

Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Gordon Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. Councilpersons Present: Michael Rader, Valerie Dornsife, Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Brian Hansbury, and Jason Quick. Also Present: Mayor George Brocious, Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder, Assistant Linda Gately. Citizens: Jessica Slotcavage, Carol Reiner, Ramon Soto, Joe Garland, and Leo Rauber, Jr. Absent: Councilman Jeffrey Hoffman.

Council President Rader called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Shannon Dumboski that council accept minutes from the regular meeting on January 10th as presented by Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder carried unanimously.

General Account financial report: January opening balance \$77,977.⁹³; receipts of \$7,619.⁷³ including \$29.¹⁴ checking interest; expenditures of \$16,965.⁶¹; January 2016 ending balance: \$67,613.¹⁵. The MPB General Account CD 0830 balance is \$14,355.⁷⁶. No change in MPB Muni Fund 3430 balance: \$2,177.³⁸ or BB&T General Account CD 8835 balance: \$5,075.⁷⁴. Motor License Fund January opening balance was \$4,636.⁸⁹; receipt of \$1.⁸³ interest, no expenditures; end of January 2016 MLF balance: \$4,638.⁷². The 2016 Liquid Fuels allocation (\$22k) was withheld until borough proof of paid 2016 quarterly taxes is received by the state. BB&T MLF CD 0018 unchanged balance \$84,006.⁴¹ (losing \$74/mo. interest since 10/7/16 maturity @ 1.20%; auto-renew rate @ 0.15%). Community Hall Improvement Fund balance remains \$1,239.⁸⁶ with no activity. Snyder reminded council of BB&T's letter stating that effective 2/1/17, a \$12/mo. service fee will be debited to our Community Hall Improvement Fund until we achieve the required new \$1500 minimum balance or council votes to transfer the account to another bank. Mayor Brocious will advance anticipated rental money from Gordon Fire Company No. 1 to maintain the minimum balance. Snyder added that all BB&T accounts will be charged ACH and other account fees starting 3/1/17. Motion by Brian Hansbury for council to accept the Treasurer's January financial reports for both the General Account and Motor License Fund as read by Secretary-Treasurer Snyder carried unanimously.

General account invoices for payment to date: Aqua PA (\$418), Riedlinger (\$385), SWIF (\$835), Groody Oil (\$470), PA Dept. of Revenue (\$125.⁴⁴), IRS (\$1,069.⁵⁸), Butler Twp. Jan. police coverage (\$2,750), PPL LED street lights (\$170.⁷⁹), MPB roof loan (\$802.⁷⁸), NSCOG dues (\$100), Berkheimer 2016 W2 LST (\$5.⁶⁷), plus collection commissions for EIT (\$55.⁸⁵) and LST (\$1.⁸³). Council was given a line-item YTD budget for all accounts. Jason Quick's motion to pay general account invoices carried unanimously.

Sewage Revenue Account financial report: \$177,954.⁶³ opening balance 1/1/17, interest receipt of \$73.³⁰, Sewage quarterly property bill receipts of \$19,565.²⁶ (\$687 from Portnoff) & penalty receipts of \$332 (\$180 from Portnoff), miscellaneous reimbursement of \$270.⁷² Portnoff attorney fees, balance 1/31/17: \$198,195.⁹¹. Sewage Revenue MPB CD 0430: \$79,113.⁸² balance matures 4/5/17; Sewage Revenue MPB CD 0431 balance: \$86,027.⁰⁹. Sewage Op./Maint. Acct. financial report: \$17,436.³¹ opening balance 1/1/17, receipt of \$6.⁷⁵ interest, expenditures of \$1,277.⁵⁴ including SCMA-treatment plant (\$4,041.⁶¹), Riedlinger-SCMA \$95, Ridge Lane grinder pump-PPL (\$29.⁷⁰ & \$29.⁰⁵ to be reimbursed) and \$199.⁸⁴ pump station electric, \$1,277.⁵⁴ Entech engineer and \$1,344.⁸⁰ Biros Septic for sewage system leak; balance 1/31/17 was \$10,425.⁵². Sewage Reserve MPB CD 6530 unchanged balance: \$70,091.⁰⁸. Shannon Dumboski's motion to accept all Sewage financial reports as read carried unanimously.

Brian Hansbury announced that PennDOT signs restricting all truck traffic were placed at the top of the Gordon Mountain. The project was originally slated for spring 2016 and then postponed until spring of 2017. Council President Mike Rader will email PennDOT for assistance in response to citizens' requests for Walmart Distribution Center directional signs posted at the bottom of the mountain to avoid truck traffic missing the turn and going through local roads. Resident Joe Garland asked for a "No Jake Brakes" sign, adding that trucks disregard that they are not allowed under 40 mph, and the posted speed limit is 35 mph. Solicitor Riedlinger suggested contacting borough engineer Don Cuff (Entech) regarding the 3-4% grading, Rader will also check with PennDOT. Weight limits for a Butler Township bridge were another concern.

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2017

Jason Quick reminded council to review the four contractor HVAC recommendations received for the existing system with no air handler as discussed at the November, December, and January meetings. Rader offered to scan and email bids and recommendations to council and also Barry Brecker, former councilman and local expert in the field for review and input.

Quick asked for “No Diagonal Parking” signs for the development’s cul-de-sac, allowing only parallel parking there to streamline emergency vehicle access. A retroreflective street sign is also missing on another borough road and must be purchased. Quick also reported that YTD, 25T of salt has been purchased from Butler Township storage, and council may want to consider adding a salt shed and skid loader in the future. A USDA 35% grant for up to \$22k in proceeds with a 3% interest on any loan balance is being researched. A PA One Call notice was issued for the broken pole PennDOT knocked down during the storm. Tom’s Car Care is looking into a transmission line hydraulic leak in the F550. Zawada is meeting with the property committee this week about extending the garage pole building 6 feet. A borough ordinance review for a rental apartment UCC issue may need to add language for inspections before temporary occupancy certificates or permits are issued.

Snyder reported a Chapter 94 residential report for was completed and faxed. Restoration work on a lot was completed after UCC permits were issued. Ashland Girls’ Softball League has made two requests for use of the park, which will be handled on a first-come first-served basis, although preference may be made for local taxpayers and previous groups renting the field.

Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., conveyed the “large picture” of the broad acquisition contract with Schuylkill County Municipal Authority is acceptable, with “stylistic” changes Riedlinger will forward for council review. Borough Engineer Don Cuff of Entech will now add flesh to the contract bones, listing borough sewer assets. Meanwhile, a database is being cross-checked against the old handwritten card file system before printing quarterly sewage system invoices in March.

Riedlinger, solicitor for both Gordon and Girardville, shared that Girardville will propose North Schuylkill Council of Governments (NSCOG) hire a full-time shared Code Enforcement Officer with the training in property maintenance codes to go after blighted properties. He stressed that Gordon’s current Code Officer Robin Ennis is doing a good job and council is under no obligation to participate in any future COG collaborative effort. Riedlinger added that now is the time to acquire any borough blighted properties from the repository and apply for demolition grants, since county funding is at 100%. A meeting for municipalities interested in the demolition program will take place in the Commissioners’ Board Room at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, February 23.

Regarding possible placement of a new borough shed, Riedlinger said he won’t know without a full title search if there is a deed or easement for the 80’ right of way at the borough building, although verified in a 1969 document from the Department of Highways (PennDOT’s predecessor). Since a post-1976 search had not been done, council authorized Riedlinger to have Pellish Law complete a \$250 title and lien search.

Mayor George Brocius received no Butler Township Police report for January. Brocius reported the Gordon Fire Company No. 1 was approved for an \$11,800 equipment grant. A follow-up is needed for the senior graduation project request by Mason Edwards a few months back.

Council Vice President and Recreation Committee Chair Valerie Stitzer Dornsife submitted a letter of resignation from council effective at adjournment of the March 14, 2017 meeting. President Rader responded he will act upon this letter at the next meeting. However, Riedlinger noted that council has 30 days from acceptance of the resignation to fill the vacancy, or it is turned over to the vacancy board for a decision. Failing timely action by the vacancy board, the Court of Common Pleas will be given the right to choose a successor.

BOROUGH OF GORDON

313

Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017

Under Public Participation, Solicitor Riedlinger was asked to remove a sewage system lien as requested by Leo Rauber, Jr., who submitted courthouse paperwork proving he paid the outstanding \$2,100 balance on a Hobart Street property purchased during a 2015 upset sale.


Citizen Jessica Slotcavage presented the annual youth fish rodeo flyer for the event to be held Saturday, May 6th from 8-4 at Gordon Community Park, rain or shine. She added that it is Gordon Fish and Game's 100th anniversary celebration. Past members will be recognized at the event, and volunteers are encouraged to call 570-985-4611. Motion by Valerie Dornsife to reserve the park for setup Friday, May 5th, as well as the rodeo on the 6th and cleanup on the 7th was approved unanimously. Slotcavage also mentioned that another town wide yard sale is being planned; call 570-205-3397 for information.

Resident Carol Reiner stated she was happy to see a new business in town, but inquired if permits were obtained and a second sewage line hookup payment received for a beauty shop opening. Snyder replied that UCC and occupancy permits were issued by BIU's Frank Filiziani but no tapping fees were received by the borough; he will investigate since the owner did not show up to the meeting as discussed.

PPL will be notified of a missed replacement light yet to be done as part of the LED conversion process for the borough. Council suggested adding future LED lights in the Rattling Run Development and at the end of the 400 block of Biddle Street.

On behalf of the Methodist Church, former councilman Joe Garland received the borough's vacation letter for the unused road from North Charles Street to the 100 block of East Biddle and from that block south to East Elm. Church Street has been blocked off by two stone barriers for more than 10 years since a flood.

The next regular Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. There being no further business, a motion was made by Hansbury at 8:03 p.m. to adjourn this meeting of Gordon Borough Council carried unanimously.

Attest:  Paul L. Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer February 14, 2017