

East Stroudsburg Borough, March 17, 2009

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday March 17, 2009. The following members were in attendance: Victor Brozusky; Ed Henning; William Reese; Donald Repsher and Sonia Wolbert. Roger DeLarco was absent. Also attending were: Mayor Armand M. Martinelli; Manager James S. Phillips; Solicitor David J. Williamson of Scanlon Lewis & Williamson; Engineering Representative Samuel D'Alessandro of R.K.R. Hess Associates Inc.; ESU Student Ambassador Ashley Puderbach; Lieutenant Brian Kimmins of the Stroud Area Regional Police Department; and a press representative from TV 13.

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Council Vice President William Reese called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Lieutenant Brian Kimmins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of March 3, 2009 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held March 3, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

SARPD Report

Lt. Brian Kimmins reported that the Department now has global positioning units and mobile data terminals installed in all patrol vehicles, funded by grants and donations. Also, four video security cameras are in place in the downtowns, three on Main Street in Stroudsburg and one on Crystal Street in East Stroudsburg.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None

Authorize Increase in Conveyance/Treatment Charges Effective 1/1/09 Pursuant to Sewage Service Agreement with Stroud Township Sewer Authority

Mr. Phillips reviewed the letter he had drafted to Stroud Township Sewer Authority outlining the increase in the conveyance/treatment charges based on the increase in the Sewage Treatment Plant operating costs from 2003 to 2008. Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to authorize an increase in the sewage charge as calculated, effective January 1, 2009. The total sewage charge to STSA will increase from \$33.08 per EDU per quarter to \$38.89 per EDU per quarter. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 19-2009 Revising Fees for Installation of Water Meters

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve proposed Resolution No. 19-2009 Revising Fees Charged by the Borough for Furnishing and Installation of New Water Meters. The motion carried unanimously.

Authorize Participation in Cooperative Electricity Procurement Program through the Municipal Utility Alliance (MUA)

Mr. Phillips said in order to participate in the MUA Electricity Procurement the Borough has to approve participation in the purchasing cooperative by ordinance. The Borough had adopted an ordinance previously to participate in a program through the MUA but he is not sure if the previous ordinance would still be considered in effect. After discussion, Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to authorize advertising a proposed ordinance, in the form recommended by the MUA, if necessary for the Borough to participate in the current new electricity procurement process. The motion carried unanimously.

Request by Manager James Phillips to Attend Joint PA/NJ Municipal Managers Conference

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to authorize James Phillips to attend the joint APMN/NJMMA conference to be held at Cape May, NJ May 20-22, 2009; with reimbursement of expenses in accordance with Borough travel policy. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

None

Correspondence

Mr. Phillips reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:

1. A letter from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) approving the work plan for Supplemental Geotechnical Investigations at the East Stroudsburg Dam submitted by URS Consultants.
2. A letter from the Monroe Planning Commission notifying that the balance of Open Space Program funds are being transferred to the National Areas Category under the County Open Space Program.
3. A copy of the Monroe Planning Commission's 2008 Annual Report.
4. A letter from Thomas Dirvonas, Solicitor for the East Stroudsburg Area School District, requesting exoneration of 2009 Year Borough real estate taxes on the former Van Ness Property acquired by the School District next to J.M. Hill Elementary School. Mr. Phillips said Council had already approved a motion to exonerate the 2009 Year Borough Real Estate Taxes at the November 4, 2008 regular meeting.
5. A notification from the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities (PLCM) of the Northeast District meeting to be held at Carbondale City on Wednesday April 15, 2009. Mr. Reese and Mr. Phillips indicated they would plan to attend.
6. A letter from PA DEP concerning review of the alternative spillway analyses that were submitted by R.K.R. Hess Associates, Inc. for the East Stroudsburg Dam and the Middle Dam.

Reports

Ashley Puderbach asked when the new traffic signal at the intersection of Normal and Prospect Streets will be in operation? Mr. Phillips said the contractor for the Borough still has to install the new ADA handicap ramps and crosswalks in order to obtain approval from PennDOT for operation of the signal. Ms. Puderbach also noted that her ESU sorority will be picking up trash and litter along Forge Road and Lincoln Ave. this Saturday.

Ed Henning said that he has spoken to a representative from PNC Bank and they are interested in submitting a proposal for financing needs for the Borough's new Fire Station project. Mr. Henning also suggested that the Borough contact Congressman Kanjorski's office concerning information on possible funding for fire stations available under the new Federal Stimulus Package Bill.

Mayor Martinelli said he still wants Council to increase parking violation fines, particularly for illegal parking in fire lanes. Mr. Phillips said he would place that matter on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Mrs. Wolbert said she had also spoken with a representative from Penn Star Bank for possible financing for the Borough fire station project. Mrs. Wolbert asked if the gas company will be restoring the pavement on Crystal St. near Brown St. where they dug up the road to replace a gas line? Mr. Phillips said he assumes the pavement replacement work there now is only temporary. Mrs. Wolbert also asked Mr. Phillips if he had heard

anything new from representatives of the Global Harvest Company concerning the IBW property? Mr. Phillips said he has not heard from Global Harvest but he did attend a meeting the week before last with Chuck Leonard from Pocono Mountain Economic Development Corporation (PMEDC) with Mr. Deinarowicz who is interested in obtaining the IBW property. Mr. Phillips said the discussion involved the need for agreements to be reviewed by the Borough for transfer of the IBW property from the Borough to the Industrial Development Authority.

Mr. Repsher noted that there is a Met Ed street light still out on Chestnut St. between 2nd and 3rd Streets.

Mr. Brozusky asked why the swings were not installed yet at the playground at Dansbury Park? Mr. Phillips said the swings were taken down for the winter but should be reinstalled soon.

Mr. Reese noted that the contractor on the streetscape project is installing the new benches and trash receptacles on Crystal St. this week.

Mr. Phillips said he had called the number listed for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) concerning possible funding for new non-federal fire station facilities under the Economic Stimulus Bill. However, there has been no regulations issued yet concerning this program nor are they even certain that FEMA will be administering the funds. Mr. Phillips said one major problem he sees is that if the Borough's fire station project is eligible for funding under the new Stimulus Bill, then federal Davis Bacon wages would presumably be required and the Borough is already set to open bids this Friday for the project using state prevailing wages. Mr. D'Alessandro said the difference between federal prevailing wages and state prevailing wages may or may not be that great, but there are other requirements involved with the federal funding, such as all materials must be made in the United States. Mr. Phillips reported that the next MECAB (Mid-eastern Counties Association of Boroughs) meeting will be held at Hellertown Borough on Wednesday May 25, 2009. Mr. Phillips reminded Council of the next Pocono Mountains Council of Governments meeting to be held Monday March 30, 2009 at Stroudsburg Borough. Finally, Mr. Phillips noted that the firm that is soliciting ads for the Borough newsletter is having difficulty lining up enough advertisers for the next issue which had been planned to be distributed in May.

List of Bills Payable

Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert to approve the list of bills payable and to ratify expenditures and payroll made through March 17, 2009 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

None

Report and Possible Action on Request for Proposals (RFP) for CDBG Engineering & Architectural Consulting Services Received 1/23/09

Mr. Phillips reviewed with Council the tabulation of evaluation scores that he had prepared based on the criteria that the Borough issued for the request for proposals for engineering services. Mr. Phillips said he had rated R.K.R. Hess Associates with the highest score; based primarily on the fact that the Borough has had extensive experience with the firm doing engineering work for the Community Development Block Grant Program, and the fact that they are close by and accessible, and their schedule of hourly fees charged is generally on the lower side in comparison to some of the firms. After discussion, Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to accept the proposal from and award a contract to R.K.R. Hess Associates, Inc. for engineering consulting work for the Borough CDBG program, as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Nos. 20-2009 and 21-2009 Authorizing and Ratifying Filing of Applications for Financial Assistance to PennVest

Mr. Phillips said Council needs to revise the resolutions previously adopted authorizing filing of applications with PennVest because PennVest requires language changes concerning the use of temporary financing for the proposed projects. Mr. Phillips said in order to receive a letter of “no prejudice” from PennVest for projects that the Borough is applying for funding, we need to change language in the resolutions to indicate that the Borough will be using general funds of the Borough to fund project costs prior to receiving approval and borrowing funds from PennVest. Otherwise without a letter of “no prejudice” from PennVest the Borough would not be eligible for reimbursement of any costs incurred prior to receiving approval from PennVest.

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to approve proposed Resolution No. 20-2009 authorizing and ratifying filing of an application for financial assistance with PennVest for Sanitary Sewer Collection System improvements. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve proposed Resolution No. 21-2009 authorizing and ratifying filing of an application for financial assistance with PennVest for Water Distribution System improvements. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary