

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, August 15th, 2016.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Jerome Yetsko
David Hayes

James Kissell
Todd Learn

George Wozniak
John Morgan

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar-Secretary.

Visitors:

In attendance were: Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch, Several PAJRC members, Portage Township Supervisors; Rich Olshavsky, Bill Cooper, Butch Kostan, several Summerfest Committee members, several PARPC members, and Jean Kinley,

The meeting commenced with Ms. McCarthy welcoming the groups in attendance for the discussion on the Recreation Director/Manager Position. Ms. McCarthy also commented that Borough Council is considering moving forward (for the betterment of the community) for the creation of the position and asked for suggestions, ideas, public input, and support from all the organizations. Mr. Koban explained the timeline that has been in discussion for over a year now and hasn't gone anywhere. The group discussion had input on the pros and cons that are as follows:

- Have a full time borough manager that includes the duties of recreation
- Hire only a part time recreation director
- Two Grant funding opportunities
 - Grant to fund the position for 4 years; then a 4 yr commitment after that
 - Grant by DCNR that would provide services to screen, interview and recommend
- Compensation of the position and how it would benefit the community
- Revitalizing certain areas within the park and satellite playgrounds
- Minor repairs to the pool, Kid's Place, tennis courts, etc.
- Financial operating constraints
- Sources of additional revenue
- Letter campaign for 2016 had more donors but lesser amounts
- The position must become self-sustaining
- Fiscal commitment (Borough and Township) to get the position started
- Comparisons discussed between Windber Park and Crichton McCormick
- Traditional Anglers property located within the Park
- Responsibility of the recreation manger/director, new ideas, facilities, etc.
- Questions if contributions were being reduced from the boro and the township-no
- Condition and pool, pool house, and the concession area

Mr. Wozniak commented on an attraction called Go Ape. Go Ape is an adventure through the forest canopy that take you on a journey through suspended obstacles, Tarzan swings and breathtaking zip lines – all with an incredible view. The closest location is in Pittsburgh. Mr. Wozniak provided additional information and their website is www.goape.com if anyone is interested in researching the idea.

Mr. Koban pointed out that the intention of this meeting was to get information and feedback to either move forward with the position or abandon the idea. The PAJRC mostly supported the part time recreation manager position. The Township Supervisors advised that they would have to discuss the matter at their next regular meeting before committing any support or financial assistance for the position.

Mrs. Linda Miko apprised Council that a Miner's Monument will be forthcoming to the park that was donated by the Portage VFW. The monument weights over 6,850 lbs and is being shipped from Utah. Mr. Kissell and Mr. Hayes offered their assistance if they need help unloading the monument.

Mrs. Deanna Lee informed council that her check to the borough tax collector; Joanne Redfern, was altered while she was away on vacation. Mr. Koban advised Mrs. Lee that since the issue pertains to personnel, it will be discussed in an executive session; Mrs. Lee commented that she didn't care who knew. Mr. Koban again called for an executive session.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO GO IN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL ISSUES. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Ms. McCarthy requested the public leave the room until after the executive session.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO GO INTO THE REGULAR MEETING. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council resumed with Mrs. Lee providing the cancelled check that was altered by forty (.40) cents and then initialed DL. Mrs. Lee was in Florida when the check was cashed and noticed the bank balance was different when she got back. Mrs. Lee informed council that she was advised by the bank to report it to the police and borough council. Council advised Mrs. Lee that Mrs. Redfern had admitted that she changed the cents if good faith but did not initial the letters DL. Mrs. Lee questioned Council that if the check had bounced; who would pay the insufficient fees, and if Mrs. Redfern had changed her check; how many others she may have in the past. Mr. Koban questioned the phone numbers that were on the check and the phone book. Mrs. Lee commented that the number in the phone book is not her's but her ex-husband. Mrs. Redfern advised Council that she did try to contact Mrs. Lee but was unsuccessful. Mrs. McCarthy commented to Mrs. Lee that this would never happen again. Mr. Koban questioned Mrs. Lee if there was anything else she wanted. Mrs. Lee said she just wanted to bring it to Councils attention. Council took no further action on the matter and thanked Mrs. Lee for enlightening them on the issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Gaunt Property-there was no update provided.
- B. Nicholson Property-there was no update.
- C. Borough Roof-there was no update.
- D. Lee Street Retainer Wall-No update

