

East Stroudsburg Borough, November 15, 2011

A regular meeting of the East Stroudsburg Borough Council was held at the Municipal Building on Tuesday November 15, 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.; Chief John Baujan and Captain William Parrish of the Stroud Area Regional Police Department; a press representative from TV 13; and several residents in the audience.

Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. DeLarco called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Ed Flory led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of November 1, 2011

Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held November 1, 2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Stroud Area Regional Police Department Report

Chief Baujan stated he wanted to report to Council how the Police Department has been responding to the recent rash of crimes in areas near East Stroudsburg University. The Department has made arrests for two incidents that occurred concerning shots fired. The Department has also made arrests in two cases of indecent exposure. Two serious cases involving rapes and several armed robberies still remain unsolved. Chief Baujan said the Monroe County Gang Task Force has been revived. Also efforts have been ongoing to bring information to the East Stroudsburg University community; several meetings have been organized to advise students of common sense safety measures they can take, and a meeting was held recently with Resident Assistants at the University so they can be able to pass the correct information onto students. Chief said the Monroe County District Attorney had organized a "saturation patrol" the previous Friday night in the area around the ESU campus; a total of over thirty (30) officers participated and 27 arrests were made. The Department has increased its "quality of life" patrols, concentrating on neighborhoods around the ESU campus. Representatives of the Department have met with Representatives of ESU to coordinate efforts to use the parent newsletter sent out by the University to distribute current and accurate information on these matters; and a meeting was held just this week with fraternity and sorority chapters at the campus and those meetings were well received.

Chief Baujan said that the Department has also surveyed business owners on Crystal Street because of complaints and concerns that have been expressed in that area. The Department is still planning on scheduling a community meeting with property owners from the Crystal Street area, and plans are in place to install a new security camera that can be used to help monitor the situation on Crystal Street.

Mrs. Wolbert asked if ESU students who have expressed interest in participating in the East Stroudsburg Crime Watch have been contacted? Mr. Phillips said he did contact Wanda Lasher from the Crime Watch group and she is in touch with the students who attended the last meeting. Mr. Henning asked if the Department is currently using social media to help "get the word out"? Chief Baujan said this is one area that the Department has not been able to utilize effectively to date.

Captain Parrish reported that the University is exploring a means of providing a way that students can text message to the University Police instead of relying on 911 telephone calls.

Marie Summa of East Broad Street thanked the Chief for the Department's efforts on Crystal Street because the levels of "activity" have gone down greatly.

Captain Parrish noted that the Department also has a website where anonymous email messages can be sent and we still have the telephone "tip line" 424-7002.

Wanda Lasher reported that she has been in touch with several ESU students who expressed interest in participating in the Crime Watch. The East Stroudsburg Crime Watch meets on the last Wednesday of the month – so the next meeting will be Wednesday November 30, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the SARPD meeting room.

Meeting with Engineering Consultants for East Stroudsburg University Student Housing Project – Status of Stormwater Management System

David Horton, P.E. of Pennoni Associates was present on behalf of East Stroudsburg University to address the Board. Mr. Horton noted that several issues have developed with the construction of the stormwater management system for the new housing project at ESU. The construction suffered a setback when a portion of the stormwater basin under construction collapsed on August 31, 2011. Since then the stormwater basin was disassembled and torn out and the engineering staff has been analyzing the needed revisions. An option was identified to excavate additional soil and place new aggregate at the base of the stormwater basin. At this point it has been determined that effort has been successful, and they hope to finish the parking lot which is proposed to be installed over the top of the stormwater basin by the end of this year. If weather does not permit the final paving until spring, then the plan is that the parking lot will remain gravel surface until spring.

Mr. Brozusky asked if a gravel parking lot will be adequate to be utilized over the winter months? Mr. Horton said the University will have to maintain it but it should be sufficient.

Tom Bartek, of the ESU facilities management staff stated that the University is planning on having students occupy the new housing units for the second semester. However these will not be new, additional students since the existing dormitories will be vacant once the new apartments are moved into.

Mr. Reese asked if they have determined why the stormwater basin collapsed? Mr. Horton replied they believed it was due to a series of issues-but primarily construction issues. Mr. Reese asked if this type of stormwater system has been used elsewhere? Mr. Horton replied that this type of design has been around for about 10 years and has been used on other projects elsewhere in many cases.

Mr. Phillips asked if the stormwater management basin will be functional to handle the required amount of stormwater as designed by the end of this year? Mr. Horton replied yes.

Mark Hoke, Borough Maintenance Foreman asked if any Borough stormwater will pass through this stormwater basin? Mr. Horton replied no, it will only collect and retain stormwater from the new parking areas around the housing apartment building. Mr. Phillips asked if the Monroe County Conservation District, which also has to permit this stormwater facility, has signed off on the design changes? Mr. Horton replied that they are submitting the modifications to the stormwater management system to the Conservation District for their review and approval.

Mr. DeLarco thanked Mr. Horton and the other members of his staff for attending the Council meeting tonight.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None

Proposed 2012-2016 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Phillips reviewed the draft Five Year Capital Improvement Program for the Borough that he has submitted to Borough Council. Mr. Phillips reviewed the major capital items appearing in the first year of the five year capital plan, which will become the 2012 year capital budget for the Borough when approved by Council, and stated that the total proposed capital costs for the five year period 2012-2016 is \$13,471,500. Mr. Phillips said the single largest item in the 2012 capital budget is the continuation of the East Stroudsburg dam rehabilitation work which is estimated to cost \$2,888,000 for the 2012 year period. Mr. Phillips said Council will be reviewing further and in detail the proposed capital plan during the upcoming budget work sessions.

Proposed 2012 Year Borough Budget

Mr. Phillips reviewed the major points of the proposed 2012 year budget which he had submitted to Council over this past weekend. Mr. Phillips said this proposed budget was impacted by several negative factors for 2012, including: the Borough's taxable assessed valuation as reported by the Monroe County Assessment office has declined by a total of \$1,205,500 from the 2011 year total; to a figure of \$72,100,314 for the 2012 year. Real estate transfer taxes are anticipated to come in below budget for the year and still below the total for the 2010 year; which had been the lowest on record. Earned income tax revenues have shown a decline relative to the 2010 year figures; and it appears that this is due to the 911 readdressing system which now apparently is more accurately allocating the earned income tax filings received by Berkheimer to the proper municipalities. Swimming pool revenues were down for the 2011 year due to the rainy weather this past summer. Mr. Phillips said state pension aid and recycling income from the Twin Boroughs recycling program were higher than anticipated this year-but that is due to the fact that the state aid allocation was higher due to a change in the way the State received those tax monies this year, and the recycling income was higher because two years worth of recycling performance grants were received during 2011. Mr. Phillips also noted that the proposed general fund budget contemplates net proceeds from the sale of the old fire hall property in the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. Phillips noted that the debt service fund, which accounts for the special millage to pay for the loan used to finance the new fire station, is projected to require 2.6 mills to pay for principal and interest payments on the ESSA Bank & Trust Loan for 2012.

Mr. Phillips noted that the liquid fuels grant monies to be received by the Borough in the highway aid fund are anticipated to decline from the preliminary amount in the budget because the state has just come out with the new allocation figures based on the 2010 census figures for the Borough.

In the Water Fund Budget Mr. Phillips noted that the Borough will have a second PennVest loan in place in 2012 for the East Stroudsburg Dam rehabilitation project, and therefore we will have additional principal and interest payments to be made under that one.

Mr. Phillips said the Sewer Fund Budget does contemplate the payment of some major EDU fees to the Borough by Smithfield Township; however that is contingent upon Smithfield Sewer Authority proceeding with the construction of a sewerline extension to connect to the Borough system to take in the Route 447 area of Township. That work is contingent upon the proposed Westfield Medical facility project getting underway on Route 447. Finally, Mr. Phillips noted that the Golf Fund Budget was also severally impacted by the weather this year in that the total days of play were significantly reduced by the rainy weather.

Public Comments – New Business

Sonya Cole of 288 Marguerite Street invited everyone to “take a look” at the former Dansbury Depot/Train Station since most of the outside work including painting

has now been completed. Mrs. Cole commented that Harley Fish & Sons Contractor has done an excellent job on the woodwork on the old train station building.

Correspondence

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

1. A letter from Monroe County Vector Control thanking the Borough for its recent donation and giving a report on Vector Control activities in the Borough during the 2011 year.
2. A letter from Smithfield Township reporting that the Board of Supervisors has re-adopted the "Flory Pond drainage area" stormwater ordinance. Mr. Phillips said the Township had apparently inadvertently left out the Flory Pond drainage area provisions when they had adopted new stormwater regulations last year; now they have gone back and re-adopted the Flory Pond drainage area provisions.
3. A letter from David J. Williamson Esquire submitting his resignation as Solicitor for the Borough effective December 31, 2011 due to his recent election as Judge on the Monroe County Court of Common Pleas.
4. A request by Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries/Pocono Lutheran Village for a letter of support from Council for their Local Share Account grants application for renovation of facilities at Pocono Lutheran Village. Mr. Phillips said he had told the person who had contacted him that Council may want to know what other local applications were submitted for local share account funding, before deciding on whether to issue a letter of support for this project. Mr. Phillips said he would try to obtain more information on what other applications had been submitted for gaming funds locally.
5. A letter from the Church of St. Luke concerning the planned walk through the community on December 9, 2011.
6. A letter from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission concerning the application by Sunesys for approval of installation of a aerial fiber optic cable at Ridgeway St. grade crossing over Norfolk Southern Railroad Tracks. Mr. Phillips said the Borough has until November 30, 2011 to file an objection if it so desires.

Reports

Mr. Reese asked if the scaffolding installed outside the Frazetta's building on Washington Street is going to be safe during winter time? Mr. Phillips said he would check with Codes Official John Blick on that matter.

Mr. Henning asked when the next open house for the old fire hall building is scheduled? Mr. Phillips replied this Thursday November 17, 2011 from 3-5 p.m.

Mr. Brozusky said Homer Lee, resident of Georgellen Drive had again asked him about the possible repair of Georgellen Drive due to the construction activity which has used the road over the past several years. After extensive discussion, Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to authorize the Manager to send a letter to Mr. Lee advising that past practice has been for the Borough not to spend public monies on maintenance of a private road. The motion carried by a vote of 5-1 with Mr. Brozusky voting no.

Mr. Phillips noted that there are several issues that need to be addressed for the possible auction sale of the old fire hall by the Borough this coming Saturday. Mr. Phillips said the Fire Company has responded that they would like to see the fire siren kept by the Borough and relocated elsewhere, but not at the site of the new fire station facility. Mr. Phillips there will be some cost to remove the fire siren from the top of the building because a crane would be required. After discussion, Mr. Henning made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to authorize disconnection of the fire siren but to sell it along with the building in "as is" condition. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Phillips noted that the lights in the municipal parking lot next to the old fire hall which is proposed to be sold along with the building are connected to the lights in the Borough parking lot located closer to the Pocono Community theatre. Those lights

would need to be disconnected or to have the power for these lights connected to the old fire hall building itself. After discussion, Council decided to disclose to the potential buyers that the lights are currently powered through the Borough and would need to be transferred.

Ed Flory, Council-elect for the 4th Ward and former President of Acme Hose Company #1 noted that the emergency warning light which is still installed on South Courtland Street outside the old fire hall needs to be disconnected.

Finally, Mr. Phillips noted that the Borough will need to remove the existing parking meters in the parking lot if the property is sold at auction.

List of Bills

Mr. Reese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to approve the list of bills payable and to ratify expenditure and payroll made through November 15, 2011 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

None

Work Session for Review of Proposed 2012 Borough Budget

Council reviewed the proposed budgets for the Golf Fund, Highway Aid Fund, and Sewer Fund.

Scheduled Dates for Additional Budget Work Sessions Meetings

Mrs. Wolbert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Repsher to schedule additional budget work session meetings for Thursday November 17, 2011 and Tuesday November 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.; the November 22nd date will also be the rescheduled Committee meeting for November. The motion carried unanimously,

Adjournment

With no further business Mr. Brozusky made a motion, seconded by Mr. Henning to adjourn the meeting 10:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

James S. Phillips, Secretary