

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, April 18th, 2016.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Jerome Yetsko
David Hayes

James Kissell
John Morgan

George Wozniak
Todd Learn

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; Alexis Wozniak, Junior Council Member. Michelle Claar-Secretary.

Visitors:

In attendance were: Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch, Millie Smith, Kelly Cernetich with the Altoona Mirror, Randy Griffith with the Tribune Democrat; Kelly and Wendy-reps from Skills of Central PA, and WJAC News.

Ms. McCarthy acknowledged the Skills of Central PA representatives and to go out of order on the agenda.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO OUT OF ORDER ON THE AGENDA TO ADDRESS MOTIONS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Ms. McCarthy commented on the attendance of the public meeting held at the Portage Elementary addressing the drug and alcohol treatment facility. A lengthy discussion took place again on the pros and cons of the treatment facility to be located at 123 Main Street. Each Council member voiced their opinion and concerns. Several members advised they would be in support only if, the facility would not become a methadone or suboxone clinic or provide in house therapy.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO PERMIT THE SKILLS OF CENTRAL PA TO PROVIDE DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES LOCATED AT 123 MAIN STREET, IN PORTAGE BOROUGH; AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE FACILITY WOULD NEVER BECOME A METHADONE OR SUBOXONE CLINIC OR PROVIDE IN-PATIENT SERVICES. REMARKING WAS MR. MORGAN THAT HE WAS STILL NOT IN FAVOR OF THE LOCATION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. MORGAN, AND MS. MCCARTHY. VOTING NEGATIVELY WAS MR. LEARN AND MR. KISSELL. MR. YETSKO ABSTAINED FROM VOTING SINCE HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TRANSPIRED AT THE PUBLIC MEETING. MOTION CARRIED 4-2-1.

Kelly thanked Borough Council for their support and advised that Skills is looking forward to becoming a good neighbor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Gaunt Property-Mr. Emerick sent notice to Anthony Gaunt, Valerie Gaunt, and Albert Miller advising that they have until May 20th, 2016 to bring the property into compliance per the Demolition Agreement in order to avoid legal proceedings.
- B. Borough Building Roof-Mr. Koban advised that a building committee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Wisor informed Mr. Koban that the Insurance Company representing R.L. Abatement never showed up to inspect the damages to the roof.

- C. Recycle Program-Mr. Koban informed Council that Pro Disposal had disseminated the recycle bins to borough residents and the first curbside pickup will be held on Friday April 22nd, 2016. Pro Disposal will be picking up recycles every other Friday. Several residents had inquired if the recycling would become voluntary or mandatory. Mr. Koban advised that he had other municipalities ordinances that were mandatory if Council wished to review. A short discussion took place on the mandates, process, and how the program will function. Another discussion took place on the recycle bins behind the borough building. The bins are from Cambria County Solid Waste Authority and will remain as another resource for recycling.
- D. Grant Writing Services-Mr. Jerry Brant with Decoplan & Associates submitted a grant activity report at Borough Councils request from last meeting. The report reflected grants that were applied for, the organization it benefited, the estimated amount of funding, if they are still pending. The list was from 2010-2016. Mr. Koban advised Council that Ms. Claar contacted Cassandra Borough and they will be retaining the grant writing services with Decoplan. A lengthy discussion took place on the need of the grant writer; negotiating a new contract since Portage Township has terminated the service, search for a new grant writer, and the benefit of having a grant writer for local organizations.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO NEGOTIATE A NEW CONTRACT WITH DECOPLAN WITH PORTAGE AND CASSANDRA BOROUGH. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mr. Wozniak questioned the status of the Recreation Manager. Mr. Koban advised that he will try to set up for the May 16th Committee meeting.

- E. Nicholson Property-Mr. Koban informed Council that he spoke with Mr. Nicholson regarding the property on Main Street. The fencing is down and the metal is falling into the foundation. Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Nicholson will get it repaired within the near future. After a short discussion on a timeline for Mr. Nicholson;

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GIVE MR. NICHOLSON UNTIL THE END OF MAY FOR ANY ACTION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Claar informed Council that she received correspondence from PennDot that they will be having a traffic count collection on Vine Street between the months of April-July, 2016.

3. Paying of the Bills

Ms. Claar presented a copy of the bills to be paid in written form.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AND ADDITIONAL BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,046.73. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

The Cambria County Borough Association Dinner will be held at Anthony's Restaurant on Tuesday, April 19th, 2016 At 5:00 pm. Guest speaker is Nick Felice; Director of Cambria County Economic Development. Mr. Koban, Mr. Kissell Mr. Wozniak, Ms. Lexi Wozniak, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Hayes, and Ms. Claar will be attending.

Portage Area Senior Center sent notice that Victor Miller won the PA Department of Aging Volunteer Award. An award ceremony will be held at the Senior Center on Thursday, April 21st, 2016 at 12:00 pm along with a stuffed chicken breast dinner.

Earth week cleanup will be held on Friday, April 22nd, 2016.

Mr. Koban informed Council that several complaints were received from residents concerning the sewer project on Main Street. Ms. Claar advised she has received many complaints as well. Mr. Koban commented that the complaints should be forwarded to the Sewer Authority and the Eads Group. Ms. Claar advised that she put pictures and a notice on the Borough website that Main Street is under construction until the end of May. Mr. Hayes questioned if the contractor will be commencing with restoration to residential properties. Mr. Koban commented that they will be shortly and to contact the Eads Group for any updates.

Ms. McCarthy advised Council that the Diocese is ready to move forward with the sale of the church and school property on Farren Street.

Mr. Yetsko advised that he received a complaint regarding the property at 712 Orchard Street.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL,
SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:16 P.M.