

# BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2017

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)

Council President Goughler 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 Bogan Goughler, Howard Barger, John McClelland, Robert Resinger, Larry Baughman and Mayor Jeffrey MacKenzie. Also present were Borough Solicitor Brian Spaid, Maintenance Foreman Dick Phillips and Chief Carlson.

## V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

## VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

## VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)

A. Mike Garbacz questioned if there was any information on the proposed real estate tax reduction in regards to volunteer firefighters. Mr. Garbacz said he would support a 20% tax break for volunteer firefighters. He also questioned if the Borough would have to pay the proposed \$25.00/person fee for State Police coverage. Mr. Spaid stated it does not apply to the Borough since the Borough has a Police Department. Mr. Garbacz also questioned why the Borough is purchasing a new dump truck. He stated Oil City purchased a freight liner truck for less.

## VIII. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

1. No report.

B. General Authority

1. Timothy Dunkle, Borough's seat on the General Authority, gave Council an update on what has been discussed recently. Mr. Dunkle stated all projects are currently self – funded, but the Board is looking into grant money. They are also pursuing other energy – efficient forms of energy and electricity. Mr. Dunkle also said a Capital Reserve Account has been established in the event of emergency repairs, rehab, equipment and long – term projects for both water and wastewater systems. He updated Council on the status of the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Siphon project, which was originally projected to cost \$1.6 - \$6 million total, with a cost of \$400,000 - \$1,500,000 to the Borough. The siphon was able to be cleared of large debris in 2016. In 2017, strainer baskets will be installed to catch the debris and keep it from entering the siphon. Also upcoming for 2017, the Board will be implementing a system update through Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). The Board has applied for a grant to cover a portion of the cost; if it is not granted, the Borough would be responsible for \$91,400.00. There are also several water lines within Rocky Grove that need to be replaced, with McClamont Street between N. Gilfillan Street and N. Front Street being a priority. Mr. Sporer asked Mr. Dunkle if the Borough could be notified of any line repairs/replacements within the Borough and if any repaving would be done.

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Maintenance Foreman:

1. Dick Phillips presented Council with additional information in regards to the new truck proposal from the previous meeting. Mr. Phillips said it will take approximately eight (8) months to be completed and outfitted. It would need to be ordered within the month in order to have the truck by the next winter. Mr.

Phillips also stated he has been in contact with the City of Franklin, in regards to replacing the water line on McCalmont Street. Mr. Phillips stated the Borough will install new catch basins and pipes while the City has the road tore up.

- a. Motion by Robert Resinger, being duly seconded by Howard Barger to authorize the purchase of a 2018 Peterbilt Truck, at a cost of \$181,353.00, as presented by the Maintenance Foreman, Richard Phillips. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Police Chief:
  1. Chief Carlson presented Council with a written report. Chief Carlson also presented Council with a list of five (5) new fire police for Rocky Grove Volunteer Fire Department; Jean L. Stoyer, Dan Rhodes, Barbara J. Rugh, Matt Cook and Devon Irwin. They have already been approved by R.G.V.F.D.'s Board.
    - a. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Robert Resinger to approve the five people as presented and recommended by Chief Carlson for R.G.V.F.D. Fire Police. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Administrator/Special Projects:
  1. No report.
- D. Zoning Officer:
  1. No report.
- E. CDBG Administrator:
  1. No report.
- F. Solicitor:
  1. Mr. Spaid recommended Mr. Sporer research PA Act 172 (tax break for volunteer firefighters and EMT). Mr. Spaid then can meet with Mr. Sporer, Council and fire departments in regards on how to implement the Act if the Borough chooses to adopt it. Mr. Baughman would like to look at a definition and guidelines for what constitutes a volunteer firefighter and EMT. Mr. Spaid said there has to be a level of accountability that both the Council and fire departments must agree on and abide by.

**X. COUNCIL REPORT**

- A. Robert Resinger stated his intent to seek re – election for his Council seat.

**XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by John McClelland to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, 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**

**XV. CORRESPONDENCE**

**XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS**

**XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Motion by Robert Resinger, being duly seconded by John McClelland to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Joseph M. Sporer, Borough Manager

Bogan Goughler, Council President