

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
225 EAST MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 421
MILLHEIM, PA 16854
(CENTRE COUNTY)**

FAX (814) 349-5733

PHONE (814) 349-5350

**SPECIAL MEETING
January 27, 2009**

President Linn Auman called the special 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, Glenn Ripka, Curt Bierly, Tim Bowser, Vinnie Castaglia, David Dreese, Cyndy & Mark Engle, Betsy Forsythe, Scott Meyers, Toni Myer, Mr. & Mrs. Owen, Carl Rote, Wayne Shawver, Charles Steffan, Richard Winebold and Jerri Zerby.

Absent: Marlene Corl, John R. Miller, III and Sharon Heckman

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to adopt Resolution 2009-1 requesting a PA H20 Grant. Motion carried.

A lengthy discussion on the sidewalks in the downtown business district occurred as follows:

- The three or four year history of this project was explained. Originally, the Business Association decided it would be nice to standardize the downtown area. After much research they decided to do the sidewalks in Artcrete, which would use concrete for the sidewalks but they would look like brick and include lighting improvements in this project. This technique was used in Ebensburg and the Business Association thought it looked nice. This original plan also included Plex tubing to be placed in all the new sidewalks so they could be heated to help with snow removal. Each property owner could then make the choice to use the heating system if they wanted. However, due to lack of grant funding the project has not moved forward. Residents in all the other sections of town have repaired/replaced their sidewalks so Council has set an October 31, 2009 deadline for the sidewalks in the business district to be repaired or replaced.
- A meeting was held with Centre County Planning representatives, Council representatives and Curt Bierly to discuss possible grants for this project. The only one available at this time is through the Department of Agriculture. This grant would be an 80-20 match and that means the property owners would be responsible for payment of 20% of the project. The Department of Agriculture could also loan money at 4-1/2% if certain criteria are met. Grant funding can significantly increase the cost of a project and there are many regulations that must be followed. Another meeting is to be scheduled in February with representatives from Centre County Planning, PennDot, Representative Benninghoff's office, Senator Corman's office, Borough Council and Curt Bierly to further discuss possible funding and PennDot issues such as ADA ramp standards and possible permit requirements.
- This proposed project for a brick-look sidewalk is the Business Association project not Borough Council's.
- The following concerns were raised:
 1. The cost of the brick-style Artcrete sidewalk.
 2. Difficulty with snow removal for the brick-look sidewalk. Curt Bierly has this type of sidewalk at his home in Centre Hall and he explained this is not stamped concrete and he has no trouble shoveling his walk.
 3. Requiring people with new or compliant sidewalks to replace them with the brick-style Artcrete.
 4. PennDot standards or permits that may be required if done as an entire project.
- The decision was made that several people will be contacted to give proposals to determine –
 1. A cost per square foot to do the complete project in regular concrete as specified in the existing ordinance.
 2. A cost per square foot to do the project in regular concrete without changing existing sidewalks that are new or in compliance.
 3. A cost per square foot to do the complete project in the brick-style Artcrete as specified in the proposed amendment to the existing ordinance.
 4. A separate cost to do the ADA ramps if they must be replaced to current specifications.
 5. These prices are to be available by the middle to the end of February (the sooner the better).
 6. Cyndy Engle agreed to help get the paperwork together for these proposals.
- After prices are available, the group needs to determine if they want regular concrete or the brick-style Artcrete and the scope of the project.
- If the area sidewalks are to be done in regular concrete the ordinance does not need to be amended. If the area sidewalks are to be done in the brick-style Artcrete everyone needs to do them at the same time to standardize the area and the amendment to the existing ordinance would need to be adopted.
- The existing light poles are owned by the Borough and will remain but the Council is considering the possibility of changing the light heads or perhaps getting lights similar in style to those in the park.

A town brochure to promote Millheim was discussed as follows:

- Richard Winebold presented copies of a brochure he had prepared some time ago advertising the businesses in town. He is currently preparing a larger brochure with a road map that includes restaurants, shops, and places to purchase hunting equipment to bring people and campers into town from neighboring areas.
- The Penns Valley School district will allow the Business Association to contribute items for the school's valley-wide calendar on the school website at no charge.
- Marketing ideas were discussed, such as an image for the Borough. Mr. Gene Conneller from Centre Hall has helped with this in Clinton County. This is his main focus. He goes into communities, determines the attractions and then sells advertisement to support it.
- Several reasons were given about what attracts people/businesses to Millheim:
 1. Millheim is a progressive community trying to remain small and environmentally friendly.
 2. A remote location that offers access to recreational activities with businesses to support that.
 3. Penns Valley is a combination of tradition and tolerance with Millheim as the hub of the Valley.
 4. Millheim's central location with one-half to one-hour drives to three different universities, close to state parks that have camping, swimming, fishing, hunting, close to skiing facilities and Woodward Camp.
- Council may need to look into enhancing the Borough website.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer