

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council Workshop
April 26, 2017

New Holland Borough Council met in regular Workshop session on Wednesday evening, April 26, 2017 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, Patrick K. Morgan, Terry S. Mohler, James S. Bailey, John A. Styer and John A. Armbrust. Others in attendance were: Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor Wilbur G. Horning, Bill Kassinger, Chairman of the Borough's Planning Commission.

Vice-President Burkhart opened the meeting asking Manager Fulcher for any information items.

Manager Fulcher identified Planning Commission Chairman Bill Kassinger for an update as the Commission's actions to again address the never ending story of the long needed relief highway bypassing old Route 23.

Chairman Kassinger then reviewed the updated drawings of a potential Route 23 relief highway. As moved forward by the Planning Commission, the updated proposal still follows one projected Alternative from prior Penn DOT studies from Route 30, east to Diller Avenue in New Holland. It would then officially turn northward on Diller and re-connect to Main Street/old Route 23. As updated, the Commission is proposing that a Hiking/Biking Trail be constructed along the new roadway from Route 30, to New Holland, then ultimately eastward to the Welsh Mountain Preserve. Through New Holland the Hiking and Biking Trail users can use existing sidewalks and bikes can use the local streets, with a stop/start point at Community Memorial Park. The new relief route as proposed by the Commission indicates a four lane highway using the Goat Path's initial six miles or so of the state owned land, this is then reduced down to two lanes, eastward from Route 772 in Leola. It remains limited access and avoids large interchanges where unwanted development could take place, except for the one already in place at Route 772. A traffic circle is proposed at the new road and South Shirk Road. The new proposal involves aspects of multi-modal, smart growth and significantly reduced cost, while still addressing the growth of traffic since the original proposals of the 1960's. It should only involve about 37 acres of "farmland". It will not only support the large industrial and employee base of Leola, Bareville and New Holland as well as the significant increase in population but will also remove the traffic that avoids old Route 23 by using the local roads, Route 222, then Route 322, then North Shirt and North Railroad; making these roads less dangerous for

buggies. The proposal will be provided to the involved Townships but no further local official action is being requested as this time.

Vice-President Burkhart thanked Chairman Kassinger for the update and commended him and the Planning Commission members for being pro-active with this long overdue project.

It was also the consensus of the members that the updated proposal addresses the many concerns raised over the years about some large super-highway, while still addressing the traffic congestion on old Route 23, and with the hiking/biking trail with it, is a very good idea which they continue to support.

The members then reviewed the updated development plans for a 100 unit development in Earl Township to be off of the south side of Airport Road. This development will be serviced by Borough water.

The members generally discussed what may occur with the potential loss of the pool due to major infrastructure breakdown in the future. Vice-President Burkhart noted that he has suggested for years that the pool needs to add things to draw more people such as fountains, water slides and so on. Councilman Mohler stated that when the pool ultimately breaks down probably a minimum of \$2m or more would be needed. He hopes the current efforts to keep it running year to year results in many more usable years. In theory if there was a private entity interested maybe even a larger indoor facility could be considered; it was noted however that the nearby YMCA is a major enclosed facility that is struggling financially. Everyone is aware the possibility is out there that the pool could close.

Manager Fulcher reminded members that the Board of Community Memorial Park has a sub-committee made up of mostly its younger members looking at possible future recreation activities to utilize the space where the pool is, should it close. Their parameters remain low maintenance, low liability activities, which may include small elements related to the activity. He also reminded members that pool use by Borough residents continues to drop.

Councilman Morgan noted that with this group of citizen volunteers already doing a feasibility study of possible recreation alternatives should the pool close, a citizen study effort is already underway for future consideration.

Councilman Mohler reported for information purposes related to representing Council on the Inter-Municipal Funding Committee for Garden Spot Fire Rescue

as well as being Council's liaison to the Fire Company, that due to recent re-financing by the Fire Company, they have reviewed their approach to numerous projects. They intend to finance on their own the needed repaving at the Main Station, as well as the needed roof replacement in 2017. They have asked that along with the normal annual support that the three municipalities be responsible for the bathroom renovations planned for 2018. Vice-President Burkhart reminded Councilman Mohler that Council would like to see the Company obtain not less than three cost proposals for work projects over \$9,999. Mr. Mohler then continued, reporting that the truck replacement needs discussion is not settled but planned for 2022. They are not certain how many, up to three trucks they may look to replace at one time. It appears at this point the Borough's separate Truck Replacement Fund should be able to handle the Borough's proportion of the costs involved, but again, they have not decided on how many trucks will be involved at the time.

Manager Fulcher reminded members that the July Council meeting is to be held Monday, July 3rd and the October Workshop is to be held on Wednesday, October 25th.

After brief further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

May 2, 2017
Date Approved