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 (CENTRE COUNTY)

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REGULAR MEETING

October 11, 2016

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, Mike Lesniak, Glenn Ripka, Carl Rote, Mike Bloom, Marty Smith, Tim Bowser, Jesse Grove, Jerri Zerby, Mike Bloom, Don Bierly, Mary Frank, Sally Anne Case, Richard Winebold, Derek Hart, Annyce Schafft, Kevin Veal, Steve Hass, John Myers, Dennis Gates, Lynnanne Gates, Judy Shawver, Wayne Shawver, Connie and Steve Hicks.

ABSENT: Lauralee Snyder

**CITIZEN'S INPUT:**

Following is the discussion on the downtown parking situation:

- Mike Bloom from Centre County Transportation gave an informal overview of the issue and the safety study that was done by PennDot. PennDot evaluated Rt. 45 and determined that the street was too narrow to allow parking on both sides of the street. He explained we are trying to strike a balance between safety issues and the growing community. In a previous meeting concerns were raised regarding safety of the pedestrians and speed of traffic. He explained that the parking along the street had a traffic calming effect because it slowed the speed of traffic. Mr. Bloom explained that Millheim Borough had requested PennDot to further investigate the downtown parking and he presented drawings with three possible scenarios.

Scenario 1: Removal of all south side parking plus one spot on the north side in front of the Elk Creek Café for the turning radius at the traffic signal which creates a net loss of 31 parking spaces.

Scenario 2: 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 3: A hybrid with one way alleys, which includes the loss of two spaces for turning radius at the traffic signal as listed in Scenario 2. This option realigns the center line and puts parking on the north side of Rt. 45 from Maple Alley to the bridge. An engineering study would be necessary before the alleys could be changed to one-way streets.

Mr. Bloom explained that there will be changes coming and there will be a loss of parking spaces but Scenario 3 is the best striking of compromise. The consistent removal of parking spaces in all options are the seven spaces from Plum Street to State Street and the two turning radius spaces.

- Marty Smith, Aaronsburg resident, explained he is glad to see the business renewal but he has issues driving through town. Mr. Smith stated that in May 2013 he had to pay \$475 to replace a mirror because a vehicle was parked too far from the curb and a car swerved to miss the parked car. To avoid side-swiping the swerving car Mr. Smith hit the mirror of a parked dually truck. He explained that he has never seen any parking citations on vehicles parked one to two feet from the curb. He explained the signage for the municipal lot is too small and too far back so people from out of town don't know the parking lot is there so the signage should be more visible. He doesn't want to see the businesses impacted and thanked Mr. Bloom for his report.
- Dennis Gates, Millheim resident, explained that parking in the Firemen's paved parking lot takes away from the Firemen's Club. The Fire Company will be putting bigger signs stating that the paved lot is not for the public but the gravel lot is available. He stated that if the gazebo was removed there would be an additional ten parking spaces.
- Sally Case, Millheim resident, stated that she likes to park on Penn Street to go to the post office because she can't walk from the parking lot. She would like to see a handicap parking spot near the post office. The mine trucks go through the light on red.
- Mary Frank, Millheim resident, would also like to see a designated handicap site. She thinks parked cars slow traffic. She feels the Borough needs more parking if people are to come here.
- President Ilgen explained the Borough is limited on the space they own and since there is no business tax the Borough doesn't really benefit from the customers for businesses.
- Don Bierly, Penns Valley Meat Market, stated that making the alleys one-way makes sense because they aren't wide enough for two cars to pass and it creates problems when vehicles are backing out on Rt. 45. He thinks the parking lot could be made bigger and the sign for the parking lot needs to be bigger because the lot is behind flowers and the gazebo and no one knows a public parking lot is there. He suggested the Council could issue a permit to park in the

parking lot permanently and put a 2-hour time limit for anyone parking in the lot without a permit. He thinks the park is nice but there are changes coming in town. He suggested talking to PennDot about cameras on the red light to catch the trucks that go through the red light.

- Mike Bloom explained that Philadelphia is the only place in Pennsylvania that is legally allowed to put cameras at traffic signals.
- Glenn Ripka, Millheim resident explained he has been driving through town for 50 years and has never had a problem or lost a mirror.
- Steve Hass, Aaronsburg resident, explained that all the towns on Rt. 45 have narrow routes and there has been a large increase in truck traffic starting at 3:30 a.m. in Aaronsburg. A drag way will be created through Millheim if all parking is removed from downtown since there is no local police and there is a lack of state police coverage. He explained that newly paved roads create speeding because in newer vehicles drivers don't realize how fast they are going. He thinks narrowing slows traffic but raised concern about the Amish because horses are unpredictable and buggy traffic is a problem in narrow spaces. Mr. Hass agrees with the revitalization of Millheim and with the one-way alleys. He thinks there is a need for more signage at both ends of town and that there is a need for enforcement of speed.
- Lynnanne Long, Millheim resident, explained that the Amish buggies have created a ditch in the Millheim Narrows road so the road is unsafe.
- President Ilgen explained that there may be legislation coming that would require Amish buggies to be registered. He also explained that next year the bridge at Woodward will be replaced and the trucks are to use Rt. 192 but they will probably use Rt. 445. Everyone agreed.
- Tim Bowser, Elk Creek Café, explained about the oversized load that got hung up at Dinger's Mill on their way to Connecticut and it has been confirmed that they were routed by PennDot. Many out-of-state trucks turning onto Rt. 445 could have gone better ways. When he questioned Representative Benninghoff about PennDot routing the trucks, Representative Benninghoff was told PennDot doesn't route trucks. He explained that stone trucks run the light a lot.
- President Ilgen explained that the Borough may need to send a letter raising concerns about how PennDot is routing trucks.
- Mike Lesniak, Penns Valley Code Enforcement, explained that New York made running a red light a civil penalty with a \$50 fine and it dropped accidents. Prior to the intersection they had to have a sign that stated the intersection was monitored by a camera.
- Tim Bowser explained that the Elk Creek Café creates parking issues and they are trying to address this privately but he wonders "Why now is this an issue?" He knows more mirrors are getting smashed and there is worry about trucks speeding and running lights but he wonders why this is being put on us now instead of ten years ago.
- President Ilgen explained that there is a liability concern for PennDot and if they get one complaint they must look into it.
- Richard Winebold, owner of jewelry store in Millheim, explained that there are accidents on Rt. 322 and no changes are being made. He suggested that two alleys are useless so perhaps they could be curbed off and two more parking spaces could be added. He explained that there used to be a building between his property and the Schafft property but it is now an alley. He wondered when the changes would go into effect.
- Mike Bloom explained that PennDot is worried about liability and they are getting pressure. PennDot wants to see recognition of the problem and that other options are being investigated. He explained that the two turning spots, one in front of the Elk Creek Café and one in front of First National Bank, must be removed.
- President Ilgen explained that there were three reportable accidents in the last five years and one of them involved a drunk driver. He explained that the parking spaces at the west end of town must be removed. PennDot says the traffic speeding is an enforcement issue but it is very expensive to get a part-time cop.
- Tim Bowser explained that we hear about complaints but we aren't allowed to know who complained.
- Wayne Shawver, Good Scents Candle Shop, explained he is a business owner and a truck driver. He thinks not more than 20% of truck drivers do speed but a lot of regular drivers also speed. He agrees about the useless alleys because one is beside the Candle Shop.
- Mike Bloom agreed that increased enforcement will impact residents as well as truck drivers. He explained that where parking is "X'd" out it transfers to liability and it rests with the person parked illegally. PennDot wants it to move forward so the Borough should do what is necessary now and keep moving forward by getting an engineering study to determine if alleys could be closed or made one-way. He thinks the Borough has until sometime in early 2017 to get the parking done.
- Marty Smith asked if municipal spaces can be labeled for compact cars only.
- Mike Bloom said we could look at this.
- President Ilgen explained that compact car spaces only change the length of the space not the width.
- Don Bierly asked about the cost of parking fines and Mr. Lesniak explained the cost is \$15. Mr. Bierly wondered why the fine doesn't increase when a person receives multiple tickets.
- Leslie Warriner, Council member, explained this has been talked about before.

- John Miller, III, Borough Solicitor, explained he doesn't think you can't fine additional money. What is the criteria? He needs to research this.
- Leslie Warriner stated that the Borough will look into this option.
  - Annyce Schafft, Millheim resident, explained she is here due to her concern about people racing through town. She likes Scenario 3 because she has concerns about the alley going to the pool. She thinks adding the parking on the north side of Rt. 45 might slow the cars down to help with people walking at the alley. She bikes to Burkholder's but detours coming back into town because the parking spaces at the west end of town are not safe.
  - Sally Case explained that buggies use the newly named Church Street because they can't trip the light. She thinks that if alleys are made one-way the buggies will go where they want regardless and she is concerned about this.
  - David Sprowls, Council member, explained that if the light doesn't change the new law allows buggies and motorcycles to proceed.
  - Derek Hart, Aaronsburg resident and Millheim Borough property owner, explained he is 100% in favor of any change in town to make parking safer. It is a 25-mile speed limit but people fly through. He is in favor of one-way alleys. He explained that in the morning not all trucks go to Aaronsburg because some of them go to Mifflinburg.
  - President Ilgen explained the Borough has talked to Jeff Confer and he has tried to help but the trucks are out of his control.
  - Steve Hass asked if this is coordinated with the Woodward Bridge closing because this will create bigger issues.
  - Mike Bloom explained that all pieces have been separate discussions but this may need to be considered.
  - Don Bierly explained that changing all alleys to one-way would make all Amish go to the light. He suggested leaving Church Street a two-way street but that would take four stalls at the bridge but that would affect Fetzer's Insurance.
  - Kevin Veal, owner of Fetzer's Insurance, explained he is fortunate because he has the municipal parking lot next to his building.
  - Tim Bowser asked if PennDot has been asked to bring anything to the table since they are requiring the changes.
  - Leslie Warriner explained Council need to raise that question. She stated there is space to add parking in Fountain Park but we need to ask PennDot for money to help pay for more spaces.
  - Carl Rote, Millheim resident, suggested moving the gazebo, closing a street and turning the area into a parking lot.
  - Leslie Warriner was concerned that this would land lock properties.
  - President Ilgen explained that Fountain Park was created through private donations and he sees people using the park. We could try to get more enforcement and maybe Mr. Lesniak could do more ticketing and perhaps look at the length of time for parking by making some areas less than 2-hour parking. President Ilgen explained that on Penn Street the landlords were told they needed to provide parking for their tenants so this needs to be discussed and considered for downtown. He suggested that the businesses could give a map to customers showing where parking is available.
  - Glenn Ripka explained that the Agency also services six other communities and the parking limitations are not in effect after 5:00 p.m. He asked what places like the pizza and candle shops would do because they have no area to provide tenant parking.
  - Judy Shawver, Good Scents Candle Shop, said she has no problem with permits to park in the parking lot. She tells her tenants to park in the municipal lot. Jim Bryant's tenants park there also. She explained she has no problem closing the alley but it needs to be open for her tenants to move in and out. She also has trucks in the back alley that deliver materials to her shop.
  - Tim Bowser asked if there are will be a public meeting to provide face-to-face input to PennDot.
  - Mike Bloom explained that the minutes from tonight will be sent to PennDot and he has told PennDot that they should come to a meeting.
  - Steve Hass asked what metrics were used for the study and what was the time line of usage (i.e., did they consider certain times of the day or evening).
  - Mike Bloom explained he can't answer that fully. He knows width, site distances and crash histories were considered but he's not sure of speed. He can get the answer. Mr. Bloom explained that the Rt. 45 study overlapped.
  - Leslie Warriner asked how an engineering study would be done. She wondered if PennDot would provide funding when the Borough decides in which direction to go but this wasn't budgeted. She wondered if the Centre County Commissioners should get involved.
  - Mike Bloom explained that it could be done by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party or through L-Tap. L-Tap would take the longest amount of time and would be least costly. He said formal correspondence should be sent to PennDot. He explained the safety unit engineers are very good and if we collectively discussed the situation correspondence must be sent to District 2. Mr. Bloom explained PennDot would look toward the MPO to help provide funding but he thinks it is a stretch.
  - President Ilgen explained that Representatives Benninghoff and Hanna and Senator Corman are already involved.
  - Mike Bloom explained the Commissioners can be engaged also. He explained that he can be emailed any comments outside the meeting and they will all get forwarded to PennDot and everyone else involved.

At this point President Ilgen explained since there were no further comments everyone was welcome to stay but Council would move on with the remainder of the meeting.

**HARB/CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Mr. Lesniak explained that the owners of 129 East Main Street, Connie and Steve Hicks, are requesting permission to eliminate the current entryway into the building and the middle window and to add two windows between the pillars and rebuild the entryway. They also want to change the access and create a handicap ramp, add vertical siding between columns, paint bricks and remove the existing flag pole. The vertical siding material samples were presented for review. After some discussion, a motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Ed Bowman to accept the HARB's recommendation to approve the request from Mr. & Mrs. Hicks as presented. Motion carried.

President Ilgen explained that there have been apartments added to this building so the Borough no longer has any EDU's available.

The Code Enforcement's written report was reviewed with no questions/comments.

**EMPLOYEE REPORTS:**

The written report submitted by Justin Kerstetter was reviewed with no questions. President Ilgen reported that the benches and fountain have been removed from Fountain Park for the winter.

**OLD ACTION:**

The sewer situation was discussed as follows. Since there are no longer any EDU's available options of sending DEP a letter requesting additional EDU's or filing an appeal were discussed. After much discussion, the consensus was to talk to Michele Aukerman to determine if writing an emergency letter requesting additional EDU's is appropriate. Mr. Bowser requested the Borough ask for the five EDU's he needs for his project. Mr. Sprowls explained that he still has the land development stage to complete before he is ready for sewer connection. The Secretary explained again to Mr. Bowser that EDU's are not held but are given on a first-come first-serve basis as projects are ready for building permits.

The waterline project was discussed. President Ilgen explained that to submit an application for the Small Water/Sewer Grant a resolution for each project must be adopted naming J. Alan Ilgen and Sharon Heckman to sign documents. The Secretary explained that matching funds are required. There is no problem with funds for the waterline project but there is a shortfall of funds available for the matching funds for the sewer membrane project. If necessary these funds could be borrowed from the water fund certificate of deposit. The Secretary was instructed to contact Ms. Aukerman about a letter to DEP and to determine if less membranes could be added. A motion was made by Leslie Warriner and seconded by Ed Bowman to adopt Resolution 2016-6 authorizing the Council President and the Secretary to sign necessary documents for the waterline replacement grant application. Motion carried.

Nothing further to report at this time on the town clock.

Mr. Sprowls and President Ilgen looked at the timbering road. Quotes to repair this road will be received for the October 17, 2016 meeting.

President Ilgen explained that the paving company is coming to prepare the St. John's Parking Lot for paving the early part of next week. On behalf of the church, he is requesting permission to close the section of Race Alley from Mill Street to the next alley for this paving. A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Ed Bowman to approve closing the requested portion of Race Alley for paving. Motion carried.

**NEW ACTION:**

The following bids were received to prepare the employee office in the Borough building:

- Ronald Rishel - \$2,245
- Rusty Long - \$4,779

A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Leslie Warriner to accept the bid from Ronald Rishel in the amount of \$2,245. Motion carried.

The Solicitor delivered the Borough's executed copy of the Agreement to Terminate System Interconnection and Bulk Water Supply Agreement between Millheim Borough and the Haines-Aaronsburg Municipal Authority dated October 4, 2016.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

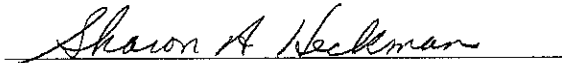
A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Ed Bowman to approve the September 13, 2016 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

304 A motion was made by Ed Bowman and seconded by Leslie Warriner to approve the September 2016 financial reports as presented. Motion carried.

The Secretary's report was reviewed with no questions.

The Secretary was instructed to advertise an additional budget meeting for October 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Ed Bowman and seconded by Leslie Warriner to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m. Motion carried.

  
Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer