

**Borough of Somerset Council Meeting  
April 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Ruby Miller, opening with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Roll Call:**

Council Members Present: Ruby Miller; Fred Rosemeyer; Judy Pyle; Pam Ream; Sue Opp; Steve Shaulis and Gary Thomas. Mayor Scott Walker also present.

Junior Council Member Maria Weimer was also present.

Absent was Chief of Police, Randy Cox.

Also present were the following: Borough Manager, Michele Enos; Director of Finance, Brett Peters; Solicitor James Cascio; and Consulting Engineers, Tom Reilly and Jake Bolby.

**Announcements:**

*(a) None*

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

*(a) March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes*

**Motion**

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*(b) March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Borough Council Meeting Minutes*

**Motion**

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to approve March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Borough Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**Award of Bids:**

*(a) 2018 Seal Coat Bids:*

Ms. Enos stated that she had an update on the Seal Coat Bids. She explained that PennDOT provides the bid specifications to the Borough. PennDOT comes to the Borough to measure the streets, and then decides what material would be best used on those streets. Ms. Enos stated that she noticed an error in the bid specifications before it went to advertising. She stated that PennDOT is working on correcting that error, after which, it will then be advertised. Ms. Enos explained that the advertisement will be going out next week, and she will have all the correct information for Council thereafter.

*(b) Waste Water Treatment Plant – Valve Replacement Project:*

Ms. Enos stated this project involves replacing the valves at our Sewage Treatment Plant. The lowest responsive bidder was J.P. Environmental, LLC at \$63,000.00. Our Engineers, as well as the staff, have looked over all the “bid package”, and they are recommending its award.

**Motion**

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to award the Waste Water Treatment Plant Valve Replacement Project to J.P. Environmental, LLC in the amount of \$63,000.00.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*(c) Coxes Creek Water Treatment Plant – Filter Level Control Project:*

Ms. Enos stated that the bid opening was last week for this project. They had four bidders pick up the packages for the Coxes Creek Filter Improvement Project. She mentioned that only one bid was submitted for this project.

Ms. Enos stated that there was an additive alternate to the bid that we did not originally budget. We originally budgeted \$60,000.00 for this project. She mentioned that Mr. Bolby and the Water Treatment Superintendent, Mr. Kowatch, felt that while the contractor was there, other things that are going to be in need of replacement should be done at the same time while we can bid this as an alternative to the original bid specification. This increases the price of the project from \$60,000.00 to \$86,000.00. Ms. Enos explained that we can make this up in our current budget. She stated that we will have to move a project that is less sensitive to another budget year.

Mr. Bolby stated that the added alternatives, as requested by the Superintendent, will be included in an addendum. He stated that these additional items will definitely be

an improvement to the facilities. Mr. Bolby stated that he also recommends that they be included in the project while it's under the bond and insurance of that contractor.

Ms. Enos, again, made clear that \$60,000.00 was budgeted for this project, but with this added alternate, that budget amount will increase. She stated that we'll make up for the increased amount during our current budget year. The total bid amount from Cambria Systems Incorporated is \$86,250.00.

**Motion**

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to add the recommended added alternative to the Coxes Creek Water Treatment Plant Filter Level Control Project for a total project amount of \$86,250.00.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**General Public Comments:**

*(a) None*

**Administrative Business:**

*(a) Communications (none)*

*(b) Payment of Bills -*

**Motion**

Mr. Thomas moved, Mr. Rosemeyer seconded, to approve the payment of bills numbered 30960 – 31138 totaling \$412,590.16.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**Policy Agenda:**

**Old Business:**

*(a) There is no old business.*

**New Business:**

*(a) School Based Officer Ordinance – Consider adopting the School Based Officer Ordinance approving the Agreement for the School Based Officer Program.*

Solicitor Cascio explained that the School Based Officer Program is something that has been in place for several years. He stated that it's an agreement between

Somerset Area School District, and the Borough, to provide for a working Police Officer on school property during operating hours of the school district while the students are in attendance at school.

Solicitor Cascio stated that, for a variety of reasons, the school district approached the Police Department about expanding their coverage to allow for additional Officers to be assigned there on a regular basis.

He explained that a Pennsylvania Statute says that when two municipalities make an agreement with each other, at least the Borough has to pass an ordinance authorizing it with an advertisement. Solicitor Cascio stated that once you pass the ordinance, then you have to authorize the amendment, or restatement, of the existing agreement.

Solicitor Cascio stated that the current arrangement is that the school district pays the Borough for their Police Officer's services, and coverage at the school. He stated that this arrangement has been very well received by the School District, and they have been very pleased.

Solicitor Cascio explained that two motions are needed from Council. First, to authorize the adoption of the new ordinance. Then a second motion is needed to approve the agreement.

He explained that the original ordinance stated "an Officer", and the new ordinance says "up to four Officer's", if necessary. He stated that this is the major language change in the restated new ordinance.

**Motion**

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mrs. Ream seconded to adopt the School Based Officer Ordinance approving the agreement for the School Based Officer Program.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*(b) School Based Officer Agreement – Consider authorizing the execution of the School Based Officer Agreement with Somerset Area School District.*

**Motion**

Mrs. Ream moved, Mrs. Opp seconded to authorize the execution of the School Based Officer Agreement with Somerset Area School District.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*(c) Tax Claim Bureau – Acknowledging a Private Sale of property at 116 Cherry Lane. If no objections, the Borough needs to consider accepting this transaction knowing the property will be sold free and clear of delinquent Real Estate Taxes. This amounts to \$84.49 of Borough Real Estate Tax for 2015 and 2017 inclusive.*

Solicitor Cascio stated that this property is for a mobile home. He explained that the statute of the Tax Sales Act states that a property is subject to Pennsylvania Real Estate Taxes. He stated that the Real Estate Tax Law states that if you do not pay your taxes, after they become delinquent, then the property goes to a tax sale. If there is no bid, they become what is called a “Repository”, meaning that someone can go in and make a private bid for the property. This is to get the property back on the Tax Rolls.

**Motion**

Mrs. Ream moved, Mr. Shaulis seconded to acknowledge a private sale of the Property at 116 Cherry Lane. The Borough is accepting this transaction knowing the Property will be sold free and clear of delinquent Real Estate Taxes. This amounts to \$84.49 of Borough Real Estate Tax.

Motion Unanimously Carried

*(d) Flow Meters – Discussion on the cost of renting 12 flow meters through the Co-Stars Cooperative Purchasing Program for a flow monitoring study of our sanitary collection system.*

Ms. Enos stated that the report that we received from our Engineers brought out that the total estimated cost is \$205,400.00. It is broken down into a contract of Sewage Meters and Rain Gages at \$101,400.00. EADS would be doing the meter installation, maintenance and removal, and also the study and report. The installation, maintenance and removal is \$15,000.00. The study and report is \$89,000.00. Ms. Enos reminded Council that this was discussed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting, and it was brought out then, that we could stretch this cost over a 2-year budget cycle.

Mr. Bolby explained that through Co-Stars, the Borough will be given more of a discount towards the rental cost.

**Motion**

Mr. Rosemeyer moved, Mr. Shaulis seconded to authorize the renting of 12 flow meters through the Co Stars Cooperative Purchasing Program for a flow monitoring study of our Sanitary Collection System.

Motion Unanimously Carried

(e) Somerset Daily American – Requesting a donation for their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display.

It was mentioned that last year's donation towards this cause was \$600.00.

**Motion**

Mrs. Ream moved, Mr. Thomas seconded to donate \$600.00 to the Somerset Daily American for their annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Display.

Motion Unanimously Carried

Mrs. Miller congratulated Ms. Maria Weimer for all the schools she will be attending after her high school graduation.

Mrs. Miller also mentioned that on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the County Banquet will be held at the Somerset Fire Hall.

Mrs. Miller also mentioned that the next Committee of the Whole Meeting will be held on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Also, the next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Mr. Rosemeyer mentioned that the PSAB Conference will be held June 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Hershey, PA.

Mr. Rosemeyer mentioned that PCN is coming in with a crew and editor to film the Borough on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018. He stated that there are eight segments they are going to film while here. He explained some of the details of what they are going to do in the various Borough Departments. Mr. Rosemeyer mentioned that this will all be paid for by the Pennsylvania Borough's Association. He stated that if anyone wants to volunteer to contribute to the filming, they are welcome to help.

Ms. Enos stated that Spring Cleanup is scheduled to start on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Mrs. Ream stated that the hospital is looking into designing a 2-hour program at the playground this summer. She mentioned that it would be one to two days a week. She explained that hospital employees would come to the playground and have planned activities for any child that would like to participate.

Mrs. Ream mentioned that all the hospital employees, who will be at the playground to help, have their clearances. Mrs. Ream mentioned that they are still in the planning stages, but wanted to present this to Council so they can think about it. She stated that when they have something more “concrete” they will present it to Council.

She also stated that this program would help to give the children structure, and exposure, to positive role models. The children will also be offered exercise programs through this arrangement.

**Executive Session** – To discuss personnel matters and potential litigation.

7:25 p.m.

**Motion**

Mrs. Opp moved, Mr. Rosemeyer seconded to go into Executive Session.

Motion Unanimously Carried

**Adjournment:**

Mrs. Opp moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rosemeyer.

Motion Unanimously Carried

8:00 p.m.

---

Michele A. Enos, Borough Manager/Secretary