



**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BRYN ATHYN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

COUNCIL CHAMBER
November 6, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Jeffrey Elsing at 7:00p.m. The following were present:

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Glenn Gurney
Ric Asplundh
Jeffrey Elsing
Duane D. Hyatt

Brent McCurdy
Mark Pennink
Aurelle Genzlinger

ALSO: Victoria S. Trost, Mayor Ken Schauder, Solicitor R. Rex Herder.

MINUTES

On a motion by Brent McCurdy, seconded by Glenn Gurney, Council voted unanimous approval of the October minutes.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Vikki Trost reported General Fund Revenue for October was \$25,727.39. General Fund Expenses were \$138,062.14. Net Income was -\$112,334.75.

Sewer Fund Revenue for October was \$3,084.23. Sewer Fund Expenses were \$15,190.66. Net Income was -\$12,106.43.

Today PLGIT paid 5.17%. PLGIT Prime paid 5.52%.

Included in the General Fund cash receipts were:

\$	8,981.05	in Earned Income Tax receipts
\$	708.15	in Local Services Tax receipts
\$	11,351.51	in Interest Income
\$	2,584.80	in Fines
\$	15.00	in Police Report fees
\$	257.18	in Building Permit Fees
\$	1,825.20	in Insurance Dividends

Included in the Sewer Fund Cash Receipts were:

\$	3,049.23	in Interest Income
\$	35.00	in Sewer Certification Fees

TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector, Bradley Cranch reported that reminders will be sent out to the twelve outstanding accounts this week.

BILLS

GENERAL FUND BILLS

21 st Century Media	\$1,010.00
Aqua PA	21.32
Armor & Sons Electric, Inc.	120.00
Association of Mayors of Boroughs of PA	60.00
Brita Conroy	360.00
Bryn Athyn Fire Company	1,069.07
Bryn Athyn Volunteer Fire Relief Association	12,184.21
Cranch Landscapers, LLC	500.00
DeLage Landen	175.00
Eastburn & Gray PC	3,322.50
Field Services, LLC	3,333.12
HA Thomson Company	299.00
Independence Blue Cross	6,840.29
JF Hierholzer Mechanical	545.00
Kenneth J Schauder Incorporated	1,160.00
Lower Moreland Township	76,136.08
Montgomery County Law Library	25.00
NAPA Weldon Auto Parts	20.95
Nobre Computer Services LLC	1,109.00
Paychex of New York LLC	199.20
Peco Energy Co.	2,690.08
Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust	4,000.00
Petty Cash – Doug Hotchkiss	169.21

Petty Cash – Victoria Trost	99.47
PSAB	395.00
T & G Industries Inc.	279.00
TGI Office Automation	74.52
The Vanguard Group	1,328.66
Todd’s Pest Control Service Inc.	290.00
Verizon Wireless	243.01
Victoria Trost	50.00
Waggle Masonry LLC	25,746.20
Wawa Wright Express	1,433.86
Woodrow & Associates	1,934.50
TOTAL	\$147,223.25

SEWER FUND BILLS

Berardelli Pool Supplies LLC	\$1,551.80
FlowTech, LLC	575.00
George Allen Wastewater Management	960.00
Home Depot	165.56
Independence Blue Cross	658.51
Lower Moreland Township	89.00
MJ Reider Associates Inc.	743.70
Mac Medical Gases Inc.	10.50
McGovern Environmental LLC	294.30
Paychex of New York LLC	107.24
Peco Energy	455.21
Schauder Incorporated	1,050.00
SCP Distributors LLC	2,493.90
Tinari Container Service Inc.	294.76
USA Blue Book	181.73
Verizon	187.85
Verizon Wireless	82.23
Verizon Internet	82.19
TOTAL	\$9,983.48

POLICE PENSION BILLS

Duda Actuarial Consulting, Inc.	\$2,300.00
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BMO MASTERCARD

General Fund

Adobe AcroPro	\$19.99
Google Workspace	102.00
Amazon.com	247.20
Staples	101.07
21 st Century Media Newspapers	14.00
PTC EZ-Pass	42.00
UCC Construction Code	81.00

TOTAL	\$607.26
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Sewer Fund

Google Workspace	\$6.00
PTC EZ-Pass	63.00
Aquarius Landscape Supply	605.74
Process Hose & Equipment	1,302.64
Amazon.com	133.25
Mike’s Lock Shop	24.48
<u>SimplyPumps.com</u>	<u>413.45</u>
TOTAL	\$2,548.56

On a motion by Duane Hyatt, seconded by Ric Asplundh, Council unanimously voted to authorize payment of the bills as listed.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

LM/BA Chief of Emergency Services First Report

President Jeff Elsing welcomed LM/BA Chief of Emergency Services Mark Showmaker to make his report to Council. Chief Showmaker reported that since he began on September 25, he is already ahead of schedule for his 30-60-90 Day Plan:

October Monthly Report

It has been a very busy month with the end of September used to complete my on boarding with both the Township and Borough. As indicated prior, I am attempting to follow my outlined 30- 60- and 90-day plan as much as possible with many additional items that have been necessary to complete with the timing of the year. The following will hopefully briefly cover some of these assignments.

Week 1

- *Met with Managers and Board Chairs of Township and Borough*
- *Met with Bryn Athyn Fire Chief and President (introductory meeting)*
- *Toured Borough with Fire Company President*
- *Toured Lower Moreland Twp. With Fire Marshal, High Target facilities*
- *Attended the Montgomery County Municipal Fire Officers meeting at Fire Academy*
- *Met with some of Huntingdon Valley Fire Company members and received building access*
- *Met with Bryn Athyn Fire Company and received building access*
- *Established radio Identifier with Montgomery County 911*
- *Attended initial Budget session with Manager Hoffman and HV Fire Company*
- *Attended Bryn Athyn Borough Council Meeting*

- *Began review of proposed Ladder Truck specification*
- *Quoted and ordered mobile and portable radios for 911 system*
- *Met with LM Public Works Staff discussed Chiefs Vehicle*
- *Mandatory Fit testing for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus at BA Fire Company*
- *Attended Joint Huntingdon Valley and Bryn Athyn Fire Companies Fire Prevention Day at township complex*

Week 2 and Week 3

- *Quoted and ordered uniforms*
- *Met with BA Fire to review new elementary school plans*
- *Met with BA Fire Chief and President to review Budget and Expenses*
- *Review and familiarization of jurisdiction and roads*
- *Review building stock of both communities as it relates to Apparatus needs*
- *Attended Lower Moreland Board meeting and Chief Swearing In*
- *Attended Local LM/BA Joint Emergency Management meeting*
- *Attended Eastern Montgomery County Emergency Management meeting*
- *Met with Upper Moreland Fire Chief, Mutual Aid Partner*
- *Met with Bucks County Mutual Aid Partners*
- *Attended HV Fire Company Officers Meeting*
- *Meeting with Manager and Assistant Manager as well as HV Fire Treasurer regarding shift program funding and expenses.*
- *Walk through, new Lower Moreland High School*
- *Met with BA Fire Career Staff on shift*
- *Meeting with Bryn Athyn Fire Company Volunteer Fire Chief Weiss*

Week 4

- *Met with BA Fire Career Staff on shift*
- *Start Review of HV Fire Company Computer Aided Response cards*
- *Met with LM Manager regarding Chief of Emergency Services 2024 Budget*
- *Met with Bob Martin Public Works Dept to repair current vehicle*
- *Met with Shift Program Staff HV Fire Company*
- *Met with another BA Fire Career Shift*

Week 5

- *Meet with Emergency Service Committee to discuss progress as well as establishing an official future name for the organization moving forward.*

Emergency Response Data for the month:

BAFC Emergency Medical Calls in BA 13

BAFC Emergency Medical Calls in LM 110
BAFC Emergency Medical Calls other 51
Year to date EMS Calls 1,678

BAFC Fire Calls in BA 4
BAFC Fire Calls IN LM 37
BAFC Fire Calls Other 9
Year to Date Fire Calls 320

HVFC Fire Calls in LM 37
HVFC Fire Calls in BA 2
HVFC Fire calls other 4
Year to Date Fire Calls 344

Chief Showmaker read a letter from a Lower Moreland resident expressing thanks to the Bryn Athyn Ambulance for saving his life.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE NO. 706 SOLICITATION

President Jeff Elsing opened the Public Hearing for proposed Ordinance #706 which was duly advertised. Solicitor Rex Herder explained that today he made a minor change to the proposed ordinance. This change was non-substantive and therefore does not require re-advertising of the ordinance and delay of the public hearing. On page 3 of 6, Mr. Herder noted that the language was changed to permit the fees to be adjusted by resolution of Borough Council. It was also noted that there was a typo in the copy that Council received in their packets, however there was no typo in the advertisement.

The Public Hearing was opened to comment and questions from members of Borough Council. Mr. Elsing stated that he has been working on the ordinance for months and that it is very similar to ordinances adopted by local municipalities including Abington Township, Lower Moreland Township, the Borough of Hatboro, and Springfield Township. Mr. Elsing noted that the addresses on the “No Soliciting” list will be kept manually at first.

Hearing no further comments from members of Council, the discussion ended and the Public Comment period was opened. Hearing no comments from those present, the Public Comment period was closed and the discussion returned to the Council table.

Solicitor Rex Herder read from the Home Rule Charter that the vote for the ordinance must be made by Roll Call Vote. On a motion duly seconded, Solicitor Herder called the roll for votes.

- Mark Pennink – Yes
- Aurette Genzlinger – Yes
- Eric Asplundh – Yes
- Brent McCurdy – Yes

Glenn Gurney – Yes
Duane Hyatt – No
Jeffrey Elsing – Yes

The motion carried and the Ordinance was adopted by Borough Council.

**BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 706

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION AND CANVASSING BY REQUIRING PERMITS FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION AND SETTING THE FEE FOR PERMITS AT \$100 FOR EACH MONTH OR FRACTIONAL PART THEREOF DURING WHICH DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITING ACTIVITY IS TO TAKE PLACE; PROVIDING FOR A REGISTRY OF THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS WHO DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS; PROVIDING THAT ENGAGING IN DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION ON POSTED PROPERTIES AND/OR PROPERTIES ON THE REGISTRY CONSTITUTES AN OFFENSE UNDER THE ORDINANCE; LIMITING THE TIME FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION AND CANVASSING; PROVIDING FOR A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR EACH OFFENSE.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Bryn Athyn is a home rule municipality, governed by a Home Rule Charter adopted in or about November of 1977, and effective the first Monday in January, 1978; and

WHEREAS, section 43.2-202 of the Home Rule Charter states, in relevant part, “[a]t no time and in no respect shall the Municipality have less power and authority than it would have had, had it not adopted this charter.”

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of its Home Rule Charter the Borough of Bryn Athyn was a duly constituted Pennsylvania Borough; and

WHEREAS, Section 1202(5) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code authorizes the Borough to make regulations as may be necessary for the health, safety, morals, general welfare and cleanliness an beauty, convenience, comfort and safety of the borough; and

WHEREAS, Section 1202(20)(ii) of the Pennsylvania Borough Code provides that boroughs may prohibit, license and regulate businesses unless prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, no law prohibits the licensing and regulation of door-to-door solicitation and canvassing; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn finds that it is in the public interest to provide for the licensing of door-to-door solicitors as herein defined, and to regulate to the extent possible consistent with current constitutional jurisprudence the activities of door-to-door solicitation and canvassing, as herein defined.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the Borough of Bryn Athyn does hereby ENACT and ORDAIN as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

A. *As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have these meanings:*

CANVASSER

(1) One who engages in the practice of canvassing – the practice of going from dwelling unit to dwelling unit to:

(a) Conduct surveys for research purposes (other than those conducted by an agency of the state or federal government);

(b) to make analyses, to take opinion polls, to compile rating data;

(c) to obtain or seek contributions for any person or organization or cause;

(d) to advance religious or political causes and proselytizing with regard thereto; or

(e) to conduct any similar work which, by its nature, involves door-to-door or place-to-place activity, including distribution of circulars, but not for commercial activity of any kind.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION

The activity of going onto the premises of other persons, without prior arrangement with the owner or occupant of such premises, for the principal purpose of the sale or taking of orders for future sales of any type of tangible goods, including, but not limited to, books, magazines, or other periodicals, or to enter into any agreement for the provision of services, or any combination of the sale of goods or provision of services, or the distribution of advertising circulars relating to the sale of goods or provision of services.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITOR

A person engaging in the activity of door-to-door solicitation.

STREET SALES

The activity of a person selling any goods from any type of portable stand or table or in a vehicle located on any street, roadway or public right-of-way, except a sidewalk abutting a property of which such person is the owner or a lawful occupant thereof.

B. *For the purposes of section 5 only, a “canvasser shall be considered a “solicitor.”*

Section 2. Permit required for door-to-door solicitations.

A. *Any person or organization intending to engage or to cause persons to engage in the activity of door-to-door solicitation, as defined in this Ordinance, prior to commencing such activity shall obtain a permit from the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department. In the case of an organization, each person engaging in door-to-door solicitation shall be required to obtain an individual permit; the organization may not simply obtain one permit applicable to all persons engaging in door-to-door solicitation on its behalf. Such permit or permits shall be issued only after the person or persons seeking to obtain such permit shall have provided on the application form appropriate information as to the identities and current addresses of all persons that shall be engaged as door-to-door solicitors, which information shall be provided under the penalty of law as provided in 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904, and shall have completed such registration. In addition, the applicant shall execute an acknowledgement of receipt of the terms of Section 6 of this Ordinance with respect to private “No Solicitors” or “No Solicitation” or similar signs, and shall provide notice to the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department of the approximate neighborhoods and locations in which the activity is to take place.*

B. *Every person to whom a permit shall have been issued under this Ordinance shall carry the permit on his or her person at all times and exhibit it, upon request, to any police officer or to any person on whom he or she shall call or with whom he or she shall talk.*

C. *Any person engaging in door-to-door solicitation or any organization employing any door-to-door solicitors that shall engage in such activity without obtaining the required permit shall be in violation of this Ordinance and shall be liable for the penalty provided for in section 8.*

D. *The application process shall be performed by the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department. As part of the application process the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department shall obtain the applicant’s criminal history/record Pennsylvania State Police. The applicant shall pay a ten-dollar (\$10.00) fee to the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department for obtaining the applicant’s criminal history/record. **The fee for***

obtaining the applicant’s criminal history/record may hereafter be amended from time to time by resolution of Borough Council. Alternatively, the applicant may obtain his or her criminal history/record directly from the Pennsylvania State Police and present it to the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department as part of the application process.

E. The permit fee for each person engaging in door-to-door solicitation shall be ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) per month for each month or fractional part thereof during which the door-to-door solicitation or canvassing is continued. The permit fee may hereafter be amended from time to time by resolution of Borough Council.

F. The terms of this section shall not apply to:

- (1) Boys or girls under the age of 18 years who take orders for and deliver newspapers, greeting cards, candy and the like, or who represent the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts or similar organizations and take orders for and deliver cookies and the like.*
- (2) Persons defined as “canvassers” herein.*
- (3) Bona fide candidates for elective office.*

Section 3. Time Limitations.

No person shall engage in any door-to-door solicitation and no canvasser shall enter upon the premises of another person prior to 9:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. prevailing time.

Section 4. Street sales prohibited.

No person shall engage in any “street sales” as defined in this Ordinance.

Section 5. Enforcement of “no solicitors” or “no solicitation” signs.

The owner or lawful occupant of any premises within the Borough not desiring to have persons enter onto their premises may post on such premises a legible sign stating “No Solicitors,” “No Solicitation,” or words of similar meaning. Any door-to-door solicitor or canvasser who shall enter upon the premises in defiance of such sign shall be in violation of this section and shall be liable for the penalty provided for in Section 8.

Section 6. No Solicitors or No Solicitation Registry.

The owner or lawful occupant of any premises within the Borough not desiring to have persons enter onto their premises may, in addition to posting their premises according to Section 5, register with the Borough of Bryn Athyn Police Department to have their address placed on a registry to be distributed to those door-to-door solicitors required to

obtain a permit under section 2. Door-to-door solicitors who enter onto premises appearing on the registry shall be subject to the penalty provided for in Section 8.

Section 7. Grounds for denial of permit; revocation of permit.

- A. *A door-to-door solicitation permit shall not be issued to any person who:*
 - (1) *Has previously been found guilty of violating any provision of this Ordinance.*
 - (2) *Who has been convicted, within the seven years preceding the date of the application for a permit, of any theft or theft-related crime, fraud or any fraud-related crime, or any similar offense tending to show dishonesty of character.*
 - (3) *Who has been convicted of any felony.*

- B. *A door-to-door solicitation permit shall be revoked for any of the following reasons:*
 - (1) *Conduct by any permit-holder that constitutes a violation of this Ordinance.*
 - (2) *A permit-holder going upon premises either posted “no solicitors” or “no solicitation”, or appearing on the No Solicitors or No Solicitation Registry provided for in Section 6 of this Ordinance, or both.*
 - (3) *Conduct by any permit-holder while on private premises that constitutes a summary offense or criminal act, including, but not limited to, defiant trespass.*

- C. *If a company or other entity has more than person engaging in door-to-door solicitation in the Borough of Bryn Athyn, and the permit issued to any one such person is revoked under paragraph B, above, the permits for all door-to-door solicitors working for that company shall be revoked.*

- D. *In the event that a door-to-door solicitation permit is revoked under this section, no administrative or other fees shall be refunded to the permit holder.*

Section 8. Penalty.

Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a summary offense and shall, upon conviction, be required to pay a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) nor more than three dollars (\$300.00) and/or be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not more than 90 days. Each and every violation of this Ordinance shall be punishable as a separate offense.

Section 9. Severability.

In the event that any section, sentence, clause or word of this ordinance shall be declared illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not prevent, preclude or otherwise foreclose the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 10. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed.

Section 11. Effective date.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon enactment.

ENACTED and ORDAINED this sixth day of November, 2023.

BOROUGH OF BRYN ATHYN

Tomlinson Road Closing

President Elsing gave a shout out to BACS Principal Kiri Rogers and Acting Chief Doug Hotchkiss on the handling of the school crossing in the midst of the new school construction.

Mr. Elsing reported that the Philmont Country Club project in Lower Morland has again requested the closing of Tomlinson Road for another three weeks starting in mid-November to complete road widening and paving along the country club property. The road will be opened for access to the country club during the road work.

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Elsing reported that the current Civil Service List of Candidates has expired and a new list needs to be created in the event that we need to hire a new police officer. There is a relatively low cost to create the list thanks to the volunteers involved in the process. We will need to pay the firm that prepares and grades the written test approximately \$355 and there is a cost for advertising.

On a motion by Ric Asplundh, seconded by Aurelle Genzlinger, Council voted unanimously in favor to direct the Bryn Athyn Civil Service Commission to certify a list of eligible candidates for the position of Police Officer for Bryn Athyn Police Department.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Acting Chief of Police Doug Hotchkiss reported the following activity for October:

All Police Activities done in the month of October	1118
Foot Patrol / Property Check	476
Alarms	9
Assist Bryn Athyn Fire / Ambulance	6
Assist Other Police Agencies	29
Public Service Calls / Assist Citizens	5
Special Traffic Details	19
Suspicious Circumstance Investigations	7
Traffic Citations	28
Vehicle Accidents	1
Lost Dog	1
Fraud	1
Domestic	1

Acting Chief Hotchkiss noted that the first number in his activity report is a new number taken from the new County RMS (Report Management System). This system records every job assigned to the BAPD officers. President Jeff Elsing added that this system provides instant access to the County.

On Tuesday October 3rd at 7:33am police received a radio call to assist Philadelphia PD to check the area of the 2700 Block of Alnwick Road for a suspect who stabbed another person in Philadelphia. While police were in the 2700 Block of Alnwick Road, they located a vehicle and suspect matching the description given by Philadelphia PD. Police detained the 35-year-old resident of Philadelphia until Philadelphia Police arrived and took the suspect into custody.

On Friday October 6th at 8:00am Chief Steve Gray's last ride took place from his house in Warminster through Bryn Athyn Borough. There were about 14 police, Fire, and EMS vehicles total. After the ride there was a gathering for coffee and donuts at Bryn Athyn Borough Hall. Acting Chief Hotchkiss thanked everyone who was involved, including Bryn Athyn Fire / EMS, Lower Moreland PD, Upper Moreland PD, Abington PD, Warminster PD and Lower Frederick PD.

On Saturday October 7th at 9:00am Bryn Athyn Police and All Aboard Cafe hosted Coffee with a Cop. Having events like this is important for bringing the community and police department together in a safe environment to get to know one another. Acting Chief Hotchkiss expressed thanks to Stephanie Doman for helping with setting up and getting the supplies needed.

On Sunday October 8th at 10:12am while police were in the area of Huntingdon Pike / Cathedral Road, they observed a vehicle with a fictitious PA transit tag. Further investigation showed the driver who is a 23-year-old resident of Philadelphia had an

active arrest warrant for a DUI charge in Philadelphia. The driver was taken into custody and transported to Montgomery County Prison to be held for Philadelphia Police.

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT - None

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Schauder reported that the team met in October to discuss 2024 goals, including drills held in the schools. ANC Director of Public Safety Joe Metzinger will participate in the drills.

MAYOR’S REPORT - None

SOLICITOR’S REPORT - None

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

2024 Borough Operations List

Manager Vikki Trost reviewed items in the 2024 Operations List:

- Bill Grubb’s term on the Planning Commission will end on December 31, 2023
- Mark Arrimour’s term on the Zoning Hearing Board will end on December 31, 2023
- Alex Rogers’ term on the Civil Service Commission will end on December 31, 2023
- There will be vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board when Steve Huntzinger joins Borough Council
- There is still a vacancy on the Emergency Management Committee
- There is still a vacancy on the Public Relations Committee
- There is still a vacancy on the Finance Committee

Mrs. Trost will send letters to Bill Grubb, Mark Arrimour and Alex Rogers asking them to serve another term. Changes or corrections should be reported to Vikki Trost.

Safety Committee

Members of the Safety Committee will complete annual recertification next week which is required by the PA Department of Labor and Industry.

MCBA Holiday Dinner Meeting

The Montgomery County Boroughs’ Association will hold the annual Holiday Dinner Meeting on Thursday, December 7 at Presidential Caterers.

Election Day

Tomorrow is election day. Don't forget to vote. Borough Hall is open from 7:00am until 8:00pm.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - None**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**Alden Road Improvement Project

Chairman Mark Pennink reported that he would like to get the bid specifications out by March for the Alden Road project. He would like to include two alternatives in the bid specs:

- (1) Bid according to the previous specifications which is the same road with improvements to include replacing concrete gutters, with less concrete, and replacing asphalt with a lower crown;
- (2) Bid for concrete curbs, include drainage, lower crown, and make the road one-way.

Solicitor Herder recommended that two alternatives in one bid is best. Mr. Pennink stated that he has funds in his budget for new drawings. Borough Engineer Nick Rose confirmed that a March bid is doable. Mr. Pennink noted that Brian Horner will assist and that he lives on Alden Road and has a pulse on the road.

Chairman Pennink stated that he would like to avoid the costs of extras in the project. He noted that the municipal building stormwater project had 25% additional costs for extras. Brian Horner noted that a lot of hand work is required to replace the concrete gutters on Alden Road and that is it less expensive to replace with concrete curbing. The concrete gutters, as they are currently, create difficulty in laying down new asphalt. Mr. Pennink said that Public Works will work with residents for access during the construction period.

Mr. Horner noted that preliminary work revealed that standard curbing will work and that curb cuts for driveways will have to be done in the field. Mr. Pennink added that we will need to construct a couple of walls and that the curbing will permit parking on the road. Extra effort will be applied to locating underground utilities to avoid delay and extra costs. Mark Pennink will consult with Steve Woerner at Lower Moreland and Abington Township Public Works, who recently completed a similar project on Susquehanna Road. Finance Chairman Duane Hyatt noted that reserve funds are in good shape to cover costs. Mr. Elsing added that legal and administrative committees will assist as needed to be sure that the bid specifications are prepared properly. Mr. Pennink noted that we have not sought infrastructure grants and that the Borough does have half of the costs in reserves now.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2024 General Fund Budget

Chairman Duane Hyatt reported that the Finance Committee has prepared a draft of the 2024 General Fund Budget. Mr. Hyatt noted that Interest Income has not been increased in the budget over past years, however with the significant increases lately, that will increase revenue in the 2024 Budget.

Mr. Hyatt also noted that salaries will increase 5% per the Collective Bargaining Agreement; health insurance increases 5%; waste collection and disposal increases 4%. There is an unusual expense next year in the amount of \$26,100 to pay the former police chief's accumulated vacation days. The Finance Committee recommends paying the \$26,100 from Reserve funds rather than including in the 2024 Budget. A new expense for the Borough's share of costs with Lower Moreland for the new Chief of Emergency Services adds \$69,163 to 2024 expenditures; the Fire Company has requested an increase of \$6,000 and the Ambulance requests an additional \$44,000.

The current draft of the 2024 Budget reflects a deficit of \$131,000 which would require an 11% tax increase. The Finance Committee recommends reducing the contribution to the Police Pension Fund from \$50,000 to \$30,000, noting that the Minimum Municipal Obligation for the pension is zero dollars this year. The Committee also recommends reducing the Ambulance allocation by \$7,000 and reducing the Capital Outlay Streets allocation by \$10,000. These reductions will reduce the required tax increase to the 4.1% to 6.5% range.

Mr. Hyatt stated that the Finance Committee has done a lot of work over past years to keeping costs low, noting that the \$69,000 for ES Chief and \$37,000 for Ambulance are large increases in a year.

2024 Sewer Budget

Chairman Hyatt reported that 2024 rates have not yet been calculated and that expenses are flat. Mr. Hyatt noted that Sewer Fund Interest Income has greatly increased and that \$12,000 will be budgeted for next year. This will reduce the usage rate income required by \$12,000; \$404,000 will be covered by the user rates.

Mr. Gurney added that the calculation for new rates in 2024 now includes the fourth quarter of 2022 and the first three quarters of 2023, noting that the new rates will be ready soon. Mr. Hyatt noted that previously the rates could not be adopted by ordinance until February while waiting for fourth quarter meter readings.

Debt Service Budget

Mr. Hyatt reported that the 2024 Debt Service Budget includes the principal and interest for the 2015 fire truck loan in the amount of \$16,525. This is funded by the General Fund Budget.

Chairman Hyatt noted that he and Treasurer Vikki Trost will review the proposed budget and recommend the 2024 tax rate after receiving the assessed valuation from Montgomery Count. Sewer Rates will be calculated. All budgets will be ready for adoption at the December meeting.

LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES/ SHADE TREE COMMITTEE - None

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE - None

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE - None

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT - None

ZONING OFFICER

Vikki Trost reported that there were no (0) Zoning Permit applications approved in October. One (1) Building Permit was issued. No (0) Grading Permits were issued.

SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Glenn Gurney reported that the electrical engineer is struggling to get a bid package together for a new generator and new grounding service. He requested assistance from Solicitor Herder, Manager Trost and Mr. McCurdy.

BOROUGH ENGINEER - None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Elsing reported that the search for a new Chief of Police is underway. The search committee members, Ric Asplundh, Ken Schauder, Jeff Elsing and Brent McCurdy, have narrowed the search to five candidates. The first interviews are scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS - None

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR - None

There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Council's next regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Borough Hall.

Victoria S. Trost
Secretary