- E. Crum Property – 907 Jefferson Avenue-there was no update.
- F. Moyer Property-1100 Lincoln Ave-Mr. Kissell advised Mr. Koban that the property was not listed in the paper for the Cambria County Upset Sale. Ms. Claar will research it with the County.
- G. Punch List items for the Portage Sewer Authority Project-Mr. Koban and Mr. Bowman performed walk through in various locations throughout the borough. Several sidewalks and road issues were the major concerns. Caldwell Avenue still has issues since People's Natural Gas is also performing gas line repairs. Mr. Koban will be meeting with Mr. Fritz to review all the items on the list. Mr. Learn questioned if Jefferson Avenue was on the punch list as well.
- H. DCED Loan for the Public Works Maintenance Building-Ms. Claar advised that Mr. Emerick submitted the corrected documentation to DCED.
- I. CVA grant for Trout Run Flood Protection-the grant was denied but there was no update from Mr. Wisor.
- J. Update on Portage Water Authority proposed waterline on Mountain Ave-Mr. Koban advised that the Portage Water has the project on hold due to funding glitches. Mr. Yetsko commented that several years ago, Farren Street residents had signed a petition to keep the road as it is; with bricks only, since it is in a Historical District.
- K. Promoting Tourism in Portage-Mr. Portash informed Council that has taken many photos but just needs a release form signed by the individuals. Mr. Portash questioned if the borough has such a form. There was no form. Mr. Portash advised that he does have his own general release form. Council approved for Mr. Portash to use his own form for the release.
- L. Park Deeds and language for alcohol at Crichton-McCormick Park-Mr. Hayes questioned why the issue was being brought up again. Mr. Wozniak advised that issue was never really answered or followed up on with contacting the heirs. Mr. Wozniak would like to have a final answer on whether you can or cannot have alcohol in certain areas, permission from the heirs, and the borough ordinance prohibiting the alcohol in the Park. There was no update from Mr. Emerick prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approval to advertise for bids
 - Mr. Koban provided an update on the Caldwell Ave Storm Drain project and advised that People Natural Gas is working in the area to replace some main gas lines. Mr. Bowman met with Mr. Bowser from PennDot to review the project that was provided for in the 2016 budget through the Capital Improvement Savings Fund. The upcoming project consists of:
 - Caldwell Ave-from Cunard to Makin; Makin to Bedford, Bedford to SR 164
 - Jefferson Ave-from SR 164 to the bridge on both sides

Mr. Morgan questioned that if Peoples Gas does not complete their portion of the project, it wouldn't be possible to bid the project and advertise. Mr. Koban commented that the bid advertising would cost approximately \$500.00 since the ad would have to be run twice. Mr. Kissell suggested taking a chance on the progress of People's Gas and that the residents within the area should have some type of satisfaction. After a short discussion;

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL APPROVED TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON THE CALDWELL AND JEFFERSON PAVING PROGRAM IN THE TRIBUNE FOR AUGUST 17TH AND THE 22ND, 2016. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY. VOTING NEGATIVELY WAS MR. MORGAN. MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

- B. Request from ACRP to implement a resolution prohibiting tobacco at recreational areas, playgrounds, and parks for "Young Lungs at Play".

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY TABLED THE ISSUE UNTIL FURTHER REVIEW BY COUNCIL. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. Paying of the Bills

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

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AND ADDITIONAL BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,096.53. 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

Ms. McCarthy commended all the efforts, assistance, and volunteerism during the Summerfest event over the weekend. Ms. McCarthy also commented on the fireworks and that a crew cleans up all the paper directly after the show. Mr. Wozniak commented that there were more vendors this year than in previous years. A short discussion was held on the flat rates and percentages of vendors.

Mr. Kissell informed Council that he read an article concerning police with body camera's entering residential homes and that it could be an invasion of privacy.

Mr. Hayes commented that he attended the Skills grand opening and hopes that it is very successful.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:58 P.M.