

SEWICKLEY HILLS BOROUGH
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
General Council Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Phillips called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. at the Sewickley Hills Borough Municipal/Recreational Building, located at 349 Magee Road, Sewickley, PA 15143-9117.

PRESENT: Cynthia Phillips, Lucille Guttendorf, Joseph H. Hajnas, Michael Lepore, Mayor Malarik, Andrew Shannon (Solicitor), Emile Ketterer (NIRA), Charlie Guttendorf (Treasurer), Diana Steele (Secretary),

ABSENT: Jack Faulkner – via phone

CITIZENS ATTENDED: Hunter Hopkins, Chief Hanney, Don Fogel, (Residents of the Woods at Sewickley Hills), Joe and Jeannie Donovic, Wes Haagland, Guy Granata, Craig Rowland, (Representatives of PennDOT), Laurie Musto, Angelo Pampena, Curtis Peters

CITIZENS & GUESTS: Mrs. Phillips asks if there is anything not on the agenda to be discussed, there is no response.

PennDOT: Mrs. Phillips stated there are three representatives from PennDOT in attendance (Laurie Musto, Curtis Peters and Angelo Pampena) to provide input into a few areas of concern to the Borough.

School Bus Stop sign for the Woods of Sewickley Hills: The residents in the Woods plan of homes requested a “School Bus Stop” sign be erected at the entrance to the Woods of Sewickley Hills at the intersection of Sweetwater Drive and Red Mud Hollow Road. Mr. Donovic, a resident of the Woods, stated that there is a blind turn onto Red Mud Hollow creating a dangerous situation, especially for children boarding school buses in that area. Mr. Pampena stated that an email should be sent to PennDOT to request the “School Bus Stop” sign. He also indicated that the Borough would be responsible for purchasing and installing the sign (PennDOT would give us the criteria for installation).

Mr. Haagland stated that portions of Red Mud Hollow Road have a speed limit of 40 mph which he thinks creates a dangerous situation for residents. Mr. Donovic stated that he and other residents of the Woods would like to request a “STOP” sign be erected on Red Mud Hollow Road near the entrance to the Woods, coming down Red Mud Hollow Road. Additional discussion regarding this subject ensued. Mrs. Phillips concluded the discussion by stating that Mr. Pelly had a traffic study done when building the Woods plan and that the traffic study determined that the sight lines were sufficient.

Mr. Haagland also stated that the 25 mph signs on Red Mud Hollow Road near the intersection with Sweetwater Drive are obstructed by an overgrowth of trees. Mrs. Phillips indicated that, if the trees are obstructing the view of the 25 mph signs, we should ask the residents to trim their trees.

MOTION: A motion is made by Mr. Hajnas to contact PennDOT for approval to install "School Bus Stop" signs on Red Mud Hollow Road near the entrance to the Woods of Sewickley Hills and for information regarding the location and specifications for installation of said signs. Additionally, the motion by Mr. Hajnas included a provision that the Borough spend up to \$750.00 for the purchase and installation of said signs, seconded by Mr. Lapore. A roll call vote is taken with all in favor.

Winter Road Maintenance: Mr. Pampena addressed the complaints from one resident regarding winter maintenance on Henry Road during the last two snow events. He explained that the Interstates are PennDOT's first priority and that Henry Road has a lower priority due to the volume of traffic. Mr. Pampena stated that PennDOT will try to get to Henry Road sooner utilizing smaller trucks. He stated the average route time is 2 to 2 ½ hours depending on snow volume and temperature variations.

Mr. Pampena stated that Sewickley Hills Borough could assume responsibility for winter maintenance on Henry Road and/or any other state road within the Borough in order to provide a better level of service to the residents. If the Borough decided to provide this service, PennDOT would pay the Borough a set rate, per a Winter Maintenance Agreement. Mr. Pampena stated that there is 4.7 lineal miles of state roads in the Borough and that, as a compensation package, the Borough would receive \$14,239.78 per year to maintain all of these roads. He further explained that there could be an extreme weather adjustment to that rate depending on weather conditions. Under the agreement, the Borough would have to obtain the salt and provide the trucks and the manpower. Mr. Pampena stated that the Borough could take over all 4.7 miles or choose which state road(s) they wish to take over, further stating the compensation for just Henry Road would \$3,029.74.

Mrs. Phillips asked Mr. Guttendorf to report on what the salt and plowing costs have been for the last 3 years. The costs ranged between \$14,000 and \$28,000, depending on winter conditions.

Mrs. Phillips stated she didn't think it was plausible for Sewickley Hills to take over plowing and salting of the state roads within the Borough, for the following reasons: (1) it is not justifiable to the tax payers in the Borough to pick one particular road for winter maintenance by the Borough and to not provide it to all the other state roads within the Borough and (2) the sub-contractor that the Borough uses to plow and salt Borough roads probably does not have the equipment or the manpower to take care of the state roads as well. She stated that it might be an option in the future, but not at this time.

Agility Agreement: Mr. Pampena suggested that Sewickley Hills Borough might want to enter into an Agility Agreement with PennDOT. It is a five-year bartering-type agreement wherein the Borough would provide a service to PennDOT and PennDOT would provide an in-kind service to the Borough. For instance, PennDot could utilize the borough building for meetings and, in return, PennDOT could provide backhoe service or crack sealing of roads. Mr. Pempena stated that the Agility Agreement could be used if the Borough provides winter maintenance of state roads. However, he clarified that PennDOT would either provide reciprocal services or provide monetary compensation, but not both.

Water Ponding on Magee Road: Mrs. Phillips stated that there is a ponding issue on one section of Magee Road due to poor drainage. The poor drainage problem began immediately following the repaving of the road by PennDOT. She stated further that it is hazardous during a rain event and that there is the possibility of it freezing in the cold weather which would create a large ice patch. She asked PennDOT to investigate the issue.

MINUTE APPROVAL: Mrs. Phillips asks if Council has reviewed February 12, 2019 meeting minutes for approval.

MOTION: A motion is made by Mr. Lapore to approve, the meeting minutes of February 12, 2019, seconded by Mrs. Guttendorf; motion is carried with all in favor.

POLICE REPORT: Mayor Malarik reported there were only 20 calls in February, they were mostly minor.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: **Fairhill Road:** Mrs. Ketterer reported that the borings have been scheduled for Fairhill Road. She reported there has been a slight conditional change but no change to the Borough's road.

Road Survey: Mrs. Ketterer stated she has completed her road survey and reports that most Borough roads are in pretty good condition, mostly that there is some cracking of road surfaces. Mrs. Ketterer suggested seal cracking, especially Sewickley Hills Drive and the roads in the Woods at Sewickley Hills, She estimates the approximate cost would be \$10,000 - \$12,000. She reported that Hunt Road is in good condition. Mr. Rowland said there seems to be a problem in the culvert area and that Mr. Wick needs to be contacted to clean the branches on Hunt Road. Mr. Guttendorf reported there is \$100,000 in the budget for road repairs.

MOTION: A motion is made by Mr. Hajnas to camera and a jet truck the Hunt Road culvert with an expense of up to \$2,000 seconded by Mr. Faulkner, roll call is taken with all in favor.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitation Ordinance: Atty. Leonard stated he will prepare the fee schedule associated with the Solicitation Ordinance to mirror the fees charged by Ohio Township. He stated the Borough is required to hold a Public Meeting for the passage of the Solicitation Ordinance.

MOTION: A motion is made by Mr. Hajnas to advertise a Public Hearing for May 14, 2018 for the passage of the Solicitation Ordinance with an expenditure of up to \$250.00, seconded by Mr. Lapore, roll call is taken with all in favor.

MOTION: A motion is made to accept and sign following discussion between Atty. Leonard and Mrs. Phillips the agreement presented by Atty. Setig the demolition of 3741 Blackburn by Mr. Faulkner, seconded by Mr. Lapore, the motion is carried with all in favor and Mr. Hajnas abstaining.

Reserve aka The Villages: Atty. Leonard reported that the final plan for the Reserve at Sewickley Hills will be filed before April 10, 2019, the developer has agreed to use NIRA as a consulting engineering firm if necessary and they will pay those fees.

Mrs. Phillips stated the Reserve Plan will be sent to Atty. Leonard, Mrs. Ketterer, Kay Pierce at Allegheny County Planning. It will be presented at the next Planning Commission meeting following the submission of their plan. Following passage by the Planning Commission it will be sent to Borough Council for a decision. Atty. Leonard stated the plan to be presented April 10, 2019 will look similar to the preliminary plan that was submitted, the thing that will occur is the engineering is now going to be done.

Property at 3741 Blackburn Road: Atty. Leonard stated the property known as the Estate of Virginia Hajnas is required to be demolished by April 21, 2019. The Agreement would find that the structure is not abandoned which would allow the structure to be rebuilt on the same footprint. Atty. Leonard stated that if the building is not removed by April 21, 2019 the Borough would not agree to a waiver of abandonment and the Borough would have the choice to file a lawsuit to have the building removed or demolish the building and seek the cost of that demolition from the property owner. The property owner has begun demolition and has forwarded with the agreement, photographs and a statement from the property owner that there have been dumpsters provided and demolition has begun. Mrs. Phillips requested to Council that she work with Atty. Leonard on the wording of the agreement and get it signed and the property owner could then proceed with the demolition.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Guttendorf reported the following balances in the Borough's accounts:

PNC	\$ 80,448
General Fund	\$ 284,457
Capital Reserve	\$ 82,467

Mr. Guttendorf reported that the Borough received the Liquid Fuels funds in the amount of \$21,204.70 and that the Auditor has filed the DCED report. He suggested since the mortgage has been paid to PNC Bank that the Borough close that account, they are charging a \$20.00 monthly fee. Mrs. Phillips stated she will have Council consider this issue.

Mrs. Phillips stated the Borough has an account with Verizon and Comcast, Ms. Steele affirms that Verizon is the telephone account and Comcast is the internet account. Mrs. Phillips stated that as far as the documentation forwarded to her, that we do not have a franchise agreement with Verizon, there is a franchise agreement with Comcast, which gives free basic cable to the Borough building. Mrs. Phillips is going to look into the franchise agreement, stating it is a 10-year agreement which was signed in 2014, however, it provides for an automatic extension for 3 consecutive terms, being 5 years each, if not contacted by the Borough in writing to renegotiate the agreement three years in advance. Mrs. Phillips stated it may be a better deal to negotiate with either Verizon or Comcast to provide services for both internet and phone. Atty. Leonard stated the franchise agreement covers the entire Borough and the Borough receives a franchise fee.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

MOTION: A motion is made by Mr. Lapore to pay the bills as presented, seconded by, Mr. Hajnas. Mrs. Guttendorf abstains from approving Mr. Guttendorf's check; roll call is taken with all in favor.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Grant for Dirt and Gravel Roads: Ms. Steele stated Allegheny County Conservation District is offering a Grant again, as of July 1, 2019 the first applications will be opened for this year for Dirt and Gravel Road repair and asked if Council wants Mrs. Ketterer to submit paperwork for the Grant. Mrs. Phillips stated she assumes that whatever was used for last year can be used again this year. Mrs. Phillips and the Council members agree that Mrs. Ketterer be informed that we would like to move forward with the application for the grant for the Dirt and Gravel Roads.

Special Election: Ms. Steele stated there will be a Special Election to be held on April 2, 2019 to fill the seat in the 37th Senatorial district.

MOTION: A motion is made to spend up to \$250.00 to mail postcards to the residents to inform them of this election by Mrs. Guttendorf, seconded by Mrs. Phillips, roll call is taken with all in favor.

Drone: Ms. Steele stated a resident, living on Magee Road in the Borough reported there has been a drone hovering over her home since September and wanted to know if anything could be done about it. Ms. Steele reported the incident to the OTPD, they suggested the FAA be contacted, the resident had already contacted the FAA. The FAA sent a letter to OTPD regarding this issue, Chief Hanny stated he would look into the situation.

Century West Soccer: Ms. Steele reported she sent the response from Nate Muhanna regarding the questions posed by the Council at the prior meeting, the soccer association stated they were willing to accept the stipulations of the Council, they have insurance on the coaches, the children would sign waivers to not hold the Borough responsible for any injuries, they bring their own equipment, would provide a Port-o-John, they are willing to pay a monthly fee. At last years meeting there was another soccer organization that requested information regarding the use of the soccer fields, at that time Atty. Leonard stated that he would draw up a contract and would require seeing a copy of the insurance policy and the waivers from the team. Ms. Steele stated there is 12 children ranging in age from 10 to 11, they would need the fields from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for two eight-week periods, beginning in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. Mrs. Phillips stated she has no problem renting the fields, as long as they are instructed to park only on the paved and gravel portions of the parking lot and no use when the Borough building is rented. Mrs. Phillips suggests charging a fee of \$75.00 a week. Mrs. Guttendorf suggests waiting for the soccer team to answer the questions posed by Council tonight and discuss it further at the April 9, 2019 Council meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Easter Bunny Breakfast: Mrs. Guttendorf asks for approval of funds related to the Easter Bunny Breakfast.

MOTION: A motion is made to approve up to \$500 budget for the Easter Bunny Breakfast by Mrs. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Lapore, roll call is taken and passed with all in favor.

Mrs. Guttendorf extended a thank you to Mr. Hajnas for installing new secure locks on the Utility Room door and to the Secretary's office.

Blinds: Mrs. Guttendorf has obtained quotes for blinds to be installed in the Secretary's office and the Treasurer's office.

MOTION: A motion is made by Mrs. Guttendorf to spend up to \$1000. For blinds on four windows in the Secretary's and Treasurer's offices, seconded by Mr. Lapore, roll call is taken with all in favor. Mr. Faulkner abstains.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: A motion is made by to Mr. Hajnas to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lapore; motion is carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Diana Steele- Secretary