

Borough of Rosslyn Farms

December 19, 2011

Special Meeting

The special meeting of Council was called to order by President Kathleen Green on Monday, December 19, 2011 at the Rosslyn Farms Community Center. The following members of Council were in attendance: D. Robb; R. Bowen; S. Prevoznak; G. Bell; S. George; and P. McNamara. Also present were Mayor Stover, Solicitor Molinaro and Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone.

Opportunity for Citizens to be Heard:

President Green acknowledged Russ Silver of Rosslyn Farms who asked to address Council about police and tax concerns. He was concerned about the possible demise of our police force and the possible Borough tax increase. He believed other residents had the same concerns and believed that Thornburg experienced diminished police services when they contracted police services.

President Green explained that we will be passing our 2012 budget which includes increases. However, due to anti-windfall laws the tax increase will be limited to 105% of the 2011 valuation as provided by Allegheny County. We had originally proposed a higher tax increase to cover the budget but have lowered the budget which we will be voting on this evening. We will also be considering our options for police services in 2012 resulting from the retirement of our police chief. We have a time table and will be discussing these options publicly as we evaluate the options.

Councilperson McNamara added that we will likely receive the new borough valuation prior to sending out the real estate tax bills and will adjust the millage appropriately based on the new property values.

Councilperson Robb said that Council is doing its due diligence to investigate costs and options for police services whether they be our own or contracted. He then passed out copies of the time table he drafted for evaluating the options to those residents attending the meeting.

President Green then recognized Sandra Pack, a resident of Rosslyn Farms. She also addressed her concerns of a tax increase. Older citizens are facing financial difficulties. Houses are taking longer to sell and property values are going down as we increase taxes. She understands that the borough may have to consider shared services going forward. She would like council to limit spending including borough employee wages.

Business before Council:

2012 Budget – Councilperson McNamara presented the 2012 budget. This budget has been reduced from the budget as advertised and on display to limit the tax increase to the state mandated maximum of 105% of the 2011 valuation.

A motion was made and seconded to acknowledge the 2011 budget disbursements of \$765,520 as passed in 2010 and the 2011 tax milage of 9.5 mils as adopted to provide revenues to meet the budgeted expenditures. Bowen/McNamara.

Council Prevoznak asked about what percentage of appeals to expect and how will refunds be handled. Solicitor Molinaro answered that the tax rate that is set should be based on a reasonable provision for refunds for reduced assessments through the appeal process. David Robb asked the solicitor if the refunds can be excluded from the 5% rule. Peter Molinaro responded yes. The solicitor also said that Judge Wettig is considering allowing the budget to be reopened when assessments are released. He then explained Judge Wettig's process which won't be completed until January. The Judge provided for two separate billing cycles for municipalities. However, this will not likely affect Rosslyn Farms since we do not send bills until July. The Solicitor also pointed out that we can re-open our budget in January if the new council would like to reconsider.

The above motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the 2012 Rosslyn Farms Budget as advertised (\$722,959) less changes (\$21,202) that were necessary to reduce spending as limited by projected tax revenues. Bowen/McNamara, unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to establish the 2012 real estate millage at 9.975 mils which represents a 5% increase in prior year real estate tax revenues as permitted by the Commonwealth of PA in a re-assessment year; and to authorize the appropriate officials to sign ordinance #377 as advertised. Bowen/McNamara, unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the funding of the 2011 employee retirement plan with contributions as determined by Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone using the defined contribution as required by the plan documents for each qualifying participant as per the attached schedule of contributions due (s/a Schedule). Bowen/McNamara,



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unanimous.

Airport Hazard Zoning Ordinance – Solicitor Molinaro summarized the draft ordinance for the Airport Hazard District. He explained this is a result of a request of the Airport Authority to place certain zoning restrictions for municipalities located within the designated airport hazard area. These limitations would include the height of structures within this area. The ordinance must be presented to the planning commission for approval. A grant is available to cover our costs incident to passing this ordinance.

The process will include an initial review of the draft ordinance by Council; then require planning commission approval which follows a public hearing; before being returned to Council; who will forward to Allegheny County for review; and finally, Council adoption of the ordinance. A motion was made to send the draft ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and a public hearing. Prevoznak/McNamara, unanimous.

Solicitor Molinaro will send the planning commission materials that will they need for them to understand the entire process required by the Airport Authority.

A motion was made and seconded to advertise the Planning Commission meeting schedule. Bowen/Prevoznak, unanimous

Puritan Park water line replacement project (PAWC) – Councilperson Prevoznak reported that PAWC will be installing a new water service line to the borough building and pool.

President Green reviewed some actions that would be necessary at the reorganization meeting in January.

Due to expire Board members

Tom Bosack	Planning Commission	4 year term
Len Costa	Zoning & Hearing Board	3 year term
Steve Tassarò	Appeals Board	3 year term

President Green said that these three would be willing to continue for another term. President Green was an alternate representative for the Chartiers Valley Flood Authority. They would like to have a Council representative.

There will also be new swimming pool, tennis court, and community representatives for appointment.

Councilperson Bowen, completing his term of office, offered suggestions to Council going forward. He advised when moving forward; do not forget about projects that have not been completed. These included such items as road improvements, storm sewer easements, code enforcement, and fire hydrants. He stressed that the benefit of the community must be considered first and foremost before individual wishes. He also advised that this community works because of volunteers. Always consider the effect on volunteers when any decision is made. He thanked council members and community.

President Green, also completing her term of office, commented that it has been an honor having served with this Council. She commended Council for exhibiting courage, enthusiasm, and dedication to the Borough. She also shared her appreciation for advice of advisors; employees; and volunteers during her tenure on council. She thanked all.

Council entered into discussion of the time line with respect to evaluations of options for police services. Solicitor Molinaro offered his insight into likely response times from other municipalities who wish to respond to our Request for Proposal. He thinks it will take longer than we allow in the time table prepared by David Robb. He also suggested that meetings with other municipalities should include an open forum with key people including the Mayor.

Councilperson Robb said that this is the first draft of the RFP and he welcomes comments.

The Solicitor also addressed personal services currently provided by our Police Department. He suggested strongly that these services be unwound as soon as possible. The Solicitor will review these issues with the Mayor and recommend how to address the process of discontinuing them.


President Green announced that Council will now proceed into an executive session for the purpose of discussing matters which may lead to litigation.

President Green reconvened the regular meeting of Council.

Their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone.


Kathleen Green - Council President


Samuel A. Maccarone - Borough Sec. /Treas.