

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Gordon Borough Council was held on Tuesday, June 14th, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building with presiding. Councilpersons present: Council President Michael Rader, Jeffrey Hoffman, Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Brian Hansbury, and Jason Quick. Also present: Mayor George Brocius, Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder, Assistant Linda Gately, and Code Enforcement Officer Robin Ennis. Absent: Council Vice President Valerie Stitzer. Citizens attending: Carol Cheeseman, Mary Cheeseman, Amy Cheeseman, Doug Boehn, Rich Korn, Christina Korn, Shannon Sweeney, Jackson Sweeney, Jessica Slotcavage, Pat Miller, Carol Fetterolf, and Leo Rauber. Guests: SCMA's Pat Caulfield and Amy Batdorf.

President of Council Michael Rader called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Jeffrey Hoffman that council accept minutes from the last regular meeting on May 10th, 2016 as presented by the Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder carried unanimously.

General Account financial report: May opening balance \$112,994.²⁶; receipts of \$42,709.¹⁵ including \$50.⁸⁶ checking interest; expenditures of \$19,576.³⁹ with outstanding checks worth \$336.⁰⁶; May 2016 ending balance: \$112,994.⁴⁶. Motor License Fund May opening balance \$62,666.⁷⁴; interest receipts of \$24.⁷²; balance end May: \$62,691.⁷⁴. Snyder reported a Community Hall Improvement Fund balance of \$2,468.⁵⁰. Motion by Brian Hansbury for council to accept the General Account financial report and Motor License Fund report as these reports were written and read by Secretary-Treasurer Snyder carried unanimously. Council was provided a line item budget of all accounts against YTD budget. Snyder presented no current General account invoices available for payment.

Sewage Revenue Account financial report: \$213,556.⁸⁹ opening balance 5/1/16, interest receipt of \$81.⁵⁰, Sewage quarterly property bill receipts of \$2,100 (inc. \$260 from Portnoff) & penalty receipts of \$199.⁷² (inc. \$109.⁷² from Portnoff), Miscellaneous reimbursements of \$99.⁸⁰ (inc. \$41.⁸⁰ from Portnoff); \$45,000 transfer expenditure to Sewage Operations & Maintenance Account to meet obligations; balance 5/31/16 of \$171,037.⁹¹. Sewage Operations & Maintenance Account financial report: \$1,652.⁰⁹ opening balance 5/1/16, receipt of \$45,000 Sewage Revenue Account transfer and \$2.⁰⁸ interest; expenditures of \$28,878.⁸⁵ including \$22,553.⁰³ semi-annual sewage system loan; balance 5/31/16 was \$17,775.³². Sewage Reserve Account financial report: \$69,951.⁵⁶ opening and end May CD balance (interest paid semi-annually). Shannon Dumboski motion for council to accept the Sewage account financial reports as written and read by Secretary-Treasurer Snyder carried unanimously.

Schuylkill County Municipal Authority's Executive Director Pat Caulfield and Assistant Executive Director Amy Batdorf presented a history of their six sewage facilities. Twenty-five of sixty-eight municipalities as well as High Ridge Industrial Development Park utilize SCMA, servicing 150,000 people. Within 5-10 years, SCMA plans to build a brand new treatment plant, and would need capital contributions. They want to develop Gordon Borough to transfer our sewage asset to SCMA, saving the borough the future cost of upgrading and maintaining our sewage system. If we reach an agreement, SCMA would take over/own Gordon's collection system, maintenance, rebuilds, billing, delinquencies, etc. The benefit to Gordon is that we eliminate our debt service loan with Mid Penn Bank, with no capital contribution toward the upcoming modernization plans. Caulfield suggested council allow SCMA's solicitor Patel to prepare a draft agreement, which Council President Rader said was appropriate. Rader added our sewage rates had not been raised more than \$5 in 27 years, and with each mil of taxes equal to \$10k, we would have to double borough taxes to fund a new system.

Snyder presented the responses received from the advertised part-time maintenance worker position. No action was taken until council further reviews the applications. Snyder issued one pool permit, one demolition permit and four building permits. A Right-To-Know Request was received for borough tax collections. A revised park reservation schedule for June was posted. Paul will fill in holes where snow was piled.

No Parking signs, standards, bolts, and accessories were received from U.S. Municipal Supply. Streets Committee members discussed either making Hobart Street one-way or adding speed bumps.

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Duly advertised borough roadwork bids with bid bonds and w/c bonds using specifications prepared by John Davis of PennDOT were unsealed during the meeting for the project to start by August 15th, plus chip and tar those borough roads not yet as bad. Landis C. Deck (Skippack) total bid was \$64,366; New Enterprise Stone & Lime Design (Winfield) quoted \$58,748.80. Dumboski motion to award the project to the lowest bidder upon review of all documentation approved unanimously.

An Aqua PA, GHD, Rogele, and PennDOT walk-through June 13th of the Gordon feed restoration project on Gordon Road and Biddle Street showed road settling at Hobart, since no curb was put in after the Aqua work. Different sized water lines were installed; our engineer Don Cuff (Entech) is aware. Pothole repair areas were added to the repair bid list now that asphalt is available. Snyder added that PennDOT never inspected Biddle and McKnight Streets, state highways. GHD/Rogele's proposed pricing for repair of Hobart Street damaged as a result of a water main break falls outside what we advertised for the other borough streets. The restoration for Aqua's portion of the work is \$90,000 for paving the parking lane and long side open cut services with 4" base course and 1.5" wearing course. The proposed price to Gordon Borough to pave the entire street via gutter mill and overlay is \$30,325.

Snyder attended the May 25th North Schuylkill Council of Governments meeting in Mahanoy City. The Two municipalities—Girardville and Shenandoah—have not paid their NSCOG dues. NSCOG is asking for a municipal rotation of volunteers to cut grass at the garage, noting that the cost of insurance on equipment went up \$7,405. The street sweeper Gordon Borough wants to borrow is currently damaged, but we are first on the list once it is repaired. Dumboski suggested street sweeping be delayed until after the Hobart Street work is completed.

Paul Snyder attended the borough's snowstorm Disaster Emergency #DR-PA-4267 costs reimbursement meeting with SCEMA on May 11th. Snyder is Gordon Borough's Applicant's Agent. An 8/22 CDBG grant submission deadline was announced for eligible acquisition and resale of property, blight demolition, code enforcement, fire company, park, sewers, water lines, lead hazard reduction, elderly/handicap access, rehabilitation projects, etc. if the borough has a project in mind.

Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., reported Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Robin Ennis was having trouble reaching the owner of the Roseman Property, and suggested contacting the Recorder of Deeds at the county tax claim office. The property was winterized, but a roof collapse is evident in the living room. Ennis' activity report was provided for April and May. Citations against Monaghan have resulted in no response to District Justice Christina Hale's notice. A warrant was issued and given to Constable Bondura to pick up, since Gordon's Constable Brecker is still in training. Until this warrant is served, nothing can be done. There is currently a statewide controversy over this process.

The revised garbage contract is being advertised two ways to include one way with Refuse Only and one for both Refuse and Recyclables, with the vendor doing billing and collections, not the borough. This year's contract will also include five, thirty-gallon bags limit (150 lb. total) and cover yard waste (seasonal items like clear-bagged leaves and Christmas trees). The bid bond requirement is 25%; council to award contract at their July 12th meeting. CEO Ennis expressed no interest at this time in PSAB code enforcement/blight webinar courses advertised when questioned directly.

Riedlinger received an email from Portnoff Law Associates, the borough's delinquent sewage collector. In the email, Portnoff states that collections were at 60% for the period of March 2nd through April 30th, 2016 with the outstanding 2015 collections still in process not included in this figure due to age. Riedlinger also reminded council to review his final draft of the borough's tentative excavation ordinance, crafted after Girardville's example ordinance to absorb engineering costs into the permit fees.

Mayor George Brocius read Butler Township Police Chief Ed Tarantelli's May 2016 report showing 34 calls. Solicitor Riedlinger noted our police agreement has no expiration and recommended a review to revise the contract to add more police presence and coverage hours for speeding on borough streets.

BOROUGH OF GORDON

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Plans for the borough's 125th "Quasquicentennial" anniversary celebration 1 p.m. Sunday, August 14th at Gordon Park will be finalized at next month's meeting. FOG (Friends of Gordon) does not have the manpower or financial resources to plan the event, which will be held one day after Gordon School's Reunion. Val Stitzer previously offered to contact organizations in Gordon to see if anyone was willing to help with the 125th anniversary event plans. Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs (PSAB) will present a commemorative plaque at the August 9th council meeting as notified by Snyder.

During Public Participation, Citizen Bob Klinger's letter asked if council would accept the realty transfer of the 510 McKnight Street property, which has no piping, the roof leaks and could require demolition and qualify for the CDBG grant upon further council review. Solicitor Riedlinger suggested referring the property to the land bank.


Pat Miller told council that Kreitzer informed her their garbage truck takes 15 minutes to back up due to vegetation overgrowth, asking the senior citizen to bring it up a block to the corner of West Plane. Council will address this with the garbage company as unacceptable and also have the area trimmed.

Rich Korn reported to CEO Robin Ennis about the 300 Elm dilapidated property which has a mold smell and snakes creating a health and safety hazard. Ennis had already sent a certified letter and will follow up.

Doug Boehn addressed council with an offer to pay for a barricade at 210 West Biddle Street with council's permission to prevent future damage to the property at the bottom of Gordon Mountain, which was the scene of another recent truck accident. Council President Rader suggested that if placed within their own property, this was not a council issue but a permit issue due to stormwater drainage, provided the property owners did not block the right-of-way. Carol Cheeseman added that the truck driver causing the last accident was using GPS which routes them routinely through the borough as the shortest route. Drivers ignore the Walmart and PennDOT signage, and there is no turnaround at the top of the hill. The state has postponed the complete truck ban signage project until this fall. Mayor Brocius added that the No U Turn sign had been removed. As a fellow firefighter, he added that they cringe with each situation, and they don't want to see that happening to our residents and hope to get this resolved.

The next borough council meeting is Tuesday, July 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building.

There being no further business, a motion by Brian Hansbury to adjourn this meeting of Gordon Borough Council carried unanimously upon voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Attest:  Paul L. Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer June 14, 2016

