

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

June 17, 2014

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President Abby Wertz called the June 17, 2014 workshop meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Ron Becker, Rod Soliday, Bill Langjahr, Bob Pierce and Mike Kocher. Also attending the meeting was Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and Visitors included Berks County District Attorney John Adams, David Randler and Frank Schnee.

VISITORS & CITIZENS - District Attorney John Adams discussed with Council his concerns over the potential disbanding of the Western Berks Regional Police Department (the regionalization, of which, he was totally in favor), reminding Council of the many expenses to the Borough should the disbandment go through. Mr. Soliday mentioned that more Section 8 housing was bringing with it more problems. Mr. Marshall suggested there were costs involved in the regionalized department that needed better controls in place (such as the 60 hours of vacation provided to members even though they only work an average 42 hours per week). Mayor Gartner asked DA Adams why the county stopped paying for the CODY system. Mr. Adams stated it just fell out of budget and the municipalities were made responsible to pay the costs. DA Adams stated he would like to see other funding to help offset the costs so the responsibility is not placed solely on the homeowners. We need to rethink things (realistically) and bringing in more people is not necessarily the solution. We don't want to see what happened in Topton happen in this situation. Frank Schnee discussed handicapped accessibility issues at 141 West Penn Avenue.

SOLICITOR - Since there was no attorney present, the Sewage Transportation Agreement approval was postponed until the July 7 Council meeting.

MANAGER – Absent

OLD BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS – John Ravert, along with several volunteers, will be performing tree trimming around town on Saturday, June 21st. Mr. Marshall will contact our engineer regarding runoff from Derr's property to AWI. Frank will check on chickens at Tom Achenbach's property on North Robeson Street.

Residents need to be reminded of placing mattresses/large furniture out for the trash haulers. Mayor Gartner and Mr. Marshall will be checking the curbs along Penn Avenue for repair/replacement. The possibility of getting a bid to do all the properties and having the residents reimburse the borough for the work is being considered.

The zoning agreement will be checked on the Lengert law practice property (specifically handicap accessibility and parking area)

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Abigail Wertz
Council President