

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
FEBRUARY WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, February 26, 2008
Page 1 of 3**

The February Work Session for Borough Council was conducted on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. The Meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were President Gerrie Carey, Mr. Roy Davis, Mrs. Kathy Drake, Mrs. Barbara Evans and Mr. Herman Johnson. Also attending were Borough Manager/Secretary, Virginia Kehoe and Solicitor Ernest Preate. There being a quorum present the Meeting was called to order by Council President.

WORK SESSION:

**CS-SA Joint Sewer Authority Update
Equipment Purchase
Dedication of Lines to Authority**

Mr. Joe Guzek gave Council an update regarding the Sewer Authority. He stated that he has only attended one Sewer Authority meeting since his recent appointment. He explained that with the recent weather situation there has been a large amount of storm water infiltrating the sewer pipes which has been causing problems with DEP. There has been discussion of ways to upgrade the system so that only sewage runs through the plant and we can avoid sewage bypassing the plant and going directly into the stream. Virginia Kehoe stated that there have already been two bypasses this month and that citations will be given for any further bypasses. Such citations would be incurred by the Sewer Authority, but the costs would work their way down to the Borough. There was further discussion regarding ways to deal with the problems of DEP and ways to determine where the extra flowage is coming from, such as illegal sump pumps.

Virginia Kehoe stated that she had spoken with David O'Neil and stated that the Borough has been using a jet vac constantly and that South Abington must also be. She asked how he would feel if the three municipalities, through the Sewer Authority, purchased equipment which is used on a regular basis and have the Sewer Authority take ownership of such equipment. Bob Davis of the sewer authority believes this would be a huge benefit and asked Virginia to look into pricing, which her staff is doing. She stated that getting a camera truck and a jet vac would immediately be saving the municipalities money. Mr. Davis also felt this effort would impress DEP by showing that we are trying to remedy the situation and encouraged Steve Evers and Joe Guzek to push for this.

There was discussion regarding communications between South Abington's David O'Neil and Virginia Kehoe. There was also discussion of new building projects and permitting, etc. It was decided that Joe Guzek would meet with Virginia Kehoe outside of the meeting so that Virginia could help Joe get up to date on the past actions of the Sewer Authority and they could work together toward some solutions and action for the future.

Hepatitis Shots

Virginia Kehoe expanded on last meeting's discussion of Hepatitis immunizations. Tim Roland, who was willing to give the immunizations for only the cost of the serum, did some research and deferred as his cost was \$89.00, which was more than what Allied was charging and virtually the same as what Dr. Karaha is charging. Virginia Kehoe provided Council with all updated information and suggested they be prepared to make a final decision at next week's meeting. The sentiment shared by Gerri Carey and Herman Johnson that Dr. Karaha would be the best choice. Virginia Kehoe stated that she would place this on the Agenda for March's meeting.

CDBG usages

Ernie Cicilioni from CDBG was at the previous Council meeting and that the Borough must update their Needs Assessment. Virginia explained that this is a "wish list" of where we'd like to start focusing our attentions and options for the future. She stated that they are looking to fund some storm water projects and several other projects and that Council needs to decide what they want to prioritize. Roy Davis suggested that Council defers to Virginia and for Virginia to meet with Ernie and come back to Council with some realistic suggestions. Mr. Johnson

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
FEBRUARY WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, February 26, 2008
Page 2 of 3**

suggested Virginia Kehoe meet with Ernie but also to work with DPW Manager Neil Bartholme and the Borough Council's DPW committee. Mr. Davis stated that he trusts the judgment of both Virginia Kehoe & Neil Bartholme and knows they work well together and would come up with reasonable recommendations and that this would help expedite the process much quicker.

There was discussion of using CDBG money to determine what remedy needs to be done and then to remedy the situation with the flooding that impact the United Cerebral Palsy building and the High Rise on Bedford Street. Virginia Kehoe gave an update on the details of this situation. Roy Davis suggested Council also defer to Virginia Kehoe to work with DEP as she knows what needs to be done with the situation.

Grandview Street

There was discussion regarding the wall at Grandview Street and the residents' desire for decorative dry wall, which they pay for. Clarks Summit Borough would put in pipes filled with concrete for the base of this dry wall.

There was extensive discussion regarding the Nextel litigation as well as Grandview litigation. There was discussion of using mediation for the Nextel litigation in an effort to find an amicable solution and save money. There was discussion of ways to obscure the tower with trees or flag poles.

Cost of street lights – locate one at Highland Associates, one at 1st Presbyterian Church

Virginia Kehoe explained that it would cost between \$16.00 and \$20.00 a month and PPL would install the poles free of charge because Clarks Summit Borough would not own the poles. Herman Johnson shared his opinion that if you do this for one you must do it for all and it could become a burden. Virginia Kehoe stated that she believes that if PPL installs the lights for free, that those who requested the lights (Highland and the Church) could possibly be billed separately and incurs the cost of the lights.

“Undedicated” Alleys

Virginia Kehoe stated that Council needs to make a decision as to what they want to do with Undedicated Alley's, as the Borough's costs for maintaining such alleys is becoming increasingly greater. Virginia stated that at one time there was discussion of an Ordinance which would state that the Borough is vacating all alleys which have not been dedicated and would no longer accept responsibility for them. It was requested that Virginia Kehoe collect a list of all of the alleys for Council. Virginia explained that she could tell Council all of the alleys but that Title Research is needed in order to be certain as to who owns which alleys and those which are undedicated. Barbara Evans asked Virginia to forward a listing of those alleys and she might be able to have the research done.

Stop Signs on Grandview & Bedford Streets

Virginia Kehoe stated that in order to place a stop sign on Grandview a traffic study would be necessary and the numbers received in the traffic study could be used against the Borough in the Grandview hearing. Virginia also stated that a traffic study of Bedford Street would not likely be able to justify the placement of a stop sign and therefore would be a waste of money to pay for the traffic study. There was discussion of placing stop signs without enforcing them, which does not require a traffic study, and could serve to slow traffic.

Replacement of Doc Doherty on Zoning Hearing Board

Herman Johnson nominated John Jefferies of Highland Avenue and asked that the nomination be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

\$50 monthly fee for tax collectors software

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
FEBRUARY WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, February 26, 2008
Page 3 of 3**

Virginia Kehoe explained that Judy Belch is asking Council to pay \$50.00 a month for tax software that the school is currently providing her. Virginia Kehoe explained that Council is not required to pay for this and that moreover it wanders into the realm of violating ethics law by asking for a benefit that is not authorized in a state statute. There are arguments for this being cost justified, as it allows for the tax collector to generate second notices, etc. Mr. Herman Johnson stated that he believes if Judy Belch ran for office, she should provide herself with the tools she needs. He asked Virginia to look into local boroughs in our county to find out if they are providing their tax collectors with this. Virginia stated that she had already sent a notice to all of the counties in the state and did not receive a positive response.

UCC Appeal Board

Virginia explained that if anyone appeals a building permit decision we do not have an appeals process, which is required by law. In surveying surrounding communities nearly nobody does have an appeals process. It would be Virginia's recommendation that we perhaps try to share an appeals board with Abington Township and Ransom Township. She would like to entertain a motion permitting this at March's meeting.

DUMP SITE AT CLARKS SUMMIT STATE HOSPITAL

There was discussion regarding using the dump site at Clarks Summit State Hospital. Virginia Kehoe stated that she is working on solutions but wanted to draw attention to the fact that the Borough has been asked not to dump any more. Mr. Davis spoke and stated that he is a personal friend of Tom Commerford and will look into the situation.

EMA

Herman Johnson thanked Virginia Kehoe for the new equipment which has been purchased for EMA. He also requested the EMA use the old police car for EMA and use EMA's budget to fix up the car to working order. When EMA is not using the car the CEO and the Borough manager would have access to the car. Mr. Davis questioned the necessity of this. Mr. Herman defended his point and stated that all of EMA's equipment could be kept in the vehicle and asked that it be considered by Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before Council the Work Session adjourned at approximately 9:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Katie M. Bower
Borough Secretary**

**Germaine Carey
Council President**