

**MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL
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(CENTRE COUNTY)**

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**REGULAR MEETING
November 11, 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, Sharon Heckman, Roy Rupert, and other interested citizens.

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

CITIZENS INPUT: None

FIRE COMPANY REPORT: None

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

A written report submitted by Glenn Ripka was reviewed. The status of the Old Mill property owned by George Friend was discussed. The Solicitor will contact the County Tax Office for discussion at the December meeting.

HARB REPORT: None

EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

A written report submitted by Lester Kerstetter was reviewed. Roy Rupert was present and gave his report. He reported that we are continuing to use Philips Creek and the reservoir is still okay. Flags have been placed on the meter pits so they can be found this winter. Mr. Rupert reported that twelve people (company representatives/engineers) were given a tour of the new sewer plant. The plant continues to run well. He explained that A3 and Nittany Engineering want the Borough to begin testing for total nitrogen.

Mr. Rupert explained that Karl Leitzel made the existing sign for the sewer plant. The proposal for the new sign submitted by Mr. Leitzel was discussed. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Kay Brown to approve the purchase of the sign in the amount of \$450 as presented by the proposal from Karl Leitzel. Motion carried.

Mr. Rupert explained that he will need a cover for the tank at the sewer plant for this summer to prevent algae from growing. Insulated garage door panels have been suggested as a solution for this problem.

President Auman reported that Bierly's are looking into a solution to the problem with the hot water heater at the Borough Building and the Sewer Plant. These heaters are building up gases because of the small amount of hot water usage in each facility.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: None

NEW ACTION:

The Streetscape Project discussion included lighting. The new lighting for downtown went no place because the Streetscape Grant never developed. Some of the businessmen would like to do the sidewalks now even if there is no grant. The amendment needs to be adopted for the sidewalk ordinance and a deadline needs to be given to the business people. The consensus of the group was for October 31, 2009 as the final deadline for the sidewalks to be completed in the downtown business district. The amendment needs to be adopted, if stenciled concrete is to be the requirement in the business district. The solicitor has all the information so it just needs to be prepared and advertised. To put this plan uniformly in place the wording in the amendment would need to state that if any repairs are needed, the entire walk must be replaced. Carl Rote raised a concern about the stenciled concrete because in his opinion it doesn't maintain a nice appearance after it is in place for several years. The Solicitor was instructed to prepare and advertise the amendment to the sidewalk ordinance for adoption at the December meeting.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to adopt the 2009 budget as presented in a total amount \$749,211.80 and the Downtown Beautification Budget of \$655. These budgets do not require any increase to taxes, water or sewer usage rates. The only change is to increase the late fee for delinquent water/sewer bills to \$20/month effective January 1, 2009. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to authorize and prepare the 2009 tax ordinance with no change to tax millage. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to adopt Resolution #2008-7 that increases the water/sewer fee for delinquent accounts to \$20/month effective January 1, 2009. Motion carried.

A letter from Nittany Engineering & Associates, Inc. with the final close out payment requests from HRI, Inc. and Howard Organization, Inc. was reviewed. A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to pay the request submitted by HRI, Inc. in the amount of \$16,959.18. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to pay the request submitted by Howard Organization in the amount of \$14,054.46. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Marlene Corl to pay both Nittany Engineering & Associate invoices as presented in the amounts of \$137.50 and \$257.50. Motion carried.

OLD ACTION:

The Neighborhood Watch Program was discussed. Wayne Weaver has agreed to work as the liason for this project. We are waiting to hear from the State Trooper to determine a meeting date for January 2009. Mr. Weaver suggests speaking to people about the program to find people interested to act as volunteers to attend the meeting in January with the State Trooper.

The need for an amendment to the ordinance prohibiting bicycle riding on the sidewalks was discussed. This was prohibited in the past but the wording was changed and the current ordinance does allow bicycles on the sidewalks. This issue has become a concern because some people have almost been hit by bicycles in the downtown area. After much discussion, the consensus of the group was to let the ordinance as it is at this time.

The Secretary reported that Todd Smith of ELA Group spoke with the representative from DCNR and he will be sending her the corrections in a PDF file this week and the Borough will receive a copy. He has still received no word on the application for the second round of funding.

The Secretary reported that the LED conversion has been completed by Tel-Power. She explained that new equipment had to be purchased because the existing Eagle equipment wasn't able to be converted. The cost for this new equipment is \$2,500 but a County Liquid Fuel Grant has been submitted because the County was expecting possible problems for Howard and Millheim Boroughs so we may get assistance for this purchase. Disposal of the old lights was discussed because they may be of interest to collectors. A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to send one of the lights to Spangler's to be sold at auction. Motion carried.

Todd Wasson reported that he plans to do an inventory on the meters and start changing them out. He plans to have an inventory of roads for the December meeting. This inventory would include the street name, distance and condition of roads to help Council determine paving priorities. The Brake Retarder and Watch Children signs have been delivered. Mr. Wasson is looking into prices for a straight plow.

COMMITTEE/MAYOR REPORTS:

Tom Strebel reported on the Fire Tax Committee meeting held on October 28. The income in this account should be approximately \$94,400 by the end of 2009 and is to be used for a new truck. The truck will cost approximately \$250,000-\$300,000 for a 16' box and probably a standard cab and chassis that would need to be slightly modified and is expected to last 20 years. The Fire Company wants to place the order in 2008 to avoid some up-coming changes in the laws. If the order is placed in December, the chase should be sent to the company to build the truck in May and \$150,000 would be needed at that time. Delivery of the truck would be 400 days from placement of the order and the balance due would need to be paid at that time. The Firemen's Club has approximately \$200,000 that would be used and then replaced with Fire Tax money. A Performance Bond would be in place so there would be no loss of funds if the company went bankrupt or things didn't go as planned. They are researching grants for equipment for the truck to help keep the costs down. Mr. Strebel thinks that Dan Ake should be coming to the December meeting with their proposal so Council could approve the plan.

Kay Brown explained that there is a PennDot meeting tomorrow morning to look at the guiderails and the sidewalk over the bridge on North Street.

Alan Ilgen reported that he spoke with John Dubosky. Mr. Dubosky forwarded the "Draft" Lease Agreement to the Centre County Library Board but he hasn't had any response from them to date. The Aaronsburg Library Board is meeting tonight and the Agreement will be discussed.

A motion was made by Alan Ilgen and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the October 14 and October 22, 2008 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A written report was reviewed with no questions or comments.

A motion was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Alan Ilgen to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Secretary-Treasurer