

Newport Borough council
January 6, 2015 – Regular Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

President Gerald Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Penny Frownfelter, John McNaughton, Carl Roush and Tami Halstead present. Council Members Barbara Hart and James Prescott were absent.

President Robinson announced the meeting is being recorded.

GUESTS – Frank Campbell reported they are getting down to the wire with the Tree Revitalization Grant. Frank needed the municipality approval and a signature from an elected official or a staff person that would be responsible for the municipal tree care. He needed Borough Council to authorize this action. Carl Roush moved, seconded by Tami Halstead to give the Municipality's approval and to authorize Cl'm John McNaughton to sign as the elected official responsible for the municipal tree care. Motion carried unanimously. Frank Campbell reported the DCNR Park Project is going out for bids this week. They will be opened at the next Borough Council Meeting. They are still looking around for money to purchase the White Property. Since the property was reappraised Jay Schriebman from DCNR thinks we can reapply for a grant to purchase this property.

President Robinson asked Borough Council if anyone would like to reorganize the Council. Council Members were ok with the way the board is organized now.

President Robinson addressed Borough Council at this time:

It has been one year since five newly elected councilmen took on the responsibilities of running the business of Newport Borough. This year has been rewarding, baffling, confusing and enlightening. The year started with a deficit carried over from the previous administration. That \$100,000 debt, along with an impending lawsuit resulting from the improper disbanding of the police force was repaid as required and the year ended with a modest balance brought forward to the current year. Payment of an additional \$32,000 for the mediation of the unfinished union contract with the police department also was hung onto the current administration. The fiscal restraints on the new administration also had an adverse affect on salaries for the employees; however we were able to start this year without increasing the real estate taxes of our residents. This I consider to be a watershed victory for the residents and I hope that most will appreciate our efforts in succeeding in this fiscal accomplishment. Street repairs of a hopefully longer lasting consequence were initiated to slightly improve the deplorable conditions that exist. Hot patching some of the worst streets has slightly improved drivability throughout the town, but vast other areas are in need of repair and/or replacement. The arrangement of a PIB loan of nearly a half million dollars for portions of North and South Fifth Streets will be utilized to do a complete rebuild of much of the street after infrastructure that needs replacement is completed. This will probably be a two or three year project that will be built to endure and should be maintenance free for quite some time. Hopefully reconstructing a street properly and fully will pay future dividends in upkeep and service life. One block of South Second Street is planned for an overlay with other areas of town targeted after all infrastructure is upgraded to prevent digging up areas that have been repaired recently. This progress will be slow and expensive but the goal is to spend the money wisely and not end up with a patch work of partially repaired areas adjacent to badly damaged roadways. Let's do it once and do it properly and set new standards for street improvements in our town. Much remains to be done and financial restraints impede rapid completion of needed improvements. We ask our residents to be patient as these improvements are accomplished. A primary goal this year will be to try and secure grant funding for a complete rebuild of Walnut Street from Front Street to Sixth Street. I do not believe any major improvement can be completed in this area during this year; however a concerted effort will be made to investigate any and all sources of funding that is available to undertake this large job which may carry a total price tag of (5)five million dollars. While it would be advantageous to do the entire street as a single project, it may ultimately be completed in a block-by-block fashion that will have an adverse impact on both costs and convenience. This is only a partial list of our "to do" list, but we want the residents to know we are giving our efforts to make the town better, improve conditions and increase community pride. The new renovations for the community park should be completed this year. While many residents may question the need or priority of this project, the funding was sought and received with a small contribution from the council to facilitate the development of the improvement. Grant funding is specific for the intended use and

Newport was fortunate enough to receive some state/federal funding to go along with matching contributions from the municipality. We thank Frank Campbell, a worthy recipient of WGAL's Jefferson Award for his untiring efforts in playing an active part in this community enhancement project. Individual private personal and business contributors also deserve our thanks for their efforts and gifts to cause this to come to fruition. Many other people and organizations deserve our appreciation for much of the accomplishments of the past year. Of particular importance is the many efforts expended by our employees who on a day to day basis help to keep the town running and moving forward. On behalf of the entire council, I offer our sincerest "Thank You" for your assistance. Hopefully 2015 will be a good year for Newport and we will be able to look back next year and see the results of our efforts. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the council people and Mayor Mary Hetrick for their unselfish efforts to make Newport a better place to live.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Tami Halstead moved, seconded by Carl Roush to approve the December 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes as drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Newport Borough General Fund Account balance January 1, 2015 was \$54,442.64. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$3,928.59. Estimated income for the balance of January of \$15,743.79. Estimated expenses for the balance of January of \$21,723.00 will leave an estimated balance January 31, 2015 of \$44,534.84. Liquid Fuels Account balance January 1, 2015 was \$27,485.97. Truck Payment to Juniata Valley bank of \$1,235.78 will leave a balance of \$26,250.19. Sewer Revenue Account balance January 1, 2015 was \$203,126.91. Check to NBMA for 2014 Capital Improvement Fund of \$25,000.00. Check to NBMA for 2014 Future Debt Service of \$91,598.08. Check to NBMA for 2014 balance of Sewer User Fees of \$61,528.83. Balance in Sewer Revenue Account after these checks were written was \$25,000.00. Outstanding bills presented for payment of \$10,620.74 will leave a balance of \$14,379.26. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS – Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$3,928.59 from the General Fund Account and pay the outstanding bills in the amount of \$10,620.74 from the Sewer Revenue Account. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTRICAL QUOTE – President Robinson reported he was able to get the Borough signed up with Tri-Eagle for 33 months at a rate of 8.06 cents per KWH. That is about the best the Borough can get. It includes all accounts (Sewer Plant, Borough, and Street Lights) with PP & L Utilities. When we are getting quotes the best time to do that is October to February; this is when you get the best rates.

MEDICAL PREMIUMS FOR EMPLOYEES - Secretary Bowers reported the Borough Council received a copy of the medical premiums for the employees for 2015. Not much change for 2015; a couple of dollars.

SEWER OPERATOR DARREL BINKLEY – Secretary Bowers reported Sewer Operator, Darrel Binkley would like to be put on the payroll so that taxes can be taken out of his wages. This would also place Darrel on our Work Comp Policy. After discussion, Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to put Sewer Operator Darrel Binkley on the Borough's payroll and put together a letter for clarification to give to Darrel stating the benefits as a part-time employee; which are none. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH AGENDA –President Robinson wanted to advise Borough Council the bid opening for the Park Project will be February 3, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. Also Glenn Holliman and Russ Hoover will be attending the next meeting to discuss the historical markers that they would like to place at the corner of 4th and Market. Also the moving of the stone at Max Kauffman's Garage. They would need the Borough's concurrence in order to get grant money also. If there are any misgivings, concerns or questions please contact President Robinson.

BOARDS APPOINTMENTS – There is a vacancy on the Water Authority Board for a (5) year term. We received (1) letter of interest for reappointment from Penny Frownfelter whose term expired on January 1, 2015. There is a vacancy on the Municipal Authority Board for a (5) year term. We received (2) letters of interest to serve on this board. Tami

Halstead submitted a letter of interest for reappointment; her term expired January 1, 2015. Also received a letter of interest from James Sharar to be appointed. There are (2) vacancies on the Planning Commission Board each (4) year terms. We received (2) letters of interest. Robert Sharar submitted a letter for reappointment; his term expired January 1, 2015 and Tami Halstead submitted a letter of interest for reappointment. We have a vacancy on the Zoning board for a (3) year term. We received no letters of interest. Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Halstead to reappoint Penny Frownfelter to the Water Authority Board for a (5) year term. Motion carried unanimously. Cl'm Roush nominated James Sharar as a board member for the Municipal Authority. Nomination seconded by Cl'm McNaughton. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to close the nominations. Motion to appoint James Sharar to fill the vacancy on the Municipal Authority for a (5) year term carried with Cl'm Halstead opposed. Cl'm Halstead nominated Robert Sharar for a (4) year term on the Planning Commission Board, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter. Cl'm Roush moved seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to close the nominations. Motion to appoint Robert Sharar to fill one of the (4) year terms carried unanimously. There were no other nominations for the second vacancy on the Planning Commission Board.

SEWER REVENUE CHECKS FOR NBMA FOR 2014 – The balance in the Sewer Revenue Account on December 31, 2014 was \$203,126.91. Check to NBMA in the amount of \$25,000 for the Capital Improvement Fund. Check for Future Debt Service in the amount of \$91,598.08. Check for balance of Sewer User Fees of \$61,528.83 will leave a balance of \$25,000.00 as start up money for the year 2015. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to approve the payout of checks as presented to the Newport Borough Municipal Authority for the year 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

POSTAGE FOR REAL ESTATE & OCC MAILINGS – The Borough and the County have about 1200 bills to be mailed out at a cost of \$588.00 according to our tax collector. The County and the Borough split the cost. This year County would like the Borough to pay for the postage and be reimbursed by them. County says their funds are tight. Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to pay the postage of \$588.00 to mail out the tax bills for the County and Borough and be reimbursed half by the County. Motion carried unanimously.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR – President Robinson commented he thinks the Borough should think about a change of Solicitors in light of the federal lawsuit. He asked if the board had any suggestions. Cl'm Frownfelter agreed but did not know who we could use. President Robinson commented Greg Knight might be a possibility but there is no need to have a solicitor at every meeting. He asked the board to think about till the next meeting. Same thing with the engineer. Larson Design Group is a little pricey with fees. President Robinson did not advocate to change the engineer for the Park Project which is Larson just the Borough's. Cl'm Frownfelter asked if we need a designated engineer for the Borough. President Robinson said yes you do. Cl'm McNaughton commented we will need an engineer for the upcoming projects. Everyone was in agreement that the engineer would not be Glace Associates. President Robinson commented Larson got us hooked up with the PIB loan but the engineering fees are pretty high for that project. Cl'm Frownfelter and Cl'm Halstead did not have a problem with Larson Design. Larson has not been asked to do too much for the Borough this year. Cl'm Frownfelter commented it is not unreasonable to talk with engineers, go out and look around. President Robinson commented they are better behaved when you're not tied to a contract. We need to sit down and get our (5) year plan done. We need to update the storm and sewer line map; see what is separated already. The number one purpose of the engineers is not to help out the citizens of Newport, their purpose is to make money; bring revenue back into their office. President Robinson asked do we want to change engineers and start with the 5th Street Project. Walnut Street is another project. It needs storm, sanitation and water lines replaced. Cl'm McNaughton commented he would like to see what Larson's ideas are. Cl'm Frownfelter commented maybe we should just sit tight for right now and stay with Larson. President Robinson commented be looking.

MENS ROOM IN BOROUGH BUILDING – President Robinson reported the commode in the men's bathroom of the borough building needs repaired. Need to replace the tank; it is not flushing right. Doug Beatty will look for a tank. It will get fixed.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Hetrick had nothing to report.

WATER – President Robinson reported the Water Authority is in the midst of a situation. They are shutdown right now because of a performance issue. They will be meeting with DEP. They will give the Council insight when issue is resolved.

COMMENTS AROUND THE TABLE – President Robinson commented right now there are members of the board that are not taking their stipends. He is thinking about taking his stipend from the Borough. Just wanted to let Council know he was thinking about it. President Robinson gave a comment to Luke Roman in regards to the article that was in the News Sun of the report of the last meeting. The article was poorly written. The bond payment was listed as though the Borough makes the payment. It makes our budget inflated but is a part of it. The Water Authority makes the bond payment; not the Borough.

There being no further business to come before the Borough Council, Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Bowers
Secretary