

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 6, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Campbell called the Washington Township Council Meeting to order on January 7, 2013 at 7:15 P.M. at the Washington Township Administration Building at 11800 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412. Those present were Vice-Mayor Pernisek, Councilmen Feikles, Glass, and Patterson. Also present were Solicitor Burroughs, Engineer Halmi, Manager Anthony, Community Development Specialist Deborah Anthony and Zoning Administrator Willow. Visitors were Kathy Pernisek, Chris Roth, Kirk Dillen, and Bunny Bucho.

**AGENDA** It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Patterson, to approve the Agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL** Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL MINUTES** It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Pernisek, to approve the Minutes of the semi-monthly Council Meeting of December 17, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** The following checks presented for approval: General Fund #15027-15080 and manual checks #14881-14882, Water Fund #5256-5263, Sewer Fund #6635-6652, Developer's checks #1057 and payroll checks #10000 (Water), 10010 (Sewer), 10017, #15230-15241. It was voted on motion by Glass, seconded by Feikles, to approve all the checks as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** Manager Anthony presented following report:

The weather extreme fluctuations in weather for December made for a busy time for the road crew. Heavy snow, then warm weather and rain makes for difficult road maintenance. Unfortunately, the dedicated snow plowing team was forced to work on Christmas Day as they did on Thanksgiving Day. This adds to the average cost for snow removal and eats away at the budget, but we are determined to do the best job we can within our budgetary constraints. The flooding we experienced was near our border on Beason Rd., the actual flooding was in Crawford County but we supplied some barricades just to be safe. Now ice and cold brings new challenges for the crew. We will be having more antiskid delivered this month as the price is still competitive and what we do not use is still available for the next snow season, so it isn't a waste of funding.

The Sewer Department continues to be plagued with pump repairs. Highland Avenue Lift Station had a major problem on Christmas Eve. The station is long overdue for a major upgrade, but funding something this expensive is always a problem. The Department continues to be a test of our abilities and funding limits. I am investigating some options for the future of the system in an effort keep it operating at a fair price for our residents. I will report my findings to Council in the future.

The Water Department was immediately aware of a leak in the system. As the levels are closely monitored, it didn't take us long to realize a problem existed. A vacant home on Blue Spruce Drive had a broken line and used a good bit of water. The problem has been rectified and we are now back to normal usage. The leak didn't last too long this time, unlike those in the past that have haunted us for considerably longer.

We were made aware of a possible gas leak situation on Kline Rd. We notified our Emergency Management Coordinator in case of further evacuations. At this time, we do not know if it was due to National Fuel lines, old gas wells in the area or a combination of both. We do know that the DEP is investigating the situation. We will report further as information comes in.

Manager Anthony discussed the issue of residents' yard stakes and their location within the right-of-ways. Due to the large amount of snowfall so far this year, the Township is receiving many complaints about the plows causing damage to residents' yards. Manager Anthony explained that the residents do not realize that what they consider yard is actually within the Township right-of-way. The plow drivers have been instructed to push back the snow so as not to minimize roadway area for safe passage. Manager Anthony asked Council how they wanted this situation addressed. After discussion, Council directed Anthony to write an explanation for publishing in the Edinboro News explaining the Township's right-of-way coverage and the need to keep the snow pushed back for safety and to minimize road damage from thaw run-off.

**CORRESPONDENCE** Manager Anthony presented the following correspondence: An update of Act 89, Transportation Funding and its affect on local government and the recent rulings on Act 13, oil and gas exploration and its affects on local governments. No action required.

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**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT** Zoning Officer Willow had no subdivisions to report but presented the monthly Building Report.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** No report.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** No report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**PLANNING COMMISSION** No Meeting.

**ZONING HEARING BOARD** No Meeting.

**ERIE COUNTY ASSOCIATION** Mayor Campbell presented correspondence concerning ECATO's monthly meetings.

**WATER AUTHORITY** No Meeting.

**ERIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION** Minutes were unavailable.

**VERTERAN PARK COMM.** No Meeting.

**EMA** Manager Anthony presented the Minutes of the December 6, 2013 Meeting. Washington Township donated a dorm-size refrigerator to the ECEMA.

### OLD BUSINESS

**ORD. #1-14** Zoning Officer Willow presented the draft Floodplain Ordinance #1-14 for Council's review. Engineer **FLOODPLAIN** Halmi discussed the FEMA-recommended ordinance and pertinent sections for Council's consideration. A lengthy discussion ensued. Councilman Glass had issues with several sections referring to under 100 square foot structure within the floodplain, the requirement of an engineer or architect be retained for structures over 100 square feet within the floodplain, that requests for variances and appeals be directed to the Floodplain administrator prior to being heard by the Zoning Hearing Board, and enforcement and penalties. Solicitor Burroughs explained the difference between a summary offense and a misdemeanor, recommending Council change the penalty to a summary offense. **It was voted** on motion by Glass, second by Pernisek to approve advertising for public hearing on February 4, 2014, Ordinance #1-14, floodplain ordinance, with requested changes be made by Engineer Halmi. Solicitor Burroughs informed Manager Anthony the proposed Ordinance only needs to be advertised one time prior to adoption. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**2013 YEAR-END REIMBURSEMENTS** Manager Anthony presented a report for the year-end reimbursements for water and sewer accounts. **It was voted** on motion by Pernisek, second by Glass to approve the year-end reimbursements and investments as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**RES. #5-14 RTE 99 SEWER EXT. NOTIFICATION** **It was voted** on motion by Patterson, second by Feikles to approve the Route 99 Sewer extension project advertising as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**SEWER EXT LETTER** Manager Anthony presented a draft letter he is considering mailing the residents along Route 99 that will be within the 150' of the main sewer line must connect to the system. After Council's review, Manager Anthony was directed to mail said letter that affected residents and also to other residents that may wish to connect to the sewer system.

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**VISITORS** Dr. Bunny Bucho extended congratulations to Mayor Campbell on her mayoral appointment.

**ADJOURNMENT** **It was voted** on motion by Glass, seconded by Patterson, to adjourn the Meeting at 8:27 P.M. **Motion carried unanimously.**