

CENTRE HALL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2012

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Hammaker, President; Jack Muthersbaugh, Vice President; Norma Crater; Kathryn Long; Harry Henry; and Lynn Dutrow

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kenny Strouse, Supervisor, Maintenance, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer;
Philip Orndorf, Jr. Maintenance, Code Enforcement and Zoning Officer;
Beth Araujo, Borough Secretary; Ray Hankinson, Mayor; and John R. Miller, III, Solicitor

CITIZENS PRESENT: Robert Henry

CALL TO ORDER: President Joe Hammaker called the meeting of the Centre Hall Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

CITIZENS:

1. President Joe Hammaker was approached by a citizen asking that speed limit signs with reduced speed limits be installed on the side streets, alleys, etc. throughout town. What is the process to do this? Mr. John R. Miller, III, Solicitor, stated that a Traffic Study would need to be completed first by an engineer the same as for weight limits / restrictions.
2. LeDon Young phoned a request that the Council entertain the notion of having the Fireman's Parade the Saturday of the community yard sale and to consider allowing her to make all contacts for the parade if the firemen did not want to host the parade. After considerable discussion, the Council felt that it would be in the best interest of all for the Grange Fair to expand their parade during the fair since the firemen were not having a carnival this year.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: A motion was made by Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh and was seconded by Councilman Harry Henry to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2012 Council Meeting: Ayes - 6; Nays - 0. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: A motion was made by Councilman Kathryn Long and was seconded by Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh to approve the Financial Statements as presented for the month of March 2012 and to continue to pay the bills: Ayes – 6; Nays – 0. Motion passed.

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

1. Three Shed Permits and one change of usage permit
2. Renters vacated a house on Pennsylvania Avenue. The owners have not paid the past due water bill, so a lien was placed on the property. The house and yard currently are infested with rats and fleas. A certified letter has been sent to the owners about cleaning up this health hazard within 30 days or further action will be taken. The next step is filing a petition with the Court of Common Pleas. Legally we can contact an exterminator but payment would be at the borough's expense for now though we can try to get reimbursement through a municipal lien or if the house goes to sheriff sale. Decision was made to cut the grass for now, keeping a record of the dates, amount of time, and fee to be charged to a future municipal lien.

ZONING / CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT - Continued:

3. Discussion was held about hiring Robert Henry as a Code Enforcement Officer to write parking tickets due to the tremendous amount of vehicles parking on the new sidewalks. A motion was made by Councilman Harry Henry and was seconded by Councilman Norma Crater to approve hiring Robert Henry as a Code Enforcement Officer to write Parking Tickets with compensation at a rate of \$1.00 per warning and \$5.00 per ticket violation: Ayes - 6; Nays - 0. Motion passed.

STATE OF THE BOROUGH REPORT:

1. The trees have been planted.
2. Leaves and Brush have been collected.
3. Philip Orndorf, Jr. tested at the water conference will know in 75 days if he passed.
4. West Penn power will give us the decorative poles with lights – the borough is responsible for setting the poles and for running the conduit – West Penn will then run the wire and hook up. Kenny Strouse estimated that the conduit, stones and auguring for the poles would run \$1,500 - \$2,000.00 to complete the job. The conduit would run in the borough's right-of-way. A motion was made by Councilman Norma Crater and was seconded by Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh to approve the installation of two street light poles – one at both ends of Brichele Avenue -West Ridge Street and Beryl Street: Ayes – 6; Nays – 0. Motion passed.
5. Discussion was held on whether to look at ordering a diesel or gas truck. A motion was made by Councilman Harry Henry and was seconded by Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh to explore selling or trading a gas vehicle and purchasing a 2013 diesel truck and whether to advertise for a bid or to purchase through Costars: Ayes – 6; Nays – 0. Motion passed.
6. A motion was made by Councilman Norma Crater and was seconded by Councilman Kathryn Long to amend their March 8, 2012 motion from “a motion to approve the Borough Employees installing the main line extension at the hourly rate of Backhoe \$65/\$70 (Kenny to check local rates) plus employee's wages plus benefits plus 20%” to “a motion to approve the Borough Employees installing the main line extension at the hourly rate of Backhoe \$65.00 plus employee's wages plus benefits plus 20%”: Ayes - 6; Nays - 0. Motion passed.
7. Kenny Strouse asked Mr. John R. Miller, III, Solicitor about bonding Water Street due to the heavy vehicles using it and the possibility of timbering trucks with logging the mountain land. An engineering study would have to be completed in order to bond the street. There is a possibility of a road maintenance agreement that could be considered where the street is inspected before and after use instead of bonding.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Repairing Water Street**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. An elected official is still needed for the open PVRPC position.
2. The possibility of a proposed joint ordinance between the Centre Hall Borough and Potter Township is under discussion and will continue next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made by Councilman Norma Crater and was seconded by Councilman Harry Henry to approve the annual “Linden Loop 5 Mile Walk, Run or Bike scheduled for may 2, 2012: Ayes - 6; Nays - 0. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS - Continued:

2. A concerned citizen asked Councilman Lynn Dutrow to ask why the Fire Siren for warning of tornado's etc. had not been fixed or replaced, the Borough used to have two sirens now none. President Joe Hammaker also expressed concern about no siren available for emergency notification. Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh stated that the one at the Fire Hall was unable to be repaired and the one at the Mill was a fire hazard; the Fire Company is looking into either replacing the one at the Fire Hall or the possibility of installing a tower with a siren at the new Fire land.
3. Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh stated that the drainage ditch below the Grace United Methodist Church is very hard to see at night is there something that can be done? Kenny Strouse, Supervisor stated that he could try placing several reflective markers like those that were placed at the traffic light intersection.

CORRESPONDENCE (INCOMING): The West Nile Virus (WNV) control program will begin accepting dead birds for testing on May 1, 2012. The mosquitoes in the Borough will be trapped, tested for (WNV) and monitored now through October. If high population levels of adult mosquitoes are found the County will provide spraying at no cost.

MAYOR'S REPORT: There will be a joint Tri-Municipal Park meeting this Tuesday, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. - all three Municipalities Elected Officials are asked to attend. The master plan concept needs engineering work in order to apply for the following: HOP, storm water work, NPDs, etc.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

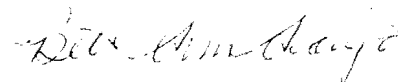
1. Mr. John R. Miller, III, Solicitor, reported that email records between elected officials are now open records that may be requested according to the Open Records Law.
2. According to new court findings with the motor vehicles nuisance act the court ruled that vehicles in a state of disrepair, abandoned, unlicensed, unregistered, and uninspected will not hold up in court as a nuisance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **A. STREETS –BUTTS** - Nothing new to report.
B. WATER – MUTHERSBAUGH – Nothing new to report.
C. POLICE – DUTROW – Nothing new to report.
D. SOLID WASTE AND SIDEWALKS – HENRY – Nothing new to report.
E. LIGHTS AND NUISANCE – LONG – Nothing new to report.
F. FIRE TAX – HENRY - Nothing new to report.
F. FINANCE – CRATER – Nothing new to report.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:27 p.m., it was moved by Vice President Jack Muthersbaugh and was seconded by Councilman Kathryn Long to adjourn the meeting: Ayes – 6; Nays – 0. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Ann Araujo, CGS
Centre Hall Borough Secretary