

MILTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
March 25, 2015

The meeting was called to order with the following Councilpersons in attendance: Mr. Specht, Mr. Farr, Mr. Budman, Mr. Keiser, Mr. Cyphers, Mrs. Meckley, Mr. Shearer, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Walker. Also in attendance were Mr. Beck, Mayor Nelson, Attorney Benion, Officer Zettlemoyer, Doug Diehl, Sam Shaffer, and Shelly Sandstrom.

Minutes: On motion of Mr. Cyphers, seconded by Mr. Swartz and carried, Council approved the minutes from the March 11, 2014 Council meeting.

Report of the Borough Manager: Mr. Beck stated that he was planning on repaving Golf Course in 2016, however due to the harsh winter and the amount of frost that was under the road, it has deteriorated to the point that the sub-base is no longer structurally sound; which means repairing the potholes will not resolve the problem.

He has a meeting scheduled this week to meet a representative from a paving firm to discuss the feasibility of recycling six inches of the existing pavement, adding emulsions, relaying the material as a base coat, overlaying it with one and one halves inches of 9.5 MM of wear course and redressing the berms. This is the same process he used in 1998 when the road was last reconstructed. If it is possible to use this process to resolve this issue, he will draw up the bid specifications and advertise the project for bid, which would eliminate the cost of engineering.

This will be a substantial expense that was not planned for this year. Mr. Beck will utilize the Liquid Fuels and Turn back funds for this project. If the cost exceeds those funds, he will have to make up the difference with Reserve Account Funds. Once he knows the most cost-efficient method to resolve the issue, Mr. Beck will inform Council and ask permission to advertise the project for bid.

Several months ago Mr. Beck informed Council that the Department of Transportation had funding available for crossing gates at the Center Street railroad Crossing. He has received a letter from PUC requesting that he attend a PUC field investigation and conference on Friday April 10, 2015 at the Railroad Crossing on Center Street to discuss the proposed installation of crossing gates. Mr. Beck will keep Council informed on this matter.

The Spring Clean-Up will begin on Monday April 13, 2015. Every council member has a copy of the schedule in their packet, it is on our website, and Shelly will advertise it in the Standard Journal.

Next, Mr. Beck stated that TIME has requested the use of Lincoln Park on Thursdays beginning June 11, 2015 to August 2, 2015 for Music in the Park. This is an every year event, however this year the 2017 Streetscape Project will begin on April 6 with an October completion date. Part of the project includes the sidewalk in front of Lincoln Park to be replaced and a trench dug diagonally across the park for conduit installation along with a concrete pillar being constructed on the southwest corner of the park. Therefore Council could authorize the use of the park however he cannot guarantee the availability of it. TIME has been made aware of the situation.

On motion of Mr. Farr, seconded by Mr. Jones and carried, Council approved the request form TIME with contingencies when Lincoln Park is not available for the event.

Mr. Beck reported that he received a telephone call from the Northumberland County Recycling Coordinator to discuss the Burning Ordinance issue that he read about in the paper and the discussion lead to a meeting on Monday March 23, 2015 with the Northumberland Recycling Coordinator and the Recycling Coordinator for DEP and Mr. Beck.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Borough's Burning Ordinance and how it affects our Recycling Program. This meeting was an informational meeting and not an enforcement meeting. Each council member has the information that he was given by DEP in their packet.

Mr. Beck was informed that we cannot allow any materials that are included in the Borough's recycling program to be burned. For example; if we accept paper, but we also allow paper to be burned we must either remove paper from the list of recycling materials, or we must ban paper from being burned. If we were to remove paper from the recycling list and allow it to be burned it would mean everybody that is currently recycling paper would either have to begin to burn it or put it in their trash and have it disposed of at the landfill which could mean higher trash fees for residents. It would also mean that our recycling tonnage would drop and we would receive less money in our Performance Grant.

Last year's mixed paper tonnage, which includes confidential mail, totaled 136.5 tons which represents 23% of the total 2014 recycling tonnage that equates to a reduction of funds of approximately \$8,730.00.

Mr. Beck stated that he was also informed that DEP would not approve #902 Grant funding for recycling equipment used to collect and process materials that are not mandated to be recycled. This Grant Program is a 90% - 10% program, if an applicant is successful in obtaining a #902 Grant it pays for 90% of the cost of the equipment and the Borough pays 10%. In the past the Borough has obtained Grants through this program to purchase the steel recycling building, 4 leaf loaders, 3 Recycling trailers, 3 wood chippers, 2 dump trucks, 6 roll-off dumpsters and funding for the renovations to the drop-off site. We have literally received several hundred thousands of dollars through this program over the years.

With all that being said Council must decide if burning is going to continue; and if so, they must be very specific on what is allowable to burn and what materials are included in the Recycling Program, with the understanding that no material can be allowed on both list.

Mr. Beck was also informed that if burning is allowed, in the future he must submit all burning enforcement information, such as warning letters, citations, and fines with each Grant submission to DEP.

President Budman asked Council to review the information presented tonight by Mr. Beck and to expect to render a decision on the issue at the April 8th Council meeting. President Budman also stressed that council could not just vote for the new burning ordinance which was proposed two weeks ago. That ordinance called for an end to burning on Wednesdays which is currently permitted. Council would have

to advertise that ordinance again or any other proposed ordinance relating to the matter. Council would then vote on the new ordinance at a future meeting.

Mr. Shearer said that the new information presented by Mr. Beck may make him reconsider his vote about burning and feels that Council doesn't have a choice in this matter because it is our State regulations. Mr. Specht stated that we either ban burning and keep the grant funding or keep burning and lose the grant funding. Mr. Beck stated that the current Ordinance was enacted before many of the current recycling materials were accepted as part of the program.

Report of the Mayor: Mayor Nelson had no report.

Report of the President of Council: President Budman had no report.

Report of the Chief of Police: Chief Zettlemoyer reported that the Police Department had a large synthetic drug bust last week. The department is also working on abandoned vehicles throughout the Borough.

Report of the Fire Chief: Fire Chief Shaffer reported that there have been 68 calls this year. He also stated that many of the members have attended the 16-hour training last weekend. They are also having a first aid class in the near future. Chief Shaffer reported that all departments did a great job at the two most recent fires – one in Watsonstown and one in Milton.

Public Comments: Karen Engleman, Rose Street, asked why the Borough was not informed about the recycling information from DEP prior to this. Mr. Beck responded that it was not until the burning issues were publicized that the representatives from the County and DEP realized that the Borough still allowed burning. Kathy Gessner stated that she understands that the Borough has to follow the State regulations but feels that the Borough should have known about this prior to the last Council meeting.

Highways and Protection to Persons and Property: No report.

General Government and Recreation: No report. Mrs. Meckley stated that the rental inspection ordinance has a tentative completion date of the end of June. Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Meckley why it was taking so long to complete the ordinance, and if it was possible to just change the section in the ordinance to tri-annual inspections in order for the Code Enforcement Officer to begin the process. Mrs. Meckley responded that she needs to incorporate a section from Attorney Benion prior to distribution. Mr. Walker asked if the ordinance could be passed to another committee in an effort to complete it sooner. After further discussion, President Budman stated that the ordinance should be given to Shelly prior to the next Council meeting mailer so that she can forward it to Council for the next agenda.

Finance, Health and Sanitation

- A. On motion of Mr. Shearer, seconded by Mr. Cyphers and carried, Council approved paying the bills from General Fund, Reserve, Payroll, Community Pool, Liquid Fuels, and Cemetery accounts in the amount of \$101,789.94.

President Budman reported that he will try to have a meeting next week to discuss the feasibility of a Main Street Manager with the Committee.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Cyphers, seconded by Mr. Walker and carried,
Council adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shelly Sandstrom
Borough Secretary/Treasurer