



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2015 @2:00 PM
159 MONROE STREET
PROSPECT, PA 16052

CALL TO ORDER: President Bill Marciniak called the special meeting of the Prospect Borough Council to order @2:00PM with a salute to the flag then with a moment of silent meditation for the people in France. The following Council members were present: Sam Wagner, Mary Harmon, Bob Boice, Dave Stellfox and Mayor Jim Butler. Pete Bryan and Glen Gitzen were absent. KLH Engineer; Eric Tissue was also in attendance.

Mr. Wagner made motion to purchase parts for the Wilson Pump Station; one pump parts only, in the amount of \$598.50 and to purchase parts for the McNaughton Station; one pump parts only, in the amount of \$841.00; Mr. Boice 2nd. Motion carried.

Mr. Boice said the cold patch on Kennedy Road was completed to fill in the potholes.

Mr. Wagner made motion for the Prospect Borough to donate \$100.00 to the Fire Department for cookies for the Kid's Christmas Party; Mr. Stellfox 2nd. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was no changes to the November 2, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Mr. Boice made motion to approve the November 2, 2015 Regular Council Meeting Minutes; Mr. Wagner 2nd.

Mr. Tissue had nothing to report.

Mr. Wagner mentioned to Council that the McNaughton Pump Station repairs were all completed.

Mr. Boice reported that the ditch along Wilson Road near the catch basin was dug out and leveled.

Mr. Boice said the emergency repairs to the culvert on Wilson Road was done.

Ms. Harmon told council of what was discussed with Keith Gabage from PA American Water of why he wanted to meet with us today. There was some discussion between the

council about PA American Water coming in to discuss bringing water into the community as in the beginning they were talking about taking over the wastewater. Ms. Harmon said she only knew that the new proposition was they were going to do the line from Route 488 up to north of Route 528 to go to the park. This would be a \$3.2 million dollar project and PA American would be able to do project at no cost to resident but they would have to have mandatory tap in; cost does not include the lateral. The water would only be available to possibly one fourth of the town and then in the future would need a new agreement for the next phase. Ms. Harmon told council and residents to ask questions but to be courteous. Mayor Butler asked Mr. Tissue if other communities had a flat rate plus meter billing and Mr. Tissue responded "yes". Mr. Stellfox responded all residents should get fair and equitable costs. Mr. Marciniak asked the visitors to please recognize themselves before speaking and to make sure that they sign in.

Keith Gabage, Senior Director of Business Development of PA American Water introduced himself and Jay Lucas. Mr. Gabage stated that they originally had come in for a Special Meeting on September 22nd to discuss taking over our wastewater system but residents seemed more interested in the water system. Then in October he had met with the Sewage Committee and the focus then changed over to water. Mr. Gabage said that DCNR is the driver in this as well. DCNR have been working with DEP the past two years as they have ongoing issues with their water. Mr. Gabage could not express himself that we needed to follow the Borough Code before making an agreement. Mr. Gabage explained that DCNR has close to \$1 million dollars to fund this project. Mr. Lucas told council that the each fire hydrant would cost the borough twenty (\$20) per month. Mr. Gabage said that the borough needs an ordinance passed based on the whole borough or specific streets. DCNR would like an answer from the borough by the end of this year. Mr. Gabage went over the loan procedure (attached) and that the rate now was at 1.8%. He said that this is Phase I and it is good design and the scope is economical to the residents. Phase I project would have no cost to contribute due to DCNR funding other than their lateral: any future Phases anyone would have to contribute to costs. Mayor Butler said it should be as everybody pays or nobody. Mr. Lucas told the council that DCNR was putting up close to \$1 million dollars which contributed to a smaller group of residents not having to pay anything. Consensus was to do for everyone not just a group. Mr. Stellfox said obviously this will manufacture more wastewater. Mr. Gabage said they are still looking at the wastewater. It was discussed thirty (30) years ago DCNR wanted us to get involved in the sewage system and we did and look what issues we have now. Mayor Butler said it looks like our leverage is with DCNR. Mr. Gabage said that DCNR has no ulterior motive for this. The council basically told Mr. Gabage is that we need to pass this by the residents. We would have to let them know that they would be paying extra; in realty this is something the Borough has to deal with. Mr. Gabage stressed some important benefits to give to the residents having public water: water tested daily, will reduce electric bill, will increase value of their property

and have fire hydrant protection. Mr. Stellfox said this is a hard sell as we have an aging community on a limited retirement budget. Mr. Lucas suggested highlighting the areas we would like to have water and they could get us the costs but now these costs could be anywhere between \$1,000.00 to \$3,000.00. Mr. Gabage asked us to do the following: highlight areas where we want water, need customer names and addresses, parcel numbers, noted residential or commercial and the number of EDU's. PA American Water then will come up with a cost per resident but they will probably have nothing to report by the end of this year. Mr. Gabage mentioned once we decide to go with all residents getting water each resident would need to complete a loan form; this protects PA American Water. Mr. Gabage said the resident only pays if has a water meter; no water no bill at all. If a resident at this time has no sewage and we are including them in for the water then when counting the EDU's just use one (1) EDU; just like we do for sewage. Mr. Marciniak said there would need to be a town hall meeting for the residents to hear all information and costs. When the sewage system was put in it tore the town apart. Mr. Stellfox said the borough has a declining income base and most are elderly and to try to tell them they will now have two (2) bills (sewage and water), when they did not want it to begin with will be difficult to sell. The only way to sell this is to take over the sewage system and bring in water. Mr. Gabage said to determine how much the borough would need to contribute it would be better first for us to consult our solicitor. Mr. Gabage also stated if we lose the \$1 million contribution from DCNR this will also increase the costs to the residents. Mr. Gabage said for DCNR to fund their entire project would be \$2 million. Mayor Butler said DCNR want to get out of the water and sewage business. Mr. Gabage said that once all paperwork is done it will be more than a year before the shovel is into the ground. Mr. Raisley and Mr. Robinson, speaking for Mrs. Robinson, both had concerns as their developments would possibly be in Phase II. Mr. Gabage mentioned that for Phase II a tank would be necessary; another \$150,000.00 to be calculated into the residents costs. Mr. Gabage expressed that this Phase I project was designed for density. Mr. Marciniak said we need more from information all around, the people need to know what they will be paying, need an ordinance which would take a couple months and that we need to do this for the greater good of the Borough. Mr. Gabage is to email Ms. Harmon to all information they will need to go back to their engineers to come up with a cost. Once this is complete he will come back and the council would like to revisit this report to include the wastewater system. Mr. Gabage would like to thank everyone for their time and to all have a Happy Thanksgiving! A resident asked about residents not paying for their sewage system and if had their water system how this works; Mr. Gabage said they would turn off the water for non-payment of sewage. Mr. Gabage could not stress enough that if DCNR does not want to wait we could lose their 1 million contribution; DCNR has told them they wanted an answer by the end of this year. Mr. Gabage told council PA American Water could go to DCNR with them or without but recommended to wait till they have the new revised costs. Mr. Gabage said the council can consult with whoever they wish. Mr. Gabage said survey

or meeting was up to the council but he would contribute toward a meeting and he will revise his costs per EDU.

ADJOURN: 3:47PM. No further business at hand, motion made by Mr. Stellfox to adjourn; Mr. Wagner 2nd. Motion carried.