

**NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL
182 WEST BRIDGE STREET
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2009**

PRESENT: Sharyn Keiser, Claire Shaw, Ed Duffy, Rey Velasco, Geri Delevich, Randall Flager, Mayor Larry Keller, Borough Manager John Burke, and Borough Solicitor T. J. Walsh.

ABSENT: Richard Hirschfield.

Sharyn Keiser announced that there was an Executive Session before the regular meeting tonight to discuss collective bargaining matters.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. David Farina, the Police Pension Plan Investment Advisor from Stifel Nicolaus, informed Council that one of the plan's money managers, Neuberger Berman LLC, has changed its policy to require a minimum investment amount of \$1,000,000. The asset class invested by Neuberger Berman is international equities, which are limited to a maximum of 10% of the total equity assets held by the plan. Equity assets may not exceed 60% of plan assets, within a range of 50% to 60%. Neuberger Berman will terminate all pension plan investments effective March 31, 2009.

Mr. Farina stated that Stifel Nicolaus is recommending that Council approve Gratry & Company to assume the role vacated by Neuberger Berman as an approved Police Pension Fund money manager. Stifel Nicolaus has prepared a Product Comparison Report and conducted its due diligence.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion.

Claire Shaw moved to accept the recommendation, and Geri Delevich seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved 5-0-1, with Rey Velasco abstaining.

Mayor Keller asked Council to consider hiring Robert Leh as a part-time Parking Enforcement Officer.

Randy Flager moved to approve the hiring of Robert Leh as a part-time Parking Enforcement Officer, and Claire Shaw seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Keller asked Council to consider hiring Shay Hutton as a part-time police officer.

Randy Flager moved to approve the hiring of Shay Hutton as a part-time police officer, and Claire Shaw seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Keller and Chief Cummings presented Officer Ken Kozuhowski with a commendation for apprehending a bank robbery suspect. **Mayor Keller** mentioned that there is a high probability that the suspects, who Officer Kozuhowski played a key role in apprehending, may be connected with other recent robberies in New Hope, Lambertville and Solebury.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sharyn Keiser announced that New Hope was awarded First Place in the 2008 Annual Municipal Website Contest of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

Sharyn Keiser thanked John Burke and Marilyn Bullock for their work on the website.

Sharyn Keiser announced that the municipal building project should be put out to bid in the next two weeks. **Sharyn Keiser** stated that new bids are expected to be lower than the original bids, which came in at \$250,000 to \$300,000 over budget. The project team has redefined the entire project and has not sacrificed the sustainable intent the team originally set out to achieve.

Sharyn Keiser thanked Paul Stubbs, who has volunteered as New Hope's delegate to the Lower Delaware River Wild and Scenic Management Committee.

Sharyn Keiser also stated that Kevin Ellenburg is interested in becoming a Shade Tree Commission member.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows.

- A. Consideration of approving payment of accounts payable for March 11, 2009, in the amount of \$224,293.63; of payroll for February 11, 2009, in the amount of \$51,800.10; and of payroll for February 25, 2009, in the amount of \$49,378.69.
- B. Consideration of approving the minutes of Borough Council's public of February 11, 2009.
- C. Consideration of appointing Mr. Paul Stubbs as the New Hope Borough representative to the Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic Management Committee.
- D. Consideration of authorizing the Council President and Secretary to execute a grant agreement with PaDCED for the New Street Town Center Project.
- E. Consideration of appointing Mr. Kevin Ellenburg to the Shade Tree Commission for a term to expire December 31, 2013.
- F. Consideration of approving issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by HARB, for:
(1) 9 West bridge Street, by Chris Barker, for installation of a two-sided sign.

