

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, March 21st, 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, Kelly Cernetich with the Altoona Mirror, Rick Nagy, Kelly Coldren, Wendy Pardee-CEO, and several other reps from Skills of Central PA including Pam Schilling, Brianne Pinizzotto; Don & Malia Lewis, and Robert Kunko

Ms. McCarthy first started with a discussion on the drug and alcohol treatment center with representatives from Skills of Central PA. Kelly Coldren introduced Wendy Pardee; the CEO of Skills of Central PA. Ms. McCarthy provided a timeline to Ms. Pardee and explained why this meeting was taking place. The issue placed on the agenda has been tabled from the March 7th, 2016 regular meeting. The PA Dept of Drug & Alcohol Program is requesting a letter from Portage Borough that they permit Skills of Central PA to provide a drug and alcohol facility located at 123 Main Street in Portage. Ms. Pardee informed Council that the program is designed for people seeking treatment from drug, alcohol and mental addictions. Ms. Pardee also commented that they were here to try and answer any questions, allay fears, and address any concerns. Council questioned "Why Portage". Ms. Pardee advised that data from the County confirms that Portage is a high-need area without any access to treatment. Ebensburg has a facility, Northern Cambria was too far away, and there is no suitable place in Cresson. Ms. Pardee, Skills Reps, and other residents also commented on some of the positive aspects of the treatment facility and other recommendations including:

- Providing a facility to Help people with drug and alcohol addictions
- Accessibility to a local clinic
- Success rates for those seeking treatment
- Add additional patrols at stores and restaurants
- Levels of treatment
- No drugs at the facility
- Removal of barriers to allow treatment
- Become good partners with the community
- Long term vision to be a primary care facility

Council was seeking answers and concerns on the following:

- Consequences of supporting the facility
- Increased crime and drug activity
- Safety and security of the residents
- Possibility of a new drug hub
- Negative impact with the older residents
- Percentage of success in treatment
- Experience/licenses of councilors and staff
- Future Methadone or suboxone clinic

Several residents and reps were in support of the facility with a resident stating that "Portage should take the lead on this program and help people." Another resident commented that the previous use of the building brought in continual criminal cases when it was the District Magistrates office. Council agreed that Portage has a high drug & alcohol problem and did not dispute the need for treatment, but questioned the location of the facility in the borough. Another resident commented that they reside near an individual that is in treatment and has had some safety concerns.

Ms. Pardee elaborated on the operation of the facility; the hours of operation, the qualifications of the staff, and the criteria of treatment of an individual. The borough does not have any zoning ordinances and Ms. Pardee would like to be a good partner with the Borough.

After several other discussions, Ms. Pardee commented that she would like to come back a year from now and report on the positive aspects of the program. Council thanked the representatives from Skills and the public that had attended. Mr. Yetsko questioned Mr. Lewis inquiring on the plan for the other side of the building. Mr. Lewis informed Council that it is a Christian based help center to help people with secular needs.

Council discussed having a public meeting to invite the residents of the community for their concerns and feedback.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO TABLE THE ISSUE UNTIL THE APRIL 4TH REGULAR MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATELY WERE MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. McCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL AGREED TO HOLD A PUBLIC MEETING CONTINGENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, THE SKILLS STAFF, BOROUGH SOLICITOR, AND BOROUGH COUNCIL. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATELY WERE MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. McCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Gaunt Property

The Gaunts are moving forward with demolition with a deadline of April 1st, 2016.

B. Borough Building Roof Update

Mr. Koban informed Council there was no update from Mr. Emerick, Stiffler, McGraw or the contractor.

C. Update on a proposed ordinance for renting to drug convicted individuals

No Update.

D. Property Maintenance Codes

There was no update.

E. Update/Discussion with Recreation Manager

Due to the Drug and Alcohol Treatment facility issue, Mr. Koban cancelled the meeting with the Windber Recreation Manager and will re-schedule in the near future.

