

**COUNCIL AGENDA MEETING**  
**Minutes of March 12, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Koerbel called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded eight members of Council present (8), as follows: Mr. Byers, Mr. Bloom, Mr. Christman, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola and Ms. Koerbel – Also present were, Mayor O’Connell, Manager Sample and Engineer Minsterman. (*Absent: Mr. Cindric; no Solicitor present*)

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Bloom, to approve the March 12, 2008 List of Bills. **COMMENTS:** Item #409.37, two Schindler Elevator invoices – Mr. Sample explained that one is the annual maintenance agreement and the other is for a new State inspection requirement; and there is also a separate invoice for the Inspection Supervisor. #409.36-Equitable Gas invoice for borough building; \$3,476.64. Mr. Sample attributed the high heating cost to the need to replace the boiler system in the borough building.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote, (8-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to approve the February 27, 2008 meeting Minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

**EWING ROAD REVIEW**

Manager Sample re-iterated the temporary fix alternatives, being; 1. Close the road, make one way up hill, or 2. alternating stops signs at upper section, and 3. Catch Basin / Sewer work. Preliminary cost estimates were discussed. Engineer Minsterman added that water runoff is causing significant deterioration, and needs to be addressed before attempting to do any surface repairs. Also, the slide/slope area needs to be remedied before the road surface can be repaired/repaved; all of which will be a major investment for the community.

**CITIZEN’S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Dee Christ, 232 Ewing Rd., Maxine Lageman, 242 Ewing Rd., Jennifer O’Leary, 225 Ewing Rd., Michael Suehr, 250 Lincoln St., Sebastian DeDola, 62 Fountain St. - All spoke on the deteriorated condition of Ewing Road; noting that their recollection is that Ewing has not been paved for almost 14 years, the road has been ignored, and conditions have worsened with the use by the CIT Baseball traffic. They do not desire the inconvenience if making any portion of the road one way, and expressed concerns for added traffic on Fountain and other streets in that area. Ms. O’Leary (Crafton Kennels) added that making a portion of the road one way would adversely affect her business, and felt alternating stop signs would be ineffective, and would be ignored by CIT traffic. Mr. Suehr added that this work will need to be planned in phases, starting with the water problem. He noted that the water problem on Ewing is also affecting DeSota Street; it is only 4’ wide in one section, the manhole is in the gutter and water is washing out the road base and has created a rut. He also reported that the gas company used improper material (2 RC) making their repair at the top of Ewing, which contain steel veins; during a freeze, it will lift or rise.

Crystal Boehm, 57 Belvidere – Ms. Boehm inquired about the 1 mill Road Tax. Manager Sample and Ms. Koerbel explained that this 1 mill would have been included in the General Tax, but, as was done in previous years, it has been separated and the 1mill proceeds are dedicated to a fund for road paving and repairs only. This will generate approx. \$200,000. of which \$100,000. will be expended for the prior

year paving debt service; the remainder will be put toward the current years paving program. To do any substantial paving program, would cost approx. \$350,000; one road would cost approx. \$70,000 to \$100,000.

Jacqueline Saslawski, 72 Belvidere – Ms. Saslawski also inquired about the Road Tax fund, and indicated that her street, Belvidere, also needs repaired. It is brick and has several recessed areas. She also inquired if the tax millage would decrease once the debt service is paid off. Manager Sample indicated that the debt service is over a five year period; so for atleast the next five years it will not be decreased. Federal funds are shrinking, but he has been in touch with various representatives and has met with Congressman Murphy regarding Ewing Road reconstruction.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

*None*

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

*None*

### **OLD BUSINESS and NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a. **2008 Paving Program** – As indicated in Gateway's letter, costs are estimated higher for the paving of the two bridge approach areas. Manager Sample indicated that we could possibly piggyback on a road program with Ingram for unit cost savings, and since a portion of the paving, on the Noble Avenue side, is partially in the City of Pittsburgh, we are waiting to hear back from Pittsburgh about the possibility of them reimbursing us for that portion.
- b. **Rock Slide on Chartiers Avenue** – Public Works has removed the boulder, and a Jersey barrier has been placed to contain any other falling rocks, providing a 6 ft. buffer area, and has partially closed the lane. Mr. Byers inquired about removing the debris field as a remedy. Engineer Minsterman indicated that the debris field buildup may actually be supporting the base and cautioned against removing it. Steps can be taken for short term emergency remedy, but will require long term maintenance. They will consult with contractors for pros, cons and cost. Mr. Papinchak asked if there was a gas line in the rockslide area; it was the consensus that there are none.
- c. **Engineering Interviews** – Two interviews are scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 6pm, and one interview, with Gateway, scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, prior to the Council meeting.
- d. **Ewing Road Review** – *Addressed earlier.*
- e. **Parking Issues** – Manager Sample will continue to research these issues and should be addressed this summer.
- f. **Public Works Dump Truck** – The new truck should be in on Monday; accessories and special lighting, etc. being installed. In lieu of the insurance company declaring the recently wrecked truck totaled, Manager Sample will be getting specs for another new, replacement truck, to also purchase under the 4 year lease/purchase program. The insurance proceeds, \$14,000.+ will cover this years lease installment.
- g. **Junior Council Person** – Refer to Business Agenda: Anna Barger.
- h. **Arbor Day/Clean-up** – Ms. Koerbel announced that Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> would be Crafton Clean-up day, in conjunction with the Great PA Cleanup. She also noted that arrangements are being made to also celebrate Arbor Day in Crafton on that same day. Manager Sample added that Carlynton groups have been contacted and there will be participation by the Honor Society members. Mrs. Sappie added that the Rec Board met and will meet on

April 19<sup>th</sup> to clean-up the old putt-putt property. It is their desire to have that property become a community garden, made available to the schools, scouts and other youth programs, for planting and upkeep of their garden patch, since it is a safe, fenced-in area.

- i. **Shade Tree Commission** – Ms. Koerbel reported that one Shade Tree Commission seat will be expired at the end of March. Most duties are with regard to the planting and caring for borough trees and the spring flower gardens. Any one interested in the position should provide a letter of interest to the borough secretary's office, indicating any related qualifications.

## **BUSINESS AGENDA**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mrs. Viola, to appoint Carlynton student Anna Barger as Junior Council Person in accordance with PSAB guidelines and Resolution No. 2006-03.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0)

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Christman, to appoint the firm of Campbell, Durrant and Beatty as special labor counsel.

MOTION carried by a Six Yes, Two No (Donovan, Viola) Roll Call Vote (6-2).

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Donovan, to authorize the proper Borough Official to proceed on the purchase/lease-purchase of a new Public Works Dump Truck, to be paid for from the General Fund Budget.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (8-0).

## **SET AGENDA BUSINESS FOR REGULAR MEETING (March 27, 2008)**

1. 2008 Paving Program
2. Chartiers Avenue Rock Slide

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mr. Byers** – Reminded persons interested in the Shade Tree Commission position to provide their letters of interest to the borough.

**Mr. Ogden** – Thanked those who have donated to the Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry, and reminded everyone that donations can still be dropped off at the Bradford Presbyterian Church, at the Library or at his (Bill's) Gym.

**Mrs. Sappie** – Reminded everyone that there is a senior citizen dinner scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. She reported that the Rec Board had it's reorganization meeting, and will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 pm. They had discussed the Grant funds and proposed purchases for the senior program, to also include a bus trip to the Meadowlands. She re-iterated their plans for a community garden. She noted that, at the meeting, July Patterson, Library rep, reported that the shelving was donated by Upper St. Clair for the Library expansion, a Reading Program is planned to start May 31<sup>st</sup>, and inquired if there is any way to provide additional parking for Library patrons.

**Mr. Christman** – Reported that a Crafton Celebrates meeting was held, plans are in the works for bigger and better this year.

**Mayor O'Connell** – Reported that, per a previous animal control report, the deer did not survive but the hawk did. She noted that Crime Watch is changing the Opt-In service; changing to a new vendor. If currently enrolled, you will receive instructions to Opt-In again. She reported that the Officers are fully certified to use tasers. She also reported that a theft case was successfully prosecuted, where Chief Rost and Officer Harvison were the arresting officers. One of the victims received restitution and as a show

of his appreciation has made a donation to the Food Pantry on behalf of the police department. She noted that the Allegheny County Mayor's Association meeting may be changed to May 15<sup>th</sup>, due to a date conflict. Mayor O'Connell inquired on a borough policy, as to whether or not local businesses are used for services or materials. Manager Sample stated that there is no policy, but whenever possible does try to use local businesses; cost estimates would also be considered as well. He further explained that, with regard to the wrecked truck, the dealer Woltz and Wind had originally been contacted for an estimate because they had done prior work (warranty and other).

Mr. Bloom – Reported that he had attended the REMS Board meeting. They need a new structure, and future fundraising and mailings are planned. He commented on the Ewing Road situation; that while reviewing the borough's finances and budget, he is in awe of the skyrocketing costs, that to take 1<sup>st</sup> steps to remedy some of problems on Ewing and keep looking for funding.

Mrs. Viola – No Report

Mr. Donovan – Reported that, on Good Friday, firefighters will be participating in a fundraiser call "Jump on the Truck". The volunteer fire companies need money, as the State does not provide enough financial assistance. Mr. Ogden added, the CVFD, using Grant funds, now has a small fitness center, will be getting physicals – that the members are very motivated and take their job seriously. The fitness center is also being made available to members of our Police Dept.

#### **ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Boehm, Belvidere St. – With regard to the CVFD, commended them, and all firefighters. She recently had a fire emergency at her home, and sincerely appreciated their efforts and performance. She noted that the police were on the scene within approx. 3 minutes and CVFD within 10 minutes. She stated that you don't really know the true value of a local fire department until you need them. She also noted that the problem was their HDTV Comcast Cable Box; and to be aware, that it has high voltage and runs extremely hot, and is made of mostly plastic parts.

Mr. Suehr – Inquired if the borough would try to attract any small contractors for the paving work at the bridge approaches; they may not be as busy and could possibly provide a better price.

Mr. Papinchak – Inquired if the borough would look into the comments made previously by Mr. Suehr, claiming that the contractor for Equitable Gas did not use proper materials for the Ewing repair work. Manager Sample stated that he would contact the contractor.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Christman, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (8-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary