

Plymouth Borough
Regular Meeting
November 11, 2014

WORK SESSION

The meeting was called to order by Mr. William Dixon, Vice President of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Coughlin	Mr. Kochinski	Mr. Mahon	Mr. Dixon
Mr. Gerko	Mr. Madrack	Mr. McTague	

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Mrs. Mickie Goodrich, of Eno Street, wanted to check on the status of the signs for Beade Street Park. Mrs. Goodrich asked if the signs have been put up. Mr. Dixon said we cannot put the signs up because the signs are not legal. Mrs. Goodrich asked if the signs were made. Mr. Dixon said the signs were made but they are not legal. Mr. Dixon said he provided Mr. Madrack a copy of the ordinance. Mr. Dixon said it says that time is supposed to be indicated on the sign and he put dawn to dusk, police cannot enforce that. Mr. Dixon said the Borough spent four hundred dollars on new signs that cannot be put up. Mr. Dixon apologized. Mrs. Goodrich asked if this will be resolved. She said the kids are still going down there and destroying property. Mr. Dixon said the signs need to be redone. Mrs. Goodrich asked if that came out of the taxpayer's money. Mr. Dixon said yes.

Mr. Adam Morehart, of West River Street, he said he is going to repeat the discussion that he had a few months ago. Mr. Morehart states that he has known most of the Council for a while and has worked with a lot of the Council closely on a lot of things. Mr. Morehart said that the Council has been very good to him on different things. Mr. Morehart said he is embarrassed by what he is seeing now. Mr. Morehart said he does not know what caused things to become derailed, and personally does not care about that. As a citizen, to watch the twelve rounds of boxing going back and forth about who is doing what, who isn't doing what, when they are doing it and how they are doing it. Mr. Morehart urges the council to get it together. He said the disrespect and unprofessionalism needs to stop, now. Mr. Morehart begs the Council to get on the same page and work together. He said the citizens expect professionalism and doing the job that needs to be done without the back and forth. He feels we are worse off now than we were

two-three years ago. Mr. Morehart really wants to see the Council get along and make some good things happen in this town and agrees that we need to move forward.

Mr. James Woodruff, of Beade Street, asked if he had something there. Mr. Dixon said Mr. McTague has been working on the valve placement. Mr. Dixon said Mr. McTague mentioned this months ago and what he was going to try to do. Finally we received an answer, the letter reads, "We have discussed this Wyoming Valley Sanitation Authority and this project would be grant eligible, we would recommend installing at the lowest property first, and extending up stream." The twenty five thousand dollar grant would allow ten homes to be installed at this time. Mr. Dixon said he has additional information to share with Mr. Woodruff by providing him with copies and Mr. Dixon and Mr. Woodruff thanked Mr. McTague for doing this. Mr. Woodruff asked if it was for check valves, and asked if it was going to be one check valve with a pipe a pipe going over there, or is it individual for the properties that got flooded; Mr. McTague said it is for the homes that got flooded. Mr. McTague said it will not be in the homes because the money cannot be used for private properties. Mr. McTague said they will be placed on the street just like gas meters.

Mr. Woodruff said he has another issue with the child like behavior of Council. He said there is an A and a B team. He said the Council is supposed to be democrats and are all supposed to be working together. Mr. Woodruff said that is what the Council ran on to get in those positions and now Council is not doing that. He said with this letter and the amount of years it took to get Mr. McTague to tell Mr. Woodruff what was just said. This is an issue is from 2011. Mr. Woodruff said to Council to either get out or shape up because they are not doing any good for the place.

Mr. Scott Cannon, has some photographs to pass around to Council, regarding a neighbor who has two small children ages 3 and 5, and Mr. Cannon and his wife are concerned for their welfare and the pets the neighbor is hoarding. About two years ago, he brought in snake cages and has been raising and selling pythons out of his house. Clientele comes at all hours of the day and night to buy them. The neighbor purchased two pit bulls and is breeding them and selling them. Because he has no yard, he would walk them through the neighborhood and not clean up after them. After several neighbors complained, the dogs were gone, and then the cats came. We estimate around ten or more cats in the house. He keeps a basement window opened and the cats come and go as they please. In the summer, one of his cats scratched a boy in the face; he removed the collar and denied the cat was his. The boy had to get rabies shots. Some of the neighbors have taken some of his cats to the S.P.C.A... We are cleaning up his pet addiction. His cats are roaming the neighborhood.

Mr. Cannon said to Mr. Coughlin that he is sure he sees them. Mr. Coughlin said he has two of the cats down at his house. Mr. Cannon asked if it was two of his neighbor's. Mr. Coughlin said he did not know where else they could have come from. Mr. Cannon said there was a little kitten on the other neighbor's porch. He said that we all have dogs in the area and the dogs are going after them. Mr. Coughlin said the neighbor's dogs were reported to the S.P.C.A., and believes that is why the dogs are gone. Mr. Cannon said they spoke to the S.P.C.A. he then

got another pit bull about a month and a half ago, and then spoke to the Dog Warden of Pennsylvania and they did a license check, and Mr. Cannon said he has not seen the dog since. Mr. Coughlin said his wife will take the cats to get spayed and neutered. Mr. Cannon said unfortunately this guy is not doing that he is breeding them in his house. Mr. Coughlin said he knows right where he is at. Mr. Cannon said he went under the porch about a month ago, to see where the cats are coming from and he found a plastic container on the side of the house with two big turtles in it. Mr. Cannon said he dealt with many different issues with this neighbor, including domestic fights with him and his girlfriend, he has a low hanging roof in his back yard which is about 6'x10', a very small back yard with a deck and a low hanging ceiling. The neighbor lights his charcoal grill and melt the roof. Mr. Cannon said one day, he decided to rip the overhang down. Mr. Telesco said he spoke to the neighbor and he received permission from the owner to rip it down. Mr. Cannon said he understands that and wants to make this public information. Mr. Cannon said he is very worried about the kids in the house. Mr. Cannon said they never see them outside, and the only kind of interaction seen is him yelling at them to get in from the car and into the house. Mr. Cannon said they called every agency to see if anything could be done before something happens. Mr. Cannon asked if there is an ordinance on the amount of pets someone can have. Mr. Dixon said we do not have an ordinance regarding this issue; we have to codify what we do have. Mr. Cannon asked if one could be written. Mr. Cannon asked if this is something we could look into. Mr. Dixon said we would have to discuss this with the Solicitor. Mr. Dixon said he will get in touch with the Health Officer regarding this issue.

Mr. John Frey, President of Plymouth Citizens Action Committee, will provide Council a report on the last Plymouth Citizens Action Committee meeting. The meeting was held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the Borough building. Mr. Dixon was in attendance. We discussed the Landlord/Tenant Ordinance as it is written. The meeting lasted about two hours and we adjourned at 9:00 P.M... The reason the meeting lasted that long was because we disagreed with each other. Everyone received a homework assignment which is due at the next meeting.

Mr. Frey said he does not know what to say about tonight's meeting. He understands there will always be things to disagree about, as in our meeting the other night; hopefully you can disagree without becoming totally disagreeable. Mr. Frey said it is his sincere hope. Mr. Frey said he elected the Council, knowing that there were going to be disagreements, he said he wouldn't want everyone to agree, but at the same time, you cannot allow it to become that disagreeable that you cannot work with one another. We have some major problems in town. If Council is going to fight about a salt shed or something like that, how will Council deal with a mugging, how will Council deal with the crack houses or people cooking drugs in the upstairs. Mr. Frey said the disagreement becomes engrained. Mr. Frey asked the Council to please disagree with each other but do not become so disagreeable that the Council cannot work with each other.

Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Frey if he would like the Code Enforcement Officer to attend the next meeting. Mr. Frey said he is welcome to come to the meeting. Mr. Dixon said any questions would likely be able to get straight with Mr. Telesco's presence. Mr. Frey said everyone is welcome to come to the meeting.

Shane Lovenduski, of Orchard Street, Mr. Dixon asked how Mr. Lovenduski is and he said he was good until he came to this meeting. Mr. Lovenduski said he has known some of Council for quite a few years, and others not so long. Mr. Lovenduski said he cannot believe what he witnessed tonight. He is dumbfounded that someone has to instigate the next person and the other person has to respond. If that is going to happen, and waste our time, an hour and ten minutes to be exact. Mr. Lovenduski said there is no reason for that. If Council does not like each other, don't talk to each other, but at least help our Borough. Mr. Lovenduski said he is twenty five years old and sees people his age that doesn't want to do anything to help this town. Mr. Lovenduski said he comes to these meeting not to hear bickering, he comes to hear about Council actually helping this town.

Mr. Lovenduski said he heard Mr. Dixon talking to his neighbor about plowing Third Street. Mr. Lovenduski said there will be a problem plowing Third Street because it will put his property at risk because Third Street is not properly grated and is not level. Mr. Lovenduski said a few years ago, a plow truck hit his trailer, another year a plow truck hit his "No Trespassing" sign. Mr. Lovenduski would like to see something done with Third Street. He asked if anyone had an answer. Mr. Dixon said there is no answer for that. Mr. Lovenduski said a few years ago Mr. McTague mentioned type-b modified. Mr. McTague said it needs a rough coat of black top.

Mrs. Mary Jarret, of Plymouth Neighborhood Watch wants to thank everyone in the borough, especially the police, for the assistance they provided to Plymouth Neighborhood Watch at the Trunk or Treat. There were over six hundred kids and lots of parents. Mrs. Jarret said it was a very positive event for the town. The Plymouth Neighborhood Watch meeting is tonight, upstairs and Lori Bolesta will tell everyone about the Emergency Ambulance Association. Mrs. Jarret said on December 7, Plymouth Neighborhood Watch will be hosting the Community Breakfast to benefit the Catherine Mcauley House.

Mr. Woodruff, of Beade Street, asked Council if they remember the discussion on grants two months ago. Mr. Woodruff asked if Mr. Madrack did all the grants. Mr. Dixon said no, it was the Secretary and Robert Meyers. Mr. Coughlin said Mr. Gerko has the book on the grants and Mr. Gerko said he looked through the grants. Mr. Madrack said they receive updates regarding grants and they look into it. Mr. Woodruff said, very briefly it seems like. Mr. Woodruff said he was speaking to Mr. Amato and this topic was brought up. Mr. Woodruff said we missed out on the Mohegan Sun Arena grant because an application was made, but we didn't get picked. Mr. Woodruff said on October 22, 2014, Mr. Yudichak got four counties over five hundred and forty thousand dollars in grants. Mr. Dixon said it was not picked because it was not competitive. Mr. Woodruff asked who turned it down. Mr. Dixon turned the question to the secretary because she looked into it. The secretary said the same application was submitted twice. The second submission was turned down. It was not competitive enough, they are looking

for job creation or to build commerce, we also have to cut back on the asking amount. There are many towns applying for this grant. Mr. Woodruff responded, unless we are building commerce based in this town, the Borough would be ineligible to apply. The secretary said from the information the secretary received from Mandy Book, it would be pointless.

Mathew Hornick, of Turner Street. Mr. Hornick began by discussing the curfew ordinance. He said Mrs. Jarret and Plymouth Citizens Action Committee received other copies and was told it was unconstitutional, apparently it is not. He said he was told we are not in the business of collecting fines, but other towns are. Mr. Hornick believes the curfew would help this town with a lot of its problems which stems from the youth being on the streets at 2:00 A.M... Mr. Hornick said others have said a study needs to be done; the only way a study can be done is if the police begin to get out there and enforce some kind of normalcy in this town. Mr. Hornick said we fall into the issue that we don't have enough police. He said everyone up there wanted to put more police on the beat.

Mr. Hornick said he sees people fighting against it and talking it down and he sees others fighting for it. He said people out here see it also. Mr. Hornick told Council to get their act together. Mr. Hornick said he will be back in two years and his name will be on the ballot, if you don't do it, we will. Mr. Hornick said we are all ashamed to have to sit here and listen to this.

Curfew is something Mr. Hornick said he feels strongly about. He stated if the way it is written is unconstitutional; write it in a way for it to be constitutional, because other towns wrote in a constitutional way. Mr. Hornick said if Council needs copies, Mrs. Jarret and I can provide Council with the copies. Mr. Hornick said it should be just as easy for Council, who hold office to attain these copies from other towns.

AGENDA VOTING

Mr. Dixon added the motion to make himself Chairmen tonight. Mr. Gerko said he wanted to make the motion to elect new officers. Mr. Coughlin said reorganization is made every other year. Mr. Madrack said he wants it on the agenda. Mr. Kochinski said Mr. Dixon does not have to put it on the agenda, but Mr. Madrack has the right to make a motion for it to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Dixon asked why he was being held at a different standard. Mr. Madrack said no one is holding you to a different standard, he said he is just asking Mr. Dixon to put something on the agenda. Mr. Dixon said no. Mr. Dixon said to the audience that it may sound bad to them, but it is procedure. Mr. Madrack said Mr. Dixon is wrong and Council may appoint new officers any time, at will. Mr. Kochinski directed a comment to Mr. Madrack, this was never done in the town's history, why start now? Mr. Dixon said this is not a debate and will talk about this later. Mr. Madrack said he wants it on the agenda now. Mr. Madrack stated he has a right as a Councilman to request that something be put on the agenda.

MOTION TO HIRE PATRICIA PEARSON AS A FILL-IN CROSSING GAURD WITH THE HOURLY RATE OF \$8.50 (EIGHT DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS) AN HOUR

MOTION: Mr. Kochinski
SECOND: Mr. McTague
VOTE: 7 Yes

I HEREBY MOVE TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, THOMAS MCTAGUE, FRANK COUGHLIN, AND GARY KOCHINSKI TO INVESTIGATE A PERSONNEL MATTER INVOLVING A MEMBER OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT INCLUDING THE INTERVIEW OF THE POLICE OFFICER INVOLVED AND TO REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION THE RESULTS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION

MOTION: Mr. Kochinski
SECOND: Mr. Coughlin
VOTE: 7 Yes

MOTION TO APPOINT WILLIAM DIXON AS CHAIRMAN

MOTION: Mr. Kochinski
SECOND: Mr. Coughlin
VOTE: 3 Yes, 4 No

On the question: Mr. Mahon said he would like to nominate Clif Madrack as the Chairman. Mr. Coughlin said Mr. Mahon would have to make a second motion. Mr. Dixon said we will have to discuss he first motion, first. Mr. Mahon said no, according to the rules and regulations you have to answer the question first before you answer. Mr.Dixon said he was answering the question; we must discuss the first motion. Mr. Mahon said you have to consider the question first, and then you consider the motion. Mr. Dixon said we are going to vote on the first motion that was presented by Mr. Kochinski. Mr. Mahon said no, we are going to vote on my motion first. Mr. Dixon responded, we are going to vote on the first motion first.

MOTION TO APPOINT CLIF MADRACK AS CHAIRMAN

MOTION: Mr. Mahon
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 4 Yes, 2 No, 1 abstain

MOTION TO APPOINT JAMES MAHON VICE CHAIRSPERSON

MOTION: Mr. Gerko
SECOND: Mr. Madrack
VOTE: 4 Yes, 3 No

On the question: Mr. Coughlin said he is voting no because all the years he has been on Council whether he liked the person or not, never once was a vote taken to remove someone, who was already seated. Mr. Coughlin said he has all the respect for Mr. Mahon and Mr. Dixon. Mr. Coughlin further states that this was never done before and thought reorganization was going to be discussed and he doesn't know what this about.

MOTION TO PAY NOVEMBER BILLS

GENERAL FUND: 14-536---14-595
LIQUID FUEL FUND: 14-114---14-128
STREET FUND: 14-084---14-092
RECREATION FUND: 14-028---14-029

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 Yes, 1No

MEETING ADJOURNED