

BOROUGH OF NORTH WALES  
 300 SCHOOL STREET  
 NORTH WALES, PENNSYLVANIA

MEETING: September 8, 2015 7:02 PM, EST

CALL TO ORDER made by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:	Jim Cherry	Present
	Michael McDonald	Present
	Sally Neiderhiser	Present
	Daniel O'Connell	Present
	Ed Redstreak	Absent
	Christine Hart	Present
	Paula Scott	Present
	Mark Tarlecki	Absent
	Jim Sando	Present
	Mayor Greg D'Angelo	Present

Also in attendance was Gregory Gifford, Borough solicitor and Alex Levy, Chief of Police.

President McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Comment**

Herb Schlegel, 301 W. Montgomery Avenue, said he read an article in the Reporter about the Lansdale Borough manager negotiating with North Penn School District about using their manpower and equipment to help the Borough of Lansdale. He said this could become a problem with tax payers and he is concerned about tax dollars being used. If one municipality can use their resources, maybe others can too. A discussion ensued regarding this issue.

### **Presentation of Eagle Scout Project**

Zach Blanchard, 301 Shearer Street, presented his project to Council. He proposes to do a lending library in two parks; Wee Whalers and Weingartner Park. He said Upper Gwynedd Township has approved putting one in Parkside Place. The books will be enclosed in a waterproof box where anyone can take a book and then leave a book. He provided pictures of several types of lending library boxes which Council looked at and passed around. He said a group of volunteers will build them from scratch. He will be getting grants from Home Depot and Lowes. He will investigate how to replenish and keep the books in stock.

Member Hart asked Zach to come back with his finished plan and work with the members of the Parks and Recreation Committee for placement in the parks.

Member O'Connell asked what happens if you get too many books and what happens to the extra books. It was suggested that the library may be able to help by storing the extra books until needed.

Member Hart voiced her concern about who will maintain the boxes after he leaves for college. Zach said he will maintain it for about three years and then hopefully someone else would be willing to maintain them.

Member Hart made a motion to approve Zach Blanchard's Eagle Scout project to move forward with the planning stage and further approval. Member Cherry seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Consideration: Radio Purchase**

Interim Manager Levy gave a brief review of the loan amount.

Member Hart made a motion to approve the purchase and loan from Montgomery County in the amount of \$236,218.40 of which \$3,200.00 will be paid by the North Penn Volunteer Fire Company each month for the next five years and the Borough will pay \$800.00 a month. Member Scott seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

### **Discussion: SB 299 – Municipal Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters and EMS**

Member Hart said there is a bill being considered that allows a \$500.00 tax credit to fire fighters and first responders. She explained that each municipality would decide if they want to give their emergency fire fighters and first responders in EMS a \$500.00 credit on their 1% earned income tax. Member Hart said this would impact our budget if this is passed and she wanted everyone to be aware of the bill. This bill is designed to give volunteers a little monetary incentive to be a volunteer without actually paying them.

Member Sando said it is important that we have a set of guidelines in place for who would be eligible for it, what level of volunteer participation and training is required. He said he is interested in seeing how municipalities will treat this bill. Member Hart said it has to pass first before we get into making a decision and setting guidelines. She said she thought it might be something that we might want to support.

### **Old Business/Committee Reports/Zoning Applications**

Member Hart said the one item that our auditor needed to complete the audit of the Borough's pension plan; the Minimum Municipal Obligation was received by email yesterday. This has to be approved by September 30, 2015. She said they can approve it tonight or wait until the next meeting.

Member Scott made a motion to approve the dollar amount (\$65,757.00) as proposed. Member Neiderhiser second the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no.

Member Sando question the fixed assets on page four of the DCED report prepared by Maille. Council wants to see what we used last year for this figure. Member Hart asked that everyone review the Maillie report and submit questions to Alex or Claire.

Member Hart said Council received the estimated annual renewal premium for workers compensation of \$24,219.00 for 2016. This is worker's compensation for the volunteer fire fighters. This is for informational purposes only and does not require a vote. Council wanted to know what we paid for the same coverage in 2014.

Member Hart said there was another request for a waiver at 432 Shearer Street. Mayor D'Angelo reviewed what was proposed to the Planning Commission last week and said the Commission had approved all of the waivers requested.

Joanne Matthews, 421 Shearer Street, asked about the storm water abutments. She said it looks like they are in the back of the house and how high are they. Mayor D'Angelo said maintenance of the rain gardens will be explained to the property owner and they will be required to sign an agreement. Member Hart asked if the Montgomery County Planning Commission approved this plan. Mayor D'Angelo said there was a resident from West Walnut Street concerned about water runoff. He said there was a discussion about Penn DOT helping with the drainage issues while they are in the process of working on Walnut Street. Member Cherry expressed his concerns about the rain garden pecculating and the trees making it through the sidewalk construction and elevation changes. A discussion ensued regarding trees, sidewalks and water runoff. Member Hart said this is a preliminary proposal from the developer. The developer will make a presentation at the Council meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Pat Graham, 324 S. Fourth Street, said there are two rain gardens in Weingartner Park, do they work. Member Cherry responded no they don't and neither do the ones in Hess Park. Member Cherry said they put the gardens in clay soil and clay will not allow drainage. He said rain gardens work if constructed properly. A discussion ensued regarding rain gardens and other drainage solutions. Solicitor Gifford advised everyone to have questions ready for the meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Perry Francis, 125 W. Walnut Street, said by Morris Road there is a pond but they have a fountain there. If you have a fountain, maybe that would solve the mosquito problem. Member Hart said the depth of our rain gardens wouldn't be sufficient for a fountain.

Member Hart asked the manager to contact the engineer to be present at the next meeting. Also, make the 432 Shearer Street presentation number two on the agenda for the meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mel McGee, 511 E. Montgomery Avenue, asked when the Zoning Hearing Board will make their decision about her next door neighbor. Member Hart said the hearing was continued on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Member Hart said that Lansdale and North Wales Borough are hosting the Borough's Association dinner on September 24<sup>th</sup>, at Marjeane Caterers at 6 PM. There will be a guest

speaker at 8 PM. She also reported that Public Works has asked several contractors for estimates for needed concrete work around Borough Hall.

Member Hart asked if Council wanted to notify the neighbors about the upcoming Planning Commission meeting. She said this is not mandated. If it is on the agenda, that will be sufficient.

**Solicitor / Mayor / Council / Manager**

Solicitor Gifford said there is a signed agreement of sale for the property at 426 West Walnut Street. It has been signed by the estate of two of the three property owners. It is expected to be moving forward by the end of the week.

Mayor D'Angelo said he will be attending a meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> about the Papal visit. Also, he said he thought it appropriate to give the interim manager an interim thank you. Everyone thanked Alex for his work.

Member Hart reminded everyone that Community Day is October 3rd.

Member Sando said he participated in the walk through of the SEPTA parking lot. He said there were issues that need to be addressed such as the lighting on Beaver Street, shields on the lights, and there are 75 marked parking spaces and the payment machine is marked for 100 spaces. Also, one of the retention basins is already starting to wash out and there were some suggestions about what to do. There is also an issue where there is curbing and no signs prohibiting parking. Member O'Connell asked who determines when the escrow should be returned. Solicitor Gifford said the engineer determines that.

Member Cherry said several residents complained about the lighting on Eighth Street near Walnut which is poorly lit. They would like to get a light to brighten the lower end of the street. Member Cherry also asked about the limitations on yard sales. He said there is a resident on Walnut Street who continually has a yard sale. Interim Manager Levy said he received a complaint about it and he will send a letter to them like one that a previous manager had sent.

Member Scott made a motion to adjourn. Member Sando seconded the motion. Motion passed 7 yes, 0 no. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alex H. Levy  
Interim Borough Manager