

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2006

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, February 7 2006, at 8:08 P.M. Eastern Standard Time by William McTigue President.

At this point in the meeting Mayor Farmer led us in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

PERSONS PRESENT –Donna Cianci; Sharon Gimpel; William McTigue, President; Steven Yourtee; Francis Farmer, Mayor; Loretta M. Luff, Secretary/Treasurer and Thomas J. Profy III, Solicitor.

PERSON ABSENT – Maryann Barnes, Vice President; Stephen Galazin; and Nicholas Pizzola.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to accept the minutes as amended. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Pizzola entered the meeting at 8:09 P.M.

3. POLICE REPORT –Mayor Farmer gave the police report for the month of January 2006. Mayor Farmer reported that we still have not received the new police car; the Borough was to have had it delivered on Monday February 6, 2006. He had contacted the procurement Office in Harrisburg and registered a complaint.

Mayor Farmer reported that Officer White should return to work following the accident he had while on duty on June 2, 2005 at the end of February or beginning of March.

Ms. Gimpel asked if the police car damaged in the November 2005 had been repaired? Mayor Farmer replied that it had been repaired, but it needs to go back into the garage. Ms Gimpel asked if the cost to the Borough was only the \$500.00 deductible. Mayor Farmer replied that was correct.

Mr. Yourtee asked Mayor Farmer if he could have the total amount of damage that had been reported to the insurance company concerning the police car involved in the November 2005 accident for the March 7, 2006 council meeting.

4. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS & VISITORS – Betty Linington, 308 Gillam Avenue, addressed the storm drain near her driveway that had been broke when the sewers were put in.

Mr. McTigue stated that he would be discussing how the Council would address the problem with the storm drain near Ms. Linington's driveway.

Ms. Linington stated that, due to the amount of the sewer fund account, the residents feel that the sewer rate is still too high and also why a family of two pays the same rate of families of four or more.

Ms. Linington addressed the Sewer Authority Committee that was formed when the sewers were installed. Mr. McTigue replied that the Sewer Authority Committee disbanded. He reported that Council would be addressing some of the problems that Ms. Linington has reported.

Mr. McTigue stated that the rates that were adjusted in 2005 would be an on-going consideration, and they will continue to work on it.

Jane Boyle – 308 Gillam Avenue, reported that Hannah Senders, age 11, from Hulmeville Avenue, in January had picked up the litter along Hulmeville Avenue and also in the woods. Ms. Boyle wondered if Council would send her a letter letting her know how her efforts in helping to keep the Borough free from litter is appreciated.

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded that Council send a letter to Hannah Senders. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Yourtee referred to the sign on Hulmeville Avenue near Comly Avenue that reads that this section of the road is maintained by Jim McMeeking Pennsylvania State Constable. Mr. Yourtee stated that one of the obligations to having your name on the sign is keeping the road clean. The sign has been up for a couple of years, and he is not aware of Mr. McMeeking doing any kind of cleaning detail along that road as it has always been handled by community service people. Mr. Yourtee feels that something should be mentioned to Mr. McMeeking. Mr. McTigue stated that it would be taken under advisement, as it is a PennDot program.

Ms. Boyle also addressed the Sewer Authority that had been disbanded. She feels that their problem with the sewer drain would have gone before that committee.

Ms. Boyle also spoke on the PennVest loan where payments from the residents of \$160.00 was to go towards the sewer loan and \$40.00 to the sewer fund per quarter has been paid off and the rates to the residents reduced to \$125.00 quarterly or \$500 per year, and we have a lot of younger families moving in with children. Wouldn't it be more equitable to all to pay by usage, since the PennVest loan is paid and the only expenses are for transmission treatment?

Mr. Galazin entered the meeting at 8:27 P.M.

Mr. McTigue stated that the issues Ms. Boyle had discussed were items that had been taken into consideration prior to changing of the rates effective July 1, 2005. Residents have to keep in mind that there will be on-going maintenance on the sewer system.

Tom Eldridge, 1007 Hill Avenue, asked what the process is to be able to obtain a variance for an addition to his garage. He was told to speak to Mr. Bush, Zoning Officer.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Mrs. Barnes – Absent, no report.

Mrs. Cianci reported two lights were repaired, one on Park Avenue and one on Highland Avenue. There are three covers off, two on Hulmeville Avenue and one on Fairview Avenue.

Mrs. Cianci reported that on March 25, 2006 volunteer work would be done by the community services workers.

Mr. Yourtee stated that the light at the end of the overpass at Gillam Avenue belongs to Middletown Township and it is their responsibility to get it fixed.

Mr. Yourtee referred to the guardrail that had been damaged, and he had asked Mayor Farmer to contact Middletown Township Police Department to make sure the damage had been documented. Mayor Farmer replied that he had not seen any police report. Mayor Farmer will check with Chief Bumm.

Mr. Yourtee would like the police officers to document in their reports any damage to guard rails, street signs, etc for insurance purposes.

Mr. Yourtee asked as to the process for pursuing insurance claims against damage to guard rails, signs, etc.

Mr. Profy explained that the Borough's insurance company would reimburse the Borough for the cost. They then go against the insurance of the operator of the motor vehicle.

Mr. Yourtee referred to the guardrails at both ends of the overpass being in poor condition, and PennDot informed him that they belong to the Borough.

Mayor Farmer stated that the person who is in charge of streets should get estimates as to the cost of having the guardrails on the overpass repaired.

Mr. Profy stated if the Borough property is damaged and it is insured, the matter should be turned over to the Borough's insurance company.

Mr. McTigue will ask Mayor Farmer to have Chief Bumm contact the State Police for a copy of the accident report for the accident that occurred in December 2005 to the guard rail on the overpass.

Ms. Gimpel stated that she would contact the insurance company to see what the procedure would be pertaining to the Borough property that is damaged.

Ms. Gimpel requested to go to a seminar about "You and the Ethics Act" from the Pennsylvania Governors Center on March 23, 2006 at a cost of \$35.00. Ms. Cianci will also be attending.

Motion made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to pay the registration fee of \$70.00 for Ms. Gimpel and Mrs. Cianci to attend the seminar on March 23, 2006 plus mileage at the IRS rate. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Galazin reported that the street signs had been ordered.

Mr. Galazin stated he had contacted three companies for bids for the safety signs. He has received one bid and is expecting another one by Wednesday, February 8, 2006. Mr. Galazin should have all of the information pertaining to the signs by the March 7, 2006 Council meeting.

After much discussion, motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to give Mr. Galazin the authority to select the poles that will be needed for Traffic Safety signs. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. McTigue reported that Allied Waste had called on February 1, 2006 informing the Borough that they would be picking the recyclables up on Thursday due to illness.

Ms. Gimpel inquired about the trash piled at the corner property of Bellevue and Comly Avenues.

Mr. Bush replied that somebody is dumping it there, as this is the third time this has happened. The owner has paid in the past to have it removed. Mr. Bush stated that he would check into this

Mr. McTigue stated that the owner should be contacted and told to have it removed.

Mr. McTigue stated that he is under the impression that William Hiltner is still one of the Borough Auditors, as he did not run in the elections last year.

Mr. McTigue stated that Mrs. Cianci would be in charge of the outside cleanup and special projects.

Mr. McTigue appointed Mr. Galazin to the Building Maintenance Preservation Committee; a new committee formed this year.

Mr. McTigue asked if sewer funds could be invested in CD's or other high-yielding instruments.

Mr. Profy replied only if each institution where the money is invested is insured.

Mr. McTigue stated that last month First Federal Bank had not been reappointed. Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mr. Galazin to reappoint First Federal Bank as the bank for the Highway Aid and Capital Reserve Accounts. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. McTigue referred to the November 2005 minutes where see page was associated with 308 Gillam Avenue. It should have been associated with 320 Hill Avenue. Motion was made by Mr. Pizzola and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to amend the November 2005 minutes to show the seepage put in at 320 Hill Avenue next to the Aicher property. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. McTigue thanked Ron Bartnikowski for repairing the outside lights at 618 and 616 Hulmeville Avenue.

Mr. McTigue asked for approval to have Pickering, Corts and Summerson to do a field study and also work up an estimate as to what it would cost to restore the pipe going inlet at 308 Gillam Avenue side yard property into the woods. Pickering, Corts and Summerson stated that they could do the study and give an estimate at a cost of \$500 to \$1,000, and it is to be funded through the sewer account.

Motion was made by Mr. Yourtee and seconded by Mr. Galazin to have Pickering, Corts and Summerson do the study and give an estimate to restore the pipe from 308 Gillam Avenue side yard to the woods on Hulmeville Avenue not to exceed \$1,000. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Yourtee reported that two men hired by PennDot were surveying the pipes and inlets along Hulmeville Avenue. Mr. Yourtee tried to find out why they were doing this survey, and he was told they did not know why the state was having this done.

Mr. McTigue asked Mr. Yourtee to contact State Representative Matt Wright's office and PennDot's Regional office and get some additional information as to why they were having the survey done.

Mr. McTigue asked for consent to form a Sewer Committee consisting of Mayor Farmer, Ms. Gimpel and himself that would continue to study the sewer rates as to what the institutions and the residents are being charged.

Motion was made by Mr. Galazin and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to form a Sewer Committee. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Pizzola reported that he had purchased the new Dell computer in December 2005 at a cost of \$1,419.34 and Joe Pizzola purchased the QuickBooks at \$165.98; also add to the bill list SafeGuard for W2 forms at a cost of \$54.51.

Mr. Yourtee reported a tree limb had fallen at the corner of Park and Station Avenues around January 27, 2006 and took down PECO lines. Mr. Yourtee removed the limb from the roadway for the owner of the property.

Mr. Yourtee reinstalled a stop sign at the corner of Hill and Highland Avenues after a snowstorm.

Mr. Yourtee spoke on the Landscape Maintenance Contract that he had put together for 2006 regarding the Langhorne Manor Borough properties at 616 and 618 Hulmeville Avenue. Copy of the contract is on file at the Borough office. Mr. Yourtee will be putting it out to bid and have quotes for the March 7, 2006 Council meeting. Mr. Yourtee stated that it should not exceed \$4,000 for the year for the lawn maintenance.

Mr. Profy told Mr. Yourtee to get three written proposals, as it could be near the limit of \$4,000.

Mr. Yourtee feels that a street committee should be formed to take an inventory of the conditions of the Borough streets and make a list of the streets that need immediate attention - for repairs can be made on a yearly basis.

Mr. McTigue stated that he would like any street maintenance programs identified that have been successful in the region.

Mr. Pizzola and Mrs. Cianci volunteered to be on the street committee along with Mr. Yourtee.

Mr. Yourtee had met with State Representative Matt Wright and Debbie Lamanna, Acting Township Manager for Middletown Township, regarding the Langhorne Manor Spring Water Company property that Langhorne Manor Borough is one-third owner. Mr. Yourtee stated that Middletown Township has been dumping debris on the wooded property behind the Borough Hall, which was purchased for open space.

Mr. Yourtee would like to see this property used for recreational use; the first step would be to have walking trails in the woods.

Mr. McTigue stated that there was a four-party agreement at the time when the property was purchased, and he would like Mr. Profy to review the agreement.

Mr. Profy stated that Bucks County Conservancy, who also has easements on the property, is not in favor of opening the property up for recreational use. Mr. Profy will review the agreement and will send Mr. Yourtee a copy of the agreement.

Mr. Yourtee stated that he got the impression that Middletown Township is in favor of low-impact recreation in that area. A committee should be formed and work with Ms. Lamanna and Middletown Township and apply in the fall for a grant to do a plan working up recreational uses for the property.

Mr. McTigue stated that the Borough would have to see if there are any legal restraints and if the other parties involved are interested in recreational uses for the property.

Ms. Gimpel reported that a fire hydrant at the corner of Manor Avenue and Pine Street is missing.

Mr. Profy told Ms. Gimpel to contact Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority concerning the missing fire hydrant.

At 9:35pm, Borough Council went into Executive Session.

Reconvened at 9:43pm.

Mayor Farmer recommended that Officer Sam Anderson be promoted to Sergeant of the Langhorne Manor Borough Police Department at a salary of \$16.00 per hour.

Motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to promote Sam Anderson to the rank of Sergeant at a salary of \$16.00 per hour. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT – No mayor's report.

7. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Mr. Profy reported the Ordinance #2006-02 amending Chapter 163 Vehicles and Traffic of the Langhorne Manor Borough code adopted as ordinance #95-06-01 on June 6, 1995, which amendment provides for the increasing of fine for violations of the parking regulations contained in the ordinance. The fine will be increased from \$10.00 to \$25.00.

Motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to adopt Ordinance #2006-02 as presented by Mr. Profy. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

8. INSPECTOR'S REPORT – Mr. Bush gave the inspector's report for the month of January 2006.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. McTigue stated he received information and an application for a scholarship through the Robert C. Edwards Foundation, which is established through the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Deadline is May 12, 2006. The scholarship will be presented to a student from each of the six districts of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. The application is to be posted on our Web site.

Mr. Yourtee referred to a bill he presented in 2003 for work he had done on the Borough properties, and he was told that since he was a Council member, he was not to be paid, the bill was tabled.

Motion was made by Mrs. Cianci and seconded by Mr. McTigue to reimburse Mr. Yourtee for his outstanding bill of \$133.00 from 2003. Mr. Pizzola – No; Mr. Galazin – No; Mrs. Cianci - Yes Ms. Gimpel – Yes; Mr. McTigue – Yes. Motion carried.

10. APPROVAL OF BILLS & TREASURER'S FOR PAYMENT – Mr. McTigue stated that all Council members had received a copy of the bill list for payment. He asked if there were any questions or discussions. Motion was made by Mr. Galazin and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to pay all bills on the bill list in addition to Mr. Pizzola \$1419.34, Joe Pizzola \$ 165.98,

Safeguard \$54.51 and Ms. Gimpel for QuickBooks payroll \$199.00. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Mr. McTigue asked if there were any questions or discussion on the Treasurer's report for December 2005. Motion was made by Mr. Galazin and seconded by Ms. Gimpel to approve the Treasurer's report for December 2005. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Ms. Gimpel and seconded by Mr. Galazin to table the Treasurer's report for January 2006 as they are still working on the new QuickBooks programs. No objections were presented. Motion carried

11. SECOND MEETING – Mr. McTigue stated that a second meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 21, 2006. At this time there are no items for the agenda for the meeting. Motion made Mr. Pizzola and seconded by Mrs. Cianci to dispense with the second meeting. No objections were presented. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Mr. McTigue entertained a motion to adjourn this meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Galazin and seconded by Mr. Pizzola to adjourn this meeting. No objections were presented. Motion carried. This meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 7, 2006 at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta M. Luff
Secretary/Treasurer
Langhorne Manor Borough