

ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 18, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Abbottstown Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Stephen Sauter. Other members present were Samiah Slusser, Becky Fengfish, Debbie Shearer, Dale Reichert, and Mayor Charles Stonesifer. Others present were: Mieke Driscoll, Borough Solicitor; Warren Moore, Borough Manager and Toni Fenker, Secretary Treasurer.

VISITORS

Present were; Perry Shearer, Craig and Faith Peterson, Ron Hoke, Mike Haugh, David Holtzinger, John Runge, Pam Alwine, Mike and Lynn Miller, John Stambaugh and David Shuff. Several other residents unknown to the Secretary were present as well. Also present was Melody Asper, Evening Sun Reporter.

RESIGNATION

Stephen Sauter presented a letter of resignation due to his work schedule changing to second shift. He requested that he be permitted to remain an Authority member until the water system sale was completed. Becky made a motion to regretfully accept his resignation. Sami regretfully made a second and the motion was unanimously carried. Sami made a motion to retain Steve as an Authority member. Second by Becky and carried. Vice President Sami Slusser took over the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dale moved to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting April 20, 2006 and the Special Borough Council meeting May 4, 2006. Second by Becky and carried.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS 4/21/06-5/18/06

Becky moved to approve disbursements for the following amounts for the period: General Fund Checking \$34,633.47; General Fund Payroll \$4065.77; Liquid Fuels \$3862.89; Water Authority \$3857.27. Second by Dale and carried.

NOMINATIONS

Sami nominated David Shuff to Council to fulfill Steve Sauter's unexpired term. He accepted the nomination. Debbie Shearer made a motion to appoint him to Council. Second by Sami and carried. Mr. Shuff took the Oath of Office and was sworn in by the Mayor.

Becky made a motion to appoint Sami as the new Borough Council President. Second by Dale and carried.

Becky made a motion to appoint Dale as the new Borough Council Vice President. Second by Sami and carried.

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Deleted: several other residents/interested parties unknown to the Secretary.

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Deleted: Mrs. Shearer stated that the secretary had listed the wrong names in the minutes from the prior meeting of the citizens making statements about snow removal outside the Borough lines. She also stated that Steve did not open the floor for nominations for a replacement for Council Member Peter Hobbs who resigned during the prior meeting and insisted that the statement was inaccurate and should be removed from the minutes. The Secretary indicated that she disagreed, that the statement was accurate.

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Deleted: with the corrections regarding the visitor's names but with the statement regarding the nomination unchanged. Second by Becky. Four votes were made in the affirmative and Mrs. Shearer voted against the approval and the motion was carried by the majority.¶

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Deleted: VISITORS AND/OR CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Deleted: No visitors indicated any concerns.¶ [2]

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VISITORS AND/OR CITIZENS' REQUESTS

Mr. Craumer was present to request a letter indicating Borough Council approval of his proposed Berwick Township development accessing via Kinneman Road. Berwick Township requires the letter because the Borough receives the Liquid Fuels funds to maintain that portion of Kinneman Road. Becky Fengfish reported that the Planning Commission and Borough Engineer had no objection to the access. Debbie Shearer made a motion to send the requested letter to Berwick Township. Second by Dale and carried.

POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Trostle and Officers Ron Mink and Dave Ogle of Eastern Adams Regional Police arrived during the meeting to introduce themselves and report on recent activity in the Borough. They indicated that beginning next month the Council would be receiving printed reports on EARP activity. Several residents/business owners thanked the officers for business checks and complimented the force. Sergeant Trostle asked that the residents be good citizens and report suspicious activity. Sami reported that the EARP meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00pm at the New Oxford Borough building and that one of the Borough Police Committee Representatives would be attending those meetings. She indicated that residents should bring their concerns and/or comments to Council for the Police Committee to report to EARP.

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ADJOURN TO WATER AUTHORITY MEETING

Prior to adjourning for the Water Authority meeting at 7:40 pm, Sami made a brief statement regarding recent tensions within Council and expressed a desire that they be eliminated. Council reconvened at 8:20 pm after the Authority meeting adjourned.

CORRESPONDENCE

FEMA AND NIMS –Mandatory training and certification of all Elected Officials and Mayor. A packet of information and instructions regarding the web-based version of the course and testing was delivered to Council and the Mayor that they must complete by September 30, 2006. The Borough Manager explained that the course materials on the web based course were within the packets and the training and testing was free of charge. Debbie Shearer requested that she be allowed to attend a \$25.00 training course for the certification because she was not computer literate and it was explained to her that it was not necessary since all of the course

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material was in printed form within her packet. The Borough Manager offered to aid her in taking the actual computer test. Sami indicated that Council would discuss the matter further during executive session.

Adams Co Dept of Emergency Services- March 1, 2006 Notice that the Borough's EMC has not completed required Emergency Management Training. This information was forwarded to EMC Douglas Fishel on March 6, 2006, he did not respond and several unreturned messages have been left for him regarding the issue. Council agreed that a new EMC needs to be appointed but tabled an appointment until the next meeting. Becky made a motion to remove Mr. Fishel as the Borough EMC. Second by Dale and carried. The secretary was instructed to send a letter to him regarding the action.

PERMITS AND CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Were stated as listed on the agenda and within the Borough Manager's report.

BOROUGH MANAGER/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

A written report delivered verbally is attached and made part of these official minutes. Becky made a motion to have Warren proceed with the work outlined in his report and set a \$300.00 limit on the painting. Second by Dale and carried. Council instructed the Secretary to correspond with PAV Inc. regarding potential renewal of borough office lease and amount.

RESIDENT COMPLAINTS

Were stated as listed in the Agenda. Pam Alwine a resident of Sutton Road stated that the Sutton Road complaint had not been handled because on 4/28/06 the tags had been removed from the subject vehicles. Mr. Moore indicated that the agenda had been typed prior to his being made aware that the residents had done this however he was aware they were again in violation and he would address it.

INFORMATION FROM PLANNING

Becky reported that quite a few Sutton Road residents were at the last Planning meeting primarily concerned with the road widening. She indicated that the Miller application was pending submission of the revised final plan which Mr. Miller stated would be in time for consideration at the next meeting. She reported that the Hoffbrauhaus had decided not to submit a land development plan but was instead only going to obtain a building permit for a deck. She also reported that Mr. Holtzinger had decided not to submit a land development plan and invited him to address Council if he chose to which he did not.

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MEETING RECONVIENED AT 7:27
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CORRESPONDENCE ¶
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Council reviewed the various pieces of
correspondence listed in the agenda
and noted that the Borough Auditors
found no exceptions in the Year End
Audit and that they approved the use
of the ball field at the Recreation Park
by the Eastern Adams Little League
scheduled to begin March 18, 2006.¶
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SQUARE REVITALIZATION UPDATE/INFORMATION FROM THE
ABBOTTSTOWN BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Becky reported that various subcommittees had been formed to perform research and tasks related to the construction and fundraising. She had an engraved brick sample to display. She advised that the next meeting would be held Thursday, June 8th at 7:00 pm at the Altland House.

SEWER AUTHORITY REPORT

Craig Peterson reported that Authority personnel were performing flow studies on the lines and that the regular meetings of the Authority are on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the potential savings of advertising in the Gettysburg Times versus the Evening Sun and decided to have Debbie Shearer look into the circulation of each paper within the Borough and revisit the discussion at the next meeting. They expressed the opinion that the cost savings was less important than that the residents were being informed of borough business.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Council discussed several of the proposed annual charitable contributions and decided to have various Members research the organizations needs before the next meeting. Becky made a motion to table the donations until the next meeting. Second by Dale and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Was reported as listed on the agenda.

Various residents had comments and questions regarding the proposed regulation of rental units. Council informed the residents that the ordinance had not been fully developed and was simply a copy of the same one used in a different municipality. They stated that they felt regulation and inspection was necessary due to various prior instances within the borough and that their intent was to focus only on safety issues. Council ultimately decided to table the discussion until a work session meeting which they scheduled for Wednesday May 31, 2006 at 7:00 pm.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor's report is attached and made part of these official minutes. The Secretary made an error in advising the substitute Solicitor that ordinance 2006-06 was adopted. It will need to be adopted at the next meeting.

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¶ Sami reported on the various alternatives available for police coverage and presented Council with a chart detailing three (3) of the alternatives (attached and made part of these official minutes). Council discussed the possible offset of first year costs with Eastern Adams for equipment sales related to the dissolution, agreeing that was a separate issue and should not be a consideration in the decision. Council and residents weighed in on the comparative costs and coverage of the different options. Steve noted that the Hamilton Township proposal did not appear on the chart and Sami stated that it was an oversight on the Committee's part. Dale summarized the proposal. Becky indicated that her review of the Hamilton proposal revealed that the proposed contract was worse than the current contract terms and didn't bear consideration. Steve stated that it made no sense to jump back into that arena when the figures indicate that the cost was similar for less than 24/7 coverage. A resident asked if the officers were being guaranteed positions with Eastern Adams should the decision go that way and was informed that that was not the case and that Abbottstown had no say in the matter. Residents and Council agreed that the 24/7 local coverage by Eastern Adams was preferable.¶ Steve asked what the wishes of Council were, did they want to sit on it for another month before making a decision? Members agreed they had sufficient information to make a decision. Steve pointed out that (... [3]

Deleted: INFORMATION FROM PLANNING¶

Becky indicated that there was nothing to report due to no meeting being held this month.¶

¶ Steve reported that the Secretary was still working on recommended planning and zoning fees, procedures revisions and new applications.¶

¶ OLD BUSINESS ¶

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Deleted: She explained to Council that an ordinance would be required for the Borough to sell the Water Authority assets. Dale made a motion to have her advertise the ordinance. Second by Sami and carried.¶

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Dale moved for Adjournment to Executive Session at 9:20 PM.

Second by Mr. Shuff and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Fenker
Secretary Treasurer

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He responded to a citizen's question that the police files had to be separated between the two jurisdictions.¶

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. Mrs. Shearer indicated she had a question regarding the disbursements which was not entertained due to the motion and second already having taken place. Four votes were made in the affirmative, Mrs. Shearer voted against the approval and the motion was carried by the majority.

No visitors indicated any concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 for the Water Authority meeting.

POLICE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Sami reported on the various alternatives available for police coverage and presented Council with a chart detailing three (3) of the alternatives (attached and made part of these official minutes). Council discussed the possible offset of first year costs with Eastern Adams for equipment sales related to the dissolution, agreeing that was a separate issue and should not be a consideration in the decision. Council and residents weighed in on the comparative costs and coverage of the different options. Steve noted that the Hamilton Township proposal did not appear on the chart and Sami stated that it was an oversight on the Committee's part. Dale summarized the proposal. Becky indicated that her review of the Hamilton proposal revealed that the proposed contract was worse than the current contract terms and didn't bear consideration. Steve stated that it made no sense to jump back into that arena when the figures indicate that the cost was similar for less than 24/7 coverage. A resident asked if the officers were being guaranteed positions with Eastern Adams should the decision go that way and was informed that that was not the case and that Abbottstown had no say in the matter. Residents and Council agreed that the 24/7 local coverage by Eastern Adams was preferable.

Steve asked what the wishes of Council were, did they want to sit on it for another month before making a decision? Members agreed they had sufficient information to make a decision. Steve pointed out that Eastern Adams jurisdiction surrounds Abbottstown and their vehicles are seen in the Borough more often than our own. Steve invited a motion. Mrs. Shearer made a motion to send a letter to Eastern Adams indicating the Borough's desire to contract for services. Second by Becky and carried. Steve thanked the committee members for their hard work.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve invited a motion to appoint a new Borough Council Vice President. Mrs. Shearer nominated Sami. Second by Becky and carried.

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INFORMATION FROM PLANNING

Becky indicated that there was nothing to report due to no meeting being held this month.

Steve reported that the Secretary was still working on recommended planning and zoning fees, procedures revisions and new applications.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve informed everyone that the regulation of rental units has been tabled indefinitely due to other pressing issues at this time and reminded everyone of the schedule for clean up days. The Secretary informed everyone that one mattress and box-spring were permitted per household. Mr. Peterson questioned whether car batteries were permitted and was informed they were not.

BOROUGH MANAGER/ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Mr. Moore provided Council with a written report (attached and made part of these official minutes) which he reported upon verbally. He recommended a change in the Borough ordinance requiring permits from \$1000 to \$2500.00 to be in-line with the new requirement of Adams County. He indicated he wanted to do additional research prior to preparing a resolution since some under \$1000.00 improvements would require permits and inspection.