Rey Velasco moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Ed Duffy seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

RECREATION BOARD AND REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

MANAGER'S AND SOLICITOR'S REPORTS

John Burke asked for consideration of approving **Resolution No. 2009-03R**, establishing a procedure for appointments to the Police Pension Board. New Hope Borough's Police Pension Plan ordinance establishes a Police Pension Board, but the ordinance fails to provide a procedure to fill the seven positions on the Board. **Resolution No. 2009-03R** fills that gap by establishing the manner in which appointments are made to the Board. The terms are yearly and the

appointees are as follows: Council President, Council Vice President, Mayor, Chief of Police, two members appointed by the Police Benevolent Association, and one additional Council member appointed by the Council President.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion.

Randy Flager moved to approve Resolution No. 2009-03R, and Geri Delevich seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the Public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Dee Dee Bowman stated that the New Hope Recycling Committee has recommended that Council amend the Borough's recycling regulations to add the following items to the list of mandatory recyclables.

Residential — add office paper and junk mail; corrugated paper (cardboard)

Commercial, municipal, and institutional — add glass containers

Multi-family dwelling units — add office paper and junk mail; corrugated paper (cardboard)

Geri Delevich moved to approve Resolution No. 2009-04R, amending the Borough's recycling regulations, and Randy Flager seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

LAND USE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORT

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPORT

Rey Velasco introduced Armando Llames, who was present to represent New Hope Celebrates.

Mr. Llames asked for cooperation from the Borough Police Department for the New Hope Celebrates Parade, scheduled to begin at 12 noon

instead of the usual 11:00 am, on May 16, 2009. **Mr. Llames** also presented two possible routes for the 2009 parade.

Chief Cummings recommended that the Ferry Street route be selected.

John Burke stated that this is the same route approved by Council for the 2008 parade, as follows: New Hope Solebury school property to West Bridge Street, West Bridge Street to West Ferry Street, West Ferry Street to S. Main Street, S. Main Street to the New Hope Gazette parking lot on Coryell Street. **John Burke** asked that a Certificate of Insurance and the standard hold harmless/indemnification agreement be submitted to the Borough.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion to approve the parade route.

Randy Flager moved to approve the parade route, and Geri Delevich seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Geri Delevich introduced Laura Schrock, who discussed her Internet venture called the Todd Show. The show is filmed in the New Hope area. It is a comedy about animals.

Geri Delevich announced that H.O.P.E. is available to all residents who need help with meals, errands, grocery shopping and more.

Geri Delevich announced that there would be a presentation at the New Hope Solebury Middle School on Sunday called *Take Back The Tap*. Tickets are \$5.00. The Krist family is sponsoring this event as part of the work of their foundation.

Geri Delevich announced that *Into The Woods* show tickets are available at New Hope Solebury High School.

Rey Velasco announced the Visitors' Center Report for February as follows:

Visitors	1474
Calls	210

Brochures	12
Sales	\$136.55
Donations	\$197.82

Rey Velasco announced that there would be a birdhouse auction on March 29, 2009 at the New Hope Arts building.

Sharyn Keiser announced that recent news reports concerning allegations of bribery involving Building Inspection Underwriters of New Jersey has caused Council to re-visit its contract with BIU for code related services. **Ms. Keiser** recommended that Council provide 30 days' notice to BIU to terminate the contract, solicit proposals from other firms, select a new firm, but allow some overlap of services so that current active projects are not delayed.

Randy Flager moved to provide 30 days' notice to BIU to terminate the contract, but allow some overlap of services so that current active projects are not delayed. Rey Velasco seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion to solicit proposals from qualified code services firms.

Rey Velasco moved to solicit proposals from qualified code services firms. Claire Shaw seconded.

Sharyn Keiser asked for comment by Council and the public.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Daryl Jurbala, Fire Marshal, asked Council to give BIU whatever time is needed to finish all reviews currently in progress.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elaine McNealy, 45 North Main Street, announced that she supports a new bill that is being introduced in Harrisburg to promote gay rights.

Claire Shaw stated that she saw Chief Cummings on the beat at midnight on Saturday night.

Sharyn Keiser stated that there would be a continuation of the executive session, directly following tonight's public meeting, to discuss collective bargaining matters involving the PBA.

ADJOURNMENT