



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2016 @6:00 PM
159 MONROE STREET
PROSPECT, PA 16052

CALL TO ORDER: President Bill Marciniak called the special meeting of the Prospect Borough Council to order @6:00PM with a prayer from Ms. Harmon then a salute to the flag. The following Council members were present: Sam Wagner, Chad Green, Eric Hilliard, Mary Harmon and Bob Boice. Mayor Jim Butler and Glen Gitzen were absent. KLH Engineer; Eric Tissue and our Solicitor; Anthony Colangelo were also not in attendance.

Mr. Marciniak said that at the meeting on February 1, 2016 the citizens of Prospect Borough had some valid questions so the Council decided to meet with PA American to discuss their options. Mr. Marciniak told the residents the Council was doing their "Due Diligence" by having this special meeting. According to the Sunshine Law if have four (4) or more councilman present together they must have an advertised meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was no changes to the February 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Hilliard made motion to approve the February 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes; Mr. Green 2nd. Motion carried.

VISITORS: Jim Reich is concerned beyond the Borough for future plans. He stated he is not against the water coming into town but does not agree to "mandate" it. Mr. Marciniak thanked him for his comments.

George Wagner wanted to abstain from talking or asking any questions until he hears what Keith Gabage has to say.

Keith Gabage from PA American Water said that the primary reason he was here at this meeting because of the most recent article in the newspaper and he felt questions needed to be answered and to go over any options. He went over thoroughly the presentation which is attached. He explained that he has met with Borough Council four (4) times before the Town Hall Meeting and explained the reason for each visit. PA American has 2.4 million to invest in our community and with DCNR's \$800,000.00 this 3.2 million project monies can

bring water into the community for the designated 205 residents. The only fee to the residents is the service pipe from curb or edge of road to house. Mr. Hilliard said that most of our residents would require a 50 (fifty) foot line which would roughly be a cost of 2,000.00 per resident. Mr. Gabage said that if they lose the \$800,000.00 funding from DCNR then each resident would have to contribute \$4,000.00 on top of the service pipe. Mr. Gabage said that the Council were elected by the residents to act and serve the people and also to do what was in the best interest to the community. Mr. Stellfox wanted to know why DCNR would invest \$800,000.00 to us when the water they will be receiving is not for the whole park. Mr. Gabage said that DCNR has been working with DEP on their current water issues.

Mr. Gabage brought up the loan program that a resident can apply for; which is more than three (3) and not more than eight (8) years for a low interest rate. The resident is not committed to paying the full term interest if paying off loan early.

The residents wanted to know if it was legal for them to mandate the water as they have heard that is was illegal to do so. The Council was asked if Prospect Borough would be liable in a lawsuit in something unforeseen went wrong. Mr. Gabage said the PA American has a tariff for failure of service and that they would address these issues.

There were many residents that spoke up with many questions; they want the water but why mandate, why bring in water at all, the expense of the service pipe, they like their well water, why not purchase the sewage system first, the higher bills, to have this voted on the next ballot, etc.

Mr. Gabage told the residents that they first came in for the sewage but after the first meeting their seemed to be more interest in water than sewage. Mr. Marciniak said that we had numerous calls from residents asking about when we would be bringing in public water into the community. Mr. Gabage said that they are not done looking at the sewage but that's not in the agenda right now.

Mr. Marciniak said that the Borough Council's next move is to sit with DCNR to discuss.

Since 1968 there was interest in getting water into the community. Mr. Gabage said that if the residents do not agree and the Borough does not pass this Ordinance who knows when water will be offered again to the community. Mr. Gabage said that PA American are on a timeline as well as DCNR to have this come to fruition. Some residents expressed about

putting this on the next ballot but there is not enough time; if we do not take this who knows when it will be offered to us again with what costs.

Mr. Marciniak wanted to thank Sam, Chad, Higgy and George for going door to door of the residents with the survey of whether they were wanted it or not. This list is one half completed at this time.

Mr. Marciniak said that he and Mr. Wagner were still looking into grants to help out with the service pipe expense.

Mr. Marciniak said that we could say "what if?" all day long; no one knows what tomorrow will bring. Prospect Borough does need to grow or the sewage rates will increase. We need a controlled growth to increase tax base into the Borough. Mr. Marciniak said we did a contract with a garbage company and could save the resident 20% and they turned this down so therefore it was tabled. Mr. Marciniak said that the Council is trying to do what right for the people of Prospect Borough and we, the Borough Council, do "keep things above board" as do try to communicate to the residents.

Mr. Boice told the residents we have done block grants for sidewalks and a sewer push camera and the residents wouldn't send them back to the Borough therefore we did not have enough participating to qualify. This hurts the Borough! The Borough Council are now in the process of doing a survey for 205 people to find out who is interested or not and plan on meeting with DCNR to go over options. Mr. Gabage said that DCNR is a dead end street and they have no hidden agenda. Mr. Marciniak said that DEP was invited to this meeting and did not attend.

Ms. Harmon wanted to make a motion to advertise the Street Ordinance and Water Ordinance and Mr. Boice said that this cannot be motioned tonight as this meeting was advertised only for water options not for other business.

ADJOURN: 8:40PM. No further business at hand, motion made by Mr. Wagner to adjourn; Mr. Green 2nd. Motion carried.