

MARCH 5, 2018 6:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING OF SWOYERSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Alunni calls the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call was taken, those present: Mr. Christian, Mr. Keating, Mr. Olejnick, Mr. Onzik and Mr. Alunni. Also present was Mayor Concert, Atty. Yeager, Borough Solicitor and Mike Amato, PennEastern Engineering. Mr. Cwalina was absent.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Monthly bills totaling \$33,957.89 were paid on a motion made by Mr. Onzik and seconded Mr. Cwalina. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Mr. Christian abstained.

Bids for the bathrooms at Roosevelt Field were opened. The bathrooms will be upgraded to be ADA compliant. Bids were submitted by: D & M Construction, Clarks Summit, PA - \$44565.00; Multiscape, Pittston, PA - \$51,363.00. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Christian to award the bid to D & M Construction pending review by the borough engineer. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

BOROUGH COORDINATOR'S REPORT

- Code Enforcement report for February 2018: \$512.50 in fees was taken in
- Payment certification for the 2017 Community Development Block Grant totaling \$175,000 was sent in. However, through Mr. Breznay's and Mr. Amato's efforts the county will pay for the entire bill of \$203,445.00. The \$28,000 the borough was to pay from the Street Improvement fund can now be used for other projects.
- An amended fire pit ordinance sets the start time for fires at 12 Noon. There was no start time, only a time to extinguish the fires, in the previous ordinance. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick to pass the ordinance. The vote was 5-0 in favor.
- Mike Galanda, Zoning Officer, read a letter from the Swoyersville Borough Planning Commission regarding the Forgash subdivision on Laverick Street. Multiple lots are to be combined into one lot. The subdivision was reviewed by Luzerne County Planning Commission, and the Swoyersville Planning Commission submitted a letter of recommendation to council that the plans be approved. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Onzik to approve the plans. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. Olejnick: Read the January 2018 financial reports: **General Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$25,477.44; transfers and revenue for the month: \$136,198.17; expenses and transfers for the month: \$110,993.89; ending checkbook balance: \$50,681.72. **Liquid Fuels:** beginning checkbook balance: \$86.05; transfers and revenue for the month: \$24,700.36; expenses and transfers for the month \$24,408.54; ending checkbook balance: \$377.87. **Refuse Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$25,549.92; transfers and revenue for the month: \$37,006.33; expenses and transfers for the month \$6,088.66; ending checkbook balance: \$56,467.59. **Sanitary/Storm Sewer Assessment Fund:** beginning checkbook balance: \$7,131.88; transfers and revenue for the month: \$6,922.40; expenses and transfers for the month \$13,523.97; ending checkbook balance: \$530.31.

Liaison Officer: Mr. Christian: Read the ambulance report for the month of February 2018: Total calls for February 2018-67. Runs handled by 579: 49; Runs handled by M10: 18; Runs handled together: 26; Public assist: 7; Fire Dept. assist: 9; Medical Calls: 40; Mutual Aide: 10; Hours in Service: 368 Hours, 41 Minutes, Hours Not in Service: 452 Hours, 57 minutes. Report submitted by Captain Steve Felker and Co Captain Elmer Weaver.

Street Department: Mr. Onzik: Mr. Onzik complained about the utility cuts made by PAWC and UGI. The permanent restoration cuts had to be tarred by our Street Department using our tar. The utility companies should have to maintain their restoration cuts not the borough. Mr. Amato will check into this. The Borough is looking into purchasing 2 large steel plates to place over collapsed storm drains or other problems until the St. Dept. can repair them. There were 2 sizes and Mr. Onzik made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Olejnick to purchase the plates at the cheapest price. The vote was 5-0 in favor. A letter from resident Joe Lipinski was read about a collapsed catch basin in front of his house on Warsaw Street. Lipinski's company was going to do the repairs but Mr. Breznay said the borough wouldn't allow a resident to work on borough streets. Atty. Yeager asked Lipinski if his company is fully insured for the job, which they are. He also advised Mr. Breznay to check with our insurance company to see if work can be done on a public street by a resident. Mr. Onzik will come down to look at the basin too.

Police Department: Mr. Keating: The Police report for February 2018 was read; Crossing Guard's times were read. Fines totaling \$497.76 received for the month were placed in the proper fund on a motion made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick. On the question Mr. Christian said Mr. Keating will see to it to that the police report is broken down more. The vote was 5-0 in favor of placing the fines in the proper fund. A letter from Chief Latoski was read asking permission to attend the 2018 Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Training and Educational Conference June 17-20 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center. The cost of the registration and meal package is \$410 for the conference. Hotel accommodations are \$154/night plus tax for a total of \$503.58. Chief Latoski would like to apply the \$300 annual training allotment to the cost and Swoyersville Borough pay the balance. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick to send the chief and pay for the difference for the conference. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Fire Department: Mr. Cwalina: Absent. No report.

Mayor Concert: He would like Mr. Breznay ask Russ Singer, Swoyersville's representative to the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority, if he can give a monthly report as to what was done in town. The mayor would like to recognize, at the next meeting, the girl who put up the Swoyersville Free Library; and the scouts two erected the Welcome to Swoyersville signs and the Swoyersville Kiwanis Club for their efforts throughout the years. On March 17 the Swoyersville American Legion will have a dance with Elvis. Grease Monkey Garage, Main Street, will be sitting down with Mr. Breznay to go over prices for various types of work and maintenance on borough vehicles. A new guide for the town would be nice for the residents; the current one is almost 20 years old. On March 25 he will host Bumper Bunnies at the Swoyersville Ambulance garage. He is seeking donations for chalk, stuffed animals, etc. He asked if the borough would be willing to donate anything. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Onzik to donate \$100 to the event. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Atty. Yeager: There will be an 8 day suspension without out pay for Police Officer Jeff Fox effective immediately. A motion was made by Mr. Keating and seconded by Mr. Olejnick for the suspension. The vote was 5-0 in favor

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Mike Amato, PennEastern Engineering- He spoke about \$15 million that the county has made available to towns. The criteria for getting projects approved are the same for the Community Development Block Grants, the projects must benefit low-moderate income areas, meaning income surveys would need to be completed for any street the borough wants to do. Mr. Breznay said he spoke to Mark Hurst from Community Development about the program. Notifications will be sent out towards the end of March. Mr. Onzik asked if the projects can include replacing storm drains, the St. Dept. has too much to handle right now. The areas to be considered have to qualify based on income.

Patti O'Donnell- She wanted clarification from council on an issue. She said someone had asked Kingston to take over the police, fire and ambulance services. She wanted to know if this was true. Council said it is not true. Mr. Christian said he talked with Fire Chief Guido about the past due bills Swoyersville ambulance had with their town. Mayor Concert went on record to say that he is very happy with the police, fire and ambulance departments, he is proud of the service they provide to the town.

Bob White, Townsend Avenue- Said in January that a request from Mr. Christian was given to him; Mr. Christian said council said if Bob White does not step down as president of the ambulance association council will not work with ambulance. Mr. Christian responded by saying that he had a difficult time working with White, said the debt amounts the ambulance had were all different amounts, nothing consistent. White said there are fundraisers going on to help run the ambulance, said he never lied about the debt and his only mistake was rushing to get information to Mr. Christian. White said Mr. Christian's remarks to him were uncalled for and is seeking an apology from Mr. Christian for destroying him by telling him if he didn't step down as president council would not work with the ambulance.

Wendy Specht, Swoyersville Ambulance- Was told there was some misinformation about debt amounts so changes were made such as Bob White stepping down as president. The ambulance still needs the support of the council and businesses in town and council's pledge of \$5,000. Mayor Concert said that council asking Bob White to step down was never discussed at a council meeting. Bob White again said he is trying to clear his name, did not lie to council but was stabbed in the back. Mr. Christian asked if it was okay to remain as liaison, yes that was okay.

Ken Rosa, Slocum Street- He asked if anyone deals with the county; talked about the issuance of the tax bills. Mr. Breznay said the county does not print the tax bills it is done out of the area. He read that he cannot write a check to the tax collector without including her name and title as tax collector and does not want any issues. Also said the Home Rule Charter is not working in this county, in other counties it works but not here. Just wanted to be clear that when he pays his taxes the check will be made payable to "Nancy Keating, Tax Collector". He was told that is correct. Rosa talked about lowering the speed limit on Slocum Street, a state road. Mr. Breznay said he was in contact with PennDOT and lowering a speed limit on a state road is difficult to do. But with council's approval he would write to the department that handles that and see if it can be done.

Ann Maries Saunders- She read an article that a town around here got a multimodal grant but we didn't; she wanted to know about that. Mr. Breznay said the award was for last year's funding round, Swoyersville will be submitting one this year and the deadline to submit the application is July 31. She also talked about \$15 million from the county. Mr. Breznay said it is for low-moderate income based projects, the borough will be submitting an application for a street or two but the population on the streets must be low-moderate income as that is HUD's requirements. Saunders also showed council an article about \$55 million for mine reclamation. It was told to her that the Harry E culm bank removal is included in that.

Barb Brodie- She informed council about a bill from Draintech for a blocked sewer line from January 12. She called Mr. Keating to seek help in getting the payment she made reimbursed. She said Mr. Onzik was supposed to come to her house but never showed up. Ms. Brodie is upset that it took 1 week to fix the sewer line problem; and asked council if they know what it is like to have their tubs, sinks back up with sewer water. 1 month had gone by and no call from Mr. Onzik. Ms. Brodie said the same thing happened in January 2015 and her bill then was \$565 but no camera was used and she's not trying to get money for that. Mr. Onzik asked when Draintech came down and did their service were the sinks and other things still backed up? She replied yes they were and couldn't use any water from the taps, had to brush her teeth using bottled water- she was upset that there was no call from Mr. Onzik either. Mr. Onzik apologized for not calling. She said there is no tree in her yard and a tax payer, she deserved a phone call. Mr. Onzik said he saw where the break was but it was on a Friday night and over the weekend. Ms. Brodie thanked Mr. Keating and Mayor Concert for their help. Mayor Concert suggested that all council member phone numbers should be published somewhere so residents can contact them in the event of a problem. Mr. Onzik stated he does not have his home phone number published and if there is a problem to call the Borough Building and they will contact him. Ms. Brodie asked if the borough will pay her the interest that accumulated on the charge; Atty. Yeager said no, the borough will not pay interest charges.

Mark Nenichka, 77 Brook Street- Dennison Street, especially up by Bohac Street, has a lot of potholes. He has called PennDOT but nothing has happened. They need to be fixed because cars are going into the other lane to avoid them. At the intersection of Bohac/Brook Streets looks like a manhole collapsed.

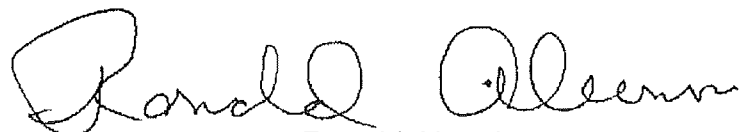
Wendy Specht, Swoyersville Ambulance- Council was to give the ambulance \$5,000 in aid but nothing has been received to date. Will the money be given to the ambulance? Atty. Yeager said there was a lot of misinformation and bad information about their finances and it was his recommendation the money not be given. Further, this is not an appropriate place to discuss this. Ms. Specht said the ambulance has been making progress in their operations and finances.

Matthew Berneski, 69 Birch Drive- Complained that Jay Street has been dug up since the water company replaced the main over a year ago. He wanted to know when it will be resurfaced. Mr. Amato will look into a possible date.

Barb Brodie- She asked about the pave cut in the road where the lateral was repaired and when it will be repaired. Mr. Onzik said it will be taken care of when the asphalt plants open up and can patch it properly. She also complained about snow plowing and piling snow up in front of driveways. Mr. Onzik said all the driveways get snow when a plow goes by, there is no avoiding it.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Olejnick and seconded by Mr. Christian. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Next meeting will be held on April 2, 2018.


Gene Breznay
Borough Secretary-Treasurer-Manager


Ronald Alunni
Council President