

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING
August 9, 2011**

President Linn Auman called the regular meeting of the Millheim Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Linn Auman, Kay Brown, Marlene Corl, Alan Ilgen, Tom Strebel, Lauralee Snyder, John R. Miller, III, Sharon Heckman, Glenn Ripka, David Grazier, Jay Houser, Brian Niewinski, David Rearick, Carl Rote, Todd Smith and Leslie Warriner.

Everyone present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS INPUT: None

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

A written report submitted by Glenn Ripka was reviewed. The Secretary reported that Roy Rupert is also registered for the Flagger Training Class. Mr. Ripka reported that the water shut-off valves at the Hazel Betack and old Heartbreakers building are scheduled for repair.

HARB REPORT: None

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

The written report submitted by Roy Rupert was reviewed. In response to a question raised by Alan Ilgen, President Auman explained that there is a plastic dead-end water line on Pine Street that services the Leo Evans property. This line has now been repaired for the fifth time. This item should be discussed during the 2012 budget meetings.

One part of the Licensing requirements for Water and Wastewater is for Mr. Rupert to take a class titled "Securing Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities". This class is being offered on November 3, 2011 in Huntingdon at a cost of \$195. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to approve payment of \$195 for Roy Rupert to attend this class in Huntingdon on November 3, 2011. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: None

OLD ACTION:

Todd Smith of the ELA Group presented the following information on the playground and ball field projects:

- The one bid received is considerably higher than anticipated.
- As the playground is redesigned for placement in the upper eastern corner of the property beside the parking lot, no fill or large retaining wall is necessary so this project would not be dependent on the ball field project.
- Mr. Smith recommends rejecting the bid received from Ameron and rebidding the playground as a project to be completed by December 31, 2011 and rebid the ball field project for contractors to start in the spring of 2012.
- Mr. Smith stated that it would take at least one full year to establish grass for the ball field so the Little League would need to find another field to play on. Council wasn't aware of this. They understood that the reason for starting the project after the season was so the Little League wouldn't have to move to another field and miss a season on this field.
- President Auman suggested if the bid was done so the ball field was graded and seeded this fall the Little League could do the dugouts and fencing in the winter.
- Mr. Smith recommended bidding the ball field project this fall so contractors could schedule to start work as soon as the ball team is finished for the season next year. He said the grass could be covered and watered during the summer/fall so the next season if the team could limit practice they could possibly use the field for games. Brian Niewinski said practice on the field could be limited.
- The Borough has two years to complete the ball field according to the Grant Agreement but the playground project must be completed by December 31, 2011.
- Mr. Smith spoke to Beth Heldebran of DCNR and she is okay with the proposed changes and on-board with the project.
- The playground area was reduced because of the location of some geothermal wells.
- Mr. Smith proposed the following time frame for the playground project rebid:
 - August 14, 2011 - advertise project for bid
 - August 15, 2011 - bid package available for contractor's
 - August 21, 2011 - second advertisement for bid
 - September 7, 2011 - bid opening
 - September 13, 2011 - award bid at monthly council meeting

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to reject the bid from Ameron Construction. Motion carried.

A motion was then made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Kay Brown to rebid the playground and ball field projects separately in the time frame proposed by Todd Smith. Motion carried.

The trees to be removed along the ball field were discussed. The consensus was that nothing needs to be done with these trees until next year.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to approve payment of the ELA Group invoice in the amount of \$2,100.60. Motion carried.

There is nothing new to report on the waterline project at this time.

The Secretary was instructed to contact the Clearwater Conservancy to find out the status of review of the surveys submitted by the Borough.

A memorial for Susie Parrett was discussed. The consensus of the group was to purchase a total of four brass plaques (one for each basket) - 2 inches x 4 inches that read "In Memory of Susie Parrett".

The variance request for a well at Repair Drive was discussed. The Solicitor explained that he reviewed the Borough Ordinances and he isn't sure the Borough should take action that goes against our ordinances. Jay Houser explained that he did some research and this is a Borough Ordinance not part of the State Code as the Planning Commission thought. The issue of digging a well to be used for animals was raised and the Solicitor explained he would have to do more research on this. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to reject the variance request. Alan Ilgen abstained from voting. All other members voted aye. Motion carried.

The five items of interest from the Regional Plan are to be given to the Secretary tonight or tomorrow.

Discussion on the Agreement for Union Cemetery was postponed until the September meeting so the Solicitor can go through the records in the Prothonotary Archives.

NEW ACTION:

The Old Mill property at 100 Center Street wasn't sold at the public auction. Council discussed with the Solicitor other possibilities for sale of this property. The description of the property describes four lots on this property so the question was raised if the lots could be sold individually. The Solicitor explained that the lot cannot be listed with a realtor but he will talk to the Assessment Office to determine if the Borough can sell the lots individually without doing a subdivision.

President Auman reported that Tim Cole from DCNR Forestry has offered to help the Borough with the timbering of the water company lands. The Borough may need to get an easement to remove the timber. President Auman will be meeting with Mr. Cole on August 19. In response to a question raised by Kay Brown, President Auman explained that the timbering would need to be bid but that Mr. Cole works for DCNR and is helping the Borough. Mr. Cole is going to walk the area and he would be giving the Borough a list of foresters that could do the contracts.

COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS: None

Kay Brown raised concerns about the trees that were taken down on Walnut Street. She explained that these trees were not planted by the Borough so she wondered who owned the trees. Mr. Ripka explained that after the tree came down in the storm they looked at the other trees because they were also in bad shape. Mr. Ripka thought the trees were in the Borough right-of-way. The Solicitor explained that if trees are dangerous the Borough can trim what is over the right-of-way. He suggested that perhaps a policy needs to be prepared for future situations. Carl Rote explained that the electric company had put property pins in at the side of the pole at his property. Mr. Ripka is to locate the property pins and check the right-of-way to determine if the trees in question are the Borough's responsibility.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to approve the minutes of the July 12 regular meeting and the July 26, 2011 special meeting as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to approve the July budget report as presented. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A written report submitted by the Secretary was reviewed. The Secretary reported that Time Extension has been granted by the Centre County Planning Office until October 12, 2011 on the Final Subdivision Plan for Craig G. & Mary Ellen Storm.

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried.