

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 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, Sharon Heckman, Glenn Ripka, Chris Cox, Tom Heckman and Carl Rote.

Absent: Lauralee Snyder and John R. Miller, III

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

CITIZENS INPUT: None

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Glenn Ripka was present and discussed with Council the written report he submitted. There was some discussion about the fact that George Friend is claiming that he has a clover crop growing on his property on Center Street. The District Magistrate will make this determination.

A letter received from Tim Bowser requesting a waiver to allow his staff to park along Poplar Street behind the Elk Creek Café. Mr. Ripka explained that he had a complaint and the cars are parking on the alley right-of-way, which is a violation of the ordinance. Some Council members recalled that employers and staff were requested to park in the municipal parking lot to free parking spaces near businesses for patrons. After some discussion, this item was forwarded to the Planning Commission for discussion at their July meeting.

The status of the issue at the Jim and Jennie Frees property was discussed. The boundary markers were clearly found and the large dead tree is the boundary marker for the Eric Tritsch and Millheim Borough properties. Mr. and Mrs. Tritsch have agreed to pay half the cost to have this tree cut down and they will take the wood. They also request that this tree be taken down in a way that causes the least amount of damage to their other trees. After the tree is down, a decision will be made if an iron pin needs to be set to mark this boundary. The Borough will cut down the other dead trees on the Borough property but two of the dead trees are on the Frees property and they will need to take them down no later than October 31, 2009. David Keller, Habitat Manager of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, advised not to remove the concrete structure that is in the stream because removal of the wall could cause worse erosion. He recommends placing a log at the toe of the slope and anchor with stone at the erosion site adjacent to the small concrete wall. He also recommended removal of the dams as they serve no positive function and are having negative impacts on the stream. These dams and debris have been removed. Mr. Keller also recommended establishing a vegetated buffer. The Borough owns from the top of the Race bank and planting this buffer area was discussed. The Secretary will contact the PVCA to see if this area could become one of their projects. The Secretary was instructed to ask the Solicitor to prepare an amendment to the weed ordinance for the August meeting. The consensus was to hold on the riparian buffer until it can be discussed with the Solicitor. The Solicitor should prepare the letter responding to the previous letter from Jim Bryant. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to authorize Martin Melville to cut down the dead oak tree for \$250 and give the wood to Mr. & Mrs. Eric Tritsch. Motion carried.

Pictures of the current and proposed signs for a new business at 230 East Main Street were reviewed. Chris Cox is applying for permission to install two signs. He proposes to reword the existing RCA sign hanging on the building to "Cox's Gun Shop" and hang a second lit sign between the existing posts. This area is now zoned mixed use and both signs require less square footage than is permitted. A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to accept the sign application as presented. Motion carried.

The problem with four-wheelers on the Water Company lands was discussed. President Auman reported that Council may want to consider replacing the cable across the road to the reservoir with a steel gate with reflective markings for safety reasons. Mr. Ripka will take measurements and get three estimates for a gate. The Secretary was instructed to get prices on "No Unauthorized Vehicle" signs for the Boy Scouts to post.

Alan Ilgen reported on the Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting. The Boy Scouts will deliver copies of the newsletter prepared by the Crime Watch Group to each home in the Borough.

HARB REPORT: None

FIRE COMPANY REPORT:

Tom Heckman distributed a letter explaining the payment request for the Fire Company Rescue Truck Chassis. Millheim Borough's share based on a percentage of the total revenue generated by one mill of tax is 21.4%. Using this percentage the Fire Company is requesting \$11,192.20 for Millheim Borough's share of the remaining balance due of \$52,300 for the chassis. A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to adopt Resolution #2009-8 releasing \$11,192.20, from the Fire Tax money collected, to the Millheim Fire Company for payment of the Rescue Truck chassis. Motion carried.

Mr. Heckman explained that another piece of equipment has also been ordered. This purchase was made possible because of a Federal Grant received by the Fire Company.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

The written reports submitted by Lester Kerstetter, Roy Rupert and Todd Wasson were reviewed. The importance of correcting the I&I problem at the sewer plant was discussed. The consensus of the group was to schedule a preventative maintenance check on the sewer lines monthly and this is to include making sure the bolts in the manhole covers are in place and tightened down. The problem of excess grease being put into the system by businesses was also discussed. It is important for this new system to eliminate this grease problem. After discussion, a motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to make grease traps mandatory in businesses that don't have them. Motion carried. Then a motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to reduce the time from 45 days to 21 days after notification for property owners to make repairs to correct problems with their sewer connections. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

The Planning Commission recommended the following:

- Take no action on the request to change Park and Maple Streets to one-way because no response was received from Mr. Martin for more information on his request.
- A copy of the proposed Brush Collection card was forwarded to Council for review. This card would be completed by Glenn Ripka and given to the employees so they know where to collect brush. It also explains the Brush Collection policy which states that "The first 20 minutes of chipping are free. After 20 minutes, \$1.10 will be charged per minute with a \$35 minimum charge."

