

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**SPECIAL MEETING
October 22, 2012**

President Alan Ilgen called the special meeting of the Millheim Borough Council to order at 6:35 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Ed Bowman, Kay Brown, Marlene Corl, Alan Ilgen, Leslie Warriner, Sharon Heckman, Glenn Ripka and Roy Rupert.

OLD ACTION:

Several people have been contacted about serving on the HARB but no one has committed at this time. Glenn Ripka has offered to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission in 2013.

The Solicitor has stated that "If the Borough Council approves the Downtown Beautification Committee to sell the daffodil bulbs with the proceeds going into the Downtown Beautification checking account, they can proceed to sell the bulbs as long as the proceeds don't exceed \$1,000." A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Marlene Corl to allow the sale of the daffodil bulbs by the Downtown Beautification Committee with the proceeds of the sales being deposited into the Downtown Beautification checking account. Motion carried.

NEW ACTION:

The Downtown Business Association has requested permission to hang a banner across Rt. 45 to promote an event they are calling "Merry Millheim". The process for placing a banner across Rt. 45 is for the Borough to adopt a Resolution and submit the request to PennDot. A motion was made by Leslie Warriner and seconded by Marlene Corl to adopt Resolution #2012-8 requesting permission to hang a banner across Rt. 45 for the Merry Millheim event. Motion carried.

President Ilgen reported on the award ceremony and presented the plaques given to the Borough for the Centre County Historical Society for Preservation Award.

President Ilgen explained that as a result of the closing arrangements for refinancing of the RUS loans Mr. Schlessinger over estimated the closing costs to make sure enough money was borrowed. He explained that the Borough received checks for the excess funds. A motion was made by Leslie Warriner and seconded by Ed Bowman to use these excess funds to pay on the principal amounts of the refinanced loans as follows: Water Loan - \$11,103.81 and Sewer Loan - \$11,292.70. Motion carried.

Lauralee Snyder entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The Sewer Budget was then discussed as follows:

- Roy Rupert discussed the need for a back up influent pump, which would cost \$9,600.
- Mr. Rupert explained that the membranes have a 10-year life span and they are currently four years old. The plant has 14 membranes and they cost \$6,000-\$8,000 each and these membranes should be installed when they are purchased. To replace all membranes would require \$18,667 be budgeted for the next six years.
- Mr. Rupert explained that in looking into the possibility of land applying the sludge there are significant up-front costs because of the storage required because each load must be treated and stabilized for 24 hours.
- Mr. Rupert feels that the I&I issue is under control because nine of the eleven problem areas have been repaired.
- Mr. Rupert explained that the membranes may need to be pulled to determine why they need cleaned so often. It was decided to do this in the spring if the membranes continue to be an issue.
- Council decided to budget two-thirds of salaries for Casey Gunsallus, Sharon Heckman and Becky Lease in the Water Budget and one-third of these salaries in the Sewer Budget.

The Council agreed on a balanced budget for the Sewer Fund of \$327,440. This includes increasing the Sewer EDU rate by \$1.50/EDU changing the rate from \$65/EDU to \$66.50/EDU; including \$3,000 for bringing in a crane in the spring if necessary to pull the membranes; including \$9,600 for an influent pump; budgeting 1/3 of the salaries for Casey Gunsallus, Sharon Heckman and Becky Lease; and putting money into a Capital Improvement fund for the membranes.

The Fire Tax Budget was then discussed as follows:

- President Ilgen reported on his conversations with the representatives from Haines and Penn Townships.
- The Fire Company prepared a long range budget and equipment schedule as the municipalities requested.
- The Secretary explained she revisited the payment made to the Fire Company in 2012 and this did not include the 2012 tax so the Borough is short approximately \$7,000 for our 2013 commitment.
- Council agreed the fire companies need to look at regionalizing.

The Council agreed on a budget for the Fire Tax Fund that includes a Fire Tax of 1/2 mill for 2013 with any difference between revenue and expenditures being made up with delinquent fire tax collected and a donation from the Borough's General Fund. Council

unanimously agreed to let the Fire Company know this commitment is for 2013 but in the future the Fire Companies must discuss regionalization.

The General Fund Budget was discussed as follows:

- The gymnasium area was discussed because the library project appears to be on hold. Leslie Warriner suggested the Borough should do some weather proofing or perhaps shell and insulate the area.
- The Secretary explained that SEDA-Cog may be interested in doing an energy project for Millheim Borough similar to the New Berlin project. Council agreed that if there is no cost to the Borough they would be interested in Ms. Richards's proposal.
- The purchase of battery operated tools was discussed. Consensus was that for the convenience they would budget the \$579 for the DeWalt tools requested.
- A timer should be purchased to control the water sprinklers for watering grass and plants.
- The trees in the community parking lot were discussed. The trees in the island should be removed this year or next year by the Borough employees. Ms. Warriner explained that the light poles/tubes weren't put in correctly. She will look into a lighting project for the parking lot.
- Fading street signs will need to be replaced.

The Secretary was instructed to pay the 2012 budgeted donations.

The Council agreed on a balanced budget for the General Fund of \$138,771. This includes adding the 1/2 mill from the current Fire Tax bringing the Real Estate Millage to 3-1/2 mills; the increase for Barry Styers to do mowing/snow removal at Union Cemetery; and the purchase of the DeWalt tools and chain saw.

The Secretary was instructed to get a copy of the budgets to each council with all the salary changes.

The meeting was properly adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Sharon A. Heckman

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer