

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

February 16, 2011

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Council President Linda Turner opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or hateful speech allowed.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)**

Council President Turner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed.

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present at the meeting were Council members Linda Turner, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Robert Resinger and Howard Barger. Also present were Chief Carlson, Penny Peterson and Brian Spaid. Harold Bloomgren and Dick Phillips were not present. Officer Deeter was excused.

**V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA**

**VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**VII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Planning Commission: John Dumbleton reported the Planning Committee did not meet last Wednesday.

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

A. Engineer

1. Joe Sporer reported that the Martin Hill Road Bridge is now removed. Urban Engineering (Erie, PA) was selected to be the engineers on that project.

B. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Mr. Phillips presented Council with a written report on the various jobs the Maintenance Dept. has been working on since the last council meeting.

C. Police Chief:

1. Chief Carlson stated that on Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, the traffic light at the Rt.8 entrance to K – Mart will be repaired. Two (2) stop signs will be supplied by PennDot and an officer or maintenance worker will provide traffic control.

2. Chief Carlson reported that a police cruiser was struck by a county vehicle today while attempting to serve a warrant. They will have an estimate done.

3. Linda Turner reported the crosswalk sign at the intersection of Front Street & Rt. 8 has been knocked down again. Chief Carlson & Mr. Sporer stated that will have to contact PennDot in regards to it.

4. Mr. Sporer stated his is still attempting to contact Verizon about the telephone line that is required for the traffic light at the Rt. 8 & Front Street intersection.

D. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Mr. Sporer reported on the Rt. 417 water rates. After re – examining the rates, Mr. Sporer stated the rates could be lowered from \$80.00 per month, to \$72.00. This would still allow a reserve to be established in the fund. Brian Spaid would then draft a new ordinance stating the changes and the new rates will be in effect for March's billing. The water rates for Rt. 8 water customers will remain the same.

E. Zoning Officer:

1. No report.

F. CDBG Administrator:

1. Ms. Peterson reported the dilapidated garage at the corner of Fox Street & Pennell Street has been torn down. Gahr's excavating did the demolition work.

2. The Borough received \$6,500.00 from the Jesse Peters Trust to be used to refurbish the Rocky Grove Playground.

3. Ms. Peterson stated she attended at CDBG training program on February 15, 2011. She was able to make contacts and the training went well.

G. Solicitor:

1. Mr. Spaid reported on the CDBG bids for the R.G.V.F.D. equipment. The fire department had submitted specific names/brands/manufacturers on their specification sheet. This is not allowed by CDBG regulations. The agreement that has been entered into by awarding Three Rivers Equipment the equipment bid is a legal and binding contract.
2. Linda Turner questioned if Co – Stars was being used for some of the equipment? Ms. Peterson said an item could be bid out to Co – Stars & the remainder could be bid out together. Ms. Turner asked if Co – Stars could be used to supplement the equipment that Three Rivers could not supply? Ms. Peterson stated she was not sure of that answer.
3. Mr. Spaid stated there are only two (2) properties that have not yet connected to the Rt. 417 system. One (1) of the residents travels for work and has not been home to receive proper notification.

**IX. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- A. Mr. Baughman reported there is a pull – behind trailer that has been parking on the sidewalk at the corner of North Front and McCalmont Streets. This is also a bus stop. Chief Carlson stated he will look into it.
- B. Mr. Resinger wanted to thank Mr. Sporer for refiguring the water rates for the Rt. 417 water & sewer customers.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)**

- A. Mrs. Eleanor Dunn questioned why there is not an additive placed in the water to soften it, as the City of Franklin does. Mr. Sporer stated the water is the same water that the City has. Mrs. Dunn also questioned how often the water the tested? Mr. Spaid & Mr. Sporer stated that is a question for Dick Phillips.
- B. Mr. Allen Dunn wanted a breakdown of the original \$15.00 increase in the water rate? Mr. Sporer stated that \$46.00 goes to the payment, \$14.00 for maintenance & \$9.00 goes to water, for a total of \$69.00. The \$3.00 difference between the \$69.00 & \$72.00 is being placed in a reserve.
- C. John Dumbleton stated he was pleased to see the garage torn down and to see the water rates decreased. Mr. Dumbleton also questioned the flow analysis done by Northwest Engineering. Mr. Sporer referred Mr. Dumbleton to Dick Phillips.
- D. Ron Huff wanted to thank Mr. Sporer for lowering the water rates and taking another look at it again.
- E. Mike Garbacz presented Council with the possibility of doing a tire recycling program for which the recycled tires are used as mulch for playgrounds. Mr. Garbacz stated when the fire hydrants were placed out on the Rt. 417 system; the homeowners should have received a reduction in their homeowners' insurance.
- F. Richard Mihleder stated he has seen the water hydrants flushed before. Mr. Mihleder also stated that when the water was placed out on Rt. 417, it was done so without any knowledge or notification to the residents. Why do smaller families or couples have to pay the same as the larger families? Could the water that is not used by the smaller homes, be transferred to those who typically go over the minimum usage? There is also sinking around the manhole on his property.
- G. Tom Karns stated the AED Machine they were awarded was not what they requested or what they submitted. It will work and restart a heart, but it is not compatible with their other equipment. The camera is also not what they requested, but he may have to accept taking the other camera that was offered. Mayor Minnick stated that the fire department has entered into a contract and changes cannot be made at this point, and the items were bid and submitted correctly.

**XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler approve the minutes of the February 2, 2011 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

**XIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. John Eckel, R.G.V.F.D., requested the purchase of a rope gun through the Police Department since the fire department cannot purchase the gun, as it falls under a fire arm category. The fire department would then reimburse the police department. It would be beneficial when having to get ropes, etc. to the other side of the river. Chief Carlson expressed concern over the rope gun being categorized as a fire arm & some of the fire department personnel may not be authorized to fire/use it. Brian Spaid recommended tabling the issue until Chief Carlson contacts the ATF and gets the correct information on the rope gun. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to table the request to purchase a rope gun for the R.G.V.F.D. Motion carried unanimously.

**XV. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS**

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council recessed at 8:03 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 8:35 pm.

**XVIII. NEW BUSINESS (Con't.)**

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Joseph Sporer, Borough Manager

Linda Turner, Council President