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Marlene Corl to implement the policy of the Brush Collection Ticket. Motion carried.

- Discussed that the Borough may want to take over Race Alley, from Plum Street to State Street, since the Plum Street Bridge is closed. Recommended that the deeds for the properties along this alley be pulled and have the Solicitor look into the status of this alley.

Council discussed some of the issues involved (i.e., problems with snow removal, maintenance of alley, etc.). After some discussion, the consensus of the group was to have the Solicitor make a determination of the status of this alley after he reviews the deeds and then see what the majority of the property owners would like to see done about the alley.

OLD ACTION:

Alan Ilgen reported that there is no update on the library project at this time.

The Secretary reported that the County Playground Grant has been approved and we are waiting for the Notice to Proceed.

A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to appoint Katherine Weaver to the Ambulance Association Board. Motion carried.

NEW ACTION:

The status of the downtown business district sidewalks was discussed. Mr. Ripka reported that the letters have been sent and he has heard from two property owners who have their projects moving forward. There was discussion on what is acceptable for sidewalk repairs if there is more than a one-inch difference between the sidewalk and the curb. This problem wasn't taken into consideration when the sidewalk committee inspected the walks. The Planning Commission is to review the language in the Sidewalk Ordinance to make a recommendation on the sidewalk vs. curb language.

Mr. Ripka reported that on August 8, 2009 there will be a Consignment Sale at Centre Hall. The Borough employees would like to take the old chairs, radiator sections and traffic lights to this sale. If the traffic signals are taken, the Secretary would like a reserve bid put on them. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to approve taking excess items to the Centre Hall Consignment Sale. Motion carried.

The Secretary read a Corporate Resolution that Alan Ilgen is required to have on file with the Company he works for. This Resolution states that "Borough Council understands that Mr. Ilgen must abstain from voting on decisions involving non-Ameriprise financial products or services." A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to accept the Corporate Resolution as presented by Alan Ilgen. Result of vote – 4 votes yes; Alan Ilgen abstained. Motion carried.

The Secretary presented an Unemployment Power of Attorney that is required because the name/address of the company that represents the Borough on Unemployment issues has changed. This new form replaces the one currently on file with the Borough's Association. A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to authorize President Linn Auman to sign the new Unemployment Power of Attorney. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS:

Alan Ilgen reported that he and the Secretary had attended a workshop, about the stimulus funding, in Lewisburg on July 8, 2009. At this workshop, Dave Shimmel from DEP presented information on geothermal systems as an acceptable project for this stimulus funding. At this point the application period is to open July 17 and close August 16, 2009. The Borough must have an energy audit done to prove how much a geothermal system would reduce the energy consumption for the building. This is required for submission of the application for funding. Energy consumption must be reduced by 25% to be a qualified project. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to authorize Alan Ilgen to proceed with getting an energy audit with a \$2,500 cap on the expense contingent on having it attached to a grant application. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the June 9, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A written report submitted by the Secretary was reviewed. Mr. Ilgen and the Secretary spoke with Mike Glazer, District Representative for Congressman Glenn Thompson while he was in the Borough today. The letter received from Representative Benninghoff responding to the Secretary's email voicing opposition to House Bill 1500 that would require municipalities to pay for State Police services was discussed. If this Bill is approved as currently presented, when the cost of \$156/person is phased in the Borough's cost would be \$116,844 at our current census figures of 749 residents. If this bill passes, the consensus of the group was that it may make more sense to talk about a Penns Valley wide police force.

A letter received from Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc. expressing interest in possible acquisition of the Borough Water Company was discussed. The consensus of the group was that the water rates would probably be too costly and it would hurt any chance for a future Water Authority.

Correspondence from Terri Quici on Long Distance Commuter Options was discussed. The Secretary was instructed to invite Ms. Quici to come to the October 2009 meeting to discuss this program.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer