

NEW FREEDOM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 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
B. Terrell – Council member
S. Hovis - Solicitor

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Sarpen stated that there was an executive session immediately prior to the Borough Council Meeting to discuss police personnel issues.

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Randy Tattersall who has lived in Koller Pointe for 12 years made comments for approximately 20 minutes. See attached. Mr. Tattersall also presented to council names, addresses and signatures of “600 residents with an additional 1000 signatures to come in” all requesting that Southern Regional Police be retained in New Freedom.

MOTION by B. Merrill to have the New Freedom Solicitor negotiate contracted services from the Southern Regional Police Department. Such services should be comparable to actual and historical police services currently provided. The draft contract for services should be available for consideration for the next Southern Regional Police Commission meeting. This motion was seconded by A. Shemo.

Call for questions resulted in multiple questions from the audience. These questions were allowed and answered as well as possible.

Some questions and comments included:

- 1) Would this contract result in separation from the Police Commission as a community member? This was answered by the Council in the affirmative.
- 2) Why did the Borough Council want off the Commission? This was answered that we wanted both to be conservative of the citizen's tax burden and we wanted to have a fair charge for all recipients of police service.
- 3) Citizens expressed concern that if New Freedom Borough left the Commission there would be a difference in how police services would be provided. Police Chief Boddington was asked if the contracted members received services differently from the member communities. He said that there are differences in priorities between members and contract communities in how police would respond.
- 4) Citizens asked about the actual charges and many responses were shared by Randy Tattersall, Bruce Merrill, Larry O'Brien and other members of the audience. There was not a consensus of actual prices.

- 5) The Borough Council was accused of not being transparent and a citizen asked if he could see the contract before it was approved by the New Freedom Borough Council and/or the Southern Regional Police Commission. It was explained that this was not generally done.
- 6) Larry O'Brien explained that what was being sought was a uniform price for police services for all communities. He stated that we have had many years of problems working with the Southern Regional Police Commission. He stated that one individual decided what the "costs" were. He stated that the Commission was dysfunctional. He stated that decisions needed to be unanimous with respect to the intergovernmental agreement. And he stated that he felt police services should be managed by the Police Chief and that the Commission was a problem.
- 7) Citizens complained that if New Freedom left the Commission, it might impact the staffing of police for the Southern School District. Bruce Merrill addressed this issue. He stated that the Southern School District had a \$ 53 Million annual budget. He stated that the SYCSD pays about \$60,000 of their budget to the Southern York County School District. This is 10 cents out of every hundred dollars of their budget. He strongly encouraged the citizens to verbalize their concerns about school policing to the school district.
- 8) Bruce Merrill discussed attending the Southern Regional Police Commission meetings so that the citizens might get an idea of how these meetings are conducted. He stated that the meetings are on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the New Freedom Borough Council Room.
- 9) One citizen asked the Borough Council if the Southern Regional Police were going to be "kicked out" of the New Freedom Borough Office Building. Brady Terrell stated that the Southern Regional Police three years ago were offered a five-year rental agreement. They declined and have been paying month to month rental since.
- 10) One citizen wanted to know if the contract being offered to the Southern Regional Police Department would be for five years like Shrewsbury. Bruce Merrill responded that at this time a three-year contract was being considered to start January 1, 2019. The terms of the contract would be in the hands of the solicitor so actual details were unknown.
- 11) Comments were made by the audience that with the Southern Regional Police Department we would have two officers available and in town. Larry O'Brien stated that indeed the contract that was proposed by Southwestern Regional Police Department would involve having one officer in New Freedom 24 hours per day, seven days per week. He further stated that currently there are two police officers on duty for the Southern Regional Police Department, but their time is split between the four member communities and several other contracted communities and schools. He stated that New Freedom actually received about eleven hours per day of police services with Southern Regional Police, which would be doubled if we went with Southwestern Regional Police.

After questions ceased from the audience, President Sarpen called for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL DECLARED A FIVE (5) MINUTE BREAK

BID AWARD: President Sarpen discussed the three different bids made for the sewer line replacement on Constitution and Pleasant Avenue. The lowest bid was for \$336,000 by EK Service, Inc. which was well below the estimate. A motion was made by Larry O'Brien that we accept the lowest bid, and after notification by Buchart Horn of the successful bid, the bidder will be notified. The successful bidder will need to provide payment bond, performance bond, certificate of insurance and a signed agreement to be reviewed by the Solicitor. This motion was seconded by Ken Earll.

Brady Terrell questioned when the work would begin, which is as yet unknown, but should begin within the next three months.

Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS: No reports were offered by the Solicitor or Council Members.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Zoning Hearing Board Appointment: Rodney Womack was suggested as replacement for vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. Larry O'Brien made a motion that he fill the vacancy. Ann Shemo seconded the motion. Larry questioned if there was a conflict of interest since he is the Emergency Management Coordinator. President Sarpen felt it would not be a conflict.
- 2) Gannet Fleming Report was reviewed by President Sarpen. The foundation of this property is deteriorating because it is located in the stream channel. After discussion, it was felt that the Borough would be responsible for cleaning up the stream after the property was repaired by the property owner. Motion made by Bruce Merrill that the repairs are not the Borough's responsibility. Motion seconded by Ann Shemo. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by all members. A citizen from the audience requested that the Treasurer's Report be posted electronically (placed on the website) with the minutes. Solicitor Steve Hovis stated that this is generally not done by any municipality in the Commonwealth. It was then noted by Council member that a donation was made to the Library. For March 2018: \$218,500.94. Motion made by Ann Shemo to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Larry O'Brien. Comment made by Ken Earll that the Penn Waste payment was \$37,219. Ken Earll questioned what the LB Water expense for \$25,000. Keith Dickmeyer responded from the audience that it was for new water meters. Motioned passed unanimously.

MINUTES: Minutes (February 21, 2018) Motion to approve by Ken Earll. Seconded by L. O'Brien. Motion passes unanimously.

OTHER: Communication: Ann Shemo explained that contact was made with one vendor who has created several websites. It is anticipated that a meeting with this individual would occur early next week. A citizen from the community asked why a local citizen was not chosen

to provide this service as a volunteer. It was explained that the individual that expressed interest had created many township/ borough websites. Solicitor Steve Hovis suggested that using a volunteer can result in gaps when the volunteer is no longer able or willing to train people or assist with changes. Mr. Hovis suggested that the scope of services needs to be defined very carefully before entering into a contract with a provider of this type.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Bruce Merrill seconded by Larry O'Brien to adjourn at 2022. Motion passed.