F. Update on tour with DCNR Rep' Jay Schriebman

Ms. McCarthy commented on the lack of Council's attendance for the scheduled tour with Mr. Schriebman. The Joint Recreation Commission, Portage Township Supervisors, and Mr. Koban were in attendance along with the only member of Council, Ms. McCarthy. Ms. McCarthy commented that everyone was on board with the tour and

requested that in the future, Council attend the meetings that are being scheduled. Mr. Koban informed Council that Mr. Schriebman was very impressed with the overall appearance and setting within the park. Mr. Schriebman elaborated on several important factors for obtaining grant funding, provided grant criteria, elaborated on overall projects and the basis of the project. Mr. Koban commented that the park is in need of some minor improvements and it is beginning to show its age. Updating the equipment, replacing bad lumber, fixing road and trail areas, etc., were addressed by Mr. Schriebman. Mr. Koban commented that there are three areas of concern to address:

- General Maintenance of the Park
- Long term goals for the recreation center
- Feasibility of a Recreation Manager

Several discussions were held on what areas to concentrate on and minor repairs; financial responsibilities, attainable goals, Circuit rider grant for a manager and funding and long term projects. Mr. Koban will re-schedule another meeting in the near future with the Recreation Manager from Windber.

G. Termination of grant writing services by Portage Township Supervisors

Mr. Koban advised Council that he did not have an update from Mr. Emerick prior to the meeting. Mr. Koban commented that the Township is opting out of the intergovernmental cooperation agreement for grant writing services. A discussion took place on why they pulled out of the services and if the grant writer should be revisited.

BUILDINGS:

- A. 907 Jefferson Avenue-moving forward with demolition.
- B. 933 Sonman Avenue-Mr. Koban commented that the garage is showing more damage and the windows need repaired. Mr. Greenawalt has not responded back from the letter written by Mr. Koban.
- C. 612 Orchard Street-no update

MOTIONS:

- A. Review/approval of the Comcast Cable Agreement

MOTION: To approve the Comcast Cable Agreement for a ten (10) year term
 ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE COMCASTCAST CABLE AGREEMENT FOR A TEN YEAR TERM AS NEGOTIATED. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sanitary Sewer Update on South Railroad Avenue

Mr. Koban received an e-mail from Kyle Fritz advising that due to utility conflicts, the existing sanitary sewer on South Railroad Avenue will have to be replaced in kind. Installing a parallel sewer in the roadway will not be possible due to the location of the existing utilities and proximity of the tracks. Eads is proposing to install an inlet in front of 1045 S RR Avenue before Lemman Machine, and then discharge into the north roadside ditch. The Borough will save approximately \$40,000.00 from the original design. A short discussion took place on where the storm water would flow and discharge.

2. County Liquid Fuels Allocation for 2016

MOTION: Ms. Claar submitted the application for the 2016 County Liquid Fuels allocation in the amount of \$7,100.00.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 3-2016 BY MAKING APPLICATION FOR THE 2016 COUNTY LIQUID FUELS ALLOCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,100.00. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. Request from Portage Ministerial to cross Main & Caldwell Avenue

MOTION: Approve the request from the Portage Ministerial to cross Main Street

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PORTAGE MINISTERIAL CHURCH REQUEST TO CROSS ROUTE 164 (MAIN ST) AND CALDWELL AVENUE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH, 2016 FROM 1:45-2:00 P.M. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

4. Request from Trout Run Watershed Association

MOTION: Approve the request to assist in Earth Cleanup Week.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE REQUEST FROM THE TROUT RUN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION TO HAVE THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ASSIST WITH LABOR AND EQUIPMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EARTH CLEANUP WEEK ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2016 AT 12:30 P.M. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

5. Request from Portage Car Club to block off the alley at 1st Summit Bank

MOTION: Approve the request to block off the alley at 1st Summit Bank

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE REQUEST FROM THE PORTAGE CAR CLUB TO BLOCK OFF THE ALLEY AT 1ST SUMMIT BANK FROM SONMAN TO CONEMAUGH AVE; AND CONEMAUGH AVE FROM THE ALLEY TO MAIN STREET FOR THE 5 YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE "CHATTERBOX" CRUZ-IN' ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

6. Request from MADD to proclaim "Powertalk 21 Day"

MOTION: Approve the request of MADD

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 5-2016 BY HAVING THE PORTAGE BOROUGH MAYOR PROCLAIM THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST AS THE "POWERTALK 21 DAY". VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7. Approval of loan application with 1st Summit Bank

MOTION: Approve the resolution with 1st Summit Bank for a loan

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 5-2016 BY AUTHORIZING A FINANCIAL LOAN OBLIGATION WITH 1ST SUMMIT BANK FOR A PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE BUILDING THAT WAS PROVIDED FOR IN THE 2016 APPROVED OPERATING BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000.00. 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. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,804.60. 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. Reservations to the Secretary at the April 4th meeting.

Cambria County Commissioners sent notice of the Spring Open House event by Penn Highlands Community College will be held on Monday, April 5th-8th.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:41 P.M.