

BOROUGH OF WEST READING – BOROUGH COUNCIL

June 15, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

West Reading Borough Council held its regular monthly meeting at Borough Hall on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 with the following persons present: Council President Kevin Conrad; Vice President Philip Wert; Council Members James Gallen, Amy Good-Ashman, Elizabeth Heckler, Deborah Hutcheson, Nathalie Kulesa; Mayor Shane Keller; Dan Becker, Kozloff Stoudt; Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Tracey Levering; Fire Chief Mark Burkholder; Public Works Foreman Jim Beane; Recreation Coordinator Daphne Klahr; Administrative Assistant Cathy Hoffman; Darryl Jenkins, GVC. Absent: Elm Street Manager Dean Rohrbach. Police Chief Edward Fabriziani arrived at 7:50 p.m.

<u>VISITORS:</u>	Ruth Cardell	Fire Police
	Audrey Schaeffer	Resident
	Tina Shenk	Business/Property Owner
	Don Haines	Ephrata
	Karen Livingood	Resident
	Fred Geiger	Resident
	Darrin Youker	Reading Eagle
	Wayne Holben	WRPD
	Comm. Leinbach	Berks County Commissioners

Council President Kevin Conrad called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. which was followed by a moment of silence (in memory of K-9 Officer Dolfo), the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

Commissioner Leinbach spoke to Council about major items that the County Commissioners have been working on – the opening of the Berks County Community Reentry Center (established to reduce recidivism by 20%; moving the BC library facility from a rented space to the old Berks Heim building (\$40,000 savings annually); restructuring several departments (eliminated 300 full time positions).

He also spoke about the inability of emergency personnel (fire and police) to communicate directly with each other instead of information being relayed through the Communications Center. Other problems with the existing communication system are the lack of a good signal in all areas of the County and too few channels on which to communicate. To facilitate the necessary changes, new equipment needs to be purchased, and additional towers must be constructed. The projected cost for the entire project is \$60 million. He added that the County will pay \$42 million but the remaining \$18 million must be borne by the fire and police departments at the local level. Commissioner Leinbach stated that the County is committed to negotiating the lowest possible pricing for the equipment, obtaining financing over 5 to 7 years, and also looking at leasing equipment or 'lease to purchase'.

Commissioner Leinbach also stated that at their budget meeting they will be discussing the regionalization of police forces, which the County will facilitate between interested parties. They will also provide planners and legal assistance based on the agreement with the municipalities. He noted that municipalities that begin the process and then back out as things progress will have to bear the costs that they have incurred.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the minutes of May 19th, 2010. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER APPOINTMENT:

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to appoint Richard Sichler as Borough Manager as of June 7th, 2010. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

JMA Appointment: **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to appoint Fred Geiger to the Board of the Joint Municipal Authority of Wyomissing Valley. **Motion carried.**

Fall Festival Street Closure: **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the closing of Penn Avenue for the Fall Festival from the 400 block to the 700 block. (The 400 block will be open to traffic from 4th Avenue to Tulpehocken Avenue on the westbound side only.) **Motion carried.**

Belovich Development: Dan Becker from Kozloff Stoudt stated that the Borough can continue to file liens for the undeveloped property and recommended that the letter of credit not be touched but should be kept for possible larger issues in future. He also told Council that there is a provision in the Act that will allow a conservator to be appointed. It was also noted that the bankruptcy was discharged on May 14, 2010.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mr. Gallen to authorize the solicitor to proceed with the provision of a conservatorship if necessary. **Motion carried.**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ADAMS' PRESENTATION:

District Attorney John Adams was in attendance to present a check to the Borough in the amount of \$12,300 to be used for the procuring of a new police dog. He said the he was pleased to be able to use money from the drug forfeiture fund to help fight crime. Chief Fabriziani, who had just joined the meeting, thanked the DA for all that they have done to assist West Reading's Police Department, and noted that Officer Holben will begin training the new K-9 officer in August.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Dan Becker was in attendance to give the Solicitor's report. He spoke about the easement that has been prepared by the Reading Hospital to allow the Borough access to the area near the co-generation plant that houses a Borough water line. It was noted that the preliminary drawing does not show the width of the easement, which will be required on the final document. **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the easement once it has been reviewed by the solicitor. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to accept the Solicitor's report. **Motion carried.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Darryl Jenkins referred to his written report and provided an update regarding the pool access road paving project which was recently completed. He also noted that the Sunset Road and Yarnell Street projects are under way.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Engineer's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

Right-to-Know Officer – Mr. Sichler stated that a Right-to-Know officer must be appointed per government regulations. **Moved** by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to appoint Mr. Sichler as the Right-to-Know Officer. **Motion carried.**

Sewage Enforcement Officer Appointment – Mr. Sichler stated that is necessary for the Borough to have a Sewage Enforcement Officer because individual septic systems still exist in the Borough. **Moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to appoint Great Valley Consultants as the Sewer Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried.** (It was noted that Troy Sherman acts in that capacity for GVC.).

Red Flag Rule – Mr. Sichler reported that there will be government regulations in place that require utility bills to be delivered in a sealed envelope rather than the postcard that is currently being used by the Borough. The Borough will need to make the necessary changes by January 1, 2011. Mr. Sichler added that possible options will be explored further and information brought to Council for consideration.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Borough Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT:

Prior to the report it was **Moved** by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to appoint Tracey Levering as the chief Code Enforcement Officer. **Motion carried.**

Mrs. Levering referred to the written report, and as there were no questions, it was **Moved** by Mr. Wert and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Code Enforcement Officer's report. **Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

Safety Committee – **Moved** by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to accept the Safety Committee report. **Motion carried.**

Recreation Commission – Ms. Klahr stated that at the last Council meeting, Council had asked the Recreation Commission to review the diving well information and make a recommendation. She added that a motion was made at the last Recreation meeting to set aside \$25,000 in 2011 and \$50,000 in 2012 to be put towards capital improvements for the diving well.

She also reported the following:

- Pool memberships are up substantially, making 2010 a record year.
- Paving the access road to the pool has been completed.
- The tennis courts will be finished by Friday, the fencing is done and the leveling and painting is currently being completed.

Mr. Conrad asked if the recommendation made by the Recreation Commission is the only idea being brought forward for the diving well. He noted that at the last Council meeting, the Recreation Commission was asked to provide multiple options for the diving well and the costs associated with the work. Ms. Klahr said that the Recreation Commission had reviewed all of Mr. Hanbicki's recommendation and based on the report, they wish to have the diving well remain as an aquatic facility (a shallower pool with climbing walls). After some discussion, it was requested that Ms. Klahr prepare a list of multiple uses for the diving well and the associated costs to assist Council in making an informed decision. **Moved** by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson that a short memo of options and their cost be prepared. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Ms. Good-Ashman and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the hiring of two life guards at \$7.90 per hour. **Motion carried.**

As a final note, Ms. Klahr thanked Public Works foreman Jim Beane for all he has done for the Recreation department.

Some discussion ensued concerning the arborvitaes that had been removed at the pool. Mr. Beane stated that they were harboring poison ivy, bees, insects, etc. and were becoming a maintenance

nightmare. Chief Fabriziani also noted that since they have been removed, officers have caught two individuals in the pool at night and noted that it has helped in the patrolling of that area.

The installation of the new security light at the park was discussed because of a complaint that was received from the neighbors across the street. It was decided to move the light to another location which will throw the light toward the diving well and not toward the neighboring houses.

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Recreation Director's report. **Motion carried.**

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Fabriziani reported that the process has begun for the Civil Service promotional testing for sergeant and then lieutenant. The Civil Service Commission has decided to do the sergeant testing first and to keep both tests separate because one is first line supervisor and the other is mid level management. The deadline for submissions is June 21st and the Commission will meet on the 22nd to review the applications. July 24th has been scheduled for the testing.

Chief Fabriziani explained the restructuring that had been approved several years ago, and stated that the rank of corporal will be eliminated and the two new designations will provide 24 hour supervision without hiring extra personnel.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to approve the Police Chief's Report. **Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S / MAIN STREET / ELM STREET REPORTS:

Mayor Keller reported that hundreds of flowers had been donated to the Borough and Ms. Klahr will be utilizing volunteers to plant them throughout the park area.

Main Street is again looking to reinstate the BID on Penn Avenue and have begun preliminary meetings to get things underway. They are gathering information regarding what would be provided as well as what the merchants are looking for. This is being done to ensure that the proposal will be successful.

With regard to Elm Street, Mayor Keller stated that Mr. Rohrbach is attending a state wide conference in Lancaster. Mayor Keller noted that the work has begun at Yarnell and Grape Streets, and four more murals are planned for Kline Street. He also announced that the next Elm Street block party will be held on August 21st.

Mr. Wert told Council that he, Mrs. Heckler and Mrs. Kulesa had attended meetings concerning the expansion of the Elm Street Neighborhood. He said the information that was presented was very interesting and informative and he encouraged everyone on Council to attend.

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Mayor's report. **Motion carried.**

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Wert to accept the Elm Street Manager's report. **Motion carried.**

BOROUGH FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Prior to Mr. Beane giving his report, Mr. Conrad read Mr. Beane's letter of resignation which stated in part his appreciation for the support given to him over the past 19 years and his enjoyment in working for the Borough. With great regret, it was **moved** by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Mr. Conrad to accept the resignation of James Beane. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Beane gave his final Foreman's report as follows:

- There have been issues with the chlorinators at the pool which they are attempting to resolve.
- Geysler tree farm will replace 8 sweet gum trees on Reading Avenue that are dying.
- Mr. Beane will remain on the Shade Tree Commission.
- The gate opener at the garage is not function due to its age and Mr. Beane has received two quotes (\$3400 and \$3750) and is waiting on the third. Line item 01- 409-373 had been budgeted to replace the two loops that are on either side of the gate if it is determined that they need to be replaced. The computer module is no longer manufactured so if it ceases to function, the entire unit will have to be replaced. **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Gallen to approve the purchase of the lowest priced gate open. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. Beane noted that it was essential that the easement just granted by the Reading Hospital be entered into the Borough's GIS system to ensure that there are no issues with the water line in future.
- **Moved** by Mrs. Heckler and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the hiring (retroactively) of Corey L'Esperance (summer crew) at \$8.25/hr.

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to accept the Borough Foreman's report. **Motion carried.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Burkholder had nothing further to add to his report, however Chief Fabrizio spoke about the proposed radio changes and stated that it has been high on the list with the County Chiefs' Association. He said he would contact the Borough's current equipment provider to look at the equipment we currently have and determine if any of it can be narrow banded. He will also be looking at the cost associated with purchasing the necessary equipment for both police and fire.

Mr. Conrad stated that there is a Protection of Persons and Property Committee which is chaired by Ms. Good-Ashman, and asked that the committee meet to discuss the situation and report back to Council.

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to accept the Fire Chief's report. **Motion carried.**

REVENUE WITH COMPARISON TO BUDGET – 5 MONTHS ENDING MAY 31, 2010:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Wert to approve the revenue report for the 5 months ending May 31, 2010. **Motion carried.**

PAYMENT APPROVAL REPORT – 5/19/10 TO 6/10/10 AND 6/11/10 TO 6/14/10:

Moved by Ms. Hutcheson and seconded by Mr. Conrad to approve the Payment Approval Report for 5/19/10 to 6/10/10 and 6/11/10 to 6/14/10. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Conrad stated that he has added a new item to the agenda which will give Council members the opportunity to bring forward items that do not necessarily fall under a committee/commission report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council recessed to Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. When Council reconvened at 10:15 p.m., the following actions were taken:

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to appoint Joe Rudolph as the partial arbitrator in the Act 111 police negotiations. **Motion carried**

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to appoint Tracey Levering as the Zoning Officer for Residential. **Motion carried**

Moved by Mr. Gallen and seconded by Ms. Good-Ashman to appoint Great Valley Consultants as the Assistant Zoning Officer. **Motion carried**

Moved by Mr. Conrad and seconded by Ms. Hutcheson to amend the previous motion and appoint Tracey Levering as the Zoning Officer. **Motion carried**

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Mrs. Kulesa and seconded by Mrs. Heckler to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant