

Summit Hill Borough Council
May 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

The regular scheduled meeting of the Summit Hill Borough Council was held at the above time and place with President Jesse Walck presiding.

Roll Call – President Jesse Walck, Vice President Michael Kokinda, Greg Kosciolk, John O’Gurek, Bill Chapman, and William O’Gurek were all in attendance. Solicitor Michael Greek arrived at 7:02. Michael Alabovitz and Mayor Paul McArdle were absent.

Minutes – Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by William O’Gurek to approve the April 28, 2014 meeting minutes. The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Floor Session

1. David Kasprzak, 10 West White Bear Drive, inquired about the progress with the sewage problem at 17 West White Bear Drive. Jesse Walck informed him that it is in process, there is a request pending and it should be ratified in a reasonable amount of time.
2. Kim Graver, 11 West Holland Street, asked the street committee to deny the request for a handicap parking spot at 9 West Holland Street. Kim stated that she has observed Ann Marie Derby remove all snow from the property and the street down to the stop sign. Kim claims she manipulates the parking by putting a garbage can weighed down by a cinder block in the spot when leaving. Jesse states her request will be taken under advisory.
3. Karen Ruzika, 150 East Fell Street, inquired about the PPL upgrade and was wondering if the streetlights will be updated with LED lighting. Jesse Walck stated that the Borough has received lights for the buildings, motion sensors and LED lights for the inside, but nothing for street lights yet. Jesse said that they are looking into it and Mike Alabovitz is keeping up with it. Karen asked if the new police officers could stop in at the local businesses and introduce themselves because there are so many new faces.

Mayor’s Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, reported the magistrate income for April 2014 is \$1,031.61. Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Michael Kokinda to accept the Mayor’s report for the month of April 2014. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Police Report – Officer Jeffrey Ohl stated that there was nothing additional to add to the police report at this time. Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Police Report for the month of April 2014. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Planning and Zoning Report – Zoning Officer, Bill Kirklosky, was not present. Kira stated that Bill did have questions in regard to a trailer located at 113 East Fell Street that has been in the same location and nobody has contacted the Zoning Office. It is believed that the trailer is located in the back of the home and someone is living in it. Bill sent a letter and the owners claim they never received the letter. Bill would like to know what his next step should be. Council advised to send a registered letter; Kira will inform Bill. John O’Gurek inquired if anything is being done with the residence that is turning a garage into an apartment. Kira stated that the property owner came in and handed in the application and the UCC has put everything on hold until everything goes through the proper channels. There does not seem to be a problem because there was a house there years ago. The person who bought the house put a garage on the property and it was never

documented with the Borough. **Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by Greg Kosciolek to accept the Planning and Zoning Report for the month of April 2014.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Work Leader Report - Motion was made by Michael Kokinda and second by William O’Gurek to accept the Work Leader Report for the month of April 2014. The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Tax Collector Report – Tax Collector, Alice Kane, has submitted a total of \$45,116.49 with a commission of \$1,804.66 from April 16-30, 2014. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Michael Kokinda to accept the Tax Collector Report from April 16-30, 2014.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Wage Tax Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Wage Tax Report for the month of April 2014. Berkheimer submitted a total EIT of \$18,705.19 with a commission of \$325.58 and postage charges of \$42.49. Total LST submitted was \$846.10 with a commission of \$17.35 commission and postage charges of \$42.96. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to accept the Wage Tax Report for the month of April 2014.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Receipts – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the receipts for the month of April 2014. General Fund receipts were \$161,961.91, Sanitation Account receipts were \$18,082.82 and Community Center receipts were \$375.00. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman second by Greg Kosciolek to accept the receipts for the month of April 2014.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Committee Reports

Streets – John O’Gurek stated that they were hoping the parts for the sweeper were in so they could repair it and continue sweeping. Kira stated that as of 2:00 this afternoon, the parts came in but no one has come up to get the sweeper. John said, fortunately, the parade was done but he does not understand why a \$700 part had to be approved, he knows it is not our rules, it is their rules but it has sat in our building for well over two weeks waiting for approval. John also said they will be doing some minor patching along the parade route area and a little coming into town. The park grass is going to have to be cut again, probably on Friday. The parade route is the main focus for this weekend. The new truck is in really nice shape, it runs perfect and the tires are like new.

Buildings – Kira stated Servpro has been at the Community Center and cleaned the vent system. She was over on Friday and it smells 100 times better. The floors were done by Mr. O’Gurek and look much better. Her only suggestion is to get the kitchen back up and running the proper way so people can start to use it properly. Andy McFadden did all the work in the back.

Fire and Emergency Services – Nothing to report at this time.

Recreation – Jodi McAndrew, President of the Recreation Commission, asked if they could use the kitchen in the Community Center for Memorial Day. Kira said yes it is but to look and see if there is anything else they need. They would also like to use the grass area in front of the building on Memorial Day to sell breakfast sandwiches before the parade. The 5K race on Sunday and there are 39 registrations and have been told many people will be signing up the day of the race. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the race begins at 9:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Michael Kokinda to accept the Committee Reports. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communications –

Fireworks at the Ginder – Kevin Steber and the members of the Fireworks at the Ginder committee are asking for permission to use the Ginder Stadium for a fireworks display on July 5, 2014 at no cost to anyone. Fundraising is being done and all monies go towards the fireworks. They are fully insured. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to allow Kevin Steber and the Fireworks Committee to use of the Ginder Stadium for firework on July 5, 2014s.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communication for the Month of May 2014

1. Letter from Kevin Steber in regards to the Fireworks at the Ginder – See attached letter
2. Letter from System Design Engineering, Inc. in regards to the grant application for the Summit Hill Water Authority. – See attached letter
3. Letter from Hawk Valley Associates, PC in regards to their professional services – See attached information.
4. PLGIT Annual Report

Motion made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept all communications for the month of April 2014. The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Bills – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, reported total expenses for the month of April 2014. General Fund bills were \$83,800.26, Sanitation Account bills were \$22,746.59, Community Center Account bills were \$117.97 and Street Account bills were \$181.76. **Motion made by Mike Kokinda and second by Bill Chapman to approve the bills for the month of April 2014, minus the \$45,676.41 that was approved last month to pay off the loan with First Niagara Bank.** The motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Old Business – None at this time.

New Business

1. Sanitation Contract Bids – Atty. Michael Greek said the bid was for a 1 year contract and also requested an alternate bid with a one day per year electronics pick up. It was bid out for a 1, 2, 3 and 4 year bid with an alternate pick-ups. The alternate is for the electronics pick-up. The only thing different in the contract is the clause for the parameters of the one year extension. **Motion was made by Michael Kokinda and second by Bill Chapman to award the Sanitation Contract to Tamaqua Transfer for 4 years with alternate 1 day electronics pick up for a fee of \$1,231,260.00.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Larry Wittig, Tamaqua Transfer, said the pick-up will be on Tuesday beginning in June and there will be some transition for some of the people who normally get picked up on Wednesday. The recycling will also be picked up at the same time every other Tuesday. The electronics pick-up date will be up to the Borough. Tamaqua Transfer will put an ad in the paper and Kira will put it on the web site because garbage bills do not go out until July.
2. Ordinance No. 5 of 2014: Sewage Transmission Fee – Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1964. Atty. Michael Greek drafted an ordinance according to what other municipalities are charging for a sewer transmission fee. When the Authority was formed in 1964, all the lines in the municipality are the responsibility of the Borough. When there is a break in the line, the Borough must come up with the money for repairs. Other municipalities have come up with this fee to care for these lines. Any

unit will have to pay the annual fee. That would apply to any units, whether it is residential or commercial. John O’Gurek said a vacant property should not have to pay a bill for non-use, will there be an exemption for them like the garbage fees. Atty. Greek said other municipalities grant an exemption to any property that has the water turned off, that is the only reason for an exemption. He stated that according to the law, regardless of whether you are using the property or not, you are required to pay the fee. If there is no structure on a property, there is no fee. Jesse said the purpose of this is to fix the problems with the sewage lines in town that we have had for a long time. The Borough does not have the money to do a complete improvement on the lines. The only way to get the money is to impose the fee. There is no grant money available to do this and the Borough does not have control of the sewage rates, the authority does. This is the cheaper of the options. If the Borough waits and the lines begin to fail, DEP will come and tell us how much to charge and it would not be a couple of bucks here and there, it would be \$2,000 per house, per year is the usual. This would go into effect next year. William O’Gurek stated that he doesn’t know if this is the way the Borough should go. We just reduced the millage and the residents will see a good reduction and now we want to charge \$100. Jesse said he does not like it either, but to not do it is irresponsible. People do not want to live in a town where sewage is backing up into their house. We were not approved for a \$5-\$10 million bond. The work would not start for a couple of years and the money would have to be collected in order to start, probably not for 3-4 years. An engineer would have to decide where the work would start. Mike Kokinda said he already did some studies but they need to be worked on. We are not going into this completely blind. Since we are in moratorium, DEP sends a letter every once in a while asking what we are doing about the lines. We have already done flow testing and smoke testing. The fee would be \$100 per year, \$25 per quarter. John O’Gurek said his business does not have a bathroom, so he should be exempt. Only one sewer bill is paid. If there is one meter, there is one fee. If there are two households but only one meter, what do we do. Atty. Greek said there can be exceptions, but where do you draw the line on exemptions. Kira asked what to do if someone doesn’t pay. Atty. Greek said to shut the water off. A property must be posted and given a certain amount of time to pay. If they do not pay, water can be turned off. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by John O’Gurek to table Ordinance No. 5 of 2014.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.


3. Handicap Application – Application for Anna Marie Derby at 9 West Holland Street. Jesse Walck stated that there is a petition for denial from Chief Fittos. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Michael Kokinda to deny the application of a handicap sign for Anna Marie Derby located at 9 West Holland Street.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. John O’Gurek refrained from voting on the issue because he knows both parties.
4. Well Distance Exemption Request – John O’Gurek said this has been going on for a couple years. Who is being held liable if someone gets sick. This was supposed to be taken care of a while ago. Kira informed Council that Scott Bieber said that he never received anything from Carl Wolfe so she needs to look back in the minutes and see where it was approved. **Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by William O’Gurek to grant the well distance exemption setback for the property at 17 West White Bear Drive.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Kira will send a letter to everyone involved.
5. Cesspool Pumping at 17 West White Bear Drive - Council does not agree with Scott Bieber’s letter stating that he will direct a pumper to regularly pump the cesspool until a permanent remedy is achieved and the borough will pay for it. Kira said Mr. Bieber already called the property owner and said that the Borough will do it, even though she told Mr. Bieber they will not agree with it. Kira will call Mr. Bieber and talk to him again tomorrow.
6. Michael Kokinda suggested that our engineer draw some specifications in order to bid a pole building.

The bleachers would be removed and a salt structure would be constructed with four bays. Jesse Walck said this would allow us to get the bleachers taken down at essentially no cost and a new building up and house some equipment. **Motion was made by Michael Kokinda and second by John O'Gurek to have Carbon Engineering draw up specs for a new pole building.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

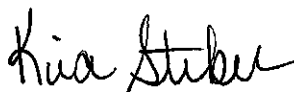
Executive Session - Council entered into executive session at 7:54 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Council entered back into regular session at 8:21 p.m.

Motion was made by Michael Kokinda and second by William O'Gurek to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting on June 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Motion opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.



Jesse Walck
Council President



Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer