

**NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
182 WEST BRIDGE STREET  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2009**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Mayor Keller** administered the oath of office to the New Hope Eagle Fire Company Fire Police and thanked the volunteers for their commitment to the community.

**Sharyn Keiser** thanked the Fire Police for their dedication in keeping New Hope safe.

**Mayor Keller** thanked all the police officers from various parts of PA who were present at tonight's meeting in support of the selection of Mike Cummings as New Hope Borough's new Police Chief.

**Mayor Keller** stated that the Police Department has been without a Police Chief for 7 months and thanked Sergeant John Goss, along with Secretary Jeannie Klein, the New Hope police officers and the Parking Enforcement Officers for all their hard work and efforts during this period. **Mayor Keller** stated that the Police Department would be in capable hands with the selection of Chief Cummings.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that item 7,A will be tabled until Council's February public meeting.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that there was an Executive Session before tonight's meeting to discuss the Glassman litigation at the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that the bids for the New Street Town Center

Project were received and the lowest bid was about \$240,000 higher than the Borough anticipated. Council will re-visit this in February to give the architect and the civil engineer a chance to complete their analysis for cost saving options. **Ms. Keiser** stated that a contract would be awarded possibly in March or April.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that New Hope representatives are needed to be volunteers for the non-profit Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic Management Committee, and that committee is a public body of representatives from two states, five counties, and 26 municipalities. The area includes the Delaware Water Gap all the way down to and including Washington's Crossing. Please call John Burke at Borough Hall if you are interested in serving as New Hope's representative or alternate.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced a public stakeholders' meeting for the Landmark Towns of Bucks County, which includes Bristol, Morrisville, Yardley, and New Hope. The meeting is open to everyone to discuss a proposed way finding signage program. This will take place at Bristol Borough Hall at 5:30 pm on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that there would be a special public meeting on January 26, 2009 at New Hope Solebury High School at 7 pm to discuss the new Comprehensive Plan for New Hope, which is being prepared by the Bucks County Planning Commission.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that the recycling of Christmas trees was extended to the middle of January. The trees can be dropped off in Village II by the pool area. There were 64 trees collected and recycled by Landscaper Hugh Marshall. **Ms. Keiser** thanked Dee Dee Bowman and the Recycling Committee.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for consideration of approving an employment agreement for the appointment of Michael Cummings as the Chief of Police of New Hope.

**Randall Flager moved to approve the employment agreement of Michael Cummings as the next Chief of Police of New Hope Borough, and Geri Delevich seconded. The motion was approved**

**unanimously.**

**Mayor Keller** administered the oath of office to Michael Cummings as the new Police of Chief.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that the Borough is holding a reception with refreshments down the hall to welcome the new Police Chief, and all members of the audience are welcome to attend.

**Chief Cummings** thanked everyone who came to the meeting to support this professional milestone and stated that he is anxious to start. **Chief Cummings** also thanked Council and the Mayor for the opportunity they have given him to serve the New Hope community.

**Sharyn Keiser asked for consideration of approving the Consent Agenda, as follows.**

- A. Consideration of approving payment of accounts payable for January 14, 2008, in the amount of \$105,673.56; of payroll for December 17, 2008, in the amount of \$48,279.24; and of payroll for December 31, 2008, in the amount of \$50,960.86.
- B. Consideration of awarding the 2009 landscape maintenance contract to GoreCon Inc. of Doylestown, in the amount of \$10,000.
- C. Consideration of approving a one-year agreement with PrintMasters for the Borough Newsletter.
- D. Consideration of tabling to Council's February 11, 2009 public meeting award of bids for the New Street Town Center Project.
- E. Consideration of adopting **Resolution No. 2009-01**, establishing a uniform mileage reimbursement rate for 2009.
- F. Consideration of approving issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by HARB, for:  
(1) 253 West Mechanic Street, by Joseph Dannucci, for roof installation;  
(2) 132 South Main Street, by Terri Siegel, for sign installation; and  
(3) 88 Old York Road, by Stephen Kanovsky & Mary Wood, for demolition work and construction of a 2-story, gable roof addition and porch.
- G. Consideration of appointments to advisory boards and commissions, as follows:

**Zoning Hearing Board** [5 Positions and 1 Alternate, 5-Year Terms]

Carl Glassman  
Joel Roberts (Alternate)

**Planning Commission** [5 Positions, 4-Year Terms]

Lou Saltrelli  
Dennis Wise

**Historic Architectural Review Board** [Max. 9 Positions, 3-Year Terms]

Iain Haight-Ashton  
James Rivera  
Vacancy, 5-year term  
Vacancy, 2-year term (to complete the term of Gerard Higgins, a licensed architect)

**UCC Board of Appeals** [5 Positions, 5-Year Terms]

Tom Carroll  
Tom Gockowski  
Horst Kubon

**Civil Service Commission** [3 Positions, 6-Year Terms]

Laurence Greene  
Gordon Nieburg

**Shade Tree Commission** [3 Positions and Maximum 3 Alternates, 5-Year Terms]

Frank DeLuca  
Vacancy, 5-year term

**Recreation** [7 Positions, 5-Year Terms]

Libby Nieburg  
Vicki Duffy

**Revitalization Committee** [13 Positions, 3-Year Terms]

Connie Gering  
Roy Ziegler  
Walter Czajkowski  
Barry Ziff  
Herb Millman

**Landmark Towns Board of Directors** [4 Positions, 1-Year Terms]

Richard Gacek  
Dee Dee Bowman  
John Burke  
Sharyn Keiser  
Louis Licitra  
Ed Duffy (Alternate)

**Recycling Committee** [5 Positions, 1-Year Terms]

Caleb Lentchner

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that agenda item 7,A has been tabled and should be on the agenda for the February meeting.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked that Caleb Lentchner be added to Consent Agenda item 4,G for an appointment to the Recycling Committee replacing Louis Licitra.

**Randall Flager moved to approve the consent agenda as amended by Sharyn Keiser, and Geri Delevich seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**RECREATION BOARD AND REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Claire Shaw** announced that the Winter Fest begins next Thursday.

**Earl Bierman** stated that everyone should try to participate in the many exciting events coming up. There are still tickets left for the cabaret, beef and brew, and chilly cook off. There is a parade on Saturday beginning at noon including five bands, many floats and mummers. The proceeds go to the Park and Recreation Board, the Fire Department, the New Hope Lambertville Rescue Squad, the Police Department, the Farmers' Market and the schools.

**MANAGER'S AND SOLICITOR'S REPORTS**

**T. J. Walsh** announced a public hearing to consider adoption of **Ordinance No. 2009-01**, establishing an open records policy. The state law was amended in 2008 and became effective this year. There is a presumption that all records are public but there are 30 specific exceptions. There will have to be an Open Records Officer designated and the ordinance for the Borough designates the Borough Manager for

Borough records and allows the Manager to designate the Chief of Police for the Police Department records. There is an appeals process if an individual's request is denied and also a schedule of fees that can be charged to a person requesting documents. This ordinance repeals the prior Resolution 2004-12R.

**Randall Flager moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2009-01, and Claire Shaw seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.**

**T. J. Walsh** asked for consideration of approving **Ordinance No. 2009-02**, amending the zoning ordinance with respect to digital signs, tents, permits and other matters.

**Claire Shaw** asked if the ordinance would include personal tents.

**T. J. Walsh** answered yes; it regulates tents for residences and for businesses. The maximum amount of time a tent is allowed to be up is three days per event and the maximum amount of events in a given year is 5.

**Randall Flager moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2009-02, and Ed Duffy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**T. J. Walsh** asked for consideration of approving a stipulation of settlement in the matter of Joe and Joni Glassman verses New Hope Borough, BCCCP No. 2008-00691-19-5.

**Joe Balderston** asked what the stipulations were.

**T. J. Walsh** stated the stipulations concern delivery hours, trash compactors, etc.

**John Burke** handed Joe Balderston a copy of the settlement agreement.

**Randall Flager moved to approve the stipulation and settlement, and Claire Shaw seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPORT**

**Rey Velasco** announced the December Visitors' Center report as follows:

**2008** \_\_\_\_\_ **2007**

|                  |                    |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Visitors</b>  | 1,588              | 1,749              |
| <b>Calls</b>     | 175                | 292                |
|                  | <b><u>2008</u></b> | <b><u>2007</u></b> |
| <b>Brochures</b> | 6                  | 11                 |
| <b>Sales</b>     | \$395.80           | \$671.10           |
| <b>Donations</b> | \$275.21           | \$225.96           |

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that the Borough received an offer from the Michener Museum for the "Artist Among Us" exhibit. The museum has offered the exhibit to the Borough at no cost.

**Richard Hirschfield moved to accept the offer, and Geri Delevich seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that there is a Golden Parking Ticket contest that the Chamber of Commerce would like Borough Council to support. It begins February 14th and involves other local businesses. During each Second Saturday a random individual who makes a purchase will get a golden ticket and at the Tree Decoration Ceremony in December of 2009, someone would win a free weekend parking space for a year.

**Claire Shaw moved to support the Chamber's contest, and Ed Duffy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Joe Balderston** asked what the Council has done to recruit volunteers for the fire company.

**Sharyn Keiser** stated that Council would add this topic on next month's agenda.

**John Burke** responded that an announcement for recruits is on the Borough web site and will appear in the Spring 2009 Newsletter.

**Joe Balderston** asked when would the West Bridge Street Bridge Project be done.

**Sharyn Keiser** answered that PennDOT is very close to the designated time that the project will be done.

**John Burke** added that it should be June 11<sup>th</sup> or June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Steven Stahl** asked what is the Borough's position on neon signs.

**T. J. Walsh** stated that he would respond at a later date to that question, after he has had an opportunity to review the zoning ordinance.

**ADJOURNMENT**