Lockhart as to whether she will be on the Planning Commission.

Al Losey made a motion to accept the survey prepared by Duane Wetmore, seconded by Melvin Davis. Motion carried by roll call vote with all members present voting yea.

Faucets need repair at the ballpark, the building is locked and Al can get the keys from Gordy. Al will get treated wood to repair the two benches. Millie will ask Rich to take a look at the scoreboard and possibly fix it.

E. Public Safety: Fire and Police

Marian set up a committee to work on a new fire dept contract; Mildred Bliss, Al Losey and Marian Russell. Tom mentioned at one point the cost allocated for the fire dept was 3 mills, and basically they would get 1/3 of what was taxed and the balance went for utilities and maintenance. That total should be about \$12,000. Marian mentioned we would still be paying worker's compensation and Tom stated that has nothing to do with this. Marian noted back in 2002, when this contract was set up, they requested a budget showing what the revenue was, expenses, future expenses, and relief fund revenue and she would like something like that again. Conversation between Marian, Tom and Ken continued. Bottom line- if the fire dept cannot meet its obligation then the borough will be responsible and because of that, the borough council wants to know where they stand financially before they build.

Mildred Bliss reported to Walt a call from her neighbor that found a bicycle behind her house.

A letter will be sent to the owners of 61 Main St. pertaining to cars parked on the lawn for sale.

F. Personnel and Appointment

None

G. Finance

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Robinson -Marian read a letter from Atty. Stokes regarding Bradley Robinson and he suggested not having any business dealings with him as he has proved himself to be less than honorable. Atty. Stokes will be informed we would like to pursue the lawsuit against Mr. Robinson.

Personnel Policy revised- Mildred Bliss made a motion to adopt the revised Personnel Policy Resolution #318 effective as of May 5th, 2003, seconded by Al Losey. Motion carried by roll call vote with all members present voting yea.

Jack Flash- the cost will be \$49.99. Marian will call and see how much time the Internet is being used.

Mildred Bliss sent a thank you note to Butch Deming for his help with taking down the Christmas lights. Also, a thank you to Melvin and Al for their help.

Info on truck purchase- John Ripic brought a cost for the borough to purchase a pickup truck. A ¾ ton, 4 wheel, Dodge with a plow will be \$21,500. This is \$1500-\$2000 cheaper than a Ford or Chevy; conversation continued on this subject. This would have to be worked into the budget.

Secretary will advertise for snow removal and compare that cost to the yearly payment for a truck purchase.

Walt brought up some issues that have not been taken care of: barn on Robinson's property that is falling down, there is a tree on Cross Street that has partly fallen on a garage. Walt suggested the borough mandate some safe cutting of the tree. Sika property is in disrepair again and Burrows property has not improved.

Marian mentioned complaints on Johnson property on Main Street.

Secretary will sent a letter to Sika, Johnson, Bieri, and contact the attorney about Burrows.

There was a question asked why the borough doesn't have a clean up day. Karen Flynn voiced her displeasure with SDS.

Tom Rotsell asked for a copy of the letters and litigation on Burrows property.

John Ripic made a motion for Melvin to purchase flowers from Hughes for the borough, seconded by Bill Dincher. All members present voted yea.

John Ripic made a motion to join the Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Melvin Davis. All members present voted yea.

Multi-Municipal Zoning- Fred LaVancher spoke on this earlier. John Ripic made a motion in 2004 we budget \$1250.00 for this project, seconded by Al Losey. All members present voted yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Marian read a letter pertaining to the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA) with Tioga County. The County enters into an ICA with each municipality that agrees to provide resources, and emergency management planning preparedness and response capabilities through the mechanism of the ICA. Al Losey made a motion to adopt the letter of agreement with the intent to adopt the ordinance next month, seconded by John Ripic. All members present voted yea.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 10:15 pm by John Ripic, seconded by Al Losey. All members present voted yea.

