

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
April 9, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Sarpen at 1900 hours. Present were:

L. O'Brien – Council member
A. Shemo – Council member
K. Earll – Council member
B. Merrill – Council member
J. Blum – Council member (by cell phone @ 1906 hrs.)
S. Hovis - Solicitor
T.L. Crawford – Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rotary Club Request – M. Summers and S. Riedel reviewed the program to replace the WWI Memorial Susquehanna Trail Sycamores aka: Roads of Remembrance. They explained the program and requested Council support the project. Motion by A. Shemo, seconded by L. O'Brien to support the project in honor of the veterans of the war. Motion carried.

SRPD Presentation – B. Merrill and President Sarpen attempted to clarify certain financial aspects, costs and history of SRPD with a projected spreadsheet. They also provided the financial information calculated by Stewartstown Mayor R. Hertzberger. The analysis shows some contract entities pay \$ 88.05 per hour, yet NF pays \$ 120.69 per hour, and Southern School pays \$ 88.56 per hour. All members and/or entities are paying a different rate based on if admin fees are calculated in the cost. D. Brent requested NF stay with SRPD and indicated Winterstown could not have their rate adjusted, but it will come up for renewal in 2019. B. Merrill pointed out the current contract for Winterstown could have been adjusted annually, which it states in the contract, but it was not. B. Merrill also noted over the past few years due to these inaccurate rates, NF paid close to \$ 100,000. In admin fees so contract and or schools did not have to. He also reminded the public some municipalities such Hopewell, Codorus and Shrewsbury Twp. Have children in school that receive the service, but it is paid for by the member municipalities. L. OBrien noted the discussion on this subject over the past 3 months has been unpleasant, and the cost structure should be uniform. Several residents spoke concerning their commitment to SRPD regardless of the cost inadequacies. L. O'Brien advised he will push for a remedy for the financial disparities and the future consolidation and or expansion of the SRPD, noting it will help stabilize the department and it is time to look forward. Several residents expressed concerns that any actions with the SRPD are politically motivated. L. O'Brien also noted the proposal from NF to charge what is charged to the contract entities was rejected, noting it was too low, and no counter proposal put forth. Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by K. Earll to remain a member of the SRPC/SRPD and encourages the commission to correct the inequalities in charges to include administrative costs to be paid by contracted entities as well as SRPC members. If not accomplished by 2019, NF will place a cap on payment to the SRPC as precedent set by Glen Rock. Council discussed what would be the cost if services sold to any other contract entity with no answer provided. Chief Boddington spoke and noted the old formula was not fair to all parties, and the police officers are not "broken", the commission has the ongoing problems and does need to work on correcting some issues. He requested that the department be given 5 years to stabilize and then research the consolidation concept. B. Merrill questioned the Chief on the meetings he attended in 2015 with other regional and non-regional chiefs concerning a consolidation, and later was scolded by the SRPC for his participation in such

meetings. The Chief replied he supports the regional concept, but it takes time to work out pensions, schedules, equipment and personnel. He also noted it would be difficult to work it out with Southwest due to Shrewsbury and Codorus Twps. being in between the areas. B. Merrill pointed out it is similar to Shrewsbury and Hopewell Twps. being between Shrewsbury and Stewartstown Borough, and yet they can make that work. B. Merrill advised the Chief on the concept of expansion he recently attended a meeting with Hopewell Township and the subject of police service came up, and Hopewell advised they are not interested. B. Merrill thanked the Chief for his input. L. O'Brien amended his motion to add a commitment of 5 years. Roll call vote: O'Brien and Earll-*in favor* and Sarpen, Shemo, Blum and Merrill-*opposed*. Motion died. Several residents voiced their opposition to any police service other than SRPC, noting cost is not the only concern. E. Smith of 30 S. Charles St. advised Council if the residents are required to pay more in taxes, that is fine if they get the service they want. Motion by B. Merrill, seconded by A. Shemo to begin to enter into an agreement with Southwest Regional Police for contracted service for a period of 3 years, and they have use of the facility at an hourly rate of \$ 80.00, for a total of approximately \$ 700.00., based on what equipment will be credited or needed, and have 1st right of refusal and can change rate if any other entity contract services. B. Merrill reminded the public this concept began in 2015/2016 and is not just since January 2018. Several Borough members of the public commented on the motion expressing their dissatisfaction and became disruptive. A. Shemo withdrew her seconded to B. Merrill's motion. Motion died for lack of a seconded. Police Officer Carey advised Council he lives in the Borough, as well as Officer Hansen and they would lose their job if NF does not remain in the SRPC, and by them living here it is a benefit to the dept. Residents and non-residents from various addresses to include, but not limited to 27 S. Broad St., 115 Freedom Ave., 12 Washington Rd, 9 Apple Road, 116 S. constitution Ave. provided comments in support of remaining with SRPD. E. Wilson of 106 N. Third St. questioned if any Council members were related to police officers. The Borough Administrator advised she is related to several police officers, 2 are retired from York County departments, 2 still working and 1 PA state trooper, and noted the 1 does work at SWRPD. She also noted she did not attend meetings with Council members concerning police services since it is a Council decision. President Sarpen President declared a five minutes recess. Council reconvened after eight minutes. Sarpen repeated a motion made by J. Blum (present electronically by cellphone on speaker) as follows: Motion by J. Blum, seconded by A. Shemo to go back to the SRPC with a proposal as a contract entity with the rate established as our current PPU, with a 5-year contract, and NF continue to withdraw from the SRPC. Motion carried, with K. Earll voting opposed. Douglas Brent of 54 S. 3rd St. questioned the cost of withdrawing from the SRPC. President Sarpen some costs are unknown at this time, and so are the assets that NF will need to be reimbursed for.

TEASURER'S REPORT

April 2018- \$ 178,145.68. Motion by K. Earll, seconded by L. O'Brien to approve as submitted. Motion carried.

MINUTES: (March, 2018)

Motion by B. Merrill, seconded by L. O'Brien to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

President Sarpen reviewed a letter from C.S. Davidson (*county engineer*) concerning Singer Road bridge. The bridge will be closed until the County can make the necessary repairs for safety.

Berkentine Builders Waiver/Modification Requests- President Sarpen reviewed the 2 waiver requests received for the property known as Franklin Center. Waiver for SLDO #194-510D (sidewalk width) and ZO #225-437(P)2 modification for a section of buffer/landscape strip.

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by K. Earll to grant the waiver and modification as requested. Motion carried.

President Sarpen advised the house that burnt previously at 108 N. Constitution Ave. was sold at York County Sherriff sale today.

President Sarpen advised a meeting was held at the request if the NF Lions Club to discuss the status of the "cookshack" at Goodfellow Park. Several options were discussed including they lease/repair/maintain at their costs, the Borough maintain and partially fund the repairs and removing the old building and erecting a new building. Solicitor Hovis will look into what is permitted under a lease/repair situation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. O'Brien, seconded by A. Shemo at 2140 hours to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.