

Plymouth Borough
Rescheduled Regular Work Session and Council Meeting
May 21, 2015

Mr. William Dixon presented Mr. James Mahon with his requested information.

The monthly work session began at 7:06 P.M. and was held prior to the Regular Council Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. William Dixon, President of Council.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ROLL CALL

Mr. Coughlin	Mr. Kochinski	Mr. Dixon
Mr. Gerko	Mr. Mahon	Mr. Thomas

Mr. McTague was absent.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

CITIZEN'S REQUESTS AND COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Steven Wolinsky, of 315 East River St., has a concern with the Beade St. project. He said he is a tax payer and understands there is proposition pending with council to install seventeen devices into a sewer line project. He said he understands a list has already been prepared and submitted to council for approval. He said his concern is that he lives parallel to that street on East River St. and he doesn't believe his name is on that list and he would like to know if it could be added. Mr. Dixon said Mr. McTague handled that project and he took all that information and met with the engineer. And the engineer gave us a recommendation based on the information he received and brought it back to us. Mr. Dixon said he does not know why your name is not on that list. Mr. Mahon said he spoke to Mr. McTague and there is a list

of seventeen but there is a contingency clause in case others would need to go on the list. Mr. Coughlin said if your name is not on there, we could possibly have the engineer take a look and we could proceed from there. Mr. Wolinsky said he doesn't understand why that would be a problem. Mr. Coughlin said he doesn't want to give the wrong answer. Mr. Dixon asked Mr. Wolinsky to provide his contact information so Mr. Dixon could speak to him further.

Mr. Jim Woodruff of Beade St., said when this all began Mr. Wolinsky was not home. He said Mr. Wolinsky lives directly behind him and he was not provided the opportunity to sign the paper.

Mr. Mark Ruseskas of Powell St., said there are big holes near Ash Diamond and it gets really dusty and asked if it is possible to be graded or filled in. Mr. Dixon said he could not answer that right now. Mr. Coughlin asked if that is the road that runs along the Ash Diamond. Mr. Ruseskas said it is by the Ash Diamond. Mr. Coughlin said council does not have the authorization to perform any paving on that road because it belongs to the utilities. Mr. Coughlin said when he was part of the Rails and Trails, so many hoops we had to jump through just to put down a fine mix that was used for the trail and any digging could cause problems. Mr. Coughlin said we have to be very careful of what is done down there.

Mr. Ruseskas asked if there was a prioritized list of streets to be paved. Mr. Coughlin said he had just asked council to start on one, no, there is not a list. Mr. Ruseskas asked what streets were paved last year. Mr. Coughlin said Hanover St., Davis St. and part of Fairview St... Mr. Dixon said we are looking at grading Railroad St. if it's not going to be paved we will drop 2D, if we have to. Mr. Dixon said Street Department has already went by and measured some of the streets and has a listing of streets and an amount that he needs to present to council. Mr. Dixon said council has to look at this. Mr. Dixon said he speaks for himself because he goes out with the street department and has lived here a number of years. Mr. Dixon said there are streets that have not been touched in over thirty years. He said council could contact Plymouth Township or Union Township to come in and do some paving. Mr. Dixon said he spoke to Representative Mullery and he will see what the amount is and present it to council and accept suggestions.

Mr. Dixon said council is aware of the issues on Powel St.. He said some of the streets are easier to pave because they don't have curbs and we could pave a number of streets without the curb. Mr. Dixon said Mr. Ruseskas is welcome to come to the office to view Mr. Dixon's list of streets. Mr. Mahon said last year when they were doing the work on the streets council was led to believe the utilities were going to come back and they were going to pave streets up on the hill. Mr. Dixon said what he said was we are going to get a couple streets paved, such as Davenport, but we have to wait because he was out there and told them not to stop 200 hundred yards from the intersection and told them he wants it further up so that moves them into Shawnee, because we have too many pave cuts and when you take it to a certain point, that road is only going to buckle and the engineer agreed, so they have to go across Shawnee Ave. we are going to pave parts of Lee St., Vanloon St., Orchard St., and Second St.. Mr. Coughlin confirmed that the Utility contractor is performing the paving. Mr. Dixon said there will be two more phases of this, because they are changing the low pressure gas in this town to medium pressure. He said there are copies of the information.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST AND COMMENTS REGARDING GENERAL MATTERS

Mrs. Mary Rittenhouse of 352 West Main St. and President of Plymouth Neighborhood Crime Watch began by addressing Mr. Kochinski's comments. She said Mr. Dixon is on The Plymouth Crime Watch Board. Mrs. Rittenhouse read some of the rules and regulations of the Facebook page that they administer. "No bashing of any police officer. We value our police officers and respect them for all their service to our town. We support their efforts to keep our town safe. No foul language, no names or addresses. At no time on this page will anyone name or name an address specifically to accuse or insinuate blame of any violations, codes, laws or otherwise. Those complaints need to go to the police or the borough. Not here, if anyone does, you will be banned from this page. Our job is to be a positive force for the change through laws, ordinances and community involvement. Respect for others-no racial slurs. Number 6- for the safety of our law enforcement officers please do not post pictures, locations or details of suspected busts or any real time police activity. We want our guys to stay safe; all posts of this nature will be deleted. No real time bust information, please."

