

Call to Order:

The regular scheduled meeting of March 2nd, 2009 was called to order by Council President Ms. McCarthy at 6:32 p.m. Members present were: Mr. Kissell, Mr. Vandzura, Mrs. Chobany, Mr. Wozniak, and Mayor Fox. Also present were Robert Koban-Borough Manager; Mr. Emerick-Borough Solicitor; Mr. Wisor-Engineer; Don Squillario-Public Works; Chief Miller-Public Safety; and Michelle Claar-Secretary.

Appointments to the Planning Commission (2), Water Authority, and Council:

- Ms. McCarthy requested nominations for the Planning Commission on the unexpired term of Mrs. Bentley. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to appoint Mrs. Eunice Dobrowolsky to the vacancy of Mrs. Bentley to the unexpired term until December 31, 2010, motion carried 6-0.
- Ms. McCarthy requested nominations for the Planning Commission on the unexpired term of Mr. Fox. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to appoint Mr. Richard Bernazzoli to the vacancy of Mr. Fox to the unexpired term until December 31, 2011, motion carried 6-0.
- Ms. McCarthy requested nominations for the Water Authority Board for a five year term. Mr. Wozniak motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to appoint Mr. Ray Vandzura to the Water Authority Board for a five year term ending December 31, 2013, motion carried 4-1-1 with Mr. Kissell voting no and Mr. Vandzura abstaining.
- Ms. McCarthy requested nominations for the vacancy from Mr. Lane through the end of the year. Mr. Kissell motioned to appoint Mr. D.J. Moore. The motion died due to the lack of a second. Mrs. Chobany remarked that she likes both candidates. Mr. Moore had previously served on Council and she would like to give Mr. Slanoc a chance to get his feet wet. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to appoint Mr. Martin Slanoc to fill the Ward 3 vacancy of Mr. Lane through the end of the year, motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Kissell voting no.

Mayor Fox administered the oath of office to Mr. Slanoc and council welcomed him to take his seat.

Mr. Kissell motioned, seconded by Mr. Wozniak to go out of order on the agenda to recognize the visitors, motion carried 7-0.

Mrs. Carmello Vickroy and her son Karl were in attendance to seek Council approval on a beautification project for his Eagle Scout Badge. Karl would like to plant flowers, shrubs, and build two (2) benches with a sign that reads "Welcome to Portage." There would be no cost to the Borough for any materials or labor. Karl will earn the funds through donations and fund drives. The proposed site for the beautification project is below the Arch at the railroad trestle. There will be approximately seven scouts participating in the project. Ms. McCarthy questioned the upkeep of the project in the future. Karl would like to start the project in early June. Council granted approval for Karl to proceed with his project; contingent upon submitting plans to Council for review prior to starting.

Portage Borough Emergency Management Director; Mr. Chuck Pavlosky was in attendance to introduce himself to Council. Mr. Pavlosky informed Council that he has been working

with Cambria County Emergency Management on the emergency operations plan for the Borough with a listing of resources and shelters. Mr. Pavlosky commented that in the future, the Council will be presented with an up-to-date plan for their review. Mr. Koban commented that a meeting will be scheduled in the future once the resource and shelter listings are completed and reviewed.

Reports:

Managers Report:

Mr. Koban furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban recapped several issues in his report. Mr. Koban commented on the new appearance of the agenda that would provide a smoother process for council meetings. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Wozniak commended Mr. Koban and Ms. Claar for the new format of the agenda. Mr. Koban commented on a letter he received from the Portage Area Ambulance Association requesting a support letter from Council for a grant application to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Koban requested further discussion at the March committee meeting. Mr. Koban updated Council on the Joint Recreation Commission Agreement with the Township and the Portage Area School District.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Emerick furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Emerick prepared the draft ordinance for the Joint Recreation Commission and the revisions to the agreement from a seven to a nine member board. The issue was further discussed under unfinished business as a voting item. Mr. Emerick had nothing additional to report.

Engineers Report:

Mr. Wisor furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Wisor had nothing additional to report. Mr. Kissell questioned the stimulus package and the projects that might be available for funding for the Main Street Streetscape project. Mr. Wisor commented that there are over 360 projects in hopes of obtaining the funding. A discussion was held on the scope of the work, the cost to the taxpayers, and the phases of the project.

Police Report:

Chief Miller furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Chief Miller had nothing additional to report. Ms. McCarthy commented on the number of incidents. Chief Miller advised that the domestic incidents were down from January.

Public Works Report:

Mr. Squillario furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Squillario had nothing additional to report. Mr. Kissell questioned the salt usage and if there is enough in stock. Mr. Squillario advised that Cambria County COG will not be participating in bidding process for salt.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Claar furnished a written report prior to the meeting. Mr. Vandzura motioned, seconded by Mrs. Chobany to approve the Treasurer's Report, motion carried 5-0-1 with Mr. Slanoc abstaining. Mr. Wozniak departed the meeting prior to the Treasurer's report.

Correspondence:

The Portage Area Planning Commission sent notice of the annual meeting for all organizations within the community for a long range plan. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009 at 9:30 AM in the Portage Area High School Cafeteria. Approximately 7-9 members will be representing the Borough.

Comcast sent notice they will replace KDKA-HD with WTAJ-HD on the basic level of service on or after March 10, 2009.

Stiffler, McGraw & Associates submitted a letter of interest for performing NBIS bridge inspections for the borough. The issue will be discussed at the March 16th committee of the whole meeting.

Ms. Marlene McClelland of 816 Orchard Street sent a thank you card commending the Public Works Department for the great job on snow removal efforts during the terrible weather.

Cambria County Boroughs Association sent notice of the Spring dinner meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at the Royal Ballroom beginning with a social hour at 5:30 pm.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the February 2nd regular meeting, the February 17th committee meeting, and the February 18th special meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Vandzura to approve the February 2nd regular meeting, the February 17th committee meeting, and the February 18th special meeting, motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Slanoc abstaining.

Paying of Bills:

The bills were distributed prior to the meeting. Additional bills were also presented for payment. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to approve paying the bills plus the additional bills, motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Slanoc abstaining. The bills listed totaled \$24,488.70.

Other Reports

Monthly reports for January were received from the Water & Sewer Authority and the Portage Area Planning Commission. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to approve reports from the Water & Sewer Authority, and the Portage Planning Commission, motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Slanoc abstaining.

Unfinished Business:

The Stop N Go Property was tabled.

The Main Street Streetscape Project was discussed earlier in the Engineer's report.

Mayor Fox advised that there was no contact made with Mr. Nicholson regarding the Main Street property.

Mr. Koban and Mr. Squillario investigated the alley complaint requested by Mr. Borsato concerning a driveway to park his truck. After reviewing the area, there is no feasible solution to his complaint. A discussion was held and Council agreed to remove the issue from the agenda.

Mrs. Chobany requested the Canine issue remain on the agenda until May.

The Rex Alley one-way proposed ordinance was reviewed. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to approve Ordinance 2-2009 amending Ordinance 3-1999 by adding Rex Alley to the One-Way Streets Established, motioned carried 5-1 with Mr. Slanoc abstaining.

Mr. Emerick presented the first amended revision to the Joint Recreation Commission Agreement reflecting the change of membership from a seven (7) to a nine (9) member board. Mr. Koban explained that Portage Township Solicitor; Attorney Webb, had also prepared a revised agreement in its entirety to include the nine (9) member board and the terms of existence to five (5) years and continue in full force thereafter from year to year. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to approve the advertising of the Joint Recreation Commission Agreement and ordinance amendment for adoption at the April 6th regular meeting, motion carried 4-1-1 with Mr. Kissell voting no and Mr. Slanoc abstaining.

The revised agreement for the membership requires the Borough and the Township to advertise for one position each. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mayor Fox to approve the advertising for letters of interest to serve on the Joint Recreation Commission board, motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Kissell voting no.

New Business:

The Cambria County Borough Dinner was discussed. Mayor Fox will approach various businesses within the Borough for their support.

The Farmers Flea Market was discussed. Mr. Dennis Beck sent a notice that he granted permission for the Borough to utilize the parking lot at the old school for the Farmers Flea Market event. Mr. Beck also advised that there is no insurance on the property or the building. Mayor Fox questioned if the application fee would be waived for nonprofit organizations that would participate in the event. Mr. Koban advised that everyone will

comply with the Boroughs soliciting/transient business ordinance #3-1999. All vendors and farmers must register with the Borough and obtain a permit for the event.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he has tried on several occasions to contact Mr. Bobolsky regarding the status of the Harpo's Building on Main Street that caught fire. The owner's did not have insurance on the building. Mr. Koban requested Council direction on how to proceed with the issue. A discussion was held and Mr. Vandzura recommended the Borough Manager send a letter to Mr. Bobolsky inquiring of his intentions to either repair or demolish the structure.

An additional agenda item was added prior to the meeting. The Cambria County Commissioners sent an application for County Liquid fuels allocation for 2009. Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Kissell to approve Resolution 4-2009 by making application for the 2009 County Liquid Fuels Allocation in the amount of \$12,000.00, motion carried 5-1 with Mr. Slanoc abstaining.

Good of the Borough:

Mr. Kissell commented on a Welcome to Portage Sign to be erected on Route 53 since the road project is complete. The current sign is showing age, wear and tear. Suggestions were made by having the high school students design a sign for a school project. Mr. Bernazzoli will ask the students if they would be interested. Another discussion took place on who owns the property where the current sign is located. Mr. Koban suggested a further discussion at the March 16th committee meeting. The issue will be placed on the agenda.

Mrs. Chobany commented on a residential complaint she received regarding the parking at the Portage Bakery. Vehicles are parking in front of the store on Main Street where there is no parking on that side of the road. Mayor Fox commented that businesses on Main Street lack parking for their customers. A discussion was held on the parking and the meters on Johnson Avenue as a possible solution. Mr. Koban suggested that the Bakery contact Portage Auto Parts for possible parking in their lot.

Mrs. Chobany questioned if the Borough could do anything to honor Portage resident Keith Maul who was injured in Iraq in February. Several organizations do honor vets and service men and woman during the holidays.

Mr. Koban informed Council that the Rotary Club will be sponsoring a St. Patrick Days Dance at the Royal Ballroom on March 14th.

Ms. McCarthy reminded Council to get their petitions signed and filed. Ms. McCarthy advised that she can give the petitions to her sister to take to the Board of Elections if any member doesn't have the opportunity to do so.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Chobany motioned, seconded by Mr. Slanoc to adjourn, motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:58PM.