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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING  
October 13, 2009**

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, Roy Rupert, Todd Wasson, Terri Quici, Todd Smith, Toni Brink, David Dreese and Carl Rote

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

**CITIZENS INPUT:**

Terri Quici discussed the Cata Commute Programs offered for areas not on the bus route. She explained that many people have expressed interest in Van Pool/Car Pools from Penns Valley but at this time there are none actually in use. Ms. Quici described the different programs:

1. Ride Share program – This is a free program and is a web-based ride-matching program for long distance commuters. Interested people register and edit their own profiles to find the best possible matches for a car or van pool. Access to possible matches is immediate and available for use twenty-four hours every day.
2. Van Pool program - Six van pools were taken over from Penn State in 2007 and currently there are fifteen with three more possibilities. Ms. Quici would like to start one from the Penns Valley area. Cost is calculated on a base rate plus per mile rate and billed monthly to the van pool group.
3. Guaranteed ride home program – This program provides a taxi ride home (up to 50 miles) up to four times per calendar year for anyone signed up in a car or van pool in case of an emergency. Emergencies include - personal illness/medical emergency for riders or family members; workplace shutdown; family disasters such as flood or fire; and mandatory, unscheduled overtime. Participants of car or van pools can join for an annual fee of \$10. There is no fee for full-time faculty or staff of Penn State University. -
4. Park & Ride program – Offers inexpensive perimeter parking for people working in downtown State College. Eligible employees can purchase a monthly hang tag for \$15 that allows them to park in commuter lots on the east side of the Penn State Campus and they can take a fare-free bus to their destination.

These programs can provide considerable savings.

Todd Smith of the ELA Group explained that the Borough has been approved for the DCNR grant to do the upgrade for the playground. This work would include: some new play equipment; a fall treatment surface; 17 space parking area with two concrete spaces for ADA compliance; upgrades to the driveway; and a sign identifying that the park has been upgraded with DCNR funding. Mr. Smith presented a proposal for engineering and design work that includes: putting together a bid package following DCNR regulations; after DCNR gives the okay to bid the project the ELA Group would help analyze the bids and oversee construction of the project. The Borough employees will also be working on project and those man hours and donated supplies becomes the in-kind match. The ELA Group would do the erosion/sedimentation control plan required. He explained that since no structure would be inhabited by people no land development is required at the county level. Mr. Smith reported that the required initial discussion was held between Beth Helterbran at DCNR, Linn Auman as Project Manager for the Borough, Todd Smith and Sharon Heckman. He hopes to have the package completed by mid-November for DCNR and the Borough Solicitor to review the documents. Mr. Smith stated that he could do an overview of storm water issues for the other phases of this project since the other grant application for the ball fields hasn't been awarded yet. He explained that the bid review process usually takes four to six weeks and if the bidding process was done in January construction could be started in March. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to accept the proposal as submitted by the ELA Group in the amount of \$13,755 for Phase 1 of the Park upgrade. Motion carried.

Toni Brink representing the Centre County Library gave a presentation on the importance of donations given to the library. She explained that all the libraries have high speed internet available, new computers and librarians that can help with resumes and job searches and they offer a free library card that can be used from home over the internet to speak with librarians. Ms. Brink presented a plaque that recognized Millheim Borough for the 2008 donation given that was signed by Lisa Erickson, Centre County Librarian. She explained that libraries are essential and are working in partnership with the schools because many homes have no computers and the students may also need references from books for their school projects. Services are also available so blind people can get books on tapes and handicap people are able to locate services that are available through library information. Ms. Brink also discussed the importance of the summer reading program for young children and she believes we need to keep advocating libraries.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** None

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

Glenn Ripka was present and discussed with Council the written report he submitted. The next Agency meeting will be held October 22, 2009. He explained that George Friend has until October 21, 2009 if he doesn't appeal the decision to mow the Center Street property and if the mowing isn't done the borough can mow the property. The Solicitor will look into the rescheduling of the County judicial sale.

Mr. Ripka reported that several downtown sidewalks still need to be completed but October 31, 2009 is the deadline. He will take care of yard sale signs that were not removed on Long Lane and Walnut Street. Mr. Ripka will also check on the status of the trees to be planted at the Jim Frees property.

**EMPLOYEE REPORTS:**

The written report submitted by Lester Kerstetter was reviewed. Roy Rupert was present and discussed the two service pumps at the Water Plant. These pumps are approximately 14 years old and one must be repaired because it is leaking. He explained that he and Todd Wasson can pull the pumps and once the pump arrives at the company the servicemen will provide a price to repair it. Mr. Rupert explained that as expensive as a new pump is it is more cost effective to repair it. He reported that the water usage is down because the leaks have been repaired.

Mr. Rupert reported that he will get a price to clean the grease from the sewer pipes for next months meeting. He explained that sludge removal has been an issue and the cost is over budget. Jens is proposing the installation of a new membrane for minimal cost. He would use this as a model to show how to save on sludge removal starting in the spring. The Borough currently has a 10-year life membrane sitting on the shelf for the second year and a room is being heated solely for the storage of this membrane. If we used this membrane the cost to make the improvement would be \$5000-6000 but if we don't use this one the cost would be closer to \$8000. Mr. Rupert and Jens believe this improvement would quickly pay for itself by substantially cutting the cost of sludge removal. He explained that we have two digesters and a place to discharge the water.

Todd Wasson was present. He explained that last month Tess Rider had a water leak on her service line. This line has been completely replaced from shutoff valve into the house but the valve wasn't replaced. Replacement of the two remaining sidewalks that are the Borough's responsibility will be completed tomorrow. Mr. Wasson attended the Dirt & Gravel Roads Class to get recertified because they have a grant program. The water leak in the line from Elk Creek behind Pat Wolfe's house was discussed. This line was repaired but had another leak overnight. Since this line was an emergency fix after the 1972 Agnes Flood and isn't necessary for daily use service to this line will be turned off.

**HARB REPORT:** None

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** None

**OLD ACTION:**

David Dreese was present with an update on the section of Race Alley from Plum Street to State Street. He explained that the property owners would like to keep the alley open but it is in poor disrepair. He doesn't believe the owners are going to voluntarily cede the property to the Borough. President Auman explained that the Borough can't purchase the property because in addition to the purchase money would need to be spent to upgrade the alley. Mr. Dreese explained that one owner thought perhaps something could be worked out to make the property owned by the Borough by the Plum Street Bridge available to the affected property owners for restricted parking. This property is a storage area for scrap pipes and snow. Mr. Dreese explained that the property owners could repair the alley themselves and put signs at both ends making it a private drive or they want the Borough to keep the road in passable condition. He also suggested that if access is restricted perhaps a traffic mirror could be installed on the other side of Rt. 45 to help people pulling from Plum Street onto Rt. 45. The Solicitor explained that there is a mirror in Bellefonte because of an awkward intersection and there people are also prohibited from making a left-hand turn. This would require Penn Dot permission. The Solicitor also explained that the Borough would want the alley dedicated so the Borough owns it or we need a sewer easement and then the Borough has no say about what is done to the road. After further discussion, President Auman explained to Mr. Dreese that if the owners are interested in having the road open a proposal must be presented of what they want to see from the Borough.

The Secretary reported that to date no information on the Building Energy Grant has been received.

**NEW ACTION:**

A letter received from Lester Kerstetter, Jr. requesting that his employment status be reduced from full-time to part-time as he is needed was discussed. The unanimous consensus of Council was to approve this request because at this time of year things are slow enough we can manage with just one employee and if the situation changes the opportunity may be available for Mr. Kerstetter to return to full-time status.

Budget meeting dates were set for Monday October 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. starting with the General Fund Budget. The second Budget meeting will be held Monday, November 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Council set Millheim Borough Trick-or-Treat night for October 31, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. This is consistent with the surrounding municipalities.

**COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS:**

Alan Ilgen reported that if we plan to proceed with the library moving in downstairs the Borough may need to remove asbestos on the gymnasium floor as well as the boiler. He explained that there is concern about the possibility of asbestos in the air. The Secretary explained that Peneco would charge \$50 to do an inspection and provide quote and Mr. Eichenlaub recommends doing three tests at \$32/test. She also explained that Ronald Rishel, Jr. would be willing to remove the boiler and the radiators/pipes in the gymnasium from the building, once the asbestos has been removed for \$300 if Council is willing to wait until January or \$500 if Council wants it removed earlier. Consensus of Council was that \$300 is a good price but the Secretary was instructed to get quotes from Peneco to remove the asbestos and a separate quote to remove the boiler from the building.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the September 8, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to accept the September 2009 budget report as presented. Motion carried.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

A written report submitted by the Secretary was reviewed and the following was decided:

1. Four reservations are to be made for the Clearfield-Centre Co. Borough's Association Fall Dinner-Meeting on October 22, 2009 in Osceola Mills at 6:00 p.m. at \$13.00/person.
2. No one will be attending the Centre Co. Affordable Housing Coalition meeting on October 29, 2009.
3. The Secretary explained that she has a Non-sufficient Funds check from Dawn Long that was held because of a pending tax sale. Mrs. Long has paid the taxes on this property so the lien wasn't satisfied. After some discussion, the Secretary was instructed to send Mrs. Long a letter allowing her five days to pay the costs for her non-sufficient funds check or the Borough will take legal action to settle the issue.
4. The Secretary will attend the following meetings:
  - A utility bill analyses grant meeting at SEDA-Cog in Lewisburg from 5-7 p.m. on October 14, 2009.
  - Centre County Hazard Mitigation Planning Process on October 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in Bellefonte.

Alan Ilgen reported that the Neighborhood Crime Watch talked about getting street signs for the four entrances into the Borough. He has found signs for sale on the internet at \$26-33 a piece. This will be discussed further at the Budget meeting on October 26.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried.

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Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer