

Newport Borough Council  
November 22, 2011 – Special Budget Meeting  
Newport, Pennsylvania

President Jason Ehrhart called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Barbara Hart, Andrew Blair, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Tami Halstead present. Council Members Lori Nulton and Douglas Beatty were absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Mayor Mary Hetrick, Secretary Patricia Bowers

**GUESTS**– Luke Roman

**APPROVAL OF BILLS** – Secretary Bowers reported the Borough received the Safe Water Grant Reimbursement payment in the amount of \$95,129.20. Cl'm Hart moved, seconded by Cl'm Blair to pay the following outstanding bills from the General Fund Account: Joseph Baker for HRA Reimbursement \$1,914.24, PP & L for Street Lighting \$1,380.06, Verizon for cell phones \$1,061.99 and Cupps Insurance Co. for Treasurer's Bond for 2 yrs \$754.38 for a total of \$5,110.67. Motion carried. Cl'm Hart moved, seconded by Cl'm Blair to authorize the payment of \$361.06 to Barry Keller Jr. to pay for November 2011 Medical Premiums through his spouse's employment. Motion carried. Officer Keller can obtain insurance through his spouse's employment at a really reduced rate and can save the borough money.

**AMENDMENT OF MAINLINE INVOICE #3 FOR THE DOCK STREET PROJECT** – Secretary Bowers reported the Mainline Invoice # 3 in the amount of \$97,002.03 for Dock Street needed to be amended. The engineer did not have the figures correct. The correct amount for the Municipal Authority to pay to the Borough is \$36,145.93. The Borough would have to pay \$34,769.10 and the amount to submit to Safe Water for reimbursement is \$26,087.00. The Municipal Authority share of 35 % for the Safe Water Grant reimbursement submittal is \$9,155.75 and the Borough's share is \$16,931.25 which total to \$26,087.00. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Hart to approve the amendments made to correct the amounts for invoicing for Invoice #3 from Mainline Excavating. Motion carried.

**FEMA RESOLUTION** – Cl'm Hart moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to adopt Resolution #4-11 for the Designation of Agent for the Flood Disaster for Tropical Storm Lee in September of 2011. Motion carried.

**PENSION PLAN FOR NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES** – Cl'm Halstead reported previously the personnel committee had asked for an actuarial study for changes to the pension plan for the non-uniformed employees which turned out to be too costly, however we also received an actuarial study to drop the retirement age to 62 years instead of the current age of 65. This did not seem to be too costly however we need to review the information more closely and get back to Borough council. President Ehrhart appointed Cl'm Hart and Cl'm Halstead as the committee to work on.

**SEWER RATE SCHEDULE** – President Ehrhart appointed Council Members Tom Fitzpatrick, Tami Halstead and himself as the committee to work on the Sewer Rate Schedule for presentation to Borough Council.

**COMMENT TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL** – Cl'm Halstead read the following comment to the Borough Council; There have been rumors circulating in the Borough of Newport saying the Borough is out of money and bankrupt. As finance chairman, I am making this statement on behalf of the Newport Borough Council that this rumor is a miscommunication and comes from lack of knowledge of the Borough's current circumstances. The Borough is involved in a current project on Dock Street. On October 26, 2011, the Borough paid Mainline Excavating, Inc. \$105,573.55 for Invoice #2. This caused the Borough's finances to temporarily become lower than normal in November. The Borough and Sewer Authority were awarded a Safe Water Grant from DEP for \$127,596.00 which would be reimbursed by the grant through DEP. As of November 22, 2011, DEP has reimbursed the Borough \$95,129.20 from the Safe Water Grant. The Borough's current account balance, after all the November bills have been paid, is \$84,721.83. This current financial balance is appropriate for nearing the end of our fiscal year. We appreciate the efforts of the Borough Secretary, Patricia Bowers,

Project Engineer Peter Fleszar and DEP for working together to expedite this reimbursement. The Borough's finances are solvent and we are on track with the community's tax dollars. Cl'm Halstead asked the press to kindly put in a statement in regards to our financial status so that the residents of Newport know that we will provide services to our community. This was just a temporary thing until we were reimbursed by DEP.

**2012 GENERAL FUND, LIQUID FUELS & SEWER REVENUE BUDGETS** – Secretary Bowers reviewed the Sewer Revenue and the Liquid Fuels Budgets with Borough Council for any changes. Cl'm Fitzpatrick commented also to dispel any rumors, ever since we hired Dennis Wilson as the second operator, it was said we should of hired a part-timer or have an engineer to hang his tag on the plant. Cl'm Fitzpatrick made it a point to ask Max Stoner how much it would cost to have one of his engineers come up to Newport and operate the Sewer Plant for maybe 3 or 4 days a week. Max Stoner replied the Borough could not afford it. So he thought the Borough made a good decision in hiring Dennis because things are getting done down there that haven't been done before because Joe was working 24/7 without a vacation or a day off. Cl'm Halstead commented if we would have paid Joe for the time he put in at the plant it would be a lot more than what we pay Dennis. Joe's salary was increased to what Dennis makes also. Cl'm Halstead commented it is wise to have (2) people in the police, (2) people in Sewer and (2) people in the streets department. Cl'm Fitzpatrick commented we should also have someone in training them so there is a backup for the Borough Secretary. The Borough Council then worked on the General Fund Budget. Mayor Hetrick made several changes to the police budget. There was a discussion in regards to the overtime for the police department. The Mayor also reported to Borough Council that Corporal Keller forward information for Borough in regards to the Visual Alert Program for the police department. The Borough would get a 2% discount if we paid for the program up front. They also offered to accept payments of one third when ordered, one third when installed and then the balance due in 30 days after for this program. The Visual Alert Program was figured into the 2012 General Fund Budget. The Secretary will double check all the figures and will put copies of the revisions in the Borough Council boxes. Please review for the next meeting for tentative adoption.

The next meeting will be December 6, 2011 at 7:00 P.M.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Hart moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Bowers  
Secretary