Mrs. Rittenhouse addressed Mr. Kochinski by saying he knows how hard it is to run this page and they do their very best. She asked Mr. Kochinski if he has called her to remove posts from the page and Mr. Kochinski said yes. Mrs. Rittenhouse said she does not understand why he is addressing this at a council meeting. Mr. Kochinski said investigations were compromised and he wanted to make the public aware of that. Mrs. Rittenhouse said Mr. Kochinski called her recently to remove posts. Mr. Kochinski said he missed these recent posts when they were put up there. Mrs. Rittenhouse said they did as well and said to Mr. Kochinski that he knows that they do their best to support our police officers and keep the citizens informed. Mr. Kochinski is not saying they don't, he is saying information is being posted and it is putting public safety at risk. Mrs. Rittenhouse said information could be posted on a personal page as well. Mr. Kochinski said this page is drawing over three thousand people and maybe not all are good. Mrs. Rittenhouse asked Mr. Kochinski what his remedy would be and what could they do to help.

Mrs. Rittenhouse said she is also member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Mrs. Rittenhouse said Mr. Dixon had left the meeting early and she knows this was addressed about certain things the board felt was required such as having their own bank account for grants, having bi-laws, and taking minutes. She said she is not speaking for the board but she is speaking as a member. She said when they sent out the letters of support, the recreation board's names were listed in the letter. Mrs. Rittenhouse asked if they were needed to do this grant because it is saying it is between Plymouth Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Mr. Dixon said they are still needed and council in Plymouth cannot get the grant itself, but with the Recreation Board in that form, it is possible. He said it shows that our town has a functioning recreation board and we went that route since it involves recreation. Mrs. Rittenhouse addressed Mr. Dixon by saying she has a problem with just Mr. Dixon executing everything. Mr. Dixon said if the grant is received there is going to be papers that come through the borough that he will have to sign. He said any documents that come in concerning anyone, it always comes to Council President. Mrs. Rittenhouse said there are issues with the recreation board and Mr. Dixon left early and they did not have time discuss them.

Mrs. Rittenhouse said Plymouth Neighborhood Watch is very involved with the community development and events. She said they will be having Community Day on June 20, 2015 and June 21, 2015 will be the rain date. Mrs. Rittenhouse said the Plymouth Neighborhood Watch has all non-profit organizations come at no cost and they can come and raise funds. There are also vendors and things for the kids. She said it is just to bring the community together. She said last year they presented the police

with plaques for appreciation of them and they are hoping to do something for the Fire departments this year. She said all other non-profit organizations are welcome to come. For resident vendors, it is fifteen dollars to set up and it is twenty five dollars for non-resident vendors. She said Mr. Hudacek allowed them to use the old state store to hold an art show.

Mrs. Rittenhouse asked the Mayor if she spoke to Officer Williams about attending some of their meetings. Mayor said she will speak to him. Mrs. Rittenhouse said they were supposed to have a meeting about it but it got put on the side. She said they would like to have a better relationship with the police. She said they feel if the police could come to just a few meetings a year and meet the community to receive feedback that it would help. Mayor said she did speak to them about that, but the police have been really busy. Mrs. Rittenhouse said she understood.

Mrs. Mary Jarret from Center Avenue asked if the audit for 2014 has been started. Mr. Dixon said no. Mr. Coughlin said we received paperwork and Mr. Kochinski said the accountant was tied up but contact has been made and they will be coming in to do the audit. Mr. Coughlin said Zavada is the accountant for the Rails and Trails program and they have the same problem because he is very busy.

Mrs. Jarret said the Mayor did not provide her police report since February. She said that is communication to citizens. Mr. Dixon said Mrs. Jarret is welcome to come in and get it. Mrs. Jarret said the Mayor began providing that information at the council meeting and it was a very nice part of it and citizens need to know how busy they are.

