

Newport Borough Council
September 18, 2018 – Mid Month Meeting
Newport, Pennsylvania

President Gerald Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with Borough Council Members Tami Halstead, Carl Roush, Barbara Leach, and Doug Beatty were present. Councilman John McNaughton was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT – Mayor Mary Hetrick and Secretary/Treasurer Heather Ilgenfritz.

GUESTS – Tim Seiber, Jacob Zentichko, Frank Campbell, and Luke Roman.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Tim Seiber, Treasurer of the Newport Borough Municipal Authority, spoke about the new Wastewater Treatment Plant project. He reported the costs are higher than initially projected. He reported NBMA was able to secure grant funds in the amount of approximately 4 million to help fund the project. The overall costs are projected to be roughly 16 million. Of that overall cost, 14 million is for the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant, and 2 million is estimated for the sanitary sewer line replacement and separation. However, he explained a dilemma before the Authority for the dissemination of the grant monies. He reported there are multiple options on the table to equitably distribute grant money related to the new sewer plant among its stakeholders – Newport Borough, Howe Township, and Oliver Township.

He said the first option would split the funds proportionally between the plant and line replacement, resulting in 3.4 million dedicated to the plant and \$600,000 to line replacement. While option two would use grant funds to completely cover the line replacement, with the remaining 2 million dedicated for the wastewater treatment plant. The process determined for the allocation is important because the grant money for pipe replacement entirely benefits the Borough and its customers. The wastewater treatment plant costs are divided among Newport Borough, Oliver Township, and Howe Township by 46, 33 and 21 percent, respectively, based on the plant's capacity reserves for each entity. Mr. Seiber stated the decision of how the awarded grant money gets distributed is strictly in the Authority's hands.

Council President Robinson noted that Newport Borough must underwrite, and pledge money should NBMA default on its loan. He noted Newport Borough is the only entity that has pledged tax dollars to support this project, Oliver and Howe Townships have not. The impact should the responsibility of the loan fall to the Borough, would go up substantially more than 46%. Cl'm Halstead stated she has concerns and that every party involved should contribute to make payments towards debt service. It has to be a fair process. It won't be even, but it should be fair.

Frank Campbell stated that Howe Township has funding, but not enough customer base to pay back the Authority. Rates are at \$130.00 per month for sewer alone. Howe has potential growth for new customers down the road. A grant will help to connect Buffalo Crossings. Cl'm Halstead asked whether a payback agreement could be put in place. Mr. Seiber stated the Authority has been waiting for Howe Township to make a decision since April. Mr. Seiber said the question becomes are the people of Newport willing to have higher rates for the first five years of the plant's operation until Howe Township "gets on their feet."

Council President Robinson stated it is the Council's responsibility to protect the interest of Newport. He said the mere fact that only \$230,000 in Community Development Block Grant money is available for the entire County of Perry is laughable as there are projects in need everywhere.

Mr. Seiber stated NBMA has done construction draws on the loan and the interest alone is about \$7,000 per month. The numbers are not pretty. He is willing to meet with anyone to discuss this further and consider any other ideas. He stated NBMA's next meeting is scheduled for September 27th at 7:00 P.M. should anyone desire to attend.

CANAL DAY / APPROVAL OF TURKEY TROT BANNER RESOLUTION NO. 08-18 - Frank Campbell reported everything is on-track for Canal Day festivities. He also requested approval of a Banner Resolution for the 2018 Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. Cl'm Halstead moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to approve the Banner Resolution No. 08-18 for the 2018 Turkey Trot. Motion unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS-

2019 PROPOSED BUDGET WORKSHEET DISCUSSION – President Robinson stated that he does not wish to use reserves to balance the budget as was done the prior year. He stated that Councilman McNaughton indicated he did not anticipate a need to increase the Streets budget and felt as though they could work again within that budget. Consideration of street improvements will most likely depend upon securing a grant or loan.

Robinson also reported that quotes for a skid loader from New Holland and Bobcat are pending.

He will put together the framework to continue the budget discussion for the next meeting and will work with the Secretary to produce a draft budget document, noting we should have all of the income figures by then.

There was a brief discussion regarding insurance premiums and the Borough’s coverage including the Newport Borough Municipal Authority. NBMA’s Solicitor is working on drafting an agreement to present to the Borough for consideration regarding this matter. There will be reimbursements for some of the shared costs. President Robinson said it will depend upon the ruling by the Auditors and Council will have to abide by the Auditor’s decision.

There was also a brief discussion regarding the liquid fuels allocation and the regulations for use of those funds for paving.

Cl’m Halstead stated she has obtained the tree trimming quotes for Veterans Memorial Park. The two trees on the Borough’s property are estimated to be at least 85ft tall. The Borough and the homeowner were able to work together to negotiate a better rate and split the costs for having all of the trees trimmed. The quotes are as follows:

1. Tom’s Tree Services out of Lewistown quoted \$2,400, plus \$600 for the homeowner’s tree for a total of \$3,000.
2. Boyer’s quoted \$3,000 for the Borough’s plus an additional \$700 for the homeowner’s tree for a total of \$3,700.
3. Cramer’s quoted \$3,000 for the Borough’s two trees, plus \$950 for the homeowner’s tree for a total of \$3,950.

Cl’m Halstead reported the playground budget is currently at 62.5% of the total amount budgeted for 2018. She believes this expense can be taken out of the playground budget. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to contact Tom’s Tree Service for the cutting of the maple trees to 10 feet at Veterans Memorial Park, and to have the expense charged to the playground budget. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS –

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACTOR’S APPLICATION FOR FINAL COSTS OF THE 5TH STREET

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – NEWPORT BOROUGH’S PORTION – Council President Robinson stated he has reviewed the Application for Payment submitted by G&R Charles. There are two items in which there is a question on whether they are the responsibility of the Borough or the Sewer Authority. They are for the contingent excavation below subgrade and contingent furniah and place structure fill costs. There was a brief discussion and it was noted the As-built drawings must be in-hand as requested at the Pre-construction meeting. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Beatty to table the approval until the October 2, 2018 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 2018 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP) FOR NEWPORT BOROUGH & RESIDENT MAILING –

Cl’m Halstead presented a draft Emergency Operations Plan. She stated the plan is generic in some regards; however, it is compliant with PEMA standards. If approved, the Borough will meet its legal compliance and obligation to have an updated plan on record. She emphasized it’s not meant to impede the first responders’ efforts, it’s meant to assist. A letter to be mailed to residents explaining this initiative is also before Council for approval. The community must come together to help mitigate damage during times of disaster. Cl’m Halstead moved, seconded by Cl’m Leach to approve Resolution No. 07-18 adopting the 2018 Emergency Operations Plan for Newport Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

President Robinson reviewed an email received from Richard Fultz, Perry County EMA Director, regarding serious concerns with the current Emergency Management Coordinator, Tom Fitzpatrick, for Newport Borough. The email indicated Mr. Fitzpatrick has not attended the required trainings to hold the position. Therefore, Robinson recommended the appointment of Councilwoman Tami Halstead to fill the Emergency Management Coordinator position on an interim basis. He stated the Council owes it to the citizens to have someone capable in the EMC position. Cl'm Roush moved, seconded by Cl'm Delancey to cease the term of Tom Fitzpatrick as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Newport Borough. Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted for the record that Mr. Fitzpatrick did not complete the necessary certifications since his appointment in 2008, and had not fulfilled the terms of the position.

Cl'm Halstead stated the cost of postage for the resident mailing could come out of the Emergency Management line item that was budgeted for training in the amount of \$2,000 – since that has not been used. She stated the recent rains and the rising river level really motivated her to take the initiative on this because it's important to do our due diligence to protect the people and the interest of Newport. Cl'm Leach moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to approve the Emergency Management Resident Mailing. Motion unanimously carried.

President Robinson called for a motion to appoint Tami Halstead to serve as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Cl'm Beatty moved, seconded by Cl'm Leach to appoint Tami Halstead to serve at the Emergency Management Coordinator for Newport Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Hetrick did not have any matters to report.

Cl'm Halstead stated she had an additional playground budget item. She would like to obtain quotes for the concrete work if Council wants to proceed with renovating the kitchen. Those numbers will need to be considered for the 2019 proposed budget. There was a brief discussion. Cl'm Beatty stated it can't be rented for use in the current condition and he has already budgeted that cost as part of the maintenance budget / Government Building Repairs line item.

President Robinson also discussed a storm drain issue in need of repair near Westford's property on 5th Street. He has requested a quote from the contractor for the inlet repair and connection to the new storm sewer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – President Robinson stated the Committee Reports are forthcoming for the October meeting.

There being no further business to come before Borough Council, Cl'm Delancey moved, seconded by Cl'm Roush to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Ilgenfritz
Secretary