

Borough of Rosslyn Farms

September 10, 2018

Regular Council Meeting

Attendees: Carolyn Bucci (Secretary-Treasurer, non-voting), Steve Tassaro (President), Daniel Conlon (Solicitor, non-voting), Jim Stover (Mayor, non-voting), Steve George, Nate Prepelka, Lee Griffin, Tina Bucci Stacy

Regrets: Giuseppe Ragozzino, Jonathan Glance

Minutes: Taken by Secretary Treasurer Carolyn Bucci

Meeting Materials: Sign-in sheet and agendas provide to those in attendance

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steve Tessaro at 7:00 pm on September 10, 2018 at the Rosslyn Farms Community Center. Members of council, as well as non-voting members, were present.

Approval of August 13, 2018 minutes - Motion made to approve minutes by Council Person Griffin, motion 2nd by council Person Steve George. All were in favor.

Approval of September bills to be paid - Motion to approve the September unpaid bills made by Council Person Steve George, and 2nd by Council Person Lee Griffin. All were in favor.

Financial Report – Secretary Treasurer Bucci provided the financial report. Mayor Stover asked about the date on the Financial Report questioning why it was from August 6, 20 through September 8, 2018 instead of August 1st to August 31st. Secretary Treasurer Bucci explained that it was necessary to go to September 8th to pick up all the bills that were paid since the last council meet. President Tassaro agreed with Secretary Treasurer Bucci and the dates will remain to cover the time from the last council meeting up to and including the current council meeting.

NIRA Engineering Presentation – Engineers from NIRA were present. NIRA is in Coraopolis and was started in 1975. The company say that as an engineering firm there was an opportunity to provide building and zoning enforcement to municipalities. All NIRA clients are provided with representation by a member of the board.

President Tassaro mentioned that we are a small borough that doesn't get a lot of development. Mostly property maintenance and zoning violations, etc. Rosslyn Farms wants their enforcement provider to take a more proactive approach to code enforcement (although we do not have a large problem). NIRA engineering said that Thronburg and Pennsbury are their clients and like Rosslyn Farms they do not have a lot of development. NIRA will provide an overview of the municipality on a regular basis and will enforce the codes that Rosslyn Farms has/puts in place. It will be NIRA's responsibility to familiarize itself with our codes and the management of our codes to our specifications.

Mayor Stover asked how often NIRA will sweep the borough. NIRA said they can do weekly, monthly, quarterly or whatever we want. Cost is \$90 per hour.

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President Tassaro emphasized he does not feel we have a large problem and he wants us to be proactive and not reactive to issues like trailers and construction equipment.

Leaf Filter Presentation - Rob Shaw of Leaf Filter was in attendance. President Tassaro noted at the start of the presentation that he is aware that there is a “larger vision” of needs for the community center such as roof, downspouts, etc., but felt addressing the gutters soon would be beneficial. Rob explained that Leaf Filters would clean the gutters and down spouts, refurbish them, re-align them, seal them and apply hidden hangers that they would use to place their leaf filter product. He noted that we have 6-inch white gutters, so we will be getting 6-inch leaf guards.

Council Person George asked if the guard will get overwhelmed with leaves and pine needles and asked how they deal with that as well as what warranty terms and conditions they offer. Rob Shaw provided Council Person George (as well as any council person interested) with various handouts, articles, and sample leaf filters to help address his questions. Rob Shaw said the company is a national company and has not been sued locally.

Council Person Griffin asked where the need for a leaf fitting product came from. President Tassaro explained the gutters were clogged with debris which contributes to the water issue the community center is experiencing. The cost of this product would be \$5,925, but there are other premium products out there like Gutter Helmet which provide good gutter protection.

Council Person Nate Prepelka asked how much it would cost to regularly clean the gutters. Mayor Stover noted that one side of the building is quite high, and Charlie could not clean that side, but the lower side would be accessible to Charlie. Council Persons Steve George and Tina Stacy said that is too dangerous for Charlie and President Tassaro said Charlie is not going to clean the gutters or get on the roof as it is not safe.

President Tassaro opened the opportunity for citizens to speak.

Resident Sandra Pack – Ms. Pack presented a follow-up on Penn Dot property maintenance. She noted after many phone calls that Rosslyn Farms will be put back on the maintenance schedule for mowing approximately 3 times per year. She said that intend to mow in the May/June timeframe as well as July and September.

Penn Dot is happy to put no parking signs up in that location if we request them by contacting Dean Schmidt. Borough would be required to enforce the no parking signs. Mayor Stover noted that the Scott Police will not enforce No Parking Signs on Penn Dot property without permission from the PA State Police.

Ms. Pack also noted that Penn Dot will remove the concrete barriers that seem to be causing parking issues. President Tassaro noted that we do not have a parking issue, but Ms. Pack said she heard there was a parking problem at the time of her last presentation.

President Tassaro thanked Ms. Pack for her diligent effort.

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Resident Michelle Follmer – Ms. Follmer said that when it rains water rushes down Kings Highway, across her drive and down her basement steps like a waterfall. She noted that this has been happening since the paving of Kings Highway several years ago and wants the borough to fix the issue as she has 2 inches of standing water in her basement which prevents her from selling her house. Ms. Follmer also noted that the water is eating away the sidewalk and she needs it to be made right. Ms. Follmer would appreciate some help. She said her husband has spoken to Charlie about it several times. President Tassarò said he would investigate the issue at her driveway.

Sandra Pack commented on the same situation at Winthrop, but President Tassarò said he is aware of that issue.

Solicitor Report – Solicitor Conlon noted that he drafted a truck turning radius ordinance. The Ordinance has been provided to council. Solicitor Conlon recommends that council place a motion to advertise the ordinance.

President Tassarò said the Mayor has worked with Daniel on the ordinance as well as the engineers because it is a very technical ordinance. He also noted that this ordinance is in response to residents' concerns over the large/heavy trucks on our borough roads.

President Tassarò asked Solicitor Conlon if we could remove the \$75 penalty in favor of a stiffer penalty for tractor trailers. Solicitor Conlon said that if it is a safety issue the penalty could go up to a maximum of \$500. The Solicitor noted that, per borough engineers, this is a safety issue, so it does qualify.

Council Person George asked if the Scott Township Police would enforce the ordinance. Mayor Stover said he spoke to the Scott Police as well as the magistrate and if enacted, they will enforce the ordinance.

President Tassarò noted that although we have signs that say no trucks, we did not have an enforceable ordinance. This will establish one.

Council Person Steve George made a motion to advertise the ordinance. Council Person Bucci Stacy 2nd the ordinance.

Solicitor Conlon will work with Secretary Treasurer Bucci to advertise the ordinance. President Tassarò noted this is our 2nd ordinance this year (the first one being the addition of stop signs).

The Solicitor also noted that he was asked to review the community center rental agreement and there were several recommended changes. The specific request was to add a \$100 security deposit. The solicitor added that \$100 is refundable subject to any damage they may have caused. Solicitor Conlon asked why the Borough is not part of the agreement vs. the community center and made the necessary changes to include the Borough.

Solicitor Conlon recommended that the updated form be used if the community center commission when renting and that someone on council should be the signer.

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Council Person Bucci Stacy will review it with the committee. No action is required by council on this matter.

Solicitor Conlon was also asked at the last meeting to review the vehicular speed data that is being posted on the website. Specifically, could expose the borough to any liability? It is the Solicitor's opinion that it does not cause exposure.

Solicitor Conlon did note that there are two possible reasons not to post the maximum speed information. He noted that the information is considered discoverable could be used in a court law. In addition, from a public relations perspective the max speed could cause the perception that the borough is not doing enough to enforce speeding.

Mayor Stove said that the max speed could be impacted by emergency vehicles and that Scott Police noted that they have even seen birds occasionally affect the signs. It was suggested that maybe Avg Speed and location should only be published as a response to residents that feel we have a perceived speeding issue.

Council Person Griffin asked "if we are not doing anything about speeding. She noted the sign is a deterrent, but if we are not doing anything about speeding why publish the information. President Steve Tassarò noted, that the data shows we do not have a speeding issue. Council Person Griffin asked to what end are we publishing speeding information. Council Person Prepelka asked why to publish the information at all, is there a reason behind doing it? President Tassarò said he is open to publishing it or not publishing it.

Council Person Griffin offered to investigate it with the residents collecting the traffic speed information.

Solicitor Conlon explained the ACT 167 ordinance which stems from state law on storm water management plans in place. He said that Allegheny County has gotten around to having an ordinance in place and now each municipality needs a storm water management plan. He said this is a technical ordinance and the county is providing grants of \$2,000 to help pay for the engineering costs around the ordinance. Solicitor Conlon recommends the borough apply for the grant money. He sent the application to Secretary Treasurer Bucci

The Solicitor also said he will coordinate with borough engineers to draft the ordinance.

Mayor Report – The Mayor highlighted the new report where the Chief of Scott stopped a woman from jumping off the Veterans bridge. He said there were two calls made to older borough residents that are part of a phone scam well documented on the internet. The scam involves the caller saying they are relative that requires bail money. There was one residential alarm and one EMS call. The Mayor noted that getting cameras in the commercial area might be beneficial. He noted that Scott has them and so does Mt. Lebanon.

Secretary Report – Nothing presented. President Tassarò noted that budget planning for 2019 is coming and that he and the Secretary Treasurer are working on a budget to actuals report.

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Parks and Recreation – Council Person Griffin noted that they seal coated the parking lot and have been calling about doing the line painting, but it has been consistently raining. Mayor Stover asked about the tree that fell on the tennis court. President Tassaro and Secretary Treasurer Bucci said it is not covered by insurance. It was noted that Charlie will call a tree person to get rid of the tree and then determine the extent of the damage.

Finance and Tax Collection – Act 32; President Tassaro will send the email he received from Sam to Solicitor Conlon for review.

Cog Report – Council Person George did research on what we are paying for the borough to be a member of COG. He noted that COG will likely be coming up with an increase next year. For 2018, dues \$2,427. In addition, we put on a dinner for \$825. The bring us to \$3,252 which will increase in 2019. Council Person George is inclined to say that we get very little out of our membership to COG. President Tassaro asked council to vote to leave COG.

Motion to authorize Steve George to notify COG that we will not be renewing our membership was made by Lee Griffin. Motion was 2nd by Tina Bucci Stacy. All were in favor.

Community Center – Council Person Bucci Stacy noted that the room across the hall (2nd Helping Room) keeps dropping debris. Tina had a roofer assess the roof (Rick John). The roof is 27 years old, and the ball park repair would be \$30K. Steve said it will need to be budgeted for next year and get a consultant to write up a bid package since it is over \$10K. President Tassaro said the Leaf Filter application is below the bidding amount and asked if people are in favor of it. Council Person George asked if he could spend the next month looking into it and Council Person Griffin said that maybe the new guard should be done at the same time as the new roof.

Bell Tower reconstruction – Resident Betsy Tassaro noted that the reconstruction is supposed to begin in mid-September.

Website – No update

Personnel – No update

Street Repaving – President Tassaro reported that Mele dropped off 3 pieces of equipment to prepare for the street paving, but due to weather he was not sure when they would start or which street they would start first. Most likely the work will take 2 weeks.

NIRA presentation – President Tassaro does not feel BUI is serving us to our satisfaction, so he recommends the borough change firms. President Tassaro would like a full-service company. Mayor Stover agrees with making a change, but says Dave Morgan is \$16/hr. Steve George agrees with the use of Dave Morgan.

Council Person Griffin made a motion to authorize the solicitor to remove BUI and get NIRA to perform the services for the Borough. Council Person Bucci Stacy 2nd. All were unanimous.

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President Tassarò will be away for the next meeting and asked council Vice President Steve George to chair the meeting.

Council Person Nate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Person Lee Griffin 2nd.