

East Berlin Borough Council

February 7, 2007

President Charles Eisenhart called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of the Allegiance.

Members Present: President Charles Eisenhart, Janet Bollinger, Forrest Brehm; Gregory Green, Jacque Hoffman, and Rick Saxon.

Absent: Gerald Mummert

Also Present: T. Michael Thoman, Borough Manager; Mayor Keith Hoffman; Solicitor Matthew Battersby; Officer J. Michael Grim; Hanna Furst, Office Secretary; Julie Swanger, Secretary-Treasurer; Bruce Hulshizer, Buchart-Horn; Mike Quay, Evening Sun; Ken Furst; Ken Young; Doris Sabine; David Richards; Freda Lennon; Beverly Jadus, Jan Hoffman, and Dave Woodward.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

On a motion by Jacque Hoffman, seconded by Gregory Green and passed, payment of the bills for the month of January was approved.

Constituents from the community that wish to address council are as follows with a five (5) minute allotment.

Ken Young, 203 Beaver St., remarked that he had a statement and some questions and asked permission to record the meeting. Mr. Young stated that he attended the Hamilton Township meeting and commented on changes made with the East Berlin sewer plant. Mr. Young questioned Hanna Furst on the annual reorganization meeting and the previous contract with HRG with pending projects. Mr. Young stated that he called PennDot for repairs to Route 234 Bridge that was originally thought only to be a pot hole in the road. Mr. Young suggested that the public safety committee keep on top of this along with the temporary wire screen for the water drainage on North Avenue.

Doris Sabine, 504 W. King St., suggested to the council that the residents of East Berlin be made more aware of what is going on. Mrs. Sabine questioned the testing of fire hydrants and by whom. Ms. Sabine also questioned her previous concern over the speed limit on Route 234.

Mayor's Report: Councilperson Janet Bollinger spoke with the Department of Transportation and the PA Police concerning golf carts on the roads. Mayor Hoffman stated that golf carts can legally only cross the roads and not run with the traffic.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby stated that the property owner that failed to make payment on their sidewalk has been served papers with twenty (20) days to respond. Mr. Battersby reported negotiations are under way with Hamilton Township. Mr. Battersby stated there is a new solicitor; which sometimes brings new ideas. He also stated that the goal for the Act 537 Plan is to be submitted by March deadline with two (2) projects dovetailing. Mr. Green questioned what changes were being considered. Mr. Battersby answered that Hamilton Township has engineer questions and would ask for a seat on the committee. He also added that the township would have to add ordinances.

Engineer's Report:

Buchart-Horn-Bruce Hulshizer reported that the operations are under way with the 537 Plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Mr. Green reported that the Borough received \$45,000 from BD Equities (Buttercup Farms Developers, CW Test) which is the developer's share of the Act 537 cost, and DEP will reimburse the borough for

50% of the cost. Mr. Green stated that \$50,000 was received from BD Equities for an escrow account and the Borough was reimbursed \$43,353 for legal fees.

Streets Committee: Mr. Brehm reported that the Borough received a grant for \$17,000 from the Community Revitalization Assistance Program for the Beaver Street Project. The property owners will be reimbursed based on the number of feet of the sidewalk they were originally billed for at \$4.96 per foot. Property owners who paid in full will receive a check for the reimbursement and those on the payment plan will have the reimbursement deducted from their balance due stated Mr. Brehm. Corrected to state: \$4.85 per foot.

Sewer & Water Committee: Mr. Thoman reported that the sewer pump that had been down in Beaver Colony has now been restored.

IT Committee: Nothing to report

Public Safety: Mr. Brehm announced the faulty fire hydrant will be replaced by the Borough when weather permits. Mr. Brehm informed the council on differences between fifty (50) years ago to present and what is being used by the fire company. Mr. Thoman stated we are expecting four (4) more dry hydrants. Mr. Green stated there needs to be care taken with flushing of the hydrants, due to weather conditions and possible water shortage. Questions arose concerning dry hydrants. Mr. Brehm stated, they are the pipes seen sticking out in the creek areas, mostly in townships.

Planning & Zoning: A copy of the review of the Borough's 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update was passed around for questions. Mr. Battersby stated that ultimately DEP is the state authority. Mr. Hulshizer stated that this is a twenty (20) year plan. Mr. Hulshizer agreed with the estimates of 136 EDU's available for the Borough and acknowledging that EDU's are calculated using 300 gpd, the proposed capacity should be able to comfortably accommodate controlled residential development within the Borough for the foreseeable future.

Personnel: Nothing

Parks & Recreation: Mr. Saxon reported continued efforts for fundraising and a plan in effect for a Cadillac drawing in May.

Correspondence: President Eisenhart acknowledged Hanna Furst, Borough Secretary receiving a certificate for Notary training. President Eisenhart reviewed a map from Buchart-Horn designating the service area provided and to be posted in the Borough Office.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Mr. Jacque Hoffman recommended a letter of appreciation to be sent to the Historical Society for their work to the old Fire Hall. Mr. Battersby stated that under Borough Code mandate only one (1) engineer is needed for responsibilities of contract. Mr. Battersby stated that a cost efficient decision was made to rely on Buchart-Horn solely. Mr. J. Hoffman stated any future projects will be put out for bids. President Eisenhart announced that any information needed from HRG is available. A question was brought to attention on the grant received for Beaver Street project and the possible use for other intentions. President Eisenhart stated that grants are to be used only for projects that they are issued for. Mr. Green stated the bridge in recent question is not within Borough limits or responsibility and is under state control.

President Eisenhart adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM. The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 7:30 PM, in the Municipal Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Swanger, Secretary