

Newport Borough Council  
September 20, 2016 – Mid Month Meeting  
Newport, Pennsylvania

President Gerald Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Penny Frownfelter, Tami Halstead, Douglas Beatty, Carl Roush and John McNaughton present. Richard Delancey was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT** - Mayor Mary Hetrick and Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Bowers.

**GUESTS** – Frank Campbell and Luke Roman.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS** – The balance in General Fund Account is \$144,376.38. Invoices presented for payment in the amount of \$11,424.75 for payment from the General Fund Account will leave a balance of \$132,951.63. Liquid Fuels Account balance is \$75,911.04. Invoice presented for payment in the amount of \$1,235.78 to Juniata Valley Bank for vehicle loan will leave a balance of \$74,675.26. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to pay the invoices presented for payment in the amount of \$11,424.75 from the General Fund Account and pay the outstanding invoice presented for payment in the amount of \$1,235.78 from the Liquid Fuels Account. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEWPORT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK PROJECT** – Invoice for payment #8 from Wayne S Leshar IV Inc was presented for payment in the amount of \$26,179.95. This is the final payment for the Newport Veterans Memorial Park Project. Cl'm McNaughton moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to pay payment #8 in the amount of \$26,179.95 to Wayne S Leshar IV Inc for the final invoice for Newport Veterans Memorial Park Project. Motion carried unanimously. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to approve the letter from Larson Design Group to DCNR to close out the project. Motion carried unanimously. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to approve the submittal of paperwork for request of the final drawdown for the Newport Veterans Memorial Park Project and for those documents to be signed by the project manager Frank Campbell. Motion carried unanimously.

**BANNER RESOLUTION** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to adopt Resolution #05-16 designating the Borough's intent to erect one banner on cables across Rte 34 at the intersection with 2<sup>nd</sup> Street for the "One Community, One District, One Book" Literacy Event. Motion carried unanimously. Suspension dates are from October 17, 2016 to December 10, 2016.

**REGIONAL POLICE UPDATE** – President Robinson reported there was a mini committee meeting (Clm's Roush, Beatty, President Robinson and Mayor Hetrick) for the discussion regarding regional police. They have a couple of proposals from the police study that was done by DCED. We would like to move forward with discussions of finances and concerns. He talked with Jill Hoover, Supervisor for Oliver Township and she thinks they are ready to sit down and talk also about finances and concerns. We will have a pretty good idea by November; we will know what we will need. President Robinson commented the Borough would have to pay upfront buying into what Oliver already has. He would like to see us get a number in our budget for this next year. The committee has discussed concepts but the actual doing will take more discussion. Realistically possibly by spring or midyear 2017. It will probably take 6 to 9 months to get going. Budgeted expense according to Howard Daugherty study is \$156,545.00. Depending on which proposal they decide on the Borough's cost would be between \$52,000 and \$62,300. In talking with Jill Hoover she felt the costs were adverse for Oliver; their budget before was \$42,000 before. There are grant monies available which would give us a cushion for operating money for a couple of years. Municipalities using PSP will possibly have to support the cost for that down the road. Cl'm Halstead commented she is opposed to having police. Can't see (2) officers covering a wide area like ours. Regional sharing won't necessarily have the same coverage as PSP. President Robinson commented that he doesn't think we have PSP for 24 hour coverage. We get no help from PSP to enforce ordinances. Admittedly there is more of an area to cover in Oliver Township. Oliver has issues just like Newport. Newport people want the police back. Businesses are tired of not having police. We found (2) more syringes up on Oliver and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Cl'm McNaughton commented if we can figure out how to fund the police he is all for it. In 2012 at the meeting at the Fire house, 98% of the people said they would pay a tax increase to pay for the police. President Robinson commented we may need a tax increase. Our committee will have a joint meeting with Oliver and come back to the Borough Council in November or December for a vote.

**TICKET ORDINANCE** – President Robinson reported everyone received a copy of the ordinance prepared by Cl'm Halstead to address some of the issues that our Code Enforcement Officer has been having. This info came from one of the webinars she attended that addressed blight. We have an antiquated procedure now. Code Enforcement Officer John Shiffer is taking action on (2) issues right now. President Robinson reviewed the ordinance and commented it will allow the code enforcement officer to ticket an owner/individual for a violation of an ordinance. He can give a warning ticket first. After that 1<sup>st</sup> offense is (\$25.00), 2<sup>nd</sup> (\$50.00) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (\$75.00). They would have (5) days with each ticket to address the issue. After that; if the issue is not addressed then a citation would be issued. Cl'm Halstead commented the money from the tickets could be put in a fund to address blight properties. Please review the ordinance and give your comments until next meeting. President Robinson commented we have to decide how to handle entering a property to take care of the issue. Don't know if we want to get involved with that. Cl'm Halstead commented the webinar addressed the blight issue. President Robinson reported he talked with Mr. Dissinger today in regards to 112-114 Market St. We have to make sure who owns the property. To take ownership we would have to satisfy the liens. If we can't renovate then the building needs to come down. Review the ordinance and the ordinances that will be handled by this ordinance and give comments if you have any. Cl'm Halstead reported there is another seminar September 28, 2016 from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. that talks about Land Banks. Cl'm Frownfelter commented there are over 100 inactive accounts for Water/Sewer. That includes Oliver Township and Howe Township but 75% are from within the Borough. Cl'm Halstead commented you can place an exemption on a property for taxes over a (5) year period to give an incentive to fix up your property.

**2017 PENSION MMO** – Secretary Bowers reported the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan at PMRS for 2017 will be \$22,501.00. The Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Police Pension Plan at PMRS for 2017 is (\$0). Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Frownfelter to approve the 2017 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Non-Uniformed and Police Pension Plans at PMRS as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**QUOTE FOR THE 2004 RANGER REPAIRS** – Quote was received for the 2004 Ranger repairs; \$350.00 from LB Smith for the parts and \$400.00 from Seiber's Garage to install to include an oil change for a total of \$750.00. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm McNaughton to accept the quote for the repairs to the 2004 Ranger. Motion carried unanimously.

**BOROUGH BUILDING AREA** - President Robinson commented he heard there have been complaints about what we have done to the Borough Building area. It looks good all around. It is a substantial improvement to the community. Hope the community accepts that.

**AUDITOR QUOTE** – Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Beatty to accept the quote for (3) years for auditor services SEK & Co. at a cost of \$6,750.00 for (2016), \$6,950.0 for (2017) and \$7,200 for (2018). Motion carried unanimously.

**2017 GENERAL FUND BUDGET PROPOSAL** – At this time the Borough council worked on the 2017 Budget Worksheet. President Robinson reviewed where we are at right now with the figures. Total income right now without the Bond payment is \$581,902.00. Secretary Bowers will total the numbers given to see where we are at with expenses for the next meeting.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Frownfelter moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted  
Patricia Bowers  
Secretary

