

## WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

### BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

June 16, 2015

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Abby Wertz called the June 16, 2015 workshop meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Bob Pierce, Rod Soliday, Tony Wirebach and Bill Langjahr. Also attending the meeting were Manager Lisa Heilman and visitors Vernon Bright, Charlia Koch and Dave Randler.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** - All visitors were observing.

**NEW BUSINESS** – The potential purchase of the Robesonia Furnace site was discussed. It was suggested that if we go ahead and apply a brownfields site clean-up grant, it would be best to apply for the complete remediation (\$600,000 or >). Ms. Wertz expressed the interest of the Friends of the Robesonia Furnace in preserving the walls and tunnel that were part of the original furnace operations. The possible building of a composting facility on part of the property was also discussed. David Bean, the environmental lawyer that presented the option of purchasing the property at the June Council meeting, has asked that the Borough provide as much detail as possible on their proposed uses for this property should they choose to purchase it. Ms. Heilman asked Ms. Wertz to write up the Friends' proposed use for the walls/tunnel and advised she would write up the information for the proposed composting facility. A larger copy of the map provided by Mr. Bean will need to be obtained so the exact placement of the composting facility can be determined.

**OLD BUSINESS** – The proposed changes to the Intermunicipal Police Charter Agreement were again discussed. We've been told that Wernersville has approved the changes with a few "tweaks" to it. We will await receipt of the updated recommendations from Wernersville.

The drawing provided by Shawn Hoffa was reviewed and discussed. The proposed "lean-to" would violate zoning regulations, therefore, a variance would be needed. It was suggested that a few well-placed trees would probably help mitigate the problem of foul balls hitting the side of their garage. Mr. Soliday suggested it is not right to spend taxpayer money to rectify problems on private property. Others agreed. Mr. Pierce noted that some of the problem has been created by the Hoffa's replacing the old garage with a bigger one. Council agreed to the purchase and placement of a few trees to try to help the situation. Mrs. Koch noted that she is most concerned about personal safety.

Mr. Marshall advised Council that he met with the Berks County Conservation District regarding the proposed work to the South Church Street culvert. He was told the Borough will need to obtain either a GP3, GP7 or GP11 permit based on the study the BCCD is doing in the creek. Mr. Marshall suggested that even though the cost of the permit is only \$350, till we add in engineering fees, etc and put the project out for bid, it will probably well exceed the original \$20,000 estimate we were given when we first started considering this project. He suggested we may be better off considering a "monolithic pour" over the top of the pipe (after saw cutting the street). Mr. Schnee made the motion, Mr. Pierce seconded and Council unanimously approved Mr. Marshall pursuing this avenue.

Cost sharing of the workers comp insurance was discussed once again. Borough Manager provided the numbers provided by Berks Department of Emergency Services. Mr. Marshall suggested a split of 55% for Robesonia, 30% for Heidelberg Township and 15% for North Heidelberg Township. Mr. Randler suggested that Heidelberg Township would be amenable to that amount and that a simple agreement be drawn up to that effect. Mr. Pierce made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council unanimously agreed to the proposed split and simple agreement for the cost sharing of the Workers Compensation Insurance for the fire company.

Mr. Schnee advised Council that he's been working with the new owner of 19 South Robeson Street to get the property cleaned up. He advised that he and Borough Manager agreed to grant Mr. Sensenig an extension of time in which to clean it up, but progress is being made.

He also advised Council that the new owners of 100 East Penn Avenue want to turn their garage into an in-laws quarters. He feels that in order to avoid the same situation that happened at 21 West Maple, we need to pursue the option put forth in the zoning ordinance to require the annual renewal of the permit to allow for this. He feels it would give us more "teeth" to go after them should they try to turn it into a permanent apartment when its no longer needed as an in-laws quarters. He would like to give it to Solicitor George to write up a legal agreement requiring annual renewal of the permit. Council agreed.

Mr. Marshall advised Council that DP Randler Mulch and Landscaping donated all the flowers for the flower pots on Penn Avenue. The Borough has been getting many compliments on the pots Council thanked Mr. Randler profusely for his contribution.

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Mr. Marshall advised Council that he was contacted by Jack Keener who is planning to move forward with the retention pond on his property behind West Oak Avenue. He has applied for the permit and will be proceeding as soon as he receives it.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr.Schnee and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Heilman  
Borough Manager