

Millheim Borough Newsletter –April 2017

Introduction

This is the spring newsletter for 2017. Borough Council meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Borough Building, which is located at 225 East Main Street. Please visit the borough website at www.millheimborough.net for additional information. Minutes for all Borough Council meetings are posted on the website. For those who do not have access to a computer, a copy of the minutes can be seen at the Borough Secretary's office. Please refer to these minutes for more detailed information regarding items mentioned in this newsletter.

Borough Taxes

The Borough Council approved the 2017 annual budget at the December 13, 2016 meeting. There is no increase in the real estate tax for 2017. Total millage for the Borough will remain 4.0 mills (0.4%). The Borough General Fund will receive 3.5 mills (0.35%) and the Fire Tax will receive 0.5 mills (0.05%). This is the fourth year Borough Council was able to adopt a balanced budget without the need to increase taxes. This was due to greater than expected revenue and reduced operating expenses.

Council did approve an increase in the sewer EDU rate by two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per month. The new rate is seventy dollars (\$70) per EDU. This is an annual increase of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year for Borough residential households. Borough Council decided to increase the sewer rate in order to build up the cash reserves in sewer funds, due to increased costs associated with the operation of the sewer facility. A portion of the increased expenses can be attributed to additional requirements from DEP.

Changes to Parking on Main Street and Creation of New One Way Streets

Last year at the beginning of July Millheim Borough received a letter from PennDOT stating that the Borough must eliminate all parking spaces on the south side of Main Street. This was a result of PennDOT's safety study of Route 45. This meant a loss of thirty-one (31) parking spaces.

The Borough contacted the transportation office of Centre County Planning. After a joint meeting with PennDOT, Centre County Planning and Borough representatives, the Borough requested a more detailed analysis of the Main Street parking. This study showed that the width of Main Street between State Street and the traffic light, and between the traffic light and Sugar Alley was acceptable for parking on both sides of Main Street.

Another idea that came from the analysis of Main Street was that if some of the side streets were changed to one way streets, the Borough could retain a few parking spaces along Main

Street. A public meeting was held on October 11, 2016 to discuss these possible changes. Borough Council considered the various comments and suggestions from this meeting and concluded further consideration of one way streets made sense. The Borough was required to hire an engineering firm to do a feasibility study of this idea. Franson Engineering and Surveying was hired to do the study. The Borough received the results of this study in February 2017. By changing five streets to one way streets, the loss of parking spaces would be reduced to eleven (11). Borough Council decided to accept the result of the study and five streets will become one way when turning off of Main Street. The changes will be made to the following streets:

1. Church Street going north to East Poplar Street.
2. Maple Alley going north to East Poplar Street.
3. Sugar Alley going north to East Poplar Street.
4. Sugar Alley going south to Race Street.
5. State Street going south to Race Street.

These changes must be made through a change to the Borough Ordinance. Once approved, new signs will be installed to reflect the changes.

Seven parking spaces have been eliminated on West Main Street. No parking signs have already been installed on the south side of West Main Street between Plum Alley and State Street.

Once all of the parking changes have been made, the Borough will be increasing enforcement of parking violations. The Code Enforcement Agency will be focusing on vehicles parked in front of fire hydrants and vehicles parked further than six inches from the curb in the section of Main Street where parking is legal on both sides of the street.

The Borough is also considering increasing the dollar amount of fines for parking violations, and changing the time limits for parking on some sections of Main Street.

Brush and Leaf Pickup

The Borough brush and leaf pick up policy was revised last year. This spring leaves will be picked up the week of April 17, 2017 and brush will be picked up the week of April 24, 2017. **As announced last year, the Borough employees will strictly adhere to the schedule for curb-side brush pickup.** Revisions to the policy are an attempt to reduce Borough operating expenses.

Fire Hydrant Flushing

Millheim Borough employees will be flushing all fire hydrants within the Borough from 11:00 PM on Thursday, April 20 until 5:00 AM on Friday, April 21, 2017. You may experience temporary periods of decreased water pressure or discolored water. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but this is a necessary maintenance procedure. If you have any questions, call Justin Kerstetter at 360-0995.

Borough Ordinances

To review any Millheim Borough ordinance look online at the Borough website at www.millheimborough.net. To read any other Codified Ordinances there is a link on the Borough website. With the arrival of spring, the mowing and lawn care season begins. Remember that lawns should be no higher than six inches, and shrubs should be trimmed back from sidewalks to allow for pedestrian right of way. Also, all vehicles in the Borough must be licensed and registered.

As in 2016, an area of emphasis this year will be enforcement of the sections of the sewer ordinance regulating sump pumps, Chapter 18 Sewer: Section J. Prohibited Wastes, Paragraph 299.1; Section L. Violations and Enforcement; Section M. Miscellaneous, Paragraph 299.32 Right of Access. It is illegal to have your sump pump discharge into the Borough sewer system. Borough employees will be monitoring households with sump pumps and violators will be prosecuted. The Borough code allows Borough employees the right to inspect household sump pumps without prior notification to the home owner. Please cooperate by not connecting your sump pump to the sewer system.

Ordinances 203 and 210 – This is related to vehicle storage and abandonment of vehicles in the Borough. Both of these ordinances have time limits as to the number of days and number of vehicles that may be stored on a property.

Section 106 – Grass, Weeds, and Other Vegetation a Nuisance Under Certain Conditions. No person, firm or corporation owning or occupying any property within the Borough shall permit any grass or weeds or any vegetation whatsoever, not edible or planted for some useful or ornamental purposes, to grow or remain upon such premises so as to exceed a height of six inches (6") or to throw off any unpleasant or noxious odor or to conceal any filthy deposit or to create or produce pollen.

If you have an issue regarding the enforcement of the ordinances or any other code enforcement concerns, please contact the Code Enforcement Officers, Michael Lesniak or Glenn I. Ripka, at 814-349-8177. Their office is located in the Borough Building at 225 East Main Street.

Waste Water Considerations

Water from downspouts, sump pumps or yard runoff is not permitted to enter the wastewater system. Please remember to follow the guidelines below:

- Minimizing or eliminating the use of garbage disposals will significantly reduce the amount of grease, solids, and organic material in the sewage. Though a household convenience, a garbage disposal sends highly organic food scraps, vegetable peelings, cuttings, bones, and other food wastes into the sewer system, where expensive equipment and costly electricity must be used to remove it from the water before discharging treated sewage to the stream. We ask that you place food waste into garbage cans or utilize a compost pile if possible.
- Never pour oil or grease down the drain. Allow cooked fats, oil, or grease to cool and pour them into a disposable container that can be tossed into a garbage can.
- Scrape plates, pots, and pans into the trash to remove food waste prior to rinsing.
- Use sink strainers to catch food waste during dishwashing.
- Do not allow any rags or debris to enter the collection system. This has caused pumps to clog at the treatment plant.
- Disposable items such as baby wipes should not be flushed into the sewer system. These items do not disintegrate like toilet paper and can cause clogging in the system.
- With the ever changing public notification requirements from D.E.P. the Borough is still in the process of compiling a town wide group email list. Please forward your email address to millheim@verizon.net to be included. Your address will only be used for public notifications, water interruptions etc. and will not be shared.

Fountain Park

Spring landscaping and ongoing maintenance during the summer is done solely through the efforts of Borough residents. New volunteers are always needed. If you can help for an hour or two on a Wednesday evening, please consider doing so. For more information call Patty Beckenbaugh at 814-349-2419.

East Penns Valley Community Library

The library is open on Monday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, on Tuesday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, on Thursday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, on Friday from 6:00 PM to 8:00PM, and on Saturday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The library is closed on Wednesday and Sunday. The library phone number is (814) 349-5328. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact the Friends Group at their email address, epvlfriends@gmail.com. The library website is www.eastpvalibrary.wix.com/epvl or like their Facebook page.

Millheim Borough Representatives

Mayor – Lauralee Snyder, 883-1427

Council President – Alan Ilgen, 349-8191

Council Vice-President – Leslie Warriner, 349-5070

Council Member – Patty Beckenbaugh, 349-2419

Council Member – Dave Sprowls, 360-2402

Council Member – Ed Bowman, 349-5401

Borough Secretary – Sharon Heckman, 349-5350

Code Enforcement Officers – Glenn Ripka, Ray Hankinson and Michael Lesniak, 349-8177

Water and Sewer Plant Operator - Roy Rupert, 360-0243

Full Time Maintenance Employee – Justin Kerstetter, 349-5350

Part Time Maintenance Employees - Lester Kerstetter, Jr. and Kent Yearick, 349-5350

Tax Collector - Kathy Highbaugh. 349-8150