

New Buffalo Borough Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2015

Call to Order

President Dan Balthaser called the meeting of the New Buffalo Borough Council to order at: 7:00 p.m. on October 12th, 2015, in the basement of the New Buffalo United Methodist Church.

Roll Call

Present were council members: Dan Balthaser, Kim Balthaser, Karen Ersoz and Michelle Shutt. The following persons were also present: Janice Crouse, Carol Holler, Dale Peterson, Adam Pavusik, Myrtle Winters, Brian Reifsnyder, Ralph Rudy, Kristie Smith, and George Lowe.

Reading of last Month's Minutes

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Kim Balthaser, the September 2015 minutes were approved with corrections. All in favor, none opposed.

Comments from Visitors

Brian Reifsnyder – Did not state at last meeting to shut down the plant, he wanted to know if it was financially viable that we had to keep raising the rates. He also informed the board that there is talk and documentation that indicate that the sewer services will be expanding into Watts Township. Dan is not aware of this and he states that no one has approached him concerning this.

Ralph Rudy – asked if Dan got in touch with Mark Keller concerning grants through the DEP. Dan is not aware of any grants for operating the sewer plant.

Myrtle Winters – asked if anything has been decided on the playground. Dan replied that it is still on the agenda.

Dale Peterson – asked about stop signs, and Dan replied that we will be ordering 4 new signs. Dale said to check with the township, they may be willing to share. He also questioned about the street conditions. Dan replied that we did patch the potholes by the bridge and on Mill Street in front of Karen Ersoz's home. There are still potholes on Market Street that need to be taken care of. Web Site is still not updated.

Dale Peterson – Questioned whether we looked into raising our rates without going through DCED, also he states that Mark Keller is looking into this. Dan informed everyone that we went through the proper legal channels when the changes were made. Dan would like Dale to tell Mark Keller to contact him concerning the sewer plant. Dale also maintains that the Rental fund should be combined with the Sewer Fund, while Dan maintains it should not.

Carol Holler asked about how the streets are maintained. Dan answered by stating that we receive a liquid fuels tax that goes toward maintaining our streets. She also states that there are potholes in front of her tenant's homes. The borough will be working on patching these potholes, but this is only a temporary solution. Also, Carol's bills are incorrect; they should be listed as 2 edu's at 30 Front Street and 3 edu's at 17 Mill Street.

Correspondence

- PIRMA Contract
- Debit Card for the Sewer account given to Adam Pavusik

Borough Treasurer's Report

Upon motion of Michelle Shut, seconded Karen Ersoz, the October 2015 Borough Treasurer Report was approved as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

Sewer Treasurer's Report

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Kim Balthaser, the October 2015 Sewer Treasurer Report was approved as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sewage/Sewage Authority Report

Ralph Rudy requested a copy of the income/expense report for 2012 ,2013, 2014, and 2015. He also questioned about the setting up of a sewer authority for the borough. Our lawyer is drawing up a financial proposal to do so. Karen informed Dan that a separate Sewer Authority will have the ability to pay their officers wages and purchase them insurance policies. Dan does not think that the sewer authority should be separated from the borough at this point.

Members of the community are looking for the original agreements that each resident had to sign when the Sewer Plant came on line. Dan will check the boxes he has.

Dan spoke to the lawyer concerning the delinquent accounts. Our lawyer is checking with a colleague concerning any legal action against Sweetland and our prior council members. The prior council members are being pulled in to allow the insurance company to possibly get involved. Ralph Rudy's letter and George Lowes request for information was discussed.

Adam reports that it was a rough month with many problems with sludge, floats, and pumps. Walters pumped out various tanks during the month. Pumps are easily purchased; therefore there is no need to keep spare ones on hand. Although, it does take 6 weeks to replace a lift station pump. There is still a problem with debris making it to the sewer plant, such as plastic, tags, etc. This increases the cost of operations.

PCCOG - Dan Balthaser

Nothing to report.

Beautification Committee

Nothing to report.

Street Committee – Kim Balthaser

The township more than likely will not help the borough with their streets. Dale reported that the State Surplus Stores may be an option for new Stop Signs. Also Steve requested a sign to warn motorists of the hearing impaired.

Refuse Coordinator – Karen Ersoz

Cocalamus Creek has recycling bags that can be purchased. Next newsletter should contain information concerning using recycling bags. Karen will follow up with this information.

Playground

Nothing to report.

Ordinance Violations

Ordinance #01-2011 – Tabled to the spring (new construction, revised set back boundaries, etc.).

Send another notice to those who violated the ordinance concerning yard debris, and in it state that we do have the right to dispose of their junk and cut their grass. In the past we hired someone to clean up the properties, but payments were spotty. Karen is to contact William Bunt for more legal consultation.

Rental

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Bills

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Michelle Shutt, all in favor, none opposed, the October Borough bill list was approved for payment.

Sewer Bills

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Kim Balthaser, all in favor, none opposed, the October Sewer bill list was approved for payment

GOOD of the ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Halloween will be on Saturday, October 31 between 6 and 7 pm.

Dan appreciates everyone getting involved. The lower income elderly population can contact the office of aging for financial help.

George Lowe – wants to know how much is actually needed for operating the sewer plant. Dan explained that we divided the total annual cost by the total edu's. He wanted to know if we considered sub-dividing plots of land.

Budget is to be finished by next meeting.

ADJOURN

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Karen Ersoz, all in favor, none opposed, council adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barry Schlosman
Secretary/Treasurer