

MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
225 EAST MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 421  
MILLHEIM, PA 16854  
(CENTRE COUNTY)

FAX (814) 349-5733

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REGULAR MEETING  
February 14, 2017

President Alan Ilgen called the regular meeting of the Millheim Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Patty Beckenbaugh, Ed Bowman, Alan Ilgen, David Sprowls, Leslie Warriner, Sharon Heckman, John R. Miller, III, Glenn Ripka, Roy Rupert, Pam Winter, Michele Aukerman, Sgt. Rankin, Tim Bowser and Carl Rote.

ABSENT: Lauralee Snyder

**CITIZEN'S INPUT:**

Anthony Broskley had requested time on the agenda but chose not to attend the meeting.

Sgt. Rankin of the PA State Police presented information on the number of police contacts in Millheim Borough (i.e., bad checks, domestic, traffic, etc.). He reported that seventy-nine (79) were traffic complaints. President Ilgen explained that the Borough Council is working on the downtown parking issues. Sgt. Rankin explained that the State Police Academy is full but currently his group is not at full force. He encouraged Council to call him with concerns or questions.

Michele Aukerman reported on the 2016 Chapter 94 report. The report will be submitted with additional information explaining that the plant has no projected organic overload if the Borough were able to use the 1.35 average obtained as a result of the additional testing. She hopes DEP would send a response by the April Council meeting. Mr. Bowser explained that the CBICC was surprised when he explained the situation. Since Mr. Randis isn't the director, perhaps the director would like to know about the problem. Ms. Aukerman explained that if DEP says there can be no changes for five years that isn't a reasonable answer. They need to give an answer that would be a compromise position. President Ilgen recommended that if the Borough gets a rejection then perhaps a meeting with the director can be arranged. A motion was made by Leslie Warriner and seconded by Ed Bowman to accept and submit the 2016 Chapter 94 Report as presented. Motion carried.

Rick Bair presented the 2016 Audited Financial Statements. He explained that the PennVest loans require additional audit review. Mr. Bair reported that a Clean Opinion has been given and this is the highest level of assurance. He explained that the long-term perspective reported on page 4 shows the Borough is in a strong position. The audit found no deficiencies or weaknesses and the Borough is in a strong financial position.

**HARB/CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Glenn Ripka explained that Adam and Leslie Warriner are requesting permission to increase the footprint of their house at 110 Park Road. This proposed renovation is necessary because of extreme damage resulting from a major leak caused by a dishwasher. He explained that the HARB unanimously recommended that this request be approved. A motion was made by Ed Bowman and seconded by David Sprowls to accept the HARB recommendation and approve the request as presented. Result of vote: 4 votes yes, Leslie Warriner abstained. Motion carried.

The Code Enforcement's written report was reviewed. Mr. Ripka explained that the demolition has started at Neff Funeral Home on West Main Street and that all permits are in place.

**EMPLOYEE REPORTS:**

The written report submitted by Justin Kerstetter was reviewed with no questions.

Roy Rupert explained about a problem with a filter-to-waste valve at the water plant that isn't working properly. Since the valve and pressure transducer are part of the original water plant equipment, a new valve and pressure transducer should be ordered. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ed Bowman and seconded by David Sprowls to approve eight (8) hours at \$40/hr. for Nittany Controls as quoted for turbidimeter installation support and to purchase the following:

- A raw water Asco valve at a cost of \$179.20.
- A Devar transducer for \$347.00.
- Two filter-to-waste valves from Baghouse America at a cost of \$498.40.

Motion carried.

Mr. Rupert reported that the sewer plant is doing well.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:**

The written report from the January 24, 2017 meeting on the discussion about the radio tower installed at 117 Penn Street was reviewed. There were no recommendations to Council but the unanimous consensus of the Planning Commission at that meeting was for safety reasons the radio tower had to be removed as soon as possible but no later than February 13, 2017. The Code Enforcement can take care of this because the structure was erected without proper permits. The Secretary reported that several days after the Planning Commission meeting Larry Wolken told her that the tower had been removed and that the group had been offered space in Penn Township for the radio station. Mr. Wolken is working through the necessary requirements but he was pleased because the offered property provided adequate space for the tower to be safely secured and because of the additional height the station would provide better coverage.

Members of Council expressed concerns that people are buying property and moving into the Borough without following the codes. The Secretary and Mr. Ripka explained about their conversations with Mr. Pisano about things he is proposing for the property at 103 Penn Street. It has been explained to both Mr. and Mrs. Pisano that at this time no additional use can be added to this property because of the sewer connection ban. Mr. Ripka explained that Mr. Pisano has been told that if he intends to put a business on this property he must start at Centre County for permission to change the use of the property from residential to commercial.

**OLD ACTION:**

The Engineering and Traffic Study prepared by Franson Engineering and Surveying was discussed. Mr. Franson suggests changing the alleys he was asked to look at be changed to one-way coming into the alleys from Rt. 45. The one issue raised was because of Scott Myers concern about making State Street one-way. Mr. Myers explained in an earlier meeting that he prefers to pull onto Rt. 45 from State Street because of the mail truck blocking the entrance onto Penn Street. A suggestion was made to possibly convert certain alleys into bike or pedestrian roads. The Secretary explained that doing that would lose Liquid Fuel money that we now use to help maintain these alleys. The possibility of changing the length of time that vehicles are allowed to park on Main Street was also discussed. Vehicles parking overnight and along the alleys is a problem when plowing is necessary. Mr. Bowser suggested something should be done about the parking before doing changes about length of allowed parking. Mr. Sprowls will have his information ready for the next meeting. The Solicitor explained that to change alleys to one-way would require the adoption of an ordinance and changing the time allowing parking requires an ordinance amendment. To do this would require two meetings: one meeting to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise the ordinance, which is then available for public review; and the second meeting to adopt the ordinance. After further discussion, the Secretary was instructed to contact Mr. Bloom of Centre County Planning and PennDot if possible to attend a public meeting to allow residents to see options available and give final comment on the downtown parking situation. A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Ed Bowman to accept the Engineering and Traffic Study as prepared by Franson Engineering and Surveying.

Mr. Sprowls hasn't heard anything further from Mr. Gyekis on the town clock.

President Ilgen reported that he attended the last Centre County Tax Agency meeting and that everything with the new agreement looked good and everyone was pleased.

President Ilgen presented a Fire Tax Committee update. The Fire Company would like municipal employees to get licensed to drive the fire trucks to help with the shortage of drivers during the daytime hours. The expected delivery of the new fire truck is the second or third week of April.

The written update on the FedEx damage claim was reviewed.

**NEW ACTION:**

The Centre County Commissioner's survey about an additional \$5.00 vehicle registration fee was discussed. The consensus of the group was that it is a good idea but everyone questioned how it would be distributed among the County municipalities.

A motion was made by Ed Bowman and seconded by Leslie Warriner to exonerate the Tax Collector from collection of the Real Estate and Per Capita Taxes per the lists as presented and to turn these taxes over to Centre County and J.P. Harris the Delinquent Per Capita Tax Collector for collection. Motion carried.

The ownership of the church property on North Street has been transferred from the UCC Church to Josh McCracken. The Borough has a lien on this property for providing water/sewer service to the property for the McCracken's. This lien was not satisfied at the time the property was transferred. The Solicitor explained the options available to the Borough for collection of this lien. After discussion, a motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Leslie Warriner for the Solicitor to send a letter to Mr. McCracken giving him a 12-month time frame to pay the lien. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

316 A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Leslie Warriner to accept the January 10, 2017 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

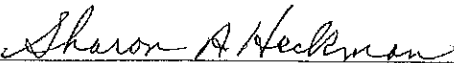
A motion was made by Ed Bowman and seconded by David Sprowls to approve the January 2017 financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

The Secretary's written report was reviewed. A motion was made by Leslie Warriner and seconded by Ed Bowman to approve the transfer of funds as budgeted from the Water checking account into the Water Construction checking account to pay the monthly PennVest loan payments for 2017. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Leslie Warriner and seconded by Ed Bowman to approve payment of registration and room costs for the Secretary to attend the annual PA State Association of Borough's Conference at Hershey and for the Secretary to act as the Borough's voting delegate at this conference. Motion carried.

A request to provide meeting space in the Borough building for a 4-H club with rabbits was discussed. A decision was delayed until the March meeting.

A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Ed Bowman to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. Motion carried.

  
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Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer

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FAX (814) 349-5733

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PUBLIC MEETING  
March 7, 2017

President Alan Ilgen called the advertised public meeting of the Millheim Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Patty Beckenbaugh, Alan Ilgen, David Sprowls, Leslie Warriner, Sharon Heckman, Mike Bloom, Carl Rote, Tim Bowser, Marilyn Montlich, Connie Grazier, David Grazier, Richard Gallup, Michael Pipe, Ed Besecker, Richard Winebold, and Jerri Zerby

**ABSENT:** Ed Bowman, Lauralee Snyder and John R. Miller, III

Following is the discussion on the downtown parking situation:

- President Ilgen explained that the Borough has an Engineering Study completed by Franson Engineering and Surveying that looked at some of the downtown side streets to determine if they could become one-way streets.
- Mike Bloom from Centre County Transportation gave an informal overview of the issue and the engineering study that was done to assess whether five side streets in the downtown area could safely accommodate two-way traffic. This study looked at Church Street on the north side of Rt. 45, Maple Alley on the north side of Rt. 45, Sugar Alley on both the north and south sides of Rt. 45 and State Street on the south side of Rt. 45. The recommendation of Franson Engineering was to convert the five side streets to one-way in from Main Street (Rt. 45). Mr. Bloom explained that PennDot received a complaint and their investigation found that the widths in certain sections were not adequate to allow parking on both sides of Rt. 45. Drawings were shown to the audience of the two options available to Millheim Borough to correct this situation.

Scenario 1: Removal of spaces not meeting width and sight distance standards which creates a net loss of 24 parking spaces. This includes the loss of two spaces for turning radius at the traffic signal – one space on the north side in front of the Elk Creek Café and one space on the south side in front of First National Bank.

Scenario 2: A hybrid with one way alleys, which includes the loss of two spaces for turning radius at the traffic signal as listed in Scenario 1. This option realigns the center line and puts parking on the north side of Rt. 45 from Maple Alley to the bridge.

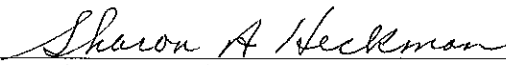
Mr. Bloom explained that Scenario 2 results in a net loss of 11 parking spaces if the side streets are converted to one-way streets with traffic turning in from Rt. 45.

- President Ilgen explained that David Sprowls has been working on a plan so the Borough may be able to add an additional space on the north side of Rt. 45 between the Elk Creek Café and the Millheim Hotel.
- Mike Bloom explained that Plum Street vehicles must continue to enter onto Rt. 45 because there is a land locked situation because the bridge is closed. He explained there could be more in depth conversations about the closed bridge on Plum Street. He explained that state funding would require a 20% Borough match. Mr. Bloom also explained that Centre County Act 13 funds could be requested and DCED has funded bridges.
- President Ilgen showed the audience where Plum Alley is on the map and explained that depending on Centre County's decision on the additional \$5.00 vehicle registration fee perhaps the Borough could consider replacing this bridge.
- Ed Besecker said there are barriers on the alleys to block Plum Street.
- Richard Gallup raised a question about site distance at Fountain Park. Mr. Bloom explained that if Maple Alley stays as it is with two-way traffic all parking could move to the north side of Rt. 45.
- David Sprowls explained that Race Street needs to remain a two-way street so the trucks can deliver to the Candle Shop.
- David Grazier asked for details on site distance.
- Mike Bloom explained that if you are sitting in your vehicle at an intersection and you are looking left and right you should have an unobstructed view in a site triangle. He explained that PennDot has a standard minimum of site triangle.
- David Grazier asked about loss of parking spaces if the parking was moved to the north side of Rt. 45. Mr. Bloom explained that this site distance requirement is eliminated if the side streets become one-way in from Rt. 45.
- Richard Gallup said then all traffic goes to the red light.
- Jerri Bierly explained that the Amish go out Church Street onto Rt. 45 to avoid the red light.
- David Sprowls explained that he watched the Amish come out at the red light and if they hit the sensor they can change the light.

- Jerri Bierly said that the property beside Church Street has hedges and you could see if they were cut down.
- David Sprowls said Church must be one-way in from Rt. 45.
- Tim Bowser asked if PennDot will get information from this meeting and the Secretary said they would. Mr. Bowser stated that he is extremely disappointed that no one came from PennDot.
- Sharon Heckman explained that PennDot has regulations that they are required to follow.
- Richard Gallup suggested that PennDot rewrite the rules and make an exception for Millheim because it is an old town.
- Jerri Bierly raised concerns because they have customers that pull off on the south side of Rt. 45.
- President Ilgen explained that the Borough needs to put better signs up so people are aware of the parking in Fountain Park.
- Jerri Bierly said that people don't want to park and walk carrying bags/boxes of meat to Fountain Park or to their parking lot behind the Meat Market.
- President Ilgen explained that the spaces in front of Fountain Park must be eliminated in either option.
- David Sprowls explained that PennDot originally said that 38 feet was needed to park on both sides but a secondary road needs to be 36 feet wide but anything less they won't allow parking on both sides of the road.
- Tim Bowser said PennDot changed because of a complaint and he wondered how we know it wasn't a business competitor that made the complaint to cause a problem.
- President Ilgen explained it is irrelevant who made the calls because the Borough has been told we need to change the parking. He explained the same thing happened to Mifflinburg, Milesburg and Curwensville.
- Richard Gallup asked about widening Rt. 45.
- Mike Bloom explained that by paring back sidewalks the Borough would be out of compliance with ADA rules.
- President Ilgen explained that the current situation creates a liability issue for PennDot and Millheim Borough if someone is hurt.
- Mike Bloom explained that PennDot has been a good partner through this.
- David Grazier asked for the PennDot representative's name and Mr. Bloom told him we are working with Ryan Collins.
- Marilyn Montlich, representing the Millheim Post Office, explained that there is a problem with people parking on Penn Street where their postal delivery person has to load/unload the mail. There are currently "No Parking" signs there but on the last two Saturdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. vehicles were parked illegally and going the wrong direction and the delivery person couldn't park to load/unload the mail. She explained that the Post Office needs to have deliveries made so it isn't closed. She asked if she needed to block off the spaces with cones? Enforcement is needed on Saturdays.
- David Sprowls raised the concern that even with enforcement if a ticket was given that still wouldn't get the vehicle moved.
- Leslie Warriner explained that State College has grounds to tow vehicles. The Secretary explained that the Borough has a towing agreement with Mr. Bierly in Centre Hall. Ms. Montlich explained that towing doesn't help the Post Office problem because their driver still can't load/unload the mail.
- Ed Besecker explained that vehicles also park in the Postal Parking spot to do banking and he said enforcement is needed.
- President Ilgen explained that whatever decision is made not everyone is going to be happy.
- David Sprowls explained that the meeting tonight was to present the Traffic Study about the one-way side streets. He also explained that PennDot doesn't require this study.
- David Grazier voiced a concern about an issue on North Street. He reported that big trucks are using North Street because of the reduced speed limit on Rt. 45. Mr. Grazier said they are using Rt. 192 to avoid Gregg Township. President Ilgen explained he would need to complain to PennDot. Mr. Grazier said he would be going to Clearfield to visit Ryan Collins.
- President Ilgen explained that the Borough doesn't need to provide parking for businesses.
- David Sprowls said the Borough is trying to keep as many spaces as possible.
- President Ilgen explained that the parking spaces in front of Fountain Park can't be saved.
- Mike Bloom explained that whatever is decided PennDot will realign/repaint the center line on Rt. 45.
- Richard Gallup raised concerns about the speed on Rt. 45 because he said that the speed on Penn Street increased 20 miles per hour when parking was removed.
- Sharon Heckman suggested that perhaps PennDot would let the Borough change the timing of the traffic signal so the Amish tripping the sensor on North Street wouldn't be an issue.
- Mike Bloom said we can talk to PennDot about the traffic signal and sensors. He also explained that we tried to strike a balance to correct the parking problem.
- Tim Bowser stated that the Borough has done everything they can and he appreciates only losing 11 spaces. He thinks we should be able to face the accusers and that PennDot needs to hear the residents concerns.
- President Ilgen explained this will be discussed at the March 14 Council meeting and enforcement is also part of that discussion.

- Marilyn Montlich said Saturdays are bad. She will put cones out to keep the space open. She also stated that the 319 violators need to get a parking ticket that hits the pocket book.
- Leslie Warriner asked the audience "Would you rather keep alleys two-way and lose parking or do you want alleys one-way and save parking?"
- Jerri Bierly said she doesn't mind one-way beside the store but she is concerned about Church Street. She said when she is at the Firemen's she comes out Church Street. She doesn't want to go to the red light.
- Richard Gallup thinks Race Street should be made one-way.
- David Grazier raised a question about the fire hydrants having an impact on the south side of Rt. 45.
- David Sprowls said you need 15 feet on either side of fire hydrants.
- Richard Winebold said he wants the least amount of spaces taken.
- David Grazier thanked the Borough Council for their efforts.

There being no further discussion, President Ilgen closed the meeting by thanking the audience and expressing Council's appreciation for their comments.

  
Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer