

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
July 7, 2015

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 7, at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President William Clisham, Todd C. Burkhart, C. Stephen Good and James S. Bailey. Members absent were Patrick K. Morgan and Terry S. Mohler. Others in attendance included Borough Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Borough Solicitor Bradford J. Harris, Mayor Wilbur G. Horning and Police Chief Donald L. Bowers, Jr. Also present were: Jeff Bologna of Borough Water Consultants Becker Engineering, Borough residents Andy Herrington, Bill Kassinger, Donald Welsh, Carl Hess, Diana Morgan and Patricia Smith; Earl Township resident Kathy Ashcroft and reporter Dave LeFever.

President Herrington opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Jim Bailey made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of June 2, 2015 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Stephen Good and passed.

Bill Clisham made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Todd Burkhart and passed.

Police Chief Bowers then reviewed his monthly summary Report. Traffic accidents continue to run higher in Earl Township. There was a total of 18 arrests in the Borough. Some of the main highlights of the month included: the Department received numerous Thank you letters one from the former student intern Tyler Clisham, another from the family of the boy who was hit while on a skateboard when he became a victim of a hit and run, and one from the recently held Relay for Life Committee Chairman Sharon Groff thanking the officers for their attention and assistance during the event which was held at Garden Spot High School this past month; particularly noting officers Bitner, Custer, Fritz and Zimmerman. Officer Achenbach also served as a volunteer with the Dunk Tank for this event. Officer Fritz was recognized at the annual countywide dinner ceremony as a 2014 "Top Gun" DUI enforcement officer; with 22 arrests. Lieutenant Heisse and officer Achenbach assisted the Fire Department with the funeral of long time Fireman and Fire Police Officer Harold Connor. Lieutenant Heisse assisted with local industry CNH's Active Intruder Training and also made a presentation to the New Holland Rotary Club. Two items not noted in the Report

were that local business Franklin Street Garage, owned by Councilman Burkhart, provided the labor needed for two bicycle hitches to be added to two police vehicles; and also the local NAPA store provided the materials at no charge. There were a dozen synthetic marijuana, known as K2, incidents in the Borough the past month. The public should be cautious if they come into contact with what they suspect is a person in such a condition.

There were no Personnel or Property action items presented.

Streets Chairman Todd Burkhart, representing the Water, Wastewater and Streets Committees this evening, made the motion that Council adopt Ordinance #573, which increases water rates for Borough customers by five percent each year of the next three years beginning with the October 2015 billing period effective with the January 2016 bill; and utilizing the same timeframe for the next two years after that. This has been properly prepared and advertised by the Solicitor. The motion was seconded by Bill Clisham. The roll was:

Stephen Good--Yes

Bill Clisham--Yes

Todd Burkhart--Yes

Donald Herrington--Yes

Jim Bailey--Yes

The motion passed. Ordinance #573 was adopted.

Chairman Burkhart made the motion that Council approve an additional \$2,000 towards the purchase of a replacement pickup for the Water Department. The reason for this recommendation is that the originally approved replacement was a Ford F-150, for which Ford still does not even have an assembly date. The cost of the Ford under state bid was \$22,036. The additional funds recommended allow the Borough to proceed with a GMC or Chevrolet at the state bid price of \$24,000. This was seconded by Bill Clisham and passed.

Chairman Burkhart next made the motion that Council award the bid for the community trash and recycling program to the low bidder, Eagle Disposal of East Earl, as advertised. He noted that the low cost per unit for 2016 is to be \$82.32, which is somewhat lower than the current cost of \$83.76 per unit. The bids were properly opened on the 23rd. Two other bids were received, at the price of \$92.03/unit and \$115.90 per unit. As in the past, there is an annual allowance for inflation and should there be an excessive price increase with fuel costs. This was seconded by Stephen Good and passed.

Mayor Horning reported the monies received through the Police Department the past month as: \$1,528.90 from the District Justice's office; \$240 in accident reports; \$20 from finger printing; and \$20 for parking fines. He wants to remind everyone that the Summer Arts Program has begun its services of concerts in Community Memorial Park. The annual July 4th Patriotic concert with the New Holland Band was very nice.

Kathy Ashcroft of Earl Township stated she thinks the Borough should do something about the lack of shade for parents or grandparents to sit under when taking their children to the Timbers Playground at Community Memorial Park. At least the kids have some things to crawl under. In talking with the Borough office she understands the older trees were removed due to their condition and the limb and root dangers, but it is going to take awhile for the new ones to grow bigger. She also realizes that whatever is done must consider kids climbing on it as well as the weather. She suggests Council go there on a hot day and see what she is talking about. She thinks this situation is cruel. On another matter, she also sees traffic run the red signal at Brimmer and Main frequently.

Manager Fulcher noted that Mrs. Ashcroft is correct, it will take a few years for the new trees to provide the intended shade. He and the staff are already looking at a potential shade structure for the adult seating area on the northeast corner of the Timbers playground. He is also planning to review the support of the Park Board and Kiwanis Club with this concern.

Concerning the traffic signal at Brimmer and Main this usually occurs because Penn DOT has the Stop Bar line back from Main Street a good distance; unfortunately many people, particularly visitors do not realize that the signal change wires end at the Stop Bar. They will not change the signal when they stop too far ahead of it. At times no one pulls up behind them, the driver probably assumes the signal is not working. This situation is not likely to change until Penn DOT upgrades the signal system to the newer overhead electronic system.

Patricia Smith of 340 East Main Street stated her house is adjacent to the unfinished ditch where the new drains and piping were installed under Main Street. With this situation it seems every time a truck goes over that section her whole house shakes. She recently sent a letter to the Borough about this situation. She was wondering if a lower speed limit could be put in place in this area until this is fixed.

President Herrington noted that the Borough did receive the letter from her but the return address on the response was accidentally inverted. He apologized for this, then provided a copy to her.

Manager Fulcher stated that it was unlikely that Penn DOT would adjust the speed limit in that area in a construction zone. This also takes a speed study and review by Penn DOT, which realistically would not be completed prior to their scheduled August paving completion date.

Streets Chairman Burkhart asked Chief Bowers if he would locate the electronic speed awareness sign to this area, and perhaps follow-up while the project is underway.

Chief Bowers indicated this would be done.

Vice-President Clisham stated he had a non-action item it is his pleasure to present this evening. He then read a letter signed by all of Council, the Mayor, Manager and Police Chief, to be presented to local young adult resident Any Herrington; who is present this evening. The letter congratulated Andy Herrington for his recent acceptance into the Hershey School; and also recognized and commended him for his attendance at many Council meetings over the years. They wish him well.

There being no further business in public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

August 4, 2015
Date Approved