

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING
August 11, 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, David Dreese, Carl Rote and Todd Wasson.

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

CITIZENS INPUT:

Carl Rote raised concerns about weeds growing along the curbs and sidewalks, lawns not being mowed and the general neglect of some of the properties in the Borough.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Glenn Ripka was present and discussed with Council the written report he submitted. He explained that, to date, no interviews for the Code Enforcement Office Secretary have been set but there are two applications that look promising. The calf being raised at 215 East Main Street was removed from the property before the hearing with the District Magistrate. Mr. Ripka reported that the best price he found on a 10 foot gate for the road to the reservoir was from Pine Tree Harness Shop in the amount of \$77.00 and the Borough will have to furnish the posts. At the same time this gate is installed, a large downed tree will be removed. This project will be done in late September or early October. Two loads of obsolete items were taken to the consignment sale at the Livestock Barn in Centre Hall today.

HARB REPORT: None

FIRE COMPANY REPORT: None

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

The written report submitted by Lester Kerstetter was reviewed. Roy Rupert is on vacation and no report was submitted. The Secretary reported that Mr. Rupert reported trouble with the telephone line at the water plant before he left for vacation. This problem has been corrected.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

The Planning Commission recommended the following:

1. To allow parking on one side of the street along Poplar Alley; and
2. To only allow parking in the Borough Right-of-Way with Council permission.

The Solicitor explained that an amendment could be done to allow parking only in this particular alley. Council discussed these recommendations at length with the following points raised:

- The business owners have been asked to park in the community parking lot to free on-street spaces for customers.
- Asking people to walk 50 yards to the Firemen's Parking lot isn't unreasonable.
- The Firemen's lot is lit.
- Steve Neff shut his lot off because of public abuse.
- There should be some flexibility with the downtown business district.

The Solicitor explained that an error was made to Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles & Traffic Ordinance; Section 306 when the ordinances were codified in the 1980's because in one place the time is between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. and in the next line it is between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Mayor Snyder recommended that the ordinance be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their review to determine if this ordinance still has a purpose and if it should be redone. The Planning Commission should review Chapter 15, Motor Vehicles & Traffic; Sections #306 and #307 to see if they should be eliminated or rewritten.

OLD ACTION:

The Solicitor reported that there is no consistency with the boundaries on the deeds for the properties along Race Alley from Plum Street to State Street. David Dreese, one of these property owners was present and he explained that since the Plum Street Bridge has been closed this alley is having large amounts of traffic. He explained that if the alley is private and to be maintained by the property owners, traffic should be restricted but if traffic is allowed to travel this alley then the Borough should maintain it. Mr. Dreese explained that he feels the alley should be made one-way because it is dangerous to enter Rt. 45 from Plum Street. He also explained

that where his property and Mr. Steffan's property abut, a drain may be necessary to run the water into the Race. Mr. Dreese will speak to the other property owners to determine what they prefer for this section of Race Alley and he will report back to Council.

Alan Ilgen and the Secretary reported that the Centre County Library agreed to give a commitment letter to the Borough to be included as part of our PA Conservation Works Grant application. At the meeting with Glenn Vernon and Claudia Albertin, to discuss the preliminary plans, everyone was informed that the Borough building provides enough space for the library's current and future needs. There is also a possibility that the library may be interested in the two upstairs rooms.

Todd Wasson reported that he has been covering the water and sewer plants for Roy Rupert while he is on vacation.

The Secretary reported that a letter was received from DCNR stating that the close-out report for the Map portion of the grant was approved and payment should be received in six to eight weeks.

Alan Ilgen reported on the status of the building energy grant. Most of the information has been compiled. Matson Environmental has completed their work and we are able to exceed the required 25% reduction of energy. Mr. Ilgen explained that because of the high costs proposed for a geothermal system for the building, perhaps the Borough should consider doing the windows and the VFD drives with Borough funds and use this toward matching funds for the grant request. Depending on final costs for the geothermal system, the Borough may need to request some money from the library because the system requested has been sized to accommodate the future library space. The installation of a geothermal system will also require an upgrade to the building's electrical service from the current 400 amp service to 600 amps. The consensus of the group was that the application should be submitted, even knowing that if we are successful grant applicants, the Borough will need to supply some additional funds. A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve Resolution 2009-9 authorizing the submission of a PA Conservation Works Grant to be used for the purchase and installation of a geothermal system and energy efficient windows for the Millheim Borough Municipal building and the purchase and installation of VFD drives for the Borough's water treatment plant. Motion carried.

NEW ACTION:

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to adopt Resolution 2009-10 appointing Tammy Myers, Tax Collector, as the primary voting delegate, Tom Strebel as first alternate voting delegate and Alan Ilgen as second alternate voting delegate for Millheim Borough on the Tax Collection Committee of Centre County. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to accept the Agreement to Authorize Electronic Access to PennDot Systems. Motion carried. This agreement is necessary because many of PennDot's reports must be filed electronically and this agreement must be on file prior to submission of any reports.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to accept the Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2010 in the amount of \$10,790 as presented by the Secretary. Motion carried.

Correspondence received from Nick Engle expressing interest in doing a community mural similar to the one done by Elody Gyekis on the Elk Creek Cafe building was discussed. Mr. Engle is a member of Troop 88 in Millheim and would like to do this as an Eagle Scout project. Council members were very enthusiastic about him doing the mural on the walls in the front entryway of the Borough building as long as Council is given an opportunity to recommend what the picture will be. The Secretary was instructed to do a letter to Mr. Engle with the Council's suggestions and requesting that he do a presentation to Council of his ideas for a mural.

The Secretary reported that Stephen Lenten of Creative Design & Printing on East Main Street can make the "No Unauthorized Vehicle" signs to be posted on the water company grounds at a cost of \$2.00 each. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to accept the quote from Stephen Lenten and to order fifty (50) signs at \$2.00 each. Motion carried.

President Auman explained he was told by Roger Guisewite that he had been denied by two Councils when requesting a private individual right-of-way over public water company land to access his cabin. Mr. Guisewite's original right-of-way is from the Millheim Narrows along Philips Creek. The Solicitor didn't remember these earlier requests. Council will discuss the possibility of granting Mr. Guisewite a ten-foot access agreement at the September meeting.

COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS:

Alan Ilgen reported that the Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting for August will be tomorrow night, August 12, 2009 because of Grange Fair.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to approve the July 14, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A written report submitted by the Secretary was reviewed. The Secretary reported that a check in the amount of \$2,295.72 has been received from SEDA-Cog in Lewisburg as Millheim Borough's share of the grant money for the LED traffic signal conversion.

The letters to be prepared by the Solicitor to Jim Bryant and Jim Frees were discussed. The following information was given to Mr. Miller so he can prepare the letters:

- The Borough will remove the large tree and share the cost to remove this common corner tree.
- The two or three trees Mr. Frees thought belonged to the Borough are actually on Mr. Frees' property so he must remove them.
- The Borough is not removing the concrete structure based on the recommendation received from David Keller of the PA Fish & Boat Commission.
- The dam has been removed.
- The Borough wants to maintain a vegetative buffer along the Race.

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and advertise an amendment to the Weed Ordinance to allow riparian buffers.

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer