

February 20, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the New Milford Borough Council was called to order by President Teri Gulick at 6:30 p.m. at the borough building. Members in attendance were: Teri Gulick, Kerin Welch, Donna Cosmello, Dan Totten, Simon Frailey, Don Button and Mayor Scott Smith. Others in attendance were: Amy Hine, Secretary; Chuck Welch, Ted Brewster, Transcript; Lillian Senko, Transcript; Eleanor Lempke, Nathan & Courtney Place, Bill Furch and Chad Reid, JHA.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Teri advised everyone that she will be moving item 8M – Zoning – up to be next on the agenda. **A motion was made by T. Gulick and seconded by K. Welch to deny the request made by Places Properties LLC for a zoning map change for property located at 54 Church Street. Roll call vote as follows: Don Button – yes**

Kerin Welch – yes

Teri Gulick – yes

Simon Frailey – yes

Donna Cosmello – abstain

Dan Totten – yes

Motion carried. Donna asked why the council denied it. Teri said upon advice from the solicitor it was denied because it would still be considered spot zoning and council cannot do that. Teri said she had issue with not knowing what else could be done at that property. Don said the neighboring properties were a huge factor in making the decision to deny the request and by law we can't do spot zoning. Nathan Place said he expected the decision that was made because he didn't come prepared for the hearing. Teri said the bottom line is it would be spot zoning because SR 492 is the dividing line so we wouldn't be extending the zone; we would be creating a new one.

Teri said that item 5 will be next on the agenda – Present to Speak. Chad Reid came in place of Travis Long to speak to council about the Page Lake Sewers and the implementation of our Act 537 Plan from 1995. Chad said they would like to move forward with a special study, if the borough would approve it, to tie into our system. Teri said she feels this is up to New Milford Township not the borough. Teri said we don't have any say over the SR 492 corridor or Page Lake because it's in the township. Teri said we have a Municipal Authority that would handle this after we hear from the township. Don said Page Lake has come to the Municipal Authority but they haven't taken anything to the borough because there is not enough information from the township to go forward with anything yet. Don said he believes the township just appointed an engineer to start working on their Act 537 Plan. Bill Furch said he will have a proposal from the Lakeside Outing Club to send to the borough and asked that they just please read it over and see what they think about it.

CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Teri said there was a hearing for Savage's and the niece had asked for an extension but it was denied. Teri said Greg took pictures of the property at the corner of SR 492 & SR 11 and is sending a letter to the property owner. Teri said letters were sent to the property owners on Maple Street and Johnston Street. Teri said Greg is going to talk to Briechele about the trailer on Delaware Street.

A motion was made by K. Welch and seconded by D. Totten to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by K. Welch and seconded by D. Totten to accept the treasurer's report as presented and pay the bills as listed. Donna asked if we still have a Zoning Hearing Board. Amy said yes we do. They just had their reorganization meeting in January and only meet if needed. **Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

The council received notification from the Susquehanna County Tax Claim office that Karen Gudykunst, tax collector, made her returns in full for 2019.

The council received notification from Adams Cable that they will be raising their rates.

The council received notification from the Susquehanna County Conservation District about the annual heavy equipment contractor's workshop on March 25 at the Montrose Bible Conference.

The council received notification from the Susquehanna County Department of Public Safety about an Elected Officials training on February 27.

The PSAB 109th annual conference will be held in Hershey June 7-10.

The council received information from the PA DCNR about available grants. Amy will email it to the Parks & Recreation committee.

The council received a letter from the Susquehanna County Conservation District seeking donations for this year's Envirothon. **A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by S. Frailey to donate \$100. Motion carried.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Scott Smith said Chuck has done a temporary fix on the catch basin at the corner of Church Street and SR 492. Scott said there is a burn ban coming up in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COG: Nichole Cole said COG needs a chair and vice-chair. COG will be meeting every other month. Nichole said another member, Middletown Township, withdrew from COG. Nichole said they have stop signs for sale.

Streets: Amy said she is working on the no parking ordinances. Amy said Briechele is working with our insurance company about the Church Street bridge agreement. Amy said she's contacted Mick about the formalized maintenance agreement and is waiting for a response. Amy said she spoke with PennDOT about the maintenance agreement and was told that it would be for anything that comes from the bi-annual bridge inspections. Once the bridge is replaced there should be no major issues.

Planning Commission: Nothing to report.

Buildings & Equipment: Don said we need to keep a few cylinders and fittings on hand for the snow plow. Chuck said the cost should be around \$250. The council said to order them. Chuck said we also need new plow lights. Chuck said they would cost about \$400. The back parking lot will be done in the spring. Amy said she spoke to Tina in the COG office about the generator and they don't see a need for one but to just make sure their furnace is included on ours. The committee will talk to Dalton about it.

Parks & Recreation: Simon said the committee met to discuss several items. The committee would like to see a gazebo put in the playground area at Midtown Park to offer shade since the trees were taken down. Simon said he will get an estimate for that. Simon said the Midtown Park project will probably have to be done in stages. The committee discussed the possibility of a splash pad at the pool. Simon said it was brought up about getting patio umbrella's again for the tables in the pool area. Kerin said there used to be some there but they either got stolen or destroyed. The council agreed that the pool managers need to make sure the lifeguards take care of them after every shift so that doesn't happen. Simon said it was brought up about possible purchasing lawn chairs for the pool area. The council agreed not to do that; people can bring their own. The next meeting will be on March 13 at 6pm.

Economic Development: Donna said she doesn't have any updates on the sidewalk project. Donna said they started the study for the SR 492 & SR 11 intersection.

Police: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Ordinance: Teri said Greg is still working on the IPMC. Teri said the cable agreement needs to be sent back to Adams with the following concerns: Section 4 – effective date and term should be 5 years not 20 and Section 8(A) operation, service and maintenance of system should be worded as it was in the old agreement. Amy was asked to send our concerns back to Adams Cable.

Insurance & Fire: The siren is still being worked on.

Finance: Nothing to report.

New Milford Beautification: Nothing to report.

Zoning: This was covered earlier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The park project will be done in the spring.

There is nothing to report on the water gauge or the dry hydrant.

The next Midtown Festival meeting will be on February 27 at 6pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Teri said she went to a meeting that MaryAnn Warren is looking into a youth group type program, Future Leaders of Susquehanna County. Teri said it's in the thought process but would like to know if possibly one of the age groups of kids could meet here. The fee to rent the building is \$10. Scott asked if the fee could be waived for them. Teri said we'll cross that bridge when it gets to that point.

Kerin asked about the Junior Council Program. Amy will send her the information.

Amy asked council about utilizing PSAB's website assistance program. The cost is a onetime setup fee of \$50 and an annual fee of \$389. **A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by D. Totten to move forward with this project and get it done. Motion carried.**

Amy asked council if they would like her to order Borough Code books. Amy will get a price and let everyone know.

Nathan Place said he is kicking around the idea of doing a community space in his building and asked if there is a need for it. He said he would get sponsors for it. The council agreed that people are always looking for someplace to rent for various activities. Nathan asked if there was anything the borough could do about the parking lot by his building. Scott said it's not that we don't want to help it's that we can't. The council suggested that Mr. Place contact the school to make them aware of his concerns.

Amy said she received a request to use Blue Ridge Park on July 11 by the South New Milford Baptist Church for a sports competition for families. The council said it was okay as long as they provide us with proof of insurance listing the borough as an additional insured and it doesn't interfere with Youth Soccer.

FYI

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by D. Totten to adjourn at 7:48 pm. Motion carried.