

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL  
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MILLHEIM, PA 16854  
(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING  
February 10, 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, Alan Ilgen, Tom Strebel, Lauralee Snyder, John R. Miller, III, Sharon Heckman, Roy Rupert, Butch Dietrich, and other interested citizens.

Absent: Marlene Corl

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

**CITIZENS INPUT:**

Butch Dietrich representing the Marion/Walker Little League explained their plans for a new ball field with dugouts and a concession stand. Since Millheim Borough has taken all the concrete blocks needed for upgrades to the Borough ball fields, Mr. Dietrich is requesting permission to take some of the remaining concrete blocks available from the Penns Valley School District for use at Marion/Walker's Little League field. The Solicitor explained that the Borough can't donate these blocks to the Little League but they could be donated to the Walker Township Supervisors. Mr. Dietrich will talk to Walker Township Supervisors and have them send a request to the Borough for the concrete blocks being requested.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** No report.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

A written report submitted by Glenn Ripka was reviewed with no questions or comments.

**HARB REPORT:** No report.

**EMPLOYEE REPORTS:**

A written report submitted by Lester Kerstetter was reviewed with no questions or comments. Roy Rupert discussed his written report with Council. Roy requested the following:

1. Permission to get estimates for someone to put a tin roof on the old chlorinator building. Council instructed him to get three proposals for a tin roof.
2. Permission to see about sending a letter to DEP giving him permission for non-testing of chlorine when he is not adding any chlorine to the system at the sewer plant. Consensus of Council was that this should be looked into.
3. Permission to purchase a new microscope for the sewer plant. He explained that because of a problem with Filamentous bacteria he needs to be able to look at samples to determine if chlorine should be added. He presented information on two different models. One cost \$1,300 and the other cost \$1,650. Discussion occurred about the plant being new and if this is a necessary piece of equipment it should have been included with the original costs. Concerns were also discussed about the cost of a new microscope when a used one may serve the purpose just as well. Consensus of Council was to research used microscopes.
4. Permission to purchase a smaller Chlorine Pump for the sewer plant. Roy explained that Jens from A3 could get one at a cost of \$325. He explained that if he knows the pump is accurate chlorine could be added accurately. Council felt this would lessen the urgency for a microscope. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to purchase a pump to regulate chlorine at a cost of \$325. Motion carried.

Roy explained that he had looked into sludge hauling prices for the Gregg Twp. Sewer Authority. As a result of this inquiry the following proposals were also forwarded to Millheim Borough. These costs are only to haul the sludge to Bellefonte because we are billed directly by the Bellefonte Wastewater Treatment Facility.

**Robinson Septic Service, Inc.**

- 1) Transportation of sludge from Millheim Treatment Plant to Bellefonte Treatment Plant .07 cents per gallon based on fuel at \$2.50 per gallon.
- 2) Currently Bellefonte Treatment Plant is the only close option for processing our sludge.
- 3) A fuel surcharge will not be imposed unless fuel goes above \$4.00 per gallon. At that time a fuel surcharge will go to 10 X (price of fuel) - \$25.00 base. Example: If price of fuel is \$4.00 our surcharge will calculate \$4.00 x 10 = \$40.00 - \$25.00 base = \$15.00 fuel surcharge per trip.

Schrack's Valley Service, Inc.

They are our current providers. Beginning February 1, 2009 they will be lowering the fuel surcharge on all sludge hauled to the Bellefonte Treatment Plant. Their new price will be:

- 1) Hauling \$371.00 per trip, which amounts to .07 cents per gallon.
- 2) Fuel Surcharge of \$40.91 per load hauled. (In 2008 his surcharges were \$58.50, \$77.91 and \$100.17 and we were never given any formula as to how these costs were computed.)

C.E. Shawley

- 1) Hauling .08 cents per gallon.
- 2) No fuel surcharge unless gas goes to \$5.00/gallon.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to accept the proposal as submitted by Robinson Septic Service, Inc. for sludge hauling at .07 cents per gallon. Motion carried.

**NEW ACTION:**

President Auman explained that Council may want to dispose of some things that were found in the Artifacts Room that have no historical relevance to the Borough. He explained that there are also piles of magazines and unidentifiable objects. Council discussed the possibility of donating the items to the Aaronsburg Museum or the Centre County Historical Group. Consensus of the Council was to talk to other historical agencies and then if they are not interested in the items consider taking them to Spangler's.

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to adopt Resolution 2009-2 that approves, adopts and places into immediate effect the Emergency Operations Plan of Millheim Borough. Motion carried.

President Auman reported on the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency meeting. He explained that the Agency budget was discussed during this meeting and it was very disheartening. The hours for Glenn Ripka have been cut to fifteen (15) hours/week. Penn and Miles Township have each approved the request to put \$4,000 into the Agency to help cover operating costs. At the President's request, the Secretary presented a possible cost saving proposal if Mr. Ripka was employed by the Borough full-time. If Mr. Ripka were added to the Borough as a forty-hour/week employee, the cost for his health insurance would decrease from \$885/month to \$365.85/month. He would still continue his work for the other municipalities for fifteen (15) hours/week as a subcontractor with the Agency reimbursing the Borough for those costs instead of paying Mr. Ripka. In addition to the Agency work Mr. Ripka performs for Millheim Borough, he would be responsible for scheduling the Borough employees work. To cover the additional costs to the Borough, the Secretary explained that some money has already been budgeted for work that Mr. Ripka currently performs. She also proposes using two months of the salary budgeted in the General Fund for Todd Wasson to pay Mr. Ripka and using some of the cash reserves in the Water Fund to pay the salaries for Todd Wasson for two months. Mr. Wasson would spend the additional time working on replacement of water meters and fire hydrants because these projects were to have been implemented some time ago. The costs in this proposal were compiled assuming a March 1, 2009 beginning date. The Solicitor explained that the next Agency meeting is scheduled for late April so a special agency meeting would need to be held in February to discuss this proposal. Council decided to revise the proposed plan to encompass April through December 2009. After much discussion, the consensus was that there is a commitment to the agency because we got Federal money to start the Agency and if the other municipalities are willing to commit to this proposal we could go along to the end of the year and then decide at budget time how to proceed for 2010. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to authorize the Secretary to contact Mr. Ripka and the other municipalities to schedule an Agency meeting to present the proposal as discussed. Motion carried.

A letter submitted by Tammy Myers, Tax Collector, requesting an increase in the Tax Collector rate of pay from 3% to 5% commission on all taxes collected was discussed. All the other Tax Collectors in the Penns Valley School District are currently paid 5%. The Secretary was unable to answer questions raised about the number of hours involved in the tax collection process but she explained that Mrs. Myers diligently pursues the collection of the taxes by taking cases to the District Magistrate, etc. After discussion, a motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the increase to 5% on all taxes collected but a report must be submitted on the amount of time spent doing this job. Motion carried. A motion was then made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to adopt Resolution 2009-3 increasing the compensation for the elected tax collector for the Borough of Millheim from the rate of 3% to the rate of 5% of all taxes collected commencing January 1, 2010. Motion carried.

The Secretary reported that the anticipated County Growing Greener II Funds for Park Improvements at the Borough Building were contingent on the DCNR application for Phase I, which was not approved. If the Borough is still interested in this money for the playground, Sue Hannigan from Centre County needs to be notified. The consensus of the Council was to contact Mrs. Hannigan and let her know we would like to have the money for the playground upgrades.

The Secretary reported that Matt Knepp from PennDot has prepared the advertisement and bid documents for the Mill Street Paving Project but he has to know when the Council wants the project to be completed. The project is to be completed by July 31, 2009. The Secretary was instructed to set up a date for President Auman to meet with Mr. Knepp to determine placement of the pipe and inlets for this project.

**OLD ACTION:**

The Solicitor reported on the hearing held with regard to the County Judicial Sale that he attended. He explained the process of the sale and reported that Mr. Friend's attorney said Mr. Friend plans to sell the property prior to the Judicial Sale.

Names of possible Zoning Hearing Board Members were discussed. Kurt Breon and Dennis Gates have agreed to serve. Names were also discussed for a representative to the Ambulance Association Board.

Information received from the PA Wayfinding Signage Program was discussed. President Auman raised concerns about this group being able to determine which signs stay and which signs are removed. This group would be responsible for erecting and maintaining approved signs but all approved signs would need to meet local restrictions. The purpose of this group is to lessen the number of signs along Pennsylvania roads. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to authorize the Secretary to send a letter of support for this program. Members present voting yes – Kay Brown, Alan Ilgen and Tom Strebel. Members present voting no – Linn Auman. Motion carried.

President Auman presented a brochure from Clinton County advertising businesses and events and all agreed that Centre County has a similar document. Mr. Auman suggested that the Borough could look into enhancing the Borough website. Alan Ilgen thinks this needs to be carried by the business people.

A meeting has been scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. with Gary Reed of the Department of Agriculture to discuss possible funding available to the Business Association for the downtown sidewalk project.

A meeting has been set and properly advertised for a special council meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room to discuss a Neighborhood Crime Watch Program.

**COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS:**

Mayor Snyder asked if any more information has been received on gas companies that may be working in this area that would be interested in buying effluent water from the Borough's sewer plant. The Secretary was instructed to contact Bob Decker about this.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the January 13 and January 27, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

A written report submitted was reviewed and discussed. The Secretary explained that according to Delmar Homan, the Millheim Fire Company plans to do the work themselves to install the dry fire hydrant along Elk Creek with Todd Wasson using the Borough equipment to do the backhoe work. Mr. Wasson has done this type of work before for the Borough and knows the rules involved with working along Elk Creek. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to authorize President Auman to sign the DEP permit for the dry fire hydrant. Motion carried.

Two representatives for Millheim Borough to the Regional Park & Rec Board were decided upon. They are Jane Markle and Marian Owen. The Secretary will forward these names to Robert Jacobs at the Centre County Planning Office.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Kay Brown to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 p.m. Motion carried.

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Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer