

New Buffalo Borough Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2015

Call to Order

President Dan Balthaser called the meeting of the New Buffalo Borough Council to order at: 7:00 p.m. on September 14th, 2015, in the basement of the New Buffalo United Methodist Church.

Roll Call

Present were council members: Dan Balthaser, Kim Balthaser, Karen Ersoz and Michelle Shutt. The following persons were also present: Janice Crouse, George Lowe, Michael Lowe, Richard Bosdorf, Ruth Leshner, Dave Leshner, Karl Raudensky, Cory Engle, Dale Peterson, Myrtle Winters, Carol Holler, Pat Keilhofer, Gladys Benner, John Kittka, Michael Gochnauer, Tom Kendall, Ralph Rudy, Kristie Smith, Steven Verdensky, Adam Pavusik and Barry Schlosman.

Reading of last Month's Minutes

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Kim Balthaser, the August 2015 minutes were approved with corrections. All in favor, none opposed.

Comments from Visitors

George Lowe – Gave Dan a request for information on various sewer records. Dan accepted the document with the intention of gleaning legal counsel from Dennis Shatto. George reiterated that the last board waived the sewer bills during reconstruction. Dan answered that was only for new construction. George also questioned the board about setbacks. Dan mentioned that since the borough has no ordinance concerning setbacks, we default to the county standards.

Steve Verdensky – Asked about how much research went into the sewer project. Dan replied that a fair amount of research went into the plant but Sweetland Engineering steered the borough wrong. Steve mentioned that the same thing happened in Manheim Township.

Cory Engle – Mentioned that the borough has seen a 103% increase in the sewer rate since the beginning of this project. He also questioned whether anyone cared about these sharp increases. Dan responded that everyone on the board does care about the increases but they see it as the only way to stop the bleeding. Cory still maintains that borough council should have been more diligent. He also said that he would step up and help with the project. The idea of a subcommittee for the sewer operations was kicked around. Potential committee members include John Kittka, George Lowe, and Karl Raudensky.

Dale Peterson – Wants us to apply for a grant.

Karl Raudensky – People from Watts Township are getting upset about the pot holes in the borough.

Dale Peterson – He is also concerned about the increased sewer rates and the effect it has on the single and elderly that live in the borough. He also asked Dan if we are applying for grant money, Dan responded, “not yet.”

Myrtle Winters - Web site needs to be updated.

Carol Holler – Has not passed on the increase to her tenants because many of them are not in the financial position to afford it. She believes that something must be done and that the whole borough should come together and solve this problem.

Correspondence

Insurance Renewal
Perry County Sub-Regional Comprehensive Plan
Transfer Tax – Metro Bank/George Lowe
Ralph Rudy Letter

Borough Treasurer’s Report

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Karen Ersoz, the August 2015 Borough Treasurer Report was approved as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

Sewer Treasurer’s Report

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Kim Balthaser, the August 2015 Sewer Treasurer Report was approved as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sewage/Sewage Authority Report

Adam Reported a busy month at the sewer plant, with the following issues:

- August 9th – Train was full and he installed the conduit to the sampler.
- August 10th – Sludge was pumped
- August 11 – Train was full and made adjustments
- August 15 -16 – Issues with the flow meter and with the chlorine contact pump. Also had an electrical overload trip the circuit on a pump
- August 23rd – Flow meter and union were stuck
- August 24th – Recalibrated the flow meter, ran communication wires for the sampler, called tech support to get the sampler working, and drained the water sampler.
- September 1 – Unclogged pump 1, Adam reiterated that the biggest problem at the sewer plant is the use of disposable wipes and feminine products. Dan also made those in

attendance aware of how these products clog the pumps at the plant and costs the borough more money. George mentioned using a pre-screening system to keep these products away from the pump. But it would cost the borough money.

Cory Engle wanted to know if we actually need Skelly & Loy. Adam replied that they have the specialized equipment that is needed at the plant and they prepare all the documents that are required.

Sewer Solicitor – Dennis Shatto

Dennis will review the right to know request made by George Lowe. Dennis is also looking into suing Sweetland for malpractice.

PCCOG - Dan Balthaser

PCCOG in good shape financially and there are no issues

Beautification Committee

Nothing to report.

Street Committee – Kim Balthaser

Signs have been counted.

Refuse Coordinator – Karen Ersoz

Nothing to report.

Playground

Needs to be cleaned up.

Ordinance Violations

Ordinance #01-2011 – Tabled to the spring (new construction, revised set back boundaries, etc.).

Rental

Adam reported that the mailbox post at the rental unit needs to be replaced because it is rotting out. Dan gave Adam permission to fix the mail box.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Bills

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Karen Ersoz, all in favor, none opposed, the September Borough bill list was approved for payment.

Sewer Bills

Upon motion of Kim Balthaser, seconded by Karen Ersoz, all in favor, none opposed, the September Sewer bill list was approved for payment

GOOD of the ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Ersoz - reminded the board that it is time for a borough walk around to identify properties that are breaking the ordinance concerning trash and keeping properties clean. The board will meet on Monday September 21 at 6:00 PM in front of the United Methodist Church. Corey Wiltsie property is a problem and we need to get the District Justice involved.

Michelle Shutt – Thanked everyone for coming and informed us that she won't be in attendance at the November meeting.

Barry Schlosman – Thanked Corey for his comments and reiterated that creating a separate committee for the sewer plant is a great idea.

Dan Balthaser – Reiterated the need for borough members. There is a current opening and Karen Ersoz's position will be opening up at the next election. He also thanked everyone for coming.

Dale Peterson – Threw out the idea that the borough should pursue other revenue sources. He mentioned renting space for a billboard or a cell phone tower. He also believes that the borough building should be sold or rented.

Cory Engle – Secure grant money to put in solar panels to reduce the electrical cost of the plant.

George Lowe – We should raise the rent on the rental property from \$650.00 to \$750.00 per month.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Michelle Shutt, all in favor, none opposed, council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barry Schlosman
Secretary/Treasurer