

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
December 14, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Terrell at 1905 hrs. Present were:

E. Myers – Councilman
E. Paules – Councilman
E. Molinsky – Councilman
W. Cerkan - Councilman
D. Sarpen – Councilman
G. Andrews - Councilman
J. Joy – Mayor
T.L. Crawford -Borough Administrator

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Terrell reminded Council the Christmas tree lighting is Nov. 28 at the Freedom Green Park, and the Borough Appreciation Banquet is Dec. 4 at 6:00pm. He also reminded Council of an upcoming meeting on Dec. 8th hosted by YCED at Springfield municipal building. E. Molinsky advised the Rec. Councils NYC bus trip on 11/21 has tickets available. President Terrell advised there was an executive session prior to this meeting for personnel issues.

DISBURSEMENTS:

General \$ 5,402.29. – Motion by E. Paules, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve. Motion carried.
Water \$ 5,260.27 – Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Myers to approve. Motion carried.
Sewer \$ 23,210.44 – Motion by D. Sarpen, seconded by E. Paules to approve. Motion carried
Rec. \$ 64.00 – Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by E. Myers to approve. Motion carried.
Comm. Ctr. \$ 200.00 – Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by E. Myers to approve. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Motion by E. Paules, seconded by E. Molinsky to approve the meeting minutes of Nov. 25, 2009. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Mayor – Mayor Joy read the emergency services report for Nov. He also noted the new Solicitor for the SRPC is Clarence Allen, and Daryl Smuck was promoted to Sergeant.

Planning – E. Myers noted small parcels of land in the vicinity of LaMotts are being handled as a reverse subdivision and joined to a larger parcel. This is being done in anticipation of development, which will be beneficial to the Borough.

Sewer – D. Sarpen noted there are increased flows again, and the staff needs to continue to search for I & I problems. He also noted the state has formed a committee to look into different methods of sludge disposal.

Roads – E. Paules commended the road crew for the handling of the winter storms. He also requested Council members provide an e-mail or phone number to be placed on the web page for residents to contact them directly.

Police – E. Molinsky advised the police union missed a filing date so they will not be able to go to arbitration, however the SRPC will continue to work with them on finalizing a contract. He also noted there has been no change in the GR status.

Rec. – Council complimented the Board on the Veterans Day Picnic. Marie advised Council there will be winter tennis and a movie night coming up. She also noted the NY bus trip went well.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Dumas of 8 Dickenson Ct. present to discuss the problem with water on his and neighboring properties. He explained the water problem and how it has become worse since the Borough has changed how they use the well in the area. President Terrell advised him the properties in question are in the flood plain, and always have been, and this is also in there area where the Bee Tree Creek begins. President Terrell also explained the well is operated as has been in the past, but the water table is much higher due to recent storms. President Terrell also questioned if R. Dumas did receive a settlement on litigation concerning this issue, and was aware of the "wet area" when purchased. R. Dumas insisted the problem has become worse since the Borough made changes, and his settlement has nothing to do with the problem. President Terrell requested James Holley elaborated on the history since he was the developer. J. Holley began to provide the history, and was interrupted by R. Dumas noting he will not listen to lies. J. Holley advised Council he will stop at this point and no longer discuss the project. Owners of 10 and 12 Dickenson Ct. elaborated on the problem they have with water. Property owners request the Borough change schedules for the well. D. Sarpen explained the impact of ground water, springs and the well, noting running wells is not based on draining wet areas in the vicinity. Discussion continued in length with no definite resolution. E. Myers noted the problem could be looked at by Council; however they may be no

resolution that would satisfy the property owners. Committee of E. Myers, E. Paules and D. Sarpen will look at the problem after Jan. 1, and will meet with the water dept. prior to meeting with the property owners in the area. R. Dumas provided a contact of 235-7431.

James Hartenstein, owner of 107 W. Franklin St. present to express dissatisfaction on how his apartments are billed for utilities. He only has 1 connection, and 2 units. The method of billing since 1992 on these non-compliant units is 2 base rates, and 1 overage rate. He is requested since it is 2 base rates it be changed from 6000 gals. to 12000 gals. before the overage rates begin. The only other option is to pay the connection fee and run a separate line and meter as is outlined in the Ordinance. Council discussed the number of units with this type billing and possible remedies without new meter and connection fees. Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by E. Paules to change the billing for accounts of this nature and increase the minimum gals. To match the number of base units billed prior to overage chargers. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Ed Hughes (Whistle Stop Bike Shop) follow-up. Last month E. Hughes complained about the handling of his delinquent utility accounts. At that time he advised Council it was the fault of the office since he came in to pay other delinquent bills, and he did not have his refuse bill they only collected for 1 quarter. T.L. Crawford referenced the computer records and advised him he probably had a hard time comprehending what quarter he was in, or what was due since there is a history of delinquencies on all utilities. T.L. Crawford researched the issue and provided Council a 15 year history noting the habitual delinquencies, which is probably why he was confused about what was due.

One Call Now System - T.L. Crawford explained previous action on the service was based on connections, it should be on user units, such as the aforementioned Hartenstein property. This does change the contract amount. Motion by G. Andrews, seconded by E. Molinsky to rescind the previous motion and action on the proposed contract. Motion carried. Motion by G. Andrews, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the contract in the amount of \$ 1804.77 for One Call Now Service. Motion carried.

OTHER:

J. Holley advised Council to be aware of numerous location in the Borough with ongoing water problems, such as Broad St. He noted the Borough has always had springs and ground water issues that would be impossible to remedy for every home owner, not to mention the seasonal problems with water and runoff.

Year End Disbursements – Motion by E. Molinsky, seconded by D. Sarpen to approve the routine disbursements through 12/31/09. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by E. Myers, seconded by E. Molinsky to adjourn at 2046 hours. Motion carried.