

EAST BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
128 Water Street  
East Berlin, PA 17316

November 20, 2013 – Work Session

The second monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held November 20, 2013, at the East Berlin Borough Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM.

**Members Present:** President Charles Krall; James LeVan; Roberta Teal; Donald Dixon; and Andrew Raymond

**Members Absent:** Richard Cashman; and Charles Eisenhart;

**Also Present:** Mayor Keith Hoffman; Secretary/Treasurer Darlene McArthur; David Richards; Jan Hoffman; Jason Wood; and from Liberty Fire Company - President Mike Thomas, Fire Chief Lee Byers, Treasurer Donna Chronister

**Constituents Addressing Borough Council:** Jan Hoffman addressed Council to update the proposed Rail Trail Project to extend from Kuhn's Woods in East Berlin Borough into Hamilton Township noting that the feasibility study is moving ahead. Ms. Hoffman distributed material to Council explaining the health benefits of a rail trail to the community. It was noted that meetings are held by the Hamilton Township Parks and Recreation Board at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss the Proposed Rail Trail Project. Ms. Hoffman discussed the success of the Stream Clean Event on September 21<sup>st</sup> and thanked the Borough for the use of a pickup truck to move the debris. The next event will be the third Saturday in September, 2014.

David Richards addressed Council on the subject of the need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Borough and Bermudian Youth Baseball for the proposed project to install additional ball fields on land owned by Freda Zeigler and Borough Parkland. Mr. Richards discussed a similar situation at the East Berlin Area Community Center for Bermudian Youth Baseball to provide soil and a backstop for a ball field. The Community Center incurred considerable expense grading the field, but the soil and backstop were not provided. Mr. Richards recommends an MOU between the Borough and the Baseball League for any proposed project in the Borough.

**Topics of Discussion:**

- President Krall reported that Borough Engineer Eric Mains suggested a Memorandum of Understanding with Bermudian Youth Baseball for the proposed ball field project and that either he or the Borough Solicitor could draft the document. The MOU should address the issues previously discussed including the provision of additional portable restrooms, adequate parking, proper permits, and a land development plan if needed. There was some discussion of the specific concern of adequate parking. President Krall stated that he would be meeting with Mr. Mains on Monday and proposed to have the Engineer draft the MOU for the review of the Solicitor.
- Regarding the \$5,600.00 donation payment to Liberty Fire Company tabled from the previous Council meeting, President Krall acknowledged the presence of several members of the Fire Company. Fire Chief Lee Byers welcomed questions from Council as a follow up to the recent meeting of the Fire Company Board. Some financial information was provided to Council from Liberty Fire Company. Fire Company Treasurer Donna Chronister requested that the Borough cover the entire amount of the Fire Company's vehicle insurance costing between \$8,400.00 and \$9,000.00 annually. Ms. Chronister discussed difficulties in budgeting due to fluctuating income and expense. President Krall stated that budgets are essential for efficient financial operations, and noted that the Borough's 2013 budget allows \$5,600.00 as a donation to Liberty for vehicle insurance.

When questioned about a recent mass mailing by Liberty claiming that East Berlin Borough made no donation in 2012 even though the same payment of \$5,600.00 was provided, Ms. Chronister stated that Liberty would consider the payment to be a donation. David Richards clarified that the Borough cannot insure Liberty's vehicles and the payment must be made as a donation. Donald Dixon inquired if Liberty

intends to correct the misstatement. Chief Byers stated that an additional mailing would cost \$1,200.00. Jan Hoffman suggested that Liberty place a free thank you notice in the newspaper of three hundred (300) words or less, but asserted that the issue of the misinformation should be stated in the notice. Chief Byers stated that Liberty is willing to place the newspaper notice to correct the error. By a consensus of Council, the donation toward the cost of vehicle insurance for 2013 in the amount of \$5,600.00 was issued to Liberty Fire Company.

- In a discussion of the proposed 2014 budget, James LeVan inquired of the additional cost to train a new police officer with Police Chief Grim's upcoming retirement. It was noted that Officer Grim would not be retiring until June, 2016, and would require only six (6) months to train his replacement. President Krall stated that the 2014 budget may be reopened after adoption by the incoming Council Members. In response to David Richards' inquiry, Secretary McArthur stated that the draft budget would be advertised and available for review at the Borough Hall.
- President Krall reviewed his attendance along with Robert Meminger at an all-day Stormwater Management Workshop on November 15, 2013, and noted that a speaker from Villanova was knowledgeable, personable, and very informative. Topics included the requirement of a Stormwater Management Ordinance in 2012, and additional requirements in the future. In a discussion with Mr. Meminger, President Krall stated the need for a closer review of the Borough's storm water system to comply with future DEP regulations. Andrew Raymond mentioned older sections of the system with storm water draining into the sewer system from certain properties. President Krall stated that the issue is being addressed on a case by case basis.
- Regarding his attendance with Robert Meminger at a GIS open house event on November 20, 2013, President Krall noted that the information was of little benefit to the Borough.
- Invitations were received to attend the Manufacturer's Association Event on April 23, 2014, at the Pullo Center of Penn State York. It was noted that Dr. Ben Carson would be speaking at the event.
- President Krall reported that Planning Commission Member Loy Elliott has volunteered to assist as needed with snow plowing. Mr. Elliott has a commercial driver's license (CDL) and would need to be added to the list of drivers on the Borough insurance policy. James LeVan stated that he would also assist with plowing if needed. President Krall stated that the issue would be addressed at the next meeting of Council.
- Jason Wood, a current member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, introduced himself to Council as recently elected to serve as a Council Member beginning in 2014. President Krall thanked Mr. Wood for his attendance at this evening's meeting, and invited him to attend the upcoming Training for Newly Elected Officials sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB).
- Donald Dixon expressed his appreciation to the Lions Club for erecting the holiday lanterns over the past weekend.

The meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene McArthur  
Secretary/Treasurer of Borough Council