

# **New Buffalo Borough Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2011**

## **Call to Order**

President Ted Engle called the meeting of New Buffalo Borough Council to order at 7:30 p.m. on April 11, 2011 in the New Buffalo United Methodist Church.

## **Roll Call**

Present were council members: Ted Engle, Dave Lesher, Dale Peterson, and Paul Krieger.

The following persons were also present: Janice Crouse, Richard Bostdorf, Helen Freet, Karen Ersoz, Dave Sweetland, Jim Kello, Sally Lesher, Ron O'Neil, Cheryl O'Neil, Susanne Rudy, Ralph Rudy, John Kistler, Mike Holler, Dan Balthaser, Richard L. Stine, and Louise Stine.

## **Reading of last month's minutes**

The minutes from March 14, 2011 were read with addition of bills to be discussed at this meeting –none were discussed at last months. Upon motion of Dale Peterson, seconded by Dave Lesher, the minutes were approved as corrected.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Upon motion of Dale Peterson, seconded by Dave Lesher, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

## **Sewage/Sewage Authority Report**

Jim Kello stated that the Bond Council did not report project as they should have, they did not put in the service fee accurately. Jim became aware of this when he asked them for itemization, the result? \$21,000.00 that was not closed on. Sweetland is pursuing this amount now. Sweetland is not completely done at working out all the finances. They will continue to fine tune these figures and will continue to work out additional items and monies.

Dale Peterson asked what was the over allowance contract – Dave Sweetland stated 5% in PV money. Have we tried to get that money? Yes Sweetland has. If we cannot close out this with additional grant money we can close out the Penn Vest loan at 1%.

Sweetland wants to know what the Borough wants to do A) concerning the water issue, a garden hose is needed to rinse. 1-drill another well or 2-use existing well. Can we use existing well? Place pump on landlord meter? Borough will pay for this.

B) Electrical box outside the plant. This was never stated to Borough this had to be fenced in. the Borough is concerned about security issues. Fee to move the pole by PPL was \$30,000.00. Ted will research these issues and report back to council. He will check with Gutelius to see how much they will charge to changeover the well issue on the rental house. Cost for meter approximately \$150.00.

Paul Krieger made a list of fees he feels we could have prevented in this sewer project.

## **Financial Issues**

President opened floor to guests to respond to financial issues. Karen Ersoz asked about the audit process that will need to take place. Jim Kello stated he is heavily scrutinized by every funder, and he is being very particular about each line item. He explained any transfer of funds will be checked and corrected if need be. Checks and balances are being done by Sweetland. Karen Ersoz asked under what circumstances can/do funders rescind monies; Jim Kello stated he has never had this happen that they approve all requests before they give us monies, so we should have no problems. Jim will keep an eye on this and he is actively working to try and secure more funds for the Borough.

Contractor will be back to fix laterals, Paul Krieger asked if lids will be bolted down and Dave Sweetland will check on this.

Paul Krieger asked why we are not billing every one. He stated that we have those that are not being billed, such as Karl Raudensky and Mike Holler. Dale Peterson reminded Paul Krieger that Borough agreed to give a grace period to those new constructions until completion of already started constructions and that anyone that wished could of taken advantage of this same offer for their hookups while they were under construction and Paul Krieger declined the offer. Ralph Rudy then stated that he will not pay if his unit(s) are not rented. At this time, it became very difficult for the secretary to hear accurately what was being said as a few homeowners became disruptive and loud, and continued this behavior until they left the meeting.

Cheryl O'Neil asked what was being done to those that are hooked up and are not paying. Ted Engle explained that the Borough will start proceedings in accordance with policy and procedure already tried and true by Penn Township. We will send out a letter to all that are 60 days over due with payments. If they do not make any attempts to pay Borough will file with the DJ, if after 30 days no payments or attempt at resolution have been made a lien will be filed on their property for the amount with the Prothonotary's office and will not be removed until paid. The Borough is able to attach any fees including administrative fees to the amount due.

Cheryl O'Neil asked why the Borough could not send out coupons to help save on mailings/expense for the Borough. Secretary/Treasurer will attempt to make a quarterly form to send out to homeowners.

Helen Freet asked when the contractors (Gutelius) are returning to repair lawns. Dan Balthaser stated that Gutelius said they would be around the middle of March to do these repairs, and he wanted to know where they were. Jim Kello stated he will check to see when Gutelius will be here to do repairs, and that unfortunately the weather has not been agreeable to do so.

Ron O'Neil asked Borough where the topsoil that was removed from the Borough residences is. Ted Engle let all know that the topsoil is stock piled down at the plant, and that Gutelius will use that to repair lawns. Residents were also informed that the vents in yards can be disguised but not completely covered or sealed as this is necessary for ventilation.

Contract from Skelly and Loy for \$3,375.00 was approved. Dale Peterson motioned, Paul Krieger seconded. None opposed.

Paul Krieger asked what the Borough is doing about mowing. Ted Engle presented that with the Sewage Plant we should employ someone that has insurance, Sweetland agreed. Council voted on employing Brockly's to do all Borough mowing. Dave Leshner motioned, and Dale Peterson seconded. Paul Krieger opposed.

### **Unfinished Business**

Ordinance #02-2011 – Act 32 – Tabled.

Ordinance #01-2011 – Tabled.

### **Sewage/Sewage Authority**

Council agreed on secretary/treasurer initiating collections on delinquent sewer accounts that are 60 days overdue. Secretary will utilize the same procedures and protocols that Penn Township uses to collect delinquent sewer payments.

### **Ordinance Violations**

Numerous trash, cars, Wiltsie, square, etc. Ted will attempt to speak to these individuals. After lawns are fixed by Gutelius, borough will send out letters and if that does not work, file ordinance violation with DJ.

### **Rental**

Dale Peterson stated ceiling is down, electric is complete, will do another walk thru when ceiling is finished, waiting to insulate, may be able to get away without obtaining another dumpster.

### **Street Committee**

Research Mill Street, cut off black top.

### **New Business**

Two Change orders were submitted for Ted Engle to sign from Gutelius for 2008-01 and 2008-02. Change order sheets are to provide info for Penn Vest to receive monies. PV unlikely to make a decision on this without this info. PV did take some monies back but when Jim Kello shows them the bottom line we are more likely to get this money back.

### **Bills**

Upon motion of Dale Peterson, seconded by Dave Leshner the bill list was approved for payment.

### **Adjourn**

Upon motion of Paul Krieger, seconded by Dale Peterson, council adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia A Raudensky Bierma  
Secretary/Treasurer