

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

JULY 15, 2013

Forty Fort Borough council held a special meeting on Monday, July 15, 2013 at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, with President Joseph Chacke presiding.

President Chacke called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM with the following members of council present: Robert Craig, Dorothy Craig, Karen Martinelli, Charles Rick Kamus & Frank Michaels. Betty Mascelli was excused.

Also present were Chief Daniel Hunsinger, Barbara Fairchild, Manager & Secretary, Bonnie Arnone.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by President Chacke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mrs. Craig to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2013 council meeting. Second by Ms. Martinelli. Roll call vote showed the following:

YES: Mr. Craig, Mrs. Craig, Mr. Chacke, Mr. Michaels & Ms. Martinelli (Mr. Kamus was not present at this point in time of the meeting.) Motion passed.

RESIDENT & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS & PETITIONS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES:

Robert Swaback, 15 Susquehanna Ave., Forty Fort, asked if any of the Borough police officers would be affected by the cuts in Police COPS program grants. He was told that no officers in Forty Fort were employed under the COPS grants.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Motion by Mr. Craig to adopt Ordinance #3 of 2013, Mowing Ordinance. Second by Mrs. Craig. On the question: It was noted that this ordinance gives problem property owners 48 hours for the first offense and 24 hours for the second offense to have their grass & weeds trimmed properly. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to allow Katie Lord, head Lifeguard at the Forty Fort Pool, to conduct Swimming Lessons at the rate of \$30.00. Second by Ms. Martinelli. On the question: It was noted that the fee of \$30.00 includes two (2) lessons and the fee will be split between Katie & the borough. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to contract with Luzerne County for printing of the Real Estate Bills at a fee of approximately \$109.62 and \$95.00 free for the software with the RBA System database currently used by the borough. Second by Mr. Michaels. On the question: Resident Robert Swaback inquired if this would mean that the tax bills would not come from Ron Jeffery any longer. Ms. Fairchild explained that this was just for the printing of the bills and all other aspects would remain the same. All council

was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to hire two (2) part time police officers following interviews & investigations by Chief Hunsinger & Manager Barbara Fairchild and their recommendation of such. Second by Mr. Kamus. On the question, Chief Hunsinger explained that he currently has two individuals with all necessary credentials interested in the positions. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Kamus to hire Marie Andelscavage as a Crossing Guard for the position left empty by the resignation of Rebecca Zavada, guard at the Dana Street Elementary Center, at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Second by Mr. Michaels. On the question: It was noted that Ms. Andelscavage has had a criminal background check done and will have a Child Abuse Clearance performed as well. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Martinelli to advertise to hire additional part time crossing guards to be used in the absence of currently crossing guards at a rate of \$9.00 per hour. Second by Mr. Craig. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

A discussion was held as to the possibility of hiring a firm to conduct hiring of all borough employees. Mr. Michaels had attended a seminar on this topic and felt that this was something that the borough should have in place. Ms. Fairchild concurred saying that having an independent agency conduct interviews, etc in the hiring policy would be beneficial to all parties involved. A discussion was also held concerning background checks to be conducted for the 3rd party agencies during the interview process. Council decided to table this topic to obtain further costs & information before any decision could be made.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the resignation of Stephen Nowroski, Code Enforcement Officer. Second by Ms. Martinelli. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed. Mr. Chacke thanked Steve for his nearly seven (7) years of service to the borough.

Motion by Mr. Craig to notify Kingston Borough and Wyoming Borough of this resignation and to terminate the Code Enforcement Agreements currently in place with each municipality. Second by Ms. Martinelli. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Michaels to accept proposals for 3rd Party Building Inspectors for the Code Enforcement Office due to the resignation. Second by Mr. Chacke. On the question: Ms. Martinelli asked if we would be limited to 3rd Party Inspectors for this job. Dave Williams of BIU was present and asked if his agency was capable of handling our needs until a replacement for Steve was obtained. He said they could do that. Alan Brezinski's qualifications were discussed and noted that he has the ability to issue all permits but not do all inspections. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to advertise for a Code Enforcement Officer that would have the necessary qualifications and certifications to do all work required by Forty Fort Borough. Second by Ms. Martinelli. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the estimate from Tom's Tree Service in the amount of \$450.00 to cut down and remove the stump for the Blue Spruce Tree in the park along Wyoming Avenue. Second by Ms. Martinelli. On the question: Tom's Tree Service stated that the tree is rotting and poses a danger during high wind storms. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the audit report for the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority. Second by Mrs. Craig. On the question: Jeff McLaughlin, the borough representative to the WVSA was asked if he felt there were anything in the audit report that needed mentioning. He stated that there was nothing the borough should be concerned with and that the Authority was in good shape financially. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Michaels to accept the USDA Fee Services Agreements for Saporito, Saporito & Falcone for the USDA Road Resurfacing Project. Second by Mr. Craig. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the Proposal from Franklin Security Bank for the Bridge Loan for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Second by Mr. Kamus. On the question: Ms. Fairchild noted that the interest on this bridge loan will be 2.25% and Fidelity Bank will work with Franklin Security. Mr. Chacke noted that all interest paid on the bridge loan will be reimbursed through the grant. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to purchase the Ford Expedition Vehicle to add to the Police Dept. fleet. Second by Mr. Kamus. On the question: Mr. Craig noted that this vehicle is to be primarily used for commercial truck inspections and have a maximum yearly mileage of 22,500 miles. Chief Hunsinger stated that when that mileage is hit, the vehicle will be taken out of use. He also stated that the vehicle is completely outfitted and ready to go and that it will be delivered. Mr. Michaels noted that the interest rate for the loan to purchase this vehicle is 1.99% with the first payment being deferred until Jan 31, 2014 and the second payment due July 31, 2014. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to include the thinning and pruning of a large tree at the rear of the park near the swings at a possible cost of \$1600.00 by Alan Krieg, a certified arborist into the cost sharing of the Parks & Recreation Grant if the grant is obtained by the borough. Second by Ms. Martinelli. On the question: Mr. Craig asked if council would be deciding which projects would be done at the park/pool with the grant if we got it. He was told that the engineers have worked with Ms. Fairchild and the street dept. to go over the items that need the most attention and that the \$250,000.00 grant will be used where it is most needed. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Ms. Fairchild told council that Stephen Nowroski currently the Borough's Flood Plain Management & Storm Management Coordinator. Due to his resignation, council will need to name someone in his place. She noted that Alan Brezinski has been doing some work in that capacity and she will speak with him about this matter.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to allow the Families for Forty Fort Park use of the park for movies in the park on Aug. 9th & 30th, 2013 and a Craft Fair on July 28, 2013. Second by Ms. Martinelli. On the question: Mrs. Craig noted that the recently held Movie in the Park and Dip & Dance at the Pool were great successes. She currently has sponsors interested in sponsoring upcoming movies in the park. She also has 20+ vendors signed up for the craft fair. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to pay all necessary bills prior to the August 19, 2013 council meeting so as not to incur finance fee or late charges due to the delay in the Aug. meeting till Aug. 19, 2013. Second by Ms. Martinelli. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

RESIDENTS:

Robert Swaback, 15 Susquehanna Ave., Forty Fort, asked how after 7 months into the fiscal year, the borough budget was looking. Ms. Fairchild said that she can give specific numbers if he tells her what exactly he is looking for. Mr. Swaback also asked if losing revenue from Kingston & Wyoming Borough due to the resignation of Stephen Nowroski would affect the budget. He was told that while the borough would lose income, it would also lose the expense of Stephen's salary.

Joseph Danoski, 1621 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort asked if any money was taken from the Sewer Fund & transferred into the General Fund. He stated that if there was, it should be returned to the Sewer Fund. Mr. Chacke explained that any monies transferred from the Sewer Fund were for reimbursement for sewer expenses paid from the General Fund.

Jeff McLaughlin, 25 Yates St., Forty Fort asked if the borough was able to handle the large contribution for the police pension such as was paid in 2013. He was told that the correct figure was budgeted for 2014 and there should not be any problems meeting that obligation.

With there being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn by Mr. Craig & second by Ms. Martinelli at 8:45 PM.

Council adjourned & immediately went into a council work session.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Secretary