

January 5, 2016

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING January 5, 2016

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Phyllis Metz, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Greg Such, Jarod Stewart, Jason Sarver, and Mayor Cathy Rape.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Harmony Borough
Council Meeting
January 5, 2016
FRANK GRANNOX
WAZ. TON
Karen Catter
Jarod Stewart
Susan Antonius
John Ruck
Jim Mills
Phyllis METZ
Joe Dipold
ALLEN BAYER
Cathy Rape
Jason White
Joe White
Amerio Allegretto
GREG SUCH
Ron Schreyer

Parks Board Cont.:

the lowest amount of traffic on the course. Handing the medals out at the finish line seemed to be a big plus, there were no issues with the Harmony Inn, the stage worked well (Greg's idea), we could improve on the lighting, and there was enough volunteers this year.

Susie reported that the Polar Plunge had about 53 people that participated, a little less than last year. Will split the proceeds between Harmony Fire District and the Parks Board, they will each get about \$728.00. Susie reported we received a nice note from Scott Garing, the new Fire Chief.

Susie also reported that she received a call from Penn Power today, apparently the Harmony Museum received our bill for Wood Street; Penn Power will take care of it. Summer concerts will be June 30th with Allegheny Brass Band, July 14th with Eugene and the Night Crawlers, July 21st with Kardz, and August 11th with the John Burg Band. Greg Such added that we will be looking for sponsors for the concerts. Greg had a picture that was in the Butler Eagle, it was a great shot of the fireworks from the Silvester.

John Ruch commented that he saw the start of the Christmas tree toss, which will be better next year; they received a lot of suggestions. Typically there are about 200 people that come in to watch the movie and typically 30-40% of those people have not been to the Silvester before. This year they had 300+ people who saw the movie and 70-80% has never been to the Silvester. Jason Sarver commented that people left nothing behind; no garbage in the streets. Phyllis Metz and Jodi Correll commented they did not know anyone in the crowd; they're guessing there were around 4,000 people in attendance.

Planning Commission:

Joe White reported there wasn't a quorum; Frank Luek reported that no official business was conducted. Frank also reported that Jim Ziegler's father-in-law wants to build a small house, he was asked to come back this month.

Western Butler County Authority:

Harold Herr was unable to attend the meeting.

Shared Services:

Greg Such had nothing to report.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing to report.

Historic Harmony:

John Ruch reported that the HarmonieFest will be February 13 at 6:00 pm. John reported that they will provide guidance to people buying the building markers on what the wording will be and if there is a dispute they cannot resolve, HARB will resolve.

John also commented on the County's Visitor's Guide, Historic Harmony had nothing to do with the errors in the story about Harmony.

Fire Company Report:

Greg Such reported that the Fire Company had a public presentation in mid-December. Frank Luek inquired about the 1.5 millage, if we are not going to raise taxes Frank wants to make sure it will be made up from the General Fund. Greg Such commented that the Finance Committee will discuss and bring back to Council at the February meeting. Solicitor Matt reported that because it is an election year, Council can reopen the budget but the deadline is February 15th. Council would need to decide at the February 2nd meeting if they are going to re-open the budget, if Council would change the tax rate they would need to be re-advertised and a special meeting held on February 15th to pass it.

Greg Such stated that it would be a \$2470 increase (if he did the math right). Greg suggested take it out of the General Fund this year and later raise that tax amount, all four communities served need to get in sink. Jarod stated that he pulled both companies tax returns based with what they filed to the federal government they have \$850,000 cash on hand. Jarod would like to know what the money is going for, if they have that much cash on hand, before passing an increase. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that they need a new ladder truck. Greg Such stated they went over a lot of the costs at the public meeting. A truck cost around a million dollars, a squad truck cost around \$700,000. It cost around \$10,000 to outfit a firefighter and they last about 10 years. Greg suggested asking for the presentation from Scott Garing. Dave commented that the Zelenople meeting was well put together, very professional. Phyllis Metz and Frank Luek commented that we need a well-equipped fire company for Home Owners Insurance. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the drainage on Main Street needs fixed, and we're taking money out of the budget to give to the Fire Department. Jarod Steward commented that he thinks we can do both.

Town Hall Meeting:

Don Sims was unable to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susie Altemus reported that the Zelenople Library would like to bring the Wine Tour back to Harmony. It will be Friday July 15th. Phyllis Metz suggested getting the Event Form in.

Jim McCormick- 510 Main Street, Jim stated that he has been going to HARB the last two months regarding his chain link fence. Jim stated that Mr. Sarver said he would like additional information from HARB but nobody from Council contacted HARB. Jim is requesting Council to approve his chain link fence. Greg Such commented that Council needs a report from the HARB meeting on January 4, 2016. Solicitor Matt stated that Council cannot take any action until they get the information from HARB that is the way the Ordinance is structured. Once HARB sends the report Council can review it and then make a decision. If Mr. McCormick disagrees with Council's decision, he has the rights he can appeal it. Allen Bayer will email Brett all items from the Ordinance that need addressed. Solicitor Matt commented that HARB is a recommendary board, HARB will make a recommendation and Council will review and make a decision.

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PUBLIC COMMENT CONT.:

Russ Ottney – 135 Jackson Street, Zoning Chairman. Russ stated that he would like to be informed when Zoning things change without having to ask or indirectly find out. Greg Such commented that he was referring to the Flood Ordinance. Solicitor Matt responded that he understands that Mr. Ottney cannot come to every meeting but there are public notices, there is also a public hearing process when you alter zoning. It also gets submitted to planning for review, it gets submitted to Butler County Planning for review for 30 days and comment, then it is advertised for public hearing, and then at a public meeting it can be passed. Russ stated that he doesn't see the advertisements. Solicitor Matt commented that he writes the advertisement and sends them to Amy and she advertises them. Greg Such commented that Russ's question is how we can communicate better. Mr. Ottney also commented that Council needs to know what the laws are, and the Solicitor needs to know that he can't take Russ's solicitor away from him at any time. Solicitor Matt responded that he never advised Council that they could. Council does have the right to set a budget amount for your solicitor that all comes through Council. They do have the right to set a fee schedule. Russ Ottney stated that he did not know the Reorganization meeting was last night, Solicitor Matt commented that under the Borough Code it is always the first Monday in January and it also was advertised. Council President, Greg Such asked for Russ's email address, stating that we can at least get an advanced copy of the agenda out to Russ.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Chief Miller commented that the Silvester went well, the crowd behaved.

Phyllis Metz inquired who the Fire Police check should get made out to and where to mail it. Chief Miller suggested getting the paperwork filed a month ahead of time, the information should be sent to the Fire Police.

Amy Brown responded that she spoke to the Fire Chief Scott Garing and he stated the checks get made out to Harmony Fire District and write in the memo of the check "Fire Police." (The mailing address is 543 Main Street Harmony, PA 16037)

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing to report.

Borough Supervisor:

Wade Ion reported the new No Parking signs are up on Wood Street. Fixed the roof at the water plant, it had a leak; replaced the sign that was run over at First Street and Edmond Street. Did a water tap on Wahl Road for a new house being built, had a water line break, cleaned the canoe launch for the Polar Plunge. The leaf machine is clean, waxed and put away; the truck is ready for salt– Frank's been out three times already. Needed to replace the exhaust manifold on the truck for inspection, it was under warranty.

Wade will get a price for drainage on Main Street; Dave Szakelyhidi commented that it could be a joint project with the Railroad.

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Borough Supervisor Cont.:

Jodi Correll inquired if there would be signs put up at Wood Street Park. Greg Such responded that there is no parking on that side of the street.

Zoning & Code Enforcement:

Allen Bayer's report attached.

COMMITTEE AND OTHER BUSINESS:

Committee Staffing:

Greg Such inquired if there are any specific requests with forming the 2016 Committees and meeting dates. Frank Luek suggested making Don (Sims) the chair for the Street Committee instead of himself.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she received the Event Form for the Shamrock Shuffle.

Business Development:

Mayor Rape inquired if a newsletter was going out. Greg Such would like to have it out within the next two weeks. The Borough booklet needs updated with the Fire District information.

Mayor Rape reported that she gave the Harmony Inn 9 x 11 flyers of the Borough parking lots asking patrons to use Borough lots first before using private lots. She will also give to HBA to see if others will post at their business.

Silvester pictures are posted on the HBA Facebook page; Josh Meeder took a lot of pictures.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver had nothing new to report.

Finance:

Jarod Stewart reported there is nothing new in, waiting to get final numbers to see what carried over.

Jason Sarver asked Council to reconsider a contribution to the Library. Jarod Stewart commented that the Finance Committee can discuss, what charities do they want to support with public money, is it the Borough's responsibility to fund a non-profit? We do fund the non-profit, the fire company but it's basically an essential service. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired about making it a line item on taxes. Solicitor Matt stated you can use public money as long as it benefits the community as a whole. Greg Such inquired if Council was in favor of providing the Library with man power for the Wine Tour; Susie puts a lot of time and effort into organizing it, there is heavy lifting that is involved. Susie Altemus inquired if other non-profits are bringing business into the community like the Wine Tour did. Susie also commented that 60% of Harmony residents use the library. Greg Such commented that he thinks the Library is a place of community development. Joe White commented that up until last year the Borough always automatically donated

Finance Cont.:

to the Library. The Library is cost effective, books are expensive it is such a convenient thing for everybody. Solicitor Matt commented that the reason why it could have been cut is because cost are always increasing and our revenue base stays the same unless you're consistently increasing taxes; so you start looking where you can pull money from. Jarod Stewart asked why government is funding the library, let residents take out their checkbooks. Greg Such suggested putting a quarter-page add in the newsletter asking the residents if they are willing to support the library, if they are in favor of a tax increase. Solicitor Matt commented that people use on-line books vs. hard copies because they are cheaper. Susie Altemus commented that the children's program is huge. Greg Such commented that there are a lot of senior who do not have the internet who use the library. Jodi Correll suggested adding the question of how much of a tax rate would the residents be willing to support for the library.

John Ruch commented that the Library had asked for a \$5,000 donation, they raised \$7,000 from the Wine Tour so they are ahead.

Streets:

Mayor Rape suggested getting a professional to make a recommendation for the trees that will be planted this spring. Jodi Correll stated she can recommend someone.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that he and Phyllis Metz met with Robbie Lombardo from Penn Power to discuss the street lights. They will change all pole mounted street lights to white LED lights with new fixtures (Harmony has 64 of them). This will save money in man power, it will be cheaper to operate because it uses less power, it will also lower the Borough's cost by 43%. Penn Power (First Energy) will start replacing in groups of 25. The project is expected to start in February and will be done at night. Harmony Borough is one of the first borough's to have the project done.

Grants:

Dave Szakelyhidi suggested applying for a grant for the landscape/top soil on Wood Street.

BILLS PAYABLE:

Greg Such reported that the following lists of bills were presented to Harmony Borough Council for approval:

General Bills Payable in the amount of **\$12,100.11**

Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$4,220.16**

Payroll in the amount of **\$6,508.84**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$20.40**

Silvester Bills Payable in the amount of **\$8,840.41**

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented on the lists.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Greg Such called for an executive session at 8:17 pm to discuss personnel; out of executive session at 8:28 pm.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved a 3% raise for all Borough employees effective January 1, 2016.

ADJOURNED: 8:35 PM

As there was no further business to discuss the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the January 5, 2016 meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown
Secretary

Monthly Activity Report
Harmony Borough Code and Zoning Enforcement and Residential
Multi-Unit Dwellings Fire Inspection

December 2015

1. Stopped by the office two times each week to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Spoke with resident, Mary ?, regarding burning laws in the borough.
4. Follow up with HARB emails.
5. Attended December Council meeting.
6. Created HARB violation notice for McCormick, 510 Main St. chain link fence.
7. Checked out zoning at 426 E. New Castle St. and returned call to realtor to discuss R1 zoning.
8. Spoke with realtor at Insured Settlement Solutions regarding addition on house at 415 E. New Castle St.
9. Inspected stones on north Wood St. and possible use on south Wood St. Confirmed this is not a HARB issue however, would need to be approved by Council since the stones would be in Wood St.
10. Spoke with Eric Christen regarding Knauf Feed Mill apartments zoning issues.
11. Several discussions of Flood Plain Ordinance with Bob Stevens regarding the McGee property.
12. Received a complaint regarding size of for sale sign at 435 E. Beaver St. The maximum size in R1 district is 6 sq. ft. and the sign is 15 sq. ft. I contacted the realtor and the sign will be changed out not later than 12/28/2015.
13. Spoke with Bob Stevens for clarification of Floodplain ordinance.
14. Spoke with Allen Bechee of Hanover Engineering regarding width of Old Little Creek Rd. right of way.

15. Researched flood way location for McGee property.
16. Spoke with Scott Colton of Hanover Engineering regarding width of Old Little Creek Rd. right of way.
17. Verified that the for-sale sign at 435 E. Beaver St. was changed.
18. Spoke with Russ Otney regarding McGee lot sub division approval.
19. Emailed Matt regarding McGee property variance clarification for construction in a flood plain.
20. Several discussions with Bob Stevens, perspective buyer of the McGee lot, regarding when a building permit may be issued and the new flood plain ordinance requirement of a variance to construct in a flood plain.
21. Received 3 phone calls from Ann McGee regarding construction variance for her sub divided lot.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen E. Bayer