

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH WORKSHOP MEETING

**Held at 101 W. High Street on
March 15th, 2022**

Council President Bruce Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Council Members: James Mellon Sr Connie Keller, Bruce Edwards, Wayne Miller, Mayor Jennifer Gettle (arrive at 7:55pm), Cindy Hopple, Hector Feliciano, Police Chief John Pontician. Kraft Codes- Jeff Fiant (left at 8:15 pm), Solicitor Andrew George, Engineer via phone, Jim McCarthy, TPD- Kevin Richardson, Maintenance Manager Carl Liptak, Borough Manager Nick Imbesi and Secretary Rachel Brown.

ABSENT: Josh Fidler

BILLS TO BE PAID

Council members reviewed and discussed the list of bills to be paid. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed in the amount of \$43,561.68. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

Motion moved by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Ms. Keller to pay the current payroll. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Edwards addressed everyone in the room about the Cold Summit Farmers Preserve. The project was brought to the Borough's attention in April/May 2021. The project is in Millcreek Twp, Lebanon County. In June of 2021 Marion Twp and Womelsdorf jointly hired traffic planning and design to look over the traffic that would impact our communities. Both Marion Twp and Womelsdorf did respond in writing to PennDOT and developer that we both had concerns about the impact the traffic is going to make. In November of 2021, PennDOT told the developer of Cold Summit to meet with Marion Twp and Womelsdorf. On December 14th 2021 there was meeting that occurred with members of Womelsdorf, Marion Twp, Engineer, Solicitor and the developers of Cold Summit. On February 8th 2022 a second meeting was held with Womelsdorf, Marion Twp, Heidelberg Twp, Engineer, Solicitor and Developer, the Developers Engineer and their Solicitor. What the Borough has done is hired TPD, strongly dissatisfaction to Cold Summit with what the increase of traffic will do the towns. We spoke with the developer and asked if there were alternate routes that they considered. We also contacted our State Representatives that have also contacted PennDOT. One of the things going forward is one the we need help from the public is a writing campaign, our beliefs is everyone should be writing to their State Reps and PennDOT District 5 (Berks County), PennDOT District 8 (Lebanon County). With those letters to PennDOT, cc a copy to the Governor's Office. Also write letters to the County Commissioners of both Lebanon County and Berks County. The zoning and planning are in Lebanon County, Millcreek Twp. If it gets out that this is a big writing campaign the more letters the better. All addresses will be posted on the Borough website. Please write a personal letter. There will be no form letter provided.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Paul Blunt – 301 W. High St – Discussed concern about the traffic and large tractor trailer trucks that Cold Summit Farmers Preserve facility in Millcreek Twp is going to bring to the Borough. Mr. Blunt provided a document on the Traffic Impact Study from Langan. Mr. Blunt reviewed the document and pointed out specific numbered bullets. He is concerned about the truck traffic. He lives directly on the corner of 3rd (419) and High St. Mr. Edwards informed Mr. Blunt that we agree with everything he is saying and are upset about this just as much as he is. Another guest asked what the number was for the additional vehicle traffic. Solicitor Andrew George confirmed total number of trips is 1,400. Mr. Blunt does not have any questions he just wished he would have been contacted before now, so he could have supplied some of this information to the Borough. Mr. Edwards explained to Mr. Blunt when the project started out it was primarily and did not know where the project was going. The Borough should have been proactive and sent letters to the residents it was going to effect of those four corners. The Borough was unaware that majority of the public was unaware of the project, since it was brought to our attention by the residents of Stonecroft. Mr. Richardson from TPD wanted to clarify a couple things for Mr. Blunt. 490 truck trips 245 trucks that are going to go through the intersections. The review letter that Langan received from PennDOT. Langan is the traffic Engineer for the applicant (Cold Summit). They went through process and sent a scoping application to PennDOT. They got the packet back and #1 that they need concurrence from Womelsdorf on the scope of the study. The concurrence that they need is for TPD to review the traffic study and make sure the scope of the study is appropriate, that is the concurrence that they are looking for. Solicitor Andrew George explained to him that were only directed to provide input by PennDOT. Jim McCarthy via phone went into more detail as to what the concurrence that was needed from Womelsdorf. TPD did a thorough review of Cold Summit's traffic study, they issued a number of comments and the last comment that had was the impact of the trucks on the Borough's intersections. Mr. Richardson has spoken with Cold Summit's Engineer on the way over and they are looking at alternatives to coming up with improvements; such as increasing the radii at some of the intersections. Solicitor Andrew George express that Millcreek Twp. did not know the extent of the truck traffic, they thought that most of it was coming in and out on the railway. Mr. Edwards let everyone know that the letter campaign is extremely important.

Eileen Zerbe- 106 S. Pine St – no comment

Stonecroft Residents- David Shonk, Robert Muller, John Surie, Joe Derr, Mark Brophy. Mr. Derr questioned the paperwork he received in his RTK request. He thought he was not given a document that they were talking about. He then apologized for accusing and was in fact given the document in question. Engineer Jim McCarthy explained to him that the only documents that were produced were provided to him, everything else was verbal conversations. Mr. Brophy ask about a rumor of a PennDOT extension until April. There is no word on that yet. Mr. Richardson from TPD they do not have a permit for their driveway yet. They need a highway occupancy permit So, therefore if they did have permit, they would have to extend it because if they do not build within the year, they must extend the permit. Mr. Brophy is majorly concerned about the environmental effects of the facility with the local houses and elementary school nearby.

Iva Brooks – Newmanstown – explained that they recently went through this with Newberg, no one wanted Newberg there that is now a development.

John Barnhart 542 W High St – Questioned the confidentiality of the project and why has the Borough not notified the people this project is going to effect. Mr. Edwards addressed it and reaterated what he said to Mr. Blunt that Borough Council was unaware that the community was not talking about it. Jim McCarthy via phone expressed that if PennDOT did not tell them to come and talk to us, we would have no idea what is going on since it is a different district.

Jamie Wolgemuth – Millcreek Twp. – no comment

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/ AUTHORITIES/COMMISSIONS –

Maintenance Manager- Carl Liptak- Agreement for GIS Mapping with the County of Berks. The Sewer and Water Authority both have it. So does the County and the State. McCarthy has maps that we can have as well. **Motion** made by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Feliciano for signing in with the County for mapping and receiving current maps from the Engineer, Sewer Authority and Water Authority. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hopple wants to acknowledge Carl and Trondell and everyone who has helped clean and go through old paperwork. A lot of interesting things were found. All the permanent books are bounded and up to date. Moving on the basement next.

KRAFT CODES- Gives monthly report with discussion of properties. Discussion on 510 W. Franklin St.

BOROUGH MANAGER Discussion on MS4. Bank accounts have been fixed and they are refunded the \$25.00 that the accounts were charged.

MR. MELLON- Discussion on the 2022 Road Projects with reimbursements from the Water Authority and UGI the Borough would be able to repave all four road sections that were discussed. With reimbursements and the Borough budget total for the 2022 Road Project is \$112,439.00. UGI provided a contract that Solicitor Andrew George needs to look over. **Motion** made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to start advertising and get bids for the 2022 Road Project. Motion carried unanimously. UGI is going out to replace gas lines on High St. from Water St all the way to 4th St it's going to be started late 2022 early 2023 timeframe. They will be milling and overlay the road curb to curb when the project is complete. They will be replacing some laterals as well. It is going to be very disruptive to High St.

MS. KELLER- Discussed events going on at the library,

MRS. HOPPLE- Temporary handicap parking spot at 16 E High is reapplying for a new application when she receives her permanent spot. Receives a bid for the repair of the Veteran's Memorial. \$18,500.00 to re-mortar, shorten the arms with a bench and black slate on top. Going to speak with our engineer Jim McCarthy and have him or a member of his team look at the memorial and retaining wall to get their perspective. Waiting for a couple more quotes still. Waiting for a call back from Bethany Children's Home for their Pool Memberships. Bethany is requesting 20 memberships that are transferable between children and chaperons with a discounted rate. **Motion** made by Mr. Feliciano, seconded by Mr. Mellon for 20 pool memberships for Bethany Children's Home at a discount rate of \$60.00 per membership with a total of \$1,200.00. Motion carried unanimously.

MR. MILLER- Last meeting Carl said something about the roof leaking. Jessie Under came and looked at it. There was a drain in the roof that wasn't connected. He sealed it up and it worked. Ask about the dirt at the baseball fields. Carl informed him we should be okay this year. The Engine house had their banquet on Saturday. Discussion on incident call numbers and total hours for the Fire Department last year. Question what is going on with the Police Committee, Mayor Gettle explained the meeting is next Monday the 21st.

MR. FELICIANO Pool postcard will be going out Friday as well as applications to previous members. Reach out to Food Trucks, they will be schedule for certain dates and we will make a schedule. Keep the same rates uniform across the board. Carl has a list of items that small items

that needs to be purchased for the Pool including a new robot. The cement pads and library steps, he is going to reach out to Charlie to get it scheduled.

MAYOR GETTLE/CHIEF PONTICIAN- Discussion on enforcement at 510 W. Franklin St. Meeting on Monday Police Committee. Just need to see what Kraft Codes fees would be for certain services.

MR. EDWARDS – nothing to report. Mrs. Hopple two people that live out on Conrad Weiser Parkway they said half the time their trash is not getting picked up. Mr. Edwards is going to look into it. The boys in the Reading Chapters asked if local Boroughs would do a proclamation letter.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mellon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel C. Brown, Secretary