



The Borough of Elverson
101 South Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 206
Elverson, PA 19520
Phone (610) 286-6420
Fax (610) 286-5950

March 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Elverson Borough Council was held on Tuesday March 4, 2008. The meeting was called to order by Council President Gilbert Bielefeld, who led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Lord's Prayer.

ATTENDANCE: Gil Bielefeld, Merle Stoltzfus, Arleigh Hegarty, Roy France, Melissa Griesser, Cathy Daprile, Esther Prosser. Also in attendance: Peggy Kandle –Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Stabolepszy-Borough Engineer, Darrell Gible, Planning Commission Chairman and John Mohl- Municipal Authority Absent: Paul McEwen

MINUTES: Motion was made by Roy France and seconded by Melissa Griesser to accept minutes as corrected. *Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made by Merle Stoltzfus and seconded by Esther Prosser to accept report and pay bills as presented. *Motion carried.* Motion made by Merle Stoltzfus and seconded by Esther Prosser Motion to transfer \$75,000 from the MM Reserve to Cash Management Account. *Motion carried.*

CORRESPONDENCE:

Bob Cook of Elverson Supply sent letter regarding demolition fee. Bob Cook would like the fee reduced. Errol Kring stated that the fee is really an escrow fee and the overage funds will be returned. Bob was then agreeable.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Sam Resnick, Troop 37 – made presentation for proposed Eagle Scout Project to improve and increase storage in meeting room used by various non-profit groups. Motion by Melissa Griesser and seconded by Cathy Daprile to accept project *Motion carried.*

Beth Stoltzfus made a presentation on the burning ordinance issue. She suggested starting a borough composting project. She also suggested a vacuum truck might be an idea for leaf removal. Her request is that council reconsiders a burning ban. She suggested burn barrels, no Sunday burning and daytime only. Beth will volunteer to have a block-education meeting regarding burning. She suggested that cleanup might become too hard for people. Beth's final request is that council please consider restricting burning rather than banning.

TVFD – Ryan Rhode, Tom Hornberger appeared on behalf of the Twin Valley Fire Company. Mark pointed out that nothing is being developed in the Borough. The school property will still comply with all the regulations. The plan is in conditional final approval with Caernarvon Twp., Berks. The NPDES and other documents are in process. All the stormwater drainage is in Berks County and is part of the development plan. Motion by Esther Prosser and seconded by Roy France to approve recommendation for subdivision per Chester Co. Planning Commission recommendations.

Springfield Village Charles Haws, Esq. (in Bill Colby's absence), Ted Gacomis of E.B. Walsh. Gary McEwen spoke requesting assistance from council regarding road width issues, landscape design. Gary feels the conditions of the 18' width are being met; 2 waiver requests – site triangles (reduce from 150 to

75 feet) and 75 ft down to 45, waive requirement of 50' paved turnaround at end of each two alleys; landscape along property line of farm. Gary would like evergreens rather than Planning Commission request for low growing shrubs. The balance of the issues would be solvable. Gary feels that paved at 20' would narrow down swales, but Gary feels it would be a traffic calming advantage. He pointed out that an alley turn has been widened from 12' to 15'. Darrell Gible pointed out that 24' is not even wide enough for 2 cars to pass with a car parked. Darrell pointed out that backing out of garage will be difficult. According to the Stipulated Settlement Agreement, they (Berks Homes) feel alleys should only be 12' wide. Gary reported that they did a trial with fire trucks the same size as the TVFD trucks. Mark Stabolepszy pointed out that fire trucks can use both lanes in an emergency. Mark indicated he can't see why 20' streets would cause a hardship. Atty. Haws pointed out that 18' is what they agreed upon. Dave Malman pointed out that cooperation on both sides is important. Gary pointed out that 2' wider creates less green area. Dave Malman asked Ted Gacomis for his experience in municipalities with 18' feet. Merle pointed out that 20' widths have been an issue since Council signed the agreement and would like to stop the division in the community. He suggested that if 20' can be done, then let's do it and get the project moving forward. Mark pointed out that the main concern is not the special event, but everyday occurrences. He doesn't agree that 18' is wide enough. Ted suggested that they might be able to compromise to some degree, but they'll need to go back to their planner. Dave Malman suggested that, if the streets were made narrower and then one-way, that might be away around the problem. Regarding trees and screening, it was suggested that a buffer could be adapted.

Motion to accept a 60 day extension from Berks Homes was made by Merle Stoltzfus and seconded by Roy France. *Motion carried.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Discussion of landscaping contracts was tabled until the April meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Cathy Daprile presented report and requested council's support of potential projects, including Arbor Day presentation of a tree as a gift from the residents, to involve the schools, businesses, etc. to be held on Friday April 25th. The second event would be a concert in the park on June 28th – an 80 piece concert band.

Motion by Merle Stoltzfus and seconded by Melissa Griesser to support the two projects. *Motion carried.* Cathy also presented possible other events. Tennis players would like a backboard for practicing.

Signage - Motion by Esther Prosser and seconded by Melissa Griesser to purchase park signs as presented previously. *Motion carried.*

STREETS & LIGHTS: Roy France reported that the committee met on Feb. 28th. The discussions were primarily concerned with the requirements of the committee and appropriate contact persons. The committee reviewed the Road Maintenance Program developed by SSM, crosswalk and street signage, PPL contacts and mailboxes. Some contractors who have satisfactorily completed work for the committee in the past were identified. It was decided that a survey should be made next month and a schedule developed to complete the items at the February council meeting, plus new items discovered at this committee meeting.

RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE: We have received a letter from the county, reminding each community the County Flow Control Ordinance is still in effect and waste is to be delivered to the appropriate site.

ZONING OFFICER Report Included in packet. Errol Kring reported on letters that were sent to residents regarding property maintenance issues. Errol will address the issue of cars on a resident's

property.

John Morrow, a resident of Conestoga Road, spoke to the issue of burning, on behalf of another resident who was burning on Thanksgiving, indicating it will not happen again.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Quaker/Jacobs sewage planning module is ready for submission. Motion was made by Roy France and seconded by Cathy Daprile, to adopt said Resolution 2008-01. *Motion carried.*

PLANNING COMMISSION: No topics discussed other than Berks Homes mentioned above.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY: John Mohl reported the sewer rates were increased 5.3% in order to meet budget requirements. Mediation scheduled for March 19th on the litigation. DEP reduced fine to \$30,000 (from 37,500) and MABE is negotiating with the operator who was working on it at the time. The operator was using granular alum and it wasn't working as well. The operator's business has been taken over by Artesian.

COMMUNICATIONS - Esther Prosser stated she is looking for new articles for the newsletter and will seek advertising sponsors for it.

REVITALIZATION: Merle Stoltzfus gave report on future grant possibilities – 75% would be paid by the county with the balance paid by the Borough. He pointed out that we need to update our comprehensive plan first. Discussion of improving the plantings in the islands.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Arleigh Hegarty, Council representative for this committee, reported on five break-ins in Summerfield. Gil reported they found a break-in tool and has been turned over to police. Arleigh gave report on the recent traffic summary. He would like council to consider purchase of speed units and possibly share expense with another municipality. Next Neighborhood Watch meeting is 3/19 at 10:00 AM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion of concerns regarding Please Wash Me proposed project.
Gil provided maps of the area from MABA.

NEW BUSINESS: - There was brief discussion of Trails & Rails program.

Motion to adjourn was made by Esther Prosser and seconded by Roy France. *Motion carried.*
Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret H. Kandle
Secretary/Treasurer