

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council Workshop
January 29, 2020

New Holland Borough Council met in regular Workshop session on Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. All members were present: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, Patrick K. Morgan, Terry S. Mohler, John A. Styer, Bryant J. Glick and Michael H. Kurtz. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher and Mayor M. Timothy Bender. Resident Lino Vescovich was also in attendance as well as Borough pool Manager Leo Ward.

President Herrington opened the meeting asking Manager Fulcher for information items.

Manager Fulcher indicated resident Lino Vescovich was here this evening to introduce himself and outline some of his professional background to Council. He moved into the Borough in May of 2019 and not being from the area is aware he and his background are not locally known. He has offered his time to volunteer to serve on a Borough Board if he could be of assistance should Council feel comfortable appointing him sometime.

Mr. Vescovich then reviewed his professional background and experience. He is a civil engineer who retired last year. He was a civilian employee for the US Navy Facilities Command, more recently in Washington, DC and prior to that in Philadelphia. He has also worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers and for a period in the private sector. He has dealt extensively over the years with water, wastewater and stormwater facilities.

President Herrington thanked Mr. Vescovich for his information and interest noting Council will be considering him for appointment.

Pool Manager Ward then distributed two, two-sided sheets of information outlining state minimum Lifeguard staffing requirements. Without accounting for crowd numbers, the minimum is five, which includes one rotating in the First Aid room. This allows an extra person available should an incident occur. At this time, there are various models of how the Lifeguards are rotated. He utilizes a 30-minute on, then a 15-minute break; after the second break they spend a shift in the First Aid room. Some pools use a half hour on, half hour off process. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays are different because of the larger crowd expected, then there could

be eight utilized during the day. The starting/ending shift times usually vary as to when the larger crowd is expected. He currently has six or seven Head Lifeguards on staff. When he is not there, the Head Lifeguard is in charge. The more years experience with the Borough a Lifeguard has the more they are paid. The starting wage is \$7.50 per hour. The chair covering the lower depth entry area does not fully see the baby pool so one is stationed at the baby pool.

In continuing, he noted they try to adjust the Lifeguard numbers based on the weather forecast. Their start could be delayed as to the possibility of not opening. The shifts are usually 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. to close, but the more senior guards and Head Guard may work the whole day. Overtime is to be avoided if possible over the pay period. The Red Cross has "Benchmarks" it uses to identify the qualified Lifeguard capabilities, such as: 30 seconds to reach a person in distress; 1½ to 2 minutes to have first aid administered, and this includes extraction from the pool time. Many seemingly athletic youth do not pass the minimum steps of Lifeguard qualifications. He usually has a list of about 35 Lifeguards. The overall turnover is fairly consistent. Many do not return after a year or so of college. He has not seen much interest by new people for the upcoming season yet and a good number of senior people are not returning.

In response to a question from Mayor Bender, Mr. Ward stated that to reposition the chair near the low depth/entry area so it can also cover the baby pool presents the challenge of spotty coverage and timing delay concerns for the entire area that would then have to be covered by that guard.

Member Mohler noted that when he was with Mr. Ward at the pool on one occasion where a pool consultant was inspecting it, the consultant basically said if the main walls fall in, the pool would need a complete rebuild; though it is in good shape with the regular season re-caulking. His concern is to see what if anything can be done to help reduce the annual operating loss with keeping the pool open. A number of people he talked with were surprised the current pool loses so much money each year.

Mr. Ward stated he is more aware now than when the Park Association owned the pool about actual costs, how costs have increased over the years and so on. He reviews these things with the Manager and Borough staff each year.

Manager Fulcher noted that numerous things go with operating a seasonal outdoor pool. Liability is a main concern with pool operations and any appearance of negligence due to inadequate Lifeguards would be a real concern. The annually

needed repairs are a major impact on overall pool costs. That is usually determined by the winter's freezing/thawing cycle. The Lifeguard cost of @\$55,085 in 2019 is about \$700 per open day. Obtaining Lifeguards is becoming a bigger problem similar to the continuing changes of the social habits of families and youth no longer attending a public pool. The starting salaries of guards are low and the element of how many hours per week most work discourages young people from making this their first job priority. The current salaries as well as the scheduling process appears to need to change at some point soon to obtain and retain Lifeguards. With many of the guards looking at this as their second job they are only available when not working elsewhere. He will be working with Mr. Ward on this.

In reviewing various other elements related to possibly have a positive impact on usage at the pool it was felt that perhaps a cost discount of 10 to 20 percent could be identified for Seniors to draw new users in, as well as possibly some type of employee discount to businesses who wish to do something for their employees. Manager Fulcher stated he will work with the Mayor, Pool Manager and staff in developing these elements. The Borough's website and Newsletter are used for advertisement. Council Member Mohler plans to meet with officials of the Dolphin Swim Team to see if the Team could contribute more to the pool's annual operating costs.

President Herrington and the members thanked Mr. Ward for his information noting their appreciation for his effort dealing with all of the challenges with the pool.

Council member Kurtz noted it was brought to his attention recently by a new resident that New Holland's snow removal ordinance uses 12 hours after a storm stops; many of the others use the 24-hour timeframe.

Council member Burkhart stated that the temporary permit allowed for an on-street pod for a family moving from a residence on East Jackson Street was not placed as close to the curb as it could have been, creating more of a hazardous situation than necessary. This should be more closely watched in the future. On another matter, he reported he pays \$50/each per month, for a cardboard recycling container and another recycling container, which businesses in town are required to have. He believes he is the only one who is being required to do this. This should be checked and enforced equally. He also inquired if a Borough cleanup action was scheduled yet for the property in zoning violation on East Jackson Street.

Manager Fulcher stated he will check with staff and look into the recycling situation as noted; and plans are being set to move on the East Jackson Street property, as well as another property, depending on weather, probably for the second week of February.

Council member Mohler, Council's representative to the Intermunicipal Funding Committee for Garden Spot Fire Rescue, reported he recently attended a meeting with the Fire Company and among other things they presented a letter to Council related to unsafe items they have identified in various structures after a fire. They feel the Borough is not performing its apartment unit inspection program properly. He was not clear as to how the program works.

Manager Fulcher explained that the Rental Unit Inspection Program calls for rental unit inspections once every three years, or when property ownership changes. The Borough also looks for exterior problems such as broken windows, broken fire escapes, hazardous wire conditions on an on-going basis; as well as responds to issues or complaints received in the office on a regular basis. It is not a property code program. This is significantly more involved whether done directly or in-house and involves significant more expense and liability. Even these programs cannot stop an owner, tenant or someone else from illegally changing or stealing safety things or otherwise letting them get into a condition of disrepair, at any time after an inspection.

Council member Burkhart stated the state Fire Marshall can close a business if conditions warrant. Maybe this could be used when an owner does not remain concerned about conditions.

After brief further discussion, with no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

February 4, 2020
Date Approved