

The regular monthly meeting of the Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 W. High Street, Ebensburg, by Council Vice President Doug Tusing.

Present: Doug Tusing, Vice President
Susan Barber
V. Joseph Miller
Dave Kuhar
Annie Takacs, Junior Councilor

Others: Daniel Penatzer, Borough Manager
Randy Datsko, Mayor
Christine Strugala, Community Development Director
Terry Wyland, Police Chief
Blair Pawlowski, Solicitor
Bernie Kozlovac, Plant Manager
Dave Sutor, Mountaineer-Herald
David Hurst, Altoona Mirror
Susan Evans, Tribune Democrat

Absent: Deborah Nesbella, President
Terry Illig
Joe Lutz
Matt Pfeil, Recreation Director
Jeff Evans, Public Works Director

Audience: 12

1. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. **Public Comments** - None

3. **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the consent agenda containing the following items:
(Kuhar)

A. Approve minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2009 and the January 4, 2010 reorganization meeting.

B. Approve financial statement and fund transfers.

C. Approve bills noting an abstention by Councilor Barber on amount owed to Barber Oil Company.

Miller	YES	Kuhar	YES
Barber	ABSTAIN	Tusing	YES

Motion passes.

D. Awaiting first report of codes enforcement from MDIA.

E. Receipt of municipal authority meeting minutes.

F. A special exception was granted by the zoning hearing board for the construction of a residence at 127 Lovell Avenue; the area is zoned commercial.

G. Discussion at the Central Cambria Coalition meeting was limited to the regional codes enforcement program.

4. **Appointments to Address Council** – None.

5. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Datsko presented the police department report and said he received a nice email about how the police handled a recent situation.

6. **Council President** – None.

7. **Water/Wastewater Committee**

- A. Mr. Kozlovac said there were no excursions and they processed 8.5 dry tons of solids (none from outside sources).
- B. Mr. Kuhar said there is a large amount of inflow and infiltration (I & I) in the industrial park collection system; this is possibly due to leaking private laterals and tapping tees. This matter will be looked into further and the borough system will be responsible for any leaks in the mains, tapping tees, and the portion of the service lateral between the tap and the property line. The customer will be responsible for any leaks detected in the service line inside of the property line. The following bids were received for the project:

Mr. Rehab	Mechanicsburg, Pa	\$ 9,536.10
HydroTech	Elizabeth, Pa	\$ 9,808.90
Pipe Eye	Bradford, Pa	\$ 9,996.90
Insight Pipe Contracting	Harmony, Pa	\$15,709.25
Robinson Pipe Cleaning Co.	Pittsburgh, Pa	\$15,725.00
State Pipe Services	Cranberry, Pa	\$19,578.50
Tri-State Grouting	Bear, De	\$20,870.00

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to award a contract in the amount of \$9,536.10 to Mr. Rehab Sewer System Rehabilitation for videotaping and cleaning sewage collection lines in the industrial park. (Barber) Motion passes unanimously.

8. **Recreation Committee** – None.

9. **Street Committee**

- A. Mr. Penatzer said he is still in the process of trying to secure transportation enhancement funds for completion of a sidewalk project along East High Street and Rowena Drive. He reviewed the project and identified areas that would be part of it. Funding could become available at any time and said that it is important that the project be ready to bid immediately. The sidewalks would be five feet wide to make them more noticeable and are easier to identify. While waiting for PennDOT's review process, a meeting will be held with property owners to explain the project on Monday, February 1st. Mr. Penatzer made it clear to all parties that the project depends on acquiring funding and that it may not happen for another few years.
- B. Mr. Penatzer reviewed the 2010 sidewalk project along North Center Street and East Highland Avenue. The design has been completed and approved by PennDOT. Bids for the project have been advertised and are due March 8th. A meeting was held with residents in September to inform them about the project. The work is expected to start in April and end in July. Property owners would pay for their portion of the sidewalk and the borough would pay for the balance of the project from the sidewalk reserve. In addition, Mr. Penatzer said he would like to extend the Victorian streetlights north on Center Street as far as Highland Avenue. This is a separate component of the project and the cost would be for materials only; borough crews would install them. Bids for this portion of the project are due February 15th and Mr. Penatzer said at a minimum, if the bids come in too high, conduits would be installed to add the lights at a later time.

10. **Administration Committee**

Mrs. Barber said Charlene Remillard has resigned as Ebensburg Borough Tax Collector effective December 31st. She explained the position and said that annual earnings are

\$28,000 with a decrease in 2011 to \$16,400 due to EIT being collected by a single collector county-wide. The position was advertised and the administrative committee interviewed candidates. Mrs. Barber made a motion to appoint Nichole Ream as the new tax collector, effective immediately, term to expire December 2011. (Miller) Motion passes unanimously. Mayor Randy Datsko then administered the oath of office to Mrs. Ream.

11. General Business

- A. Mr. Penatzer said FEMA is in the process of publishing floodplain maps. Although Ebensburg Borough was declared free of flooding hazards, the revised maps designate areas near Howell's Run and Lake Rowena as floodplains. Mr. Penatzer said floodplain regulations must be created in order for property owners to be able to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Ordinance #568 was proposed to satisfy the need for floodplain regulations. FEMA said the map date will be six months after the "letter of determination" is issued and that date will be filled in later. Mrs. Barber made a motion to grant tentative approval to Ordinance #568, the Floodplain Management Ordinance, and advertise it for public inspection. (Miller) Motion passes unanimously.
- B. Mr. Penatzer said the new snow removal equipment for the airport has been received and paid for by FAA and PennDOT grants. RACRA provided the local matching funds. All funds advanced by the borough to RACRA for payment of various vendors have been reimbursed 100% by grant funds. Mrs. Barber made a motion to approve purchase of snow removal equipment consisting of a Farmall tractor, loader and snow plow in the amount of \$43,361.00 (state bid) from Hines Equipment. (Miller) Motion passes unanimously. Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the following payments from the Airport Projects Fund associated with the various airport projects:

Tri-Star Motors	\$20,074.00
Cambria Tractor	\$59,545.00
Borough of Ebensburg	\$59,545.00
Kimball & Associates	\$ 1,751.67
Hines Equipment	\$43,361.00
Borough of Ebensburg	\$ 841.80

Mr. Kuhar made a motion to approve the above payments from the Airport Projects Fund. (Miller) Motion passes unanimously.

- C. Mr. Penatzer showed council a proposed conceptual design for improvements at the Babcock property and asked for their ideas. A CDBG blight-removal grant would cover the cost of demolition of the former office and kiln building at the front of the property. The county redevelopment authority is in the process of conducting and paying for a phase II environmental study at the property.
- D. Mr. Penatzer reviewed a few key areas of the 2009 budget results that needed further explanation. He reviewed the monthly financial analysis and said the fund balance is no reason for concern and will rebound in time. He then went over the 2009 purchases and explained that some of the projects that were budgeted for were not urgent and will not be done for another year or so. The water and sewer revenue from the last four years was also reviewed. Mr. Penatzer said there is a discrepancy in metered readings from 2006 according to the annual water consumption for the borough's major customers. He will be looking into the cause of this further and will report back to council at a later time.

12. Department Reports

A. Police

Chief Wyland said there were only two criminal mischiefs to properties reported this month instead of the usual 50-100 reports. He said the new full-time police officer is working out well and thanked council for the new hire.

B. Public Works – None.

C. Community Development

Mrs. Strugala introduced the new intern, Mary Dodson. She said that Concerts in the Park will continue this year and have been expanded an hour to run from 6pm-9pm every Friday in August in Penn Eben Park. The new business directory of Main Street business members will be available in late February. Applications for Art in Bloom and PotatoFest are now available. House tours will be brought back as part of the Dickens event this year.

D. Recreation

Mr. Penatzer noted that the tennis center was budgeted to have a \$25,000 operating loss in 2009 and during the budget preparation in October, that deficit was expected to be trimmed to only \$8,000. When the \$5,000 capital reserve is added, the center actually ended 2009 with an \$8,900 surplus. He commended Mr. Taylor and Mr. Pfeil for their hard work on achieving these numbers.

13. Media Comments/Questions

David Hurst of the Altoona Mirror asked what council's thoughts were on the proposed Babcock improvements and what ideas they had for the property.

14. Public Comments

George Smith said there is a lack of snow plowing along the 500 block of West Sample Street. Gerry McMullen asked how many linear feet of sidewalk would be replaced along East High Street. He also asked if it would be done in one summer and agreed with Mr. Smith about the lack of plowing. Rollin Ream asked if the sidewalk project along Center Street will still happen if the bids come in too high.

There being no further business, Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn (Kuhar) Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned: 8:02 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by:

Christine M. Strugala
Community Development Director