

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 2008**

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, Glenn Ripka, Sgt. Emigh, Mary Kay Agnew, Karen Weiss, and other interested citizens.

Absent: Sharon Heckman

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

CITIZENS INPUT:

Sgt. Emigh of the Rockview State Police presented the following information on the coverage provided to Millheim Borough:

1. To date during 2008 the State Police have responded to thirty-two (32) incidents that included burglary, thefts and criminal mischief. They spend considerable time patrolling Millheim.
2. During 2007 there were seven burglaries over the entire year.
3. Rockview has unlimited resources available from all over the state (i.e., canine groups, labs, bomb squads, etc.) A town police officer would only have Rockview as a resource and then Rockview would step in and take over. The State Police also act as assistance but they won't respond to calls that town police can handle when they are on duty.
4. If Millheim hired their own police officer, Rockview would provide coverage when the other police are not available to take calls. The Borough would need to determine the cost effectiveness of having a private police officer.
5. Sgt. Emigh explained that all calls are plotted into a computer system, which then shows high probability areas and patrols are based on those results.
6. The Sgt. Explained that Council would be able to dictate hours another police officer would work which can't be done with the State Police.

He suggested the following should be considered in making the decision to hire a town police officer:

1. Can the Borough do full-time coverage?
2. What kind of person are you going to get if only hired for Friday, Saturday and Sunday?
3. Council should speak to Philipsburg Borough about the effects since they terminated their police department. He explained Philipsburg is still paying the officers pension because they fired him.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT: None

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Glenn Ripka reviewed and discussed his written report. Tim Bowser explained to him that they have decided not to put the glass back in. The consensus of Council was that the Historic District Ordinance needs to be enforced and the Café needs to be treated the same as Brownie's.

HARB REPORT:

Mrs. Mary Kay Agnew was present to discuss her request for proposed plans for a new house to be built on the vacant lot she owns on North Street. She proposes to build the house with a thirty-foot setback from Rt. 445 and elevate it to flood plain standards. Glenn Ripka explained the Habitat houses were set twenty feet from the road because to the north all the houses are close to the road but the houses around this lot are set back thirty feet or further. He also explained that the majority of the HARB were in favor of this request. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to approve the proposed house and location on the lot as requested by Mary Agnew. Motion carried.

Barry and Sonja Kuppel requested a time extension to replace the sidewalk at his property on North Street until the extension being built on the house is completed and the heavy equipment is no longer being driven over the walk. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to grant Mr. and Mrs. Kuppel an extension on their sidewalk replacement until October 31, 2008. Motion carried.

Shane Royer, representing St. John's United Church of Christ, requested a time extension to make repairs to the sidewalk at their property on North Street. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Al Ilgen to grant St. John's United Church of Christ an extension on the sidewalk repair until October 31, 2008. Motion carried.

Kay Brown explained that Elizabeth Shaffer would like the Borough to fix the curb between Rt. 445 and her new sidewalk. She and Mr. Ripka looked at the sidewalk area and they agree that it is the responsibility of Mrs. Shaffer or PennDot.

Mr. Ripka explained that he talked to Mr. Good about the grass and weeds at his property on Penn Street. Mr. Good wants to replace the existing sidewalk with slate and as soon as he gets the equipment here. He also explained that Dave Sprowls has the materials to replace his sidewalk on Penn Street. Mr. Ripka requested that a deadline be set for both these sidewalk replacements. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Al Ilgen to set an October 31, 2008 deadline for Mr. Good and Mr. Sprowls to replace the sidewalks at their properties. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

Curt Bierly explained that he had a meeting with Sue Hannigan from Centre County Planning Office and a copy of the report she is submitting for a possible grant was given to the Borough. He discussed the plan presented to the Planning Commission and he explained that he came up with four feet. Any wider sidewalks could be filled in with concrete from the four foot section to the buildings and add streetlights. Mr. Bierly will get the specifications that granting agencies want to see.

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

Written reports submitted by Lester Kerstetter and Todd Wasson were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Rupert explained that the filtration plant is running about nine hours and the system is as tight as it has ever been. He explained about the class he took on E. Coli Testing. There are some questions about the need to test Elk Creek when we are not using it. He is working on the annual water consumer report that is due by July 1. Mr. Rupert is requesting permission to attend a class on Excel in Bedford on October 6 at a cost of \$195.00. This class can be used as continuing education for both water and wastewater of six hours credit each. He is trying to find a closer location but the training has limited seating so the registration needs to be done quickly. A motion was made by Al Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the training contingent on the location at a cost of \$195.00. Motion carried.

Mr. Rupert explained that the hydrant flushing took about five hours and there was good pressure on North and Penn Streets. He explained that DEP has been investigating the problem at the Leo Evans property and feels it may be a problem in the house.

Karen Weiss explained that the concerns raised by DEP about the Chapter 94 report are a result of Roy doing grab samples. They are recommending composite sampling and this should be addressed when the new sewer plant is online.

NEW ACTION:

Ms. Weiss reported that the new sewer plant will be running with clean water and will be tested next week. June 23 is the tentative date set to start the seed sludge. Raw sewage should be entering the facility on this date, maybe not all the time, but we are on schedule for the June 30 deadline. Ule is flying into Pittsburgh from Germany on June 26 and Ms. Weiss is not sure how long he will be here. He will be looking at the facility on June 27 so anyone that wants to meet him would probably have to go to the sewer plant. President Auman had a question from the Progress Meeting #10; Other Business I. Ms. Weiss explained that when the specifications for the project were prepared she thought a conduit would be easier for the contractor to use but they couldn't get 2-inch conduit seal so they requested permission to use individual conduit. Ms. Weiss then presented two pay applications to be approved for payment. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Al Ilgen to pay HRI, Inc. \$359,039.20 (includes yard piping, miscellaneous metals, etc. and most of the equipment delivered in the last six weeks. Motion carried. A motion was then made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Al Ilgen to pay Howard Organization \$69,777.20 which is approximately one-half of their contract and includes all excavation, conduit, etc. This application has been changed to reflect retainage of 5% instead of 10%. Motion carried.

Bob Decker explained that the Park Stover farm owned by Bill Gettig has been purchased and could be developed if water/sewer services were available. He doesn't recommend the Borough extending the service because of PUC involvement but an authority could be formed. A letter of request for services may be done to the Borough. The Solicitor explained that different types of authorities could be created but that would need Penn Township's blessing. He also explained that depending on funding it could take a year to form.

President Auman explained that the meeting with representatives from PennWind/Solar to discuss windmills went well but the plan they discussed would involve Penn Township and the company wants to do a town-wide meeting. He explained the following information given by the company:

1. This project wouldn't cost the municipalities any money because the energy company would pay for the windmills.
2. Small windmills won't work; you want to look at the big picture for all of Millheim, the lower end of the Valley and Coburn.
3. Looking at possible use of thirteen acres on water company ground for solar panels.

President Auman thinks a town-wide meeting should be scheduled and invite everybody to hear the presentation. He will contact the company to see if they could hold the meeting July 2 at 7:00 p.m. Kay Brown raised a concern about the noise and Mayor Snyder was concerned about the aesthetics. Al Ilgen and Tom Strebel think complaints would go away if it can save the residents money. The consensus of the group was that the company should make the presentation.

President Auman explained he had a complaint from a school bus driver that it is a problem making the turn from Penn Street onto Rt. 45 because of cars parked in front of the Elk Creek Café. The Solicitor explained that a sign prohibiting parking for a specific time limit could be placed there. After discussion on the parking situation, the consensus of council was to do nothing at this time.

A request from Fred Mensch to purchase materials to refurbish the community bulletin board was discussed. A motion was made by Kay Brown and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the request and permit Mr. Mensch to purchase supplies at an approximate amount of \$40-\$80 to refurbish the community bulletin board. Motion carried.

OLD ACTION:

Re-Couping the costs for the Old Mill property were discussed. The Solicitor is still dealing with Joyce McKinley at the Centre County Tax Office on this issue.

COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS:

Building Committee:

Alan Ilgen reported that he is getting bids to replace the small door at the east side of the Borough building.

Mayor Snyder reported on the Regional Planning Commission information included in the agenda packets. The Borough must let them know if there is an interest in getting quotes for joint health insurance. Also names of anyone interested in sitting on the Park and Rec Board are needed. The goal is to get a committee meeting held by September to get things started.

A motion was made by Al Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the May 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to approve the May 2008 budget report as presented. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A written report submitted by the Secretary was reviewed. According to information furnished by Robert Jacobs a Methadone Clinic cannot be placed in Millheim Borough because of the Millheim Zoning Ordinance and the PA Municipal Planning Code Section 621.

Mayor Snyder reported that a stand was set up in the Gazebo during the Trout Festival for people to start painting the mural. She has received a schedule of the painting times and will forward it to the Secretary. Anyone that wants to paint can go upstairs to the studio at the Elk Creek Café.

A motion was made by Al Ilgen and seconded by Kay Brown to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer