

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

September 24, 2014 – Work Session

The second monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held September 24, 2014, 7:00 PM at the East Berlin Borough Hall.

Members Present: Vice President James LeVan; Jason Wood; Roberta Teal; Catherine Lockey; Donald Dixon (7:30); and Andrew Raymond

Members Absent: Charles Krall

Also Present: Mayor Keith Hoffman; Secretary/Treasurer Darlene McArthur; and Officer Doug Fishel

Constituents Addressing Borough Council: Officer Doug Fishel, a resident of Hamilton Township, was present to introduce himself to Council. Officer Fishel is currently employed by Eastern Adams Regional Police and expressed his interest in serving the Borough upon Officer Grim's retirement.

Topics of Discussion:

- Secretary McArthur provided an update to the Route 194/ Route 234 issue of damage to Sidney Restaurant due to truck turning. At the request of Sarah Annis of Sidney Restaurant, the Borough is continuing efforts to research the matter. Robert Meminger contacted Jason Hershock of PennDOT regarding his conversation with Mrs. Annis. Mr. Hershock stated that an alternate truck route is not an option in the Borough. On the matter of Mrs. Annis's suggestion to perform a traffic study, Mr. Meminger noted that a traffic study was included with the recent traffic signal evaluation report provided by the Borough Engineer. Mr. Meminger contacted Pat Wright of PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) to request his review of the location. Mr. Wright is scheduled to meet with Mr. Meminger on October 2nd to provide additional input. Mrs. Annis will be informed of the scheduled LTAP review.
- Vice President LeVan discussed a change order request for the Branch Circle Culvert Project. The change involves providing a stone base under the metal grate trash bar to ensure a better surface and prevent future erosion at a cost of \$450.00. *Andrew Raymond motioned to approve the change order; seconded by Catherine Lockey. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.* Andrew Raymond mentioned that a worker at the project site was injured, but the Borough would not be responsible in the incident.
- Council reviewed a letter received from New Oxford Borough requesting assistance in providing police coverage. The letter stated that their arrangement for police protection with Eastern Adams Regional Police (EARP) for joint police services with Oxford Township will terminate at the end of 2014 due to Oxford Township's withdraw from the agreement. Secretary McArthur reported Officer Grim's comments on the matter including the seven (7) mile distance from East Berlin to New Oxford, and a call volume of approximately ten (10) to one (1) over East Berlin, due in part to Route 30 accidents at the square, schools existing in the Borough, and theft at the many antique malls. Other considerations include the fact that a larger police force will result in unionization at a higher cost. In a discussion of the likelihood that EARP will disband upon the termination of the agreement, it was noted that EARP administers the Borough employees' health insurance coverage with Benecon forming a group including EARP and five (5) municipalities. With Oxford Township as the largest of this group, it is hoped that they would then administer the insurance coverage to maintain the group. Regarding the advantage of East Berlin Borough's local police coverage, there was mention of a recent incident involving a rabid raccoon and an incident with a power outage at the

traffic signal. In both cases, Officer Grim lent his assistance quickly and effectively. Vice President LeVan stated that it appears that Council wishes to remain independent with our own police force. This issue may be further discussed.

- The Building Inspection Report for August was received from Land and Sea Services.
- The fire and ambulance report and financial report for August were received from Liberty Fire Company. Secretary McArthur reported a total of nineteen (19) fire responses with two (2) in East Berlin, and seventy-six (76) ambulance calls with eleven (11) in East Berlin.
- Council was provided the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes of August 14, 2014. Vice President LeVan stated that the golf tournament fundraising event was again successful. Andrew Raymond mentioned the need for electricity at the Park. There was some discussion of the possibility of holding Colonial Day at the Park rather than closing the main street through town.
- Council determined that Trick or Treat in the Borough would be held on October 31, 2014, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Mayor Hoffman concurred.
- Vice President LeVan reminded Council of available training and webinars. Andrew Raymond stated that he would be attending the Adams County Council of Governments meeting tomorrow morning and would report the activities to Council.
- Catherine Lockey mentioned a problem with a storm drain near her property on Hillside Drive and noted that the curbing is cracking and breaking off. Secretary McArthur stated that she would have Robert Meminger inspect the drain tomorrow.
- Roberta Teal reported that she and Jason Wood met as members of the Finance Committee to discuss investment of the Borough's funds to yield a higher rate of interest. Regarding the yield on Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS), Ms. Teal reported that Susquehanna Bank provided more favorable interest rates than ACNB. Ms. Teal proposed to invest \$75,000.00 of General Funds for twelve (12) months at .5% interest, \$30,000.00 of General Reserve Funds for twelve (12) months at .5% interest, \$40,000.00 of Refuse Funds for six (6) months at .3% interest, and \$35,000.00 of Liquid Fuels Funds for six (6) months at .3% interest, for a total of \$180,000.00 in Certificates of Deposit. Secretary McArthur explained that all of the accounts were reviewed for current balance, twelve (12) months previous balance, and lowest balance in the past (12) months to ensure the availability of funds for investment. Ms. Teal stated that this matter could be further discussed at the next meeting of Council.
- Donald Dixon reported that he was contacted by a member of the Lions Club regarding the cost of a building permit for the storage structure recently erected by the Lions Club at Union Cemetery. There was a request to consider waiving the fee in consideration of the benefits provided to the Borough by the Lions Club. In a discussion of the request, Council determined that the issue might be better addressed by a donation to the Lions Club and would further consider the matter when the end-of-year profit/loss figures are known.

The meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene McArthur
Secretary/Treasurer of Borough Council