Mrs. Jarret asked if it was possible to get the microphones working so that citizens could hear during the meeting. She said she has a very hard time hearing and she sits up front. Mr. Coughlin said he spoke to someone about bringing up microphone equipment for free. Mrs. Jarret said she spoke to Mr. Kochinski and Mr. Thomas about installing a phone with a connection to 9-1-1 for down by the police station. She said they have been at meetings during the evening and because they are there the doors are unlocked and people come in looking for the police and the police are out on the road. She said there is no way for people to communicate with the police unless they call 9-1-1.

Mr. Mathew Hornick of 52 Turner St. asked about the wall that he spoke about at the last meeting. Mr. Hornick said it is Plymouth Borough property. Mr. Thomas said it is Plymouth Borough's responsibility and the Borough Engineer recently inspected the wall and said the wall is structurally sound and he was supposed to submit a letter to Plymouth Borough Council.

Mr. Hornick said it was mentioned in an earlier discussion that two police officers were added over the last year. He said he was under the impression that the two officers filled vacancies and they were not actually added. Mr. Kochinski said one was a vacancy that was filled and the other was a full time officer added for the school resource officer. He said we used to fill that position with a part time officer and now council fills it with a full time officer. Mr. Kochinski said Wyoming Valley West is reimbursing us with part of the grant. Mr. Hornick asked about the grant from the Department of Justice. Mr. Thomas provided a copy of the information to Mr. Hornick. Mr. Thomas said it is the COPS grant for community policing. Mr. Hornick asked if this could go towards the hiring of more officers. Mr. Thomas said yes, more full time officers. Mr. Hornick said when the grant is finished the cost of the police officer would then fall on the tax payers. Mr. Thomas said yes. Mr. Mahon said unless there is another grant. Mr. Thomas said they will not fund it for five to ten years. Mr. Thomas said Officer Williams is looking into

that. Mr. Coughlin said there was a stipulation years ago, if you hired someone on the COPS FAST, the grant was for three years. He said each year the cost to the municipality would increase until the officer would be fully paid by the municipality by the fourth year and the town would have to keep the officer.

Mr. Mahon asked if that wall was on Ackley St... Mr. Thomas said it is 640 Ackley St. and there is a gas line at the bottom. Mr. Thomas said Mr. Amato said that the wall was structurally sound. Mr. Coughlin asked if that was put in writing. Mr. Thomas said he was supposed to have it at this council meeting.

Mr. Adam Morehart of 4 West River St. spoke about the unprofessional behavior he witnessed tonight. He said he doesn't know what it's going to take for council to get along and do what is necessary. He doesn't expect all of council to get along or to agree but he expects all of council to be professional with each other and put all the pettiness aside. Mr. Morehart said the time that is taken to argue with each other, is time that is being taken away from the taxpayers and the town to make it better. He said he is begging council to get along and to do it consistently because it is making the whole town look bad. He said we think crime is a bad problem but we have newspaper articles because of Mr. Dixon and Mr. Mahon arguing. Mr. Mahon said discussion and debate is good. Mr. Morehart said he is not discouraging that, but it starts to put a black eye on the town over items that they can all sort out together. Mr. Morehart said it is getting out hand and he is not pointing the finger at either of them. Mr. Dixon said he never went to the newspaper the newspaper came to him because someone is calling them. Mr. Dixon said the news reporters are coming here because someone is calling them. He said council is getting along and we are going to get the work done. Mr. Mahon said he was the one who went to the press.

AGENDA VOTING

MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$200,000.00) FROM THE TAX ANTICIPATION FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND TO PAY THE 2015 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE.

MOTION: Mr. Kochinski
SECOND: Mr. Coughlin
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO APPOINT COUNCILMAN MR. STEVE GERKO AND COUNCILMAN MR. JAMES MAHON AS MEMBERS OF THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH FIRE COMMISSION.

ON THE QUESTION: Mr. Mahon said this is the first he heard about this as a motion. He said Mr. Dixon asked him if he wanted to be on the Fire Committee and Mr. Mahon declined. He said he could help Mr. Gerko. Mr. Kochinski said everyone on Council has responsibilities besides Mr. Mahon and he feels it is time for Mr. Mahon to take on some responsibilities.

Mr. Coughlin said if Mr. Mahon honestly does not want to be on the commission then this motion should be tabled until it gets sorted out. Mr. Dixon said he needs help and he is trying to delegate different tasks.

MOTION: Mr. Mahon
SECOND: Mr. Thomas
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO HIRE JORDAN MANGAN AS PART-TIME FIRE DRIVERS AT THE RATE OF TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) PER HOUR

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Kochinski
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO HIRE DAVID PRITCHARD AS PART-TIME FIRE DRIVERS AT THE RATE OF TEN DOLLARS (\$10.00) PER HOUR.

MOTION: Mr. Thomas
SECOND: Mr. Kochinski

ON THE QUESTION: Mr. Coughlin asked where this brings our staffing to. Mr. Mahon asked how many part time drivers are available. Mr. Dixon said Fire Department No. 2 has always been short staffed and there is a resignation expected to come in.

VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO HIRE JOHN ROWLANDS JR. TO WORK AS A PART-TIME TEMPORARY SEASONAL WORKER AT THE RATE OF EIGHT DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS (\$8.50) PER HOUR.

MOTION: Mr. Thomas
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO APPROVE OFFICER MICHAEL THOMAS TO ATTEND THE CARBINE INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION COURSE.

MOTION: Mr. Kochinski
SECOND: Mr. Thomas
VOTE: 6 yes

Mr. Dixon said this training will allow Officer Thomas to give classes and qualify all of Plymouth Borough's officers in small arms.

RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2015: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, HEREBY REQUESTS A GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM GRANT OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO BE USED FOR COMMUNITY PARK IN PLYMOUTH. THE APPLICANT DOES HEREBY DESIGNATE WILLIAM DIXON, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL, AS THE OFFICIAL TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN PLYMOUTH BOROUGH AND THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE AND ASSIST IN OBTAINING THE REQUESTED GRANT FOR COMMUNITY PARK.

Mr. Dixon said if Plymouth Borough receives the grant, then he will have to sign the documents. He said the Recreation Board did the work and he is not in charge of anything.

ON THE QUESTION: Mr. Mahon asked what was being done for basketball. Mr. Dixon said nothing and said this was a grant for Community Park for the baseball field. Mr. Thomas said the Borough Engineer discussed about making expanding and making room for a basketball court up there.

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PLAN TO CHANGE THE ROUTE OF THE SUSQUEHANNA WARRIOR TRAIL WITH THE CHANGE CONSISTING OF THE TRAIL COMING SOUTH FROM PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP INTO THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH CONECTING TO THE LEVEE ON FLAT ROAD.

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Kochinski
VOTE: 6 yes

Mr. Mahon asked if there was a projected time frame. Mr. Coughlin said they are hoping for this year to get up to Canal Park in Plymouth Township or near the old little league field. He said it is being completed in phases as grant money is received and it has been an ongoing project.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AMMUNITION PROPOSAL FROM OFFICERSTORE FOR THE PLYMOUTH BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT.

MOTION: Mr. Kochinski
SECOND: Mr. Thomas
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO PURCHASE 2B STONE FOR RAILROAD STREET.

MOTION: Mr. Mahon
SECOND: Mr. Coughlin
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LOWEST BID FOR THE BEADE ST. SANITARY BACKFLOW VALVE PLACEMENT PROJECT.

MOTION: Mr. Mahon
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO PERFORM NECESSARY WORK TO FIND THE LEAK AT BARNES ST. LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD.

MOTION: Mr. Mahon
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO ALLOW COUNCILMEN MR. COUGHLIN AND MR. KOCHINSKI TO CONTINUE TO RESEARCH THE FEASIBILITY OF A PAVING PROJECT.

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

I HEREBY MOVE TO PLACE LEGAL ADS IN BOTH THE CITIZENS VOICE AND TIMES LEADER FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF BOROUGH MANAGER FOR TWO (2) DAYS. I FURTHER APPROVE THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS OF ANY OF THE APPLICATIONS THEY DEEMED QUALIFIED TO HOLD THE POSITION. ALSO, I MOVE TO PROCEED WITH THE LISTING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2 OF 2015, CREATING THE POSITION OF BOROUGH MANAGER, FIXING THE PROCEDURE FOR COMPENSATION, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE POSITION FOR A VOTE AT THE JUNE 9, 2015 MEETING AND AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT MOTION.

Mr. Coughlin said he wanted to clarify where it says, "I further approve the members," which means all members and said he doesn't want anyone to feel they are being left out.

MOTION: Mr. Gerko
SECOND: Mr. Thomas
VOTE: 5 yes, 1 no

MOTION TO DISTRIBUTE 2015 TAX ALLOTMENT TO PLYMOUTH BOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Kochinski
VOTE: 5 yes, 1 no

MOTION TO DISTRIBUTE 2015 TAX ALLOTMENT TO PLYMOUTH BOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENTS 1, 2 AND 3.

MOTION: Mr. Mahon
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 14, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin
SECOND: Mr. Gerko
VOTE: 6 yes

MOTION TO PAY MAY BILLS

GENERAL FUND: 15-211---15-267

LIQUID FUEL: 15-062---15-072

STREET LIGHT FUND: 15-037---15-045

RECREATION FUND: 15-009---15-010

MOTION: Mr. Coughlin

SECOND: Mr. Gerko

VOTE: 4 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:08 p.m.