

East Stroudsburg Borough, October 4, 2011

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday October 4, 2011. The following members were in attendance: Victor Brozusky; Roger DeLarco; Ed Henning; William Reese; Donald Repsher and Sonia Wolbert. Also attending were: Mayor Armand M. Martinelli; Manager James S. Phillips; Solicitor David J. Williamson of Scanlon Lewis & Williamson; Engineering Representative Samuel D'Alessandro of R.K.R. Hess Associates, Inc.; and several residents in the audience.

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DeLarco called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Karen Parish led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of September 20, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held September 20, 2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing on Proposed 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to open the public hearing. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Phillips explained this is the second required annual public hearing to be held by the Borough regarding the CDBG Program. Council had a hearing in February 2011 to solicit comments from residents on the community development needs of the Borough that may be addressed by the use of CDBG funds. Normally, the Borough receives word of its estimated entitlement allocation of CDBG funds in the spring of the year. This year due to cutbacks by the federal budget, the entitlement allocations for communities were not announced until recently. The Borough anticipates receiving a total of \$148,796, which represents an approximate 16% cut from last year's allocation. After review and discussion the Borough has decided to use its 2011 CDBG allocation as follows:

1. Housing Rehabilitation Program Assistance	\$50,000
2. Public Street Improvements	\$35,000
3. Public Waterline Improvements	\$26,000
4. ADA Handicapped Ramp Reconstructions	\$25,000
5. Administration	\$12,796

Mr. Phillips then introduced Karen Parish of Mullin & Lonergan Associates, Community Development Consultants for the Borough.

Mrs. Parish said the Borough's allocation of federal funds is reduced from last year but hopefully the amount of funding for the program in the federal budget will now stabilize. Mr. Reese asked what happens if the Borough can't use all of its funds? Mrs. Parish said municipalities are allowed up to three years to use their funds with another two years allowed for audit purposes. If need be the Borough may be able to get an extension to go into the fourth year of the contract period. Mr. Reese asked does Mullin & Lonergan monitor the use of these funds by the Borough? Mrs. Parish said the Borough does have to report on the timeliness of its use of funds and she does try to help the Borough keep track of their use of funds in order to stay in compliance.

Mr. Phillips noted that the 2010 census figures are now available, and indicate that 49.5% of the Borough population is considered low to moderate income. However, the CDBG program requires that use of CDBG funds must benefit primarily, i.e.: more than 51%, low to moderate income persons. The Borough has several census tracts where that percentage is exceeded, but not Boro-wide. Mr. Brozusky asked if the Borough was able to do its own survey and show that more than 51% of the Borough

population was low to moderate income Boro-wide, would the Borough get more funds? Mrs. Parish said no, but the Borough would be able to utilize funds for Boro-wide projects such as community parks instead of having to target funds for particular residential streets or areas. Mrs. Parish said the census figures are supposed to be adjusted in April of next year and we will have to wait and see what those results indicate.

Mr. DeLarco asked for any comments from the audience and there were none. Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert to adjourn the hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None

Extending Residential Permit Parking to the Normal Street Housing Project Area

Mr. Phillips reported he has not yet received any information back from Housing Authority residents on this issue.

Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to Employee Pension Fund for 2012

Mr. Phillips noted he had sent a copy of the 2012 Year MMO for the PMRS-administered Pension Plan to Council dated September 28, 2011. Mr. DeLarco asked Mr. Phillips if he was able to obtain any information yet from PMRS on possible changes to the employee pension plan as discussed by Council at the recent Committee meeting? Mr. Phillips replied no not yet.

Executive Session

At 7:50 pm Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to adjourn into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

At 8:35 pm Council members reassembled in the meeting room and Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reese to reconvene the public meeting. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Williamson said the executive session had been held to discuss a real estate matter; possible sale of the old firehall property.

Resolution No. 25-2011 Revising the 2009 CDBG Program Budget

Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to adopt proposed Resolution No. 25-2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 26-2011 Revising the 2010 CDBG Program Budget

Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reese to adopt proposed Resolution No. 26-2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 27-2011 Approving the 2011 CDBG Program

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to adopt proposed Resolution No. 27-2011, approving the 2011 year CDBG program and authorizing its submittal to Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED). The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

Henry Lesoine of 503 North Courtland Street said his property keeps getting flooded this year because a pump has not been turned on at the Bustin Products Co. Mr. Phillips explained that Bustin has a stormwater collection area in back of the building with a pump that pumps water out into the culvert that goes under the railroad near the Bustin property. The pump had been replaced by Mr. Lichty, previous owner of the

Bustin property, several years ago. Apparently the pump must be operated on a manual basis and the pump has not been turned on this year causing water to backup in the woods area in back of Bustin all the way up to almost West Fourth Street. Mr. Lesoine said he is tired of his property being a mud hole. Mr. Henning suggested that the Borough contact the new owners of Bustin Industries and make sure they are aware of operation of the pump. Mr. Williamson said he is not familiar with the background of this matter but if the stormwater pump installation was an original condition of development for the Bustin property, then the owner needs to maintain and operate it. Mr. Phillips said he would get more information on this matter to Mr. Williamson.

Correspondence

Mr. Phillips reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:

1. The 2011 Year allocation check from the Commonwealth for the Volunteers Firemen's Relief Association in the amount of \$95,814.29.
2. The 2011 Year General Municipal Pension System State aid allocation from the Commonwealth in the amount of \$139,910.76.
3. A letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) announcing that the Twin Boroughs Recycling program has been approved for a 2009 year recycling performance grant in the amount of \$78,165.
4. A letter from the Eastburg Community Alliance (ECA) concerning the rededication ceremonies for the relocated Old Train Station building to be held on Saturday October 15, 2011 at 11:30 am.

Auction Sale for Old Firehall Property at 56 South Courtland Street

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to include the four parcels making up the Borough parking lot next to the old firehall with the parcel containing the Firehall for the proposed auction sale. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Wolbert asked whether the fire parcel should be joined together in a joinder deed? Tom McKeown of McKeown Realty suggested that the Borough check with Chief Assessor Tom Hill at the County Assessment Officer concerning this matter.

After discussion, Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Wolbert to clarify that the auction sale will be conducted by McKeown Realty with an established reserve amount set for sale of the property. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to schedule the possible auction sale for Saturday November 12, 2011. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Mr. D'Alessandro reviewed his written engineer's report previously submitted to Council. Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to authorize final payment to LSR Excavating Co., Inc. for the Analomink Street waterline replacement and related water valve and hydrant repairs. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve payment Application No. 1 submitted by Rutledge Excavating, Inc. for Contract No. 2, wetlands replacement work at the East Stroudsburg Dam Rehabilitation site. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henning asked about the status of the Rosen's furniture building? Mr. Williamson said he understands that the property is in foreclosure by the mortgage holder.

Mayor Martinelli stated that the Borough should contact PennDOT to request the prohibition of right turns on red at the North Courtland Street/East Sixth Street intersection from 4-6 pm because traffic backs-up at this intersection.

Mrs. Wolbert said there is a problem with too many deer in the Borough-her father counted 26 deer in his yard last night and his property is only a 4x100 ft size lot.

Mrs. Wolbert noted that she had read something recently concerning the requirement that the Borough redistrict its wards based on the new census population figures.

Mr. Brozusky reported he has been calling the police when he has seen individuals routing through the garbage at curbside. He has not seen them lately so maybe the police response has helped. Mr. Brozusky noted that the Fire Company members are reporting that there are still leaks in the roof at the new fire station. Finally, Mr. Brozusky asked why someone was working on the traffic signal at the Eagle Valley Corners Intersection last Friday morning? Mr. Phillips said a drunk driver took out the light pole and the entire traffic signal cabinet at 3:00 am Friday morning and the Borough's signal maintenance contractor, Signal Service Company was there doing emergency repairs.

Mr. DeLarco reported that plans for renovating the Old Train Station which has been relocated to the Kistler Street parking lot have been proceeding and the outside of the building should be mostly done for the October 15, 2011 rededication ceremony.

Mr. Phillips reported that the Borough maintenance crew will be flushing the water system from fire hydrants Wednesday and Thursday evenings, October 5 & 6, 2011. Also the annual fall leaf collection program will begin next Tuesday October 11, 2011. Mr. Phillips reported that the Borough has received the renewal NPDES Discharge Permit for the water filtration plant. Also, representatives of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers met with Maintenance Foreman Mark Hoke last Friday to review the most recent damage to the flood control levee in the area below the entry of the Sambo Creek to the Brodhead. Finally, Mr. Phillips noted that he had received a telephone call complaint concerning the number of wild cats that are habitating the area in-back of the Sunoco Gas Station and Weis Market near Eagle Valley corners.

List of Bills

Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to approve the list of bills payable and ratify payroll and expenditures made through October 4, 2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Repsher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brozusky to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary