

## Meeting Minutes from September 8<sup>th</sup>

*Meeting called to order and Pledge of Allegiance*

**Attendance** : Thomas Keerans, Joel Johnson, Brenda Hosler, Angela Krapf, Anissa Nunemacher, Frank Hutta, Yvonne Stoffey, Kenny Hankey, Mike Doerr (late), Robert Yurchak (late) **Absent** : Harry Hontz

**Open Floor to the Public** : *Susan Asbury* – 134 Greenwood St. – put in complaint about the cat problem at 128 Greenwood St. owned by the Erbes'. She placed bag of cat feces on desk claiming this came from her yard just this afternoon, and she does not own any cats. Susan said there are over 30 cats now, and the over-powering smell of cat urine is starting to cause health issues for the neighbors. The cats are also causing property damage to the siding of homes, and scratching vehicles. Susan said August 24<sup>th</sup> was the third visit from code enforcement, and still this issue has not been resolved. The Humane Society has also visited the Erbe's, but no cats have been removed.

*Kevin Bartlett* – 134 Greenwood St. – brought in an Ordinance Section 51-1, which he read concerning feral cats from the Coaldale Code Book, and questioned why Code Enforcement is not fined \$300 dollars a day until the problem is fixed.

*Sky Blum* – 226 First St. – wants to know when/if there will be a Town Crime Watch starting in the near future. Joel said he will be looking into it. Angela Krapf responded to Joel that the best way to find that out would be to start with asking the officers here in town before checking with the DA.

**Bid Contracts** : Thomas Keerans handed Kenny Hankey the Ruddle St. bid from Lehigh Asphalt for \$39,457. It was the only bid; Tom motioned to accept the bid. Frank Hutta motioned to accept the bid. Yvonne Stoffey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kenny then opened the Materials bid from Lehigh Asphalt for 2015-2016, it was the only bid, and Kenny said to award it if it was the only bid that came in. For 500 tons it was \$35,000 for delivery and \$18,000 for pick-up, which is 61.50/ton delivered and 51.50/ton pick-up. The 9.5mm is \$35,250 and the 25mm is \$18,450. Frank made a motion to purchase materials. Brenda asked if we really needed all these materials. Kenny said yes, we need base and top coat. Frank wants the base and top coat delivered. Brenda seconded the motion to accept the materials bid. Motion carried.

There were two bids for heating oil, one from Radocha and one from Evans. Evans price was \$1.75/gallon fixed. Radocha gave a price of 1.90/gallon with an escalating and de-

escalating clause. Peter Radocha came in to explain the escalating clause in his bid to the council members. The bid was awarded to Evan's Fuel for 5000 gallons at 1.75/gallon, with the stipulation that the Complex oil billing be separate. Mike motioned to accept bid. It was seconded by Brenda. Motion carried.

#### **Prior Meeting Minutes :**

- Brenda motioned to accept the last meetings minutes. Mike Doerr seconded the motion. Frank Hutta motioned to accept the amended minutes with the change made that was suggested by Angela. Motion carried.
- Tom would like to post the approved minutes on the Borough's website. Joel added he would like certain Ordinance's posted on the website as well. Motion was approved to do so.

#### **Treasurer's Report :**

- The police Pension minimum must be approved for 2016 before the end of September, and send in \$11,000. The amount changes every year based on payroll. Frank motioned to make payment. Seconded by Brenda. Motion carried.
- The backhoe has a leaking gasket on the motor, and there is an estimate for repairs from Surma's for \$1300. Frank said they also need to check the seals. Mike Doerr motioned to fix the back-hoe. Brenda seconded it. Motion carried.
- Ed Knittle said he recently confirmed that we can use our light fund to cover the PPL cost for street lights. Agreed upon by Mike and Tom.
- There have been no payments made yet for cutting grass on properties that had complaints filed against them. Should Anissa send to our Solicitor after 30 days of non-payment from property owners? Mike Doerr made a motion to send delinquent bills to Bob Yurchak. Seconded by Brenda. Motion carried.
- Angela wanted to clarify the claim that the Police are Not over budget from last year.
- Tom would like to send Kenny to a 5 day OSHA training course in Allentown, which will save the Borough a significant amount on Workman's Comp Insurance for the year. The OSHA booklet is provided with the course, which is on October 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>. It is cheaper to sign him up at least 30 days in advance, saving \$200. The total fee for the 5 day course is \$849. Frank and Mike Motioned to send Kenny for OSHA training. Seconded by Brenda. Motion carried.
- There is a bill of \$299.00 to be approved for a hedge trimmer. Mike motioned to pay the bill, seconded by Brenda.
- If the Sewer Authority merger goes through, any surplus funds will be applied to the Sewer Authority. Issue has been tabled until first budget meeting.

**Mayor's Report :** -Joel Johnson thanked the Danchak's for their use of the Angela for his Town Hall meeting area.

- Joel would like the Code Enforcement Officer to be sent to training. Tom thinks we should have one or two Fulltime Code Enforcement Officers like Tamaqua does. Mike O'Hara also believes we should have more than one, because he cannot work a Fulltime status at this time. Frank agrees we should have at least one Fulltime CEO, and thinks Joel should talk to other mayors to confer about how complaints are attended to. Joel is going to speak with the Lansford Mayor to join Code Enforcement Services, but Lansford contracts out for their Code Enforcement, and is very expensive.
- The Council would also like to restrict the parking of commercial vehicles to a designated section of town, or just make it a violation all together. Frank Hutta and Mike Doerr would like to designate an area for parking and have our Solicitor, Rob Yurchak, write a new Ordinance to vote on.

#### **Police :**

- Patrol car 6-0 needs new tires before the winter, and \$500 for other repairs. Mike motioned to fix patrol car 6-0. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- We are also in the process of being reimbursed for bullet proof vests.
- Mike Doerr read off Keith's report. Todd said the new vehicle is running very well. Keith said the radio was removed from the old Explorer at Follweiler's Body Shop.

#### **Streets/Complex:**

- Terry Kokinda wants to rent the Complex again, and would like to know if the rates have changed or is still the same. Because it is a non-profit organization, it is agreed to have the rate of \$20/night remain the same. Frank however would like Rob Yurchak to have new agreement drawn up that contains stipulations about the upkeep.
- Kenny is not sure of how much longer the Phillips St. project will be. Phillips St will not be totally repaved until next year, only patched until then.
- The Angela Theater would like to use the sign at the blue EMS garage on the highway for advertisements. Ed Knittle said the sign is an existing one with no permits, which would have to be checked by Carl Faust for any zoning issues first.

#### **Recreation :**

- Angela suggested we have another Community Yard Sale and Community Clean-Up day, if it is in our contract with Tamaqua Transfer. The Clean-Up was motioned by Mike, seconded by Brenda. The yard sale was motioned by Brenda, seconded by Yvonne. The dates chosen were October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for the Yard Sale. The clean-up day will be October 5<sup>th</sup> when large items can be put out for trash. This will be advertised in the Times News.

- There was a suggestion from the public that the Borough sponsor another Chinese Auction at the Firehouse to bring in more revenue to the borough.

**Building** : Seitz Pest Control will be coming to the Borough hall building the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month to spray starting in September.

**Utilities** : Frank Hutta offered to allocate a portion of any profits made with the Borough if his property behind the Rod & Gun Club would be considered for the site of erection of the new Cell Tower.

**Old Business/ New Business:**

- Brenda is concerned that the alert siren at the Fire Company has not been repaired yet. There is no way to alert some of the Fire Company members when there is a call, because not all of its employees have pagers. Martin's was supposed to fix but after an inspection we never received an estimate of repair.
- The Cascade System at the Fire Company is completely out of service. Tamaqua Fire Company has been filling our O2 tanks for us in the interim. The cost to repair system is \$15,000. Brenda would like the Council to help with this expense. Tom said Council will be willing to pay 50% of the cost to repair system, but will be dependent on the Fire Company's ability to pay the other 50% of the bill. This issue will be tabled until the first budget meeting.
- Brenda and Angela suggested purchasing the police officers' personal cameras to be worn on their person for protection. The cost of 2 of these cameras will need to be researched. Joel Angela and Brenda agreed to research the prices of equipment.

Executive Session from 8:45-8:58 pm.

- Motion made by Mike to adjourn meeting. Motioned by Angela, seconded by Tom. Meeting adjourned.