

**SEWICKLEY HILLS BOROUGH**  
**Tuesday, July 30, 2019**  
**Special 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, Jack Faulkner, Lucille Guttendorf, Joseph H. Hajnas, Andrew Shannon (Solicitor), Emile Ketterer (Engineer), Diana Steele (Secretary)

GUESTS: Craig Rowland, Emily and Andrew Carey, Miles Walker and Joe Boward of Garvin Boward Beitko

Joe Boward reports to Council the actions taken by his firm to address the landslide issue on Fairhill Road. His firm is suggesting three forms of remediation as follows:

**Option A:** Soldier Beam and Lagging (SBL) wall construction entails installing cast-in-place vertical drilled shafts – typically 36-inch to 54-inch diameter – into bedrock, with vertical steel I or H-beams centered on the shafts. The beams are typically spaced at six-foot to eight-foot intervals, depending on design. Precast concrete lagging is installed horizontally between the flanges of the beams to complete the wall. The wall would be constructed adjacent to the low side of Fairhill Road. SBL walls are typically only nominally weather dependent. This would require some marginal construction easement from private property owner. Road closure during construction could be as long as six months. Will require temporary relocation of overhead utility lines, which will substantially add to cost and potentially delay construction timeline. **Grand total cost \$228,000 to \$340,000.**

**Option B:** Soil nailing is an earth retention technique using grouted tension-resisting steel elements (soil nails) that can be designed for permanent or temporary support. The soil nail retaining walls are generally constructed from the top down. Near horizontal holes are drilled in the existing ground surface, in a grid pattern, at typically three-foot to six-foot centers. Tension-resisting steel bars are inserted into the holes and grouted. Welded-wire fabric blankets the entire wall. A drainage system is typically installed on the exposed face. Bearing plates are then fixed to the heads of the soil nails. The installation process is repeated until the design wall depth is reached. The

finished soil nails produce a zone of reinforced ground, ultimately resulting in an effective mass-gravity retaining structure. Soil nail walls, which require a specialty contractor to install, are typically undertaken via a design-build process, whereby the specialty contractor also engages a Profession (Licensed) Engineer, an expert in such walls, to complete its design. Often that engineer is on staff with the specialty contractor. This is the method we recommend if you select the soil nail retaining walls. This method will require slightly higher level of maintenance than other remedial options, construction time is more than Option A, nominal construction easement will be required, construction time probably less than one month. **Grand total: \$109,000 to \$152,000.**

**Option C:** This remedial option entails constructing a mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining structure. MSE walls are typically faced with Keystone or Versa-Lok retaining wall masonry units connected to layers of polymetric geogrid embedded in properly-compacted granular backfill behind the walls facing. MSE walls act as mass gravity structures, wherein the geogrid and compacted backfill are virtually “locked” or “tied” together into a massive monolithic unit. To provide for long-term stability, the MSE wall should bear on competent residual soil and/or bedrock and be provided with field drain(s). The reinforced zone should be constructed on alternating layers of geogrid and properly compacted crushed stone, with an aesthetically pleasing stone-like facing, specified during the design phase. This option should not require relocation of overhead utilities. Existing roads will be subjected to substantial truck traffic, possibly degrading pavements. Construction time likely to be longer than Options A and B. Cost of Field Evaluation/Inspection is likely more than Options A and B, required extended road closure during construction, gas line relocation will be required. **Grand total: \$161,000 to \$221,000.**

Joe Boward stated that if Council chooses any of the three options, then Garvin Boward Beitko would put it out for bid.

Mrs. Phillips asks for a ten-minute break at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:08 p.m. Council goes into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation regarding Fairhill Road.

At 7:45 p.m. Executive Session ends. Mrs. Phillips stated that during Executive Session discussing possible litigation, no decisions were made, and no votes taken.

Mrs. Phillips stated the information provided by Garvin Boward Beitko will be taken under advisement. The cones are to remain in place.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mrs. Guttendorf stated the virus protection on the two office computers is expiring the first of August and has received a cost from Up and Running for three computers (to include laptop) for \$126.00. Mrs. Phillips stated since the laptop will no longer be in use to have Up and Running install virus protection on the two office computers.

**MOTION:** A motion is made by Mrs. Phillips to spend up to \$100 to have Up and Running install virus protection on two office computers, seconded by Mr. Faulkner, roll call is taken with all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION:** A motion is made by Mr. Hajnas to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Guttendorf; motion is carried with all in favor.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Diana Steele- Secretary*

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