

**MINUTES**  
**LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING OF MAY 4, 2004**

**1. CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting of Langhorne Manor Borough was called to order in the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall, 618 Hulmeville Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, May 4, 2004, at 8:09 P.M. Eastern Standard Time by Maryann Barnes President.

At this point in the meeting Mr. McTigue led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag."

**PERSONS PRESENT** – Maryann Barnes, President; Robert J Byrne; Francis J. Farmer; Sharon Gimpel; William McTigue Vice President; Nicholas Pizzola; Steven Yourtee; and Loretta M. Luff, Secretary/Treasurer.

**PERSON ABSENT** Gerry Seader, Mayor; and Thomas J. Profy III, Solicitor.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Mrs. Barnes entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2004 Borough Council meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mr. McTigue to approve the minutes as amended. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

**3. POLICE REPORT** – In the absence of Mayor Seader, Mr. Farmer gave the police report for the month of April 2004.

**4. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS & VISITORS** – Mrs. Donna Bradin 505 Hulmeville Avenue stated that she wants to address the problems with the storm drains and the access roads along Route One. She reported that she reviewed her files pertaining to the access roads and who is responsible for them. Mr. Farmer told her that it was not written anywhere as to who is responsible for them, but she has a paper from 1990 that shows Langhorne Manor Borough is responsible.

Mrs. Bradin stated that she had gone to the six neighbors on her side of the access road along Route One to see if they had gotten any water in their basement after the heavy rains we recently had. She found out that the house across the street from her at 506 Hulmeville Avenue had gotten some water in his basement, but not like she gets in her basement.

Mrs. Bradin presented papers to the Council members showing the ten storm drains and the condition of each one, they are filled with debris and standing water, the drains were inspected on May 2, 2004 and there had been no rain for at least five days, the drains should have been dry but there was water in them. There is a small stream that runs from the storm drain near the overpass into the woods in the Manor, it is filled with debris like air conditioners, trash etc. Mrs. Barnes asked for the name of the people who live at 506 Hulmeville Avenue Mrs. Bradin stated that his name is Gary Boyle.

Mrs. Bradin is concerned about the foundation of her house falling in due to the excessive water that enters into her basement after we have heavy rains.

Ms. Krista Conkle, 217 Hulmeville Avenue stated that they have a serious water problem in their back yard. The water has nowhere to go. The water is so deep that they cannot step into their back yard without sinking three to five inches into the mud. She is hoping that a solution can be worked out between the Borough and themselves.

Mrs. Barnes stated that the Manor has always had a water problem, she does not know what the solution is, but maybe they could work together and come up with a solution. Mrs. Barnes stated that maybe all the drains throughout the Manor could be checked.

Ms. Conkle was wondering if a storm drain could be put under Hulmeville Avenue near her property. Mr. Bell 217 Hulmeville Avenue stated that they are willing to absorb the cost on their property, but they like help from the Council to get the pipes ran under Hulmeville Avenue so the water can drain into the wet lands across from their houses. The neighbors along Hulmeville Avenue are prepared to do the work themselves, as they know the Borough does not have the money for a project like this.

Mrs. Barnes stated that Hulmeville Avenue is a state road and this involves Penn Dot. Properties involved are 215, 217, and 319 Hulmeville Avenue.

Mr. Farmer stated that Mr. Profy is trying to arrange a meeting with Penn Dot. Mr. Farmer asked if a sketch could be provided showing where the problem is before the Borough meets with Penn Dot.

Mr. Bell stated that their property is the low point and the three properties behind theirs on Hill Avenue drain onto theirs.

Mrs. Bradin asked if they could attend the meeting with Penn Dot. Mr. Farmer replied no, not at this time, if a public meeting is held they could attend at that time. Mr. Bell asked if they could have a representative attend the meeting. Mr. Farmer stated that he would check with Mr. Profy.

Mr. Alan Sender from 215 Hulmeville Ave stated that the problem starts at Stephen Galazin's property at 305 Hulmeville Avenue, it affects the road, when it freezes it makes the asphalt raise and break up.

Mr. David Sine from 319 Hulmeville Avenue stated that he had spoke to 310 and 312 Hulmeville Avenue about the water problem. Mr. Sine stated that the ditch along Hulmeville Avenue is getting deeper and it is affecting the road. He spoke with Cal Morrison from Penn Dot and he advised Mr. Sine to go through Langhorne Manor Borough for the permit to have a drainage pipe put under Hulmeville Avenue between 217 and 319 Hulmeville Avenue and Penn Dot will do the roadwork.

Mr. Charles Light from 312 Hill Avenue stated that a lot of people have left bushes; trees and weeds grow on the borderline, which also contributes to the drainage problem behind his property.

Ms. Betty Linington asked if anyone had received his or her water bill. She said the billing time frame makes it seem like you are getting a double bill.

Mr. Farmer stated that the last bill came out in January and the next bill should be in April. Mr. Farmer stated that we pay Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCW&SA) to do the billing. Ms. Linington stated that it might be cheaper if we do the billing ourselves. Mr. Farmer replied it could be cheaper and we will have to look into it.

Ms. Linington reported that Middletown Township has cleaned along the overpass again. Their program is called "Beautifying the Community" and they are doing a great job.

**5. COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Mrs. Barnes read a letter of resignation from Mayor Seader effective immediately due to health reasons. Mrs. Barnes stated that it is very upsetting to have to read this letter; we have to support Mayor Seader and thank him for all that he has done for the Borough.

Mr. Farmer stated that a proclamation should be presented to Mayor Seader for all the work he has done for the Manor as Mayor.

Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mr. Farmer to accept the resignation of Mayor Seader with regrets. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Barnes stated that she had no report from the Planning Commission; as soon as a draft of the comprehensive plan is received a meeting will be scheduled.

Mrs. Barnes stated a letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development informing the Council that the application that had been submitted for traffic safety signs, no parking, stop signs etc. was approved for the amount of \$5000.00.

Mrs. Barnes received a letter from the Institute of Community preservation pertaining to a conference on Sprawl and Land Use in Pennsylvania on Saturday May 15, 2004, 8:30 A.M. to be held at the Buckingham Township building.

Mrs. Barnes reported on her involvement with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission who are doing the 413/513 corridor study and the committee will be meeting at the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall on Thursday May 6, 2004.

Mrs. Barnes stated that a letter was received from the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post #148 inviting the Borough Council Members to participate in their parade on Memorial Day, Monday May 31, 2004. Mrs. Barnes stated that a donation has been made in prior years to help with their parade expenses. Motion was made by Mr. Farmer and seconded BY Mr. McTigue to send \$200.00 donation for their Memorial Day Parade. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Byrne - No report.

Mr. Farmer – Mrs. Bradin asked if the access roads are going to be cleaned this spring. Mr. Farmer stated that they had been done once this year. Mrs. Bradin presented photos of the storm drains on the access roads and stated that the storm drains have to be cleaned. Mr. Farmer asked if the photos were taken before or after Mr. McMeeking had cleaned the drains, Mrs. Bradin replied the photos were taken within the last two weeks. She stated that K.E. Seifert, Inc. cleaned the inlets along the access roads of Route One and Hulmeville Avenue, but that did not solve the problem of the water getting into her basement, the pipes under Route One are clogged and have to be blown out.

Mr. Farmer asked Mrs. Bradin if she had heard from Cal Morrison, he stated that he had called him twice; Mrs. Bradin replied that she had called him three times. Mr. Morrison told Mrs. Bradin that they had rented a piece of machinery to clean out the storm drain, she has not seen or heard from anyone.

Ms. Gimpel reported that she inspected the drains at Mrs. Bradin's house when it was raining and the storm drain was filled up within two inches from the top, she then went over on the access road and took pictures and also took pictures on the highway and that drain was also filled up. It shows that the storm drains are not draining. The drains up near Hill Avenue were draining. She checked the drains up near Hill Avenue a few days later and they were dry, she checked the drain at Mrs. Bradin's house today at 4:00 P.M., you still could not see the pipe. She checked the pipe on the Highway and you could tell that it was taking the water a long time to drain.

Mrs. Barnes stated that the Council would do everything they can to get the problem corrected with the pipes under Route One as soon as possible.

Mrs. Barnes spoke on the ownership of the access roads, she assumes Langhorne Manor owns them and if we do we will have to have them repaved. Mrs. Barnes spoke in the cost involved and stated that we would need to apply for financial grants for the different projects.

Ms. Conkle stated that this water problem has been on going for years, there has to be somebody that Council can speak to at Penn Dot to try to help find a solution with the on going water problems in the Manor.

Mr. Farmer stated that in the past when Mrs. Bradin had a problem, Penn Dot was contacted and they came out and blew out the pipes and there wasn't a problem for a couple of years. Mr. Farmer stated that he has called Penn Dot and Mrs. Bradin has called them and they have not responded.

Mrs. Barnes stated that Council has been in contact with Penn Dot for the purpose of setting up a meeting.

Ms. Conkle asked if they could be informed as to when the meeting would be held.

Mr. Farmer stated that our Solicitor is in the process of setting up the meeting with Penn Dot and when we hear when it will be, you will hear at that time.

Mr. Farmer told Ms. Conkle, when you are working with Penn Dot it takes a long time to get things done through Penn Dot unless you know somebody that has a lot of pull.

Mrs. Bradin stated that she has e-mailed a lot of people in Harrisburg.

Mrs. Barnes stated that Council has to do a survey of all the storm drains through out the Manor and speak to the homeowners who are not cleaning their gutters or storm drains. Mr. Farmer stated that the people along the access roads have always kept their gutters cleaned.

Mr. Sine asked if Senator Tomlinson or Representative Wright's offices could be contacted for help with the water problems.

Mrs. Barnes told Mr. Sine that their offices have been contacted in the past and they have been able to help the Manor with different problems.

Mrs. Bradin asked if the Manor receives Liquid Fuel Funds for the access roads. Mr. Farmer stated that he hasn't seen any agreement to ownership of the access roads. Mr. Farmer does not know if we receive Liquid Fuel Funds for the access roads.

Mrs. Bradin stated if the Manor owns the access roads and we have not been receiving Liquid Fuel Funds for the roads, then the Manor should be able to collect the back funds.

Mr. Farmer stated that either Mr. Profy or himself have not seen any letter of agreement executed by the Manor and the letter referred to pertain to an Act where there are access roads, they revert to the local municipalities. Mr. Farmer stated if the Manor isn't receiving Liquid Fuel Funds for the access roads, we would receive the funds owed to us. Mr. Farmer stated that the latest quote in 2002 for repaving the access roads was \$90,000.00.

Mrs. Barnes told Mrs. Bradin that Council appreciates everything that she has done to help provide a solution for the problems with the storm drains along the access roads.

Mrs. Bradin told Council that the access roads should be swept. Mr. Farmer stated that they had been swept twice and Mr. McMeeking had cleaned the storm drains.

Mr. Yourtee stated that he cleans the area along his property along the access roads a couple times a year; it is a losing battle with all the debris, bottles, and cans, etc. that go into the inlets of the storm drains and clog the grates. Mr. Yourtee spoke of the photos he had taken of the Penn Dot workers blowing all the debris onto the access lanes, they left all the debris and this was about two weeks after Middletown Township had swept the access roads. He stated that all the cinders that are spread throughout the winter months are washed to the curbs and into to the storm drains. When Mr. McMeeking cleaned the storm drains, the only thing that was done was the removing of the debris on top of the grates and the pile of debris was left on my property. Mr. Yourtee feels that the Manor should hire a sweeping company, not wait for Middletown Township to do it for nothing. It is usually a charge of a four-hour minimum. If it does not take four hours to do the access roads, they

could be instructed to do the intersections throughout the Manor. Mr. Yourtee stated that there is Reilly Sweeping and TDI. There are also several companies that contract their equipment out.

Mr. Yourtee also reported that there is Pipe Maintenance Services (PMS) who do contract work for Penn Dot. The Borough can also hire them. They probe the pipes and send cameras through the pipes to locate where the clog is, they put power forced water through the pipes to unclog them.

Ms. Gimpel reported that the newsletter was mailed to the residents on April 24, 2004. She placed an ad in the Courier Times to be run on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2004 for \$25.00 advertising the Community Yard Sale to be held on May 15, 2004. Ms. Gimpel would like to make yard sale signs with arrows and hang them at some of the cross streets.

Ms. Gimpel stated that she had received two applications for the vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission, Mr. Steve McCaffery and Mr. Steve Yourtee.

Mrs. Barnes asked if Council wanted to fill the vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission this evening.

Mr. Farmer recommended that the Shade Tree Commission speak with the applicants and then make a recommendation to the Council.

Ms. Boyle stated that it was never the Shade Tree Commission who made the recommendations; the Council has always interviewed the applicants and made the appointment.

Mrs. Barnes stated that there were never interviews, but Council did make the appointment.

Ms. Linington stated that it was not fair that the Shade Tree Commission make the decision; Council should make the appointment like they have done in the past.

Mr. McCaffery and Mr. Yourtee were asked to tell Borough Council why they were interested in serving on the Shade Tree commission. The term will expire in 2007. Mr. McTigue thanked Mr. McCaffery and Mr. Yourtee for expressing interest in the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. McTigue would like to nominate Mr. Yourtee because of his expertise in this area. Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to appoint Mr. Yourtee to fill the vacancy on the Shade Tree Commission. Mrs. Barnes called for a roll call vote Mr. Pizzola, Ms. Gimpel, Mr. Farmer, Mrs. Barnes, Mr. McTigue, and Mr. Byrne vote aye, Mr. Yourtee abstained. Motion carried.

Ms. Gimpel asked if it would be possible for Langhorne Manor Borough be able to do their own sewer billing due to the fact that Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority is so slow in getting the quarterly bills out. This would only be for the \$200.00 sewer fee, not the water portion of the bill.

Mr. Yourtee asked if BCW&S Authority would still do the meter reading. Mrs. Barnes stated that BCW&S Authority would have to be contacted and discuss our contract with them and when they are suppose to be doing the billings.

Mr. Farmer stated that he thinks the contract is on a yearly basis.

Mr. Yourtee thought they meant the entire billing of water and sewer, his concern was that some of the residents still have inside meters. Ms. Gimpel told him this billing would only be the \$200.00 quarterly sewer charge.

Mr. McTigue – No report.

Mrs. Barnes thanked Mr. McTigue for arranging the leaf pick-up date of May 12, 2004 and also arranging the bulk pick-up date for May 22, 2004.

Mr. Pizzola – No report.

Mr. Yourtee reported that Mr. McMeeking remulched the flowerbeds. He had discussed with Mr. McMeeking the removal of the fence behind 616 Hulmeville Avenue. Mr. Yourtee asked Mr. McMeeking to give a quote for removing the fence. They both feel that there are enough rails that can be used to repair the fence between 616 Hulmeville Avenue and the neighbors. The removal of the fence will not be done in time for bulk pick-up. Mr. Yourtee stated that the other option would be to get a quote for the use of a dumpster, since there are other items behind the Borough Hall to be cleaned up. Mr. Yourtee feels that getting the fence, wire, and picnic table ready would take too long and it would not be ready for bulk pick-up.

Mrs. Barnes told Mr. Yourtee to stay in touch with Mr. McMeeking and also get a quote for a dumpster.

Mr. Yourtee stated that at the April 2004 meeting it was stated that there were items in the police garage that could also go into the dumpster.

Mr. Yourtee asked if there is a source for getting volunteer labor. He asked if there were any connections with the local courts for people who are required to do community service work. Mr. Farmer told him to contact the Director of the Department of Corrections of Bucks County Prisons. They have people in the rehabilitation program. The director's name is Harris Gubernick.

Mr. Yourtee thanked Ms. Gimpel for putting the ad in the Courier Times for the Community Yard Sale. Mr. Farmer stated that the debris along the creek could also be put into the dumpster.

6. **MAYOR'S REPORT** – There was no Mayor's report due to Mayor Seader being absent.

7. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – There was no Solicitor's report due to Mr. Profy III being absent.

8. **INSPECTOR'S REPORT** – Mr. Bush gave the Inspector's report for the month of April 2004.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE** – There was no additional correspondence.

10. **APPROVAL OF THE BILL & TREASURER'S REPORT** – Mrs. Barnes stated that all Council members received a copy of the bill list for payment. She asked if there were any questions or discussion. Questions were asked pertaining to certain payments and some payments are to be applied to other accounts. Motion was made by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to approve the bill list as listed for payment. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mrs. Barnes entertained a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ms. Gimpel stated that the Federal Tax Liability and debit amounts should be corrected and they should be corrected before approval of the Treasurer's report.

Mr. McTigue asked when the correction could be made. Ms. Gimpel stated that it could be made after she sees how Mrs. Luff is making the payments. Mr. McTigue asked if Ms. Gimpel could provide the help to correct the problem and she answered yes. Motion was made by Mr. McTigue and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to table the Treasurer's report as presented till next month. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

11. **SECOND MEETING** – Ms. Gimpel asked if the interviews for Mayor would be held at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Being the Solicitor was not present, nobody knew. Mr. Farmer suggested that the second meeting date of May 18, 2004 be kept available in case it is needed.

Mrs. Barnes explained that if we have to advertise for the appointment of someone to fill the position of Mayor and it is the same time frame as Borough Council appointments, which must be done in thirty days; we would need the second meeting this month. Mrs. Barnes will check with Mr. Profy and if a second meeting is not needed Council members will be notified.

12. **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion was made by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Mr. Yourtee to adjourn this meeting. No objections were made. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

The next meeting will be Tuesday May 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta M. Luff  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Langhorne Manor