

**NEW HOPE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
182 WEST BRIDGE STREET  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
APRIL 1, 2009**

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

**ABSENT:** Richard Hirschfield and Randall Flager.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Mayor Keller** announced that the 25 mph speed limit on North Main Street has been enforced on a regular basis.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that there was an Executive Session before the regular meeting tonight to discuss a personnel matter and a real estate matter.

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that the New Street Project is out to bid and that the bids will be opened on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharyn Keiser asked for consideration of approving the installation of a banner at the northeast corner of Bridge and Main to promote the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, May 30 & 31, 2009 at the New Hope Solebury High School, subject to the usual Borough requirements for proof of insurance and indemnification.**

**Rey Velasco moved to approve the Society's request, and Geri Delevich seconded adding that the Society's banner would be placed after the New Hope Celebrates banner is removed.**

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Mr. David Child**, a newly elected Director of the Chamber, stated that the Chamber of Commerce would like to hold a summer event on July 25<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> called the New Hope Summer Wine Fair. **Mr. Child**

requested that Hardy Bush Way be closed for this event. The road would also have to be closed part of July 24<sup>th</sup> for set up.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked if Mr. Child has spoken to George Michael about this planned event.

**Mr. Child** answered that the Michaels find the event very favorable. The entrance to the fair is from the back parking lot at Union Square, and the Chamber plans to move people with a trolley to avoid a lot of vehicle traffic.

**John Burke** stated that the Chamber would have to talk to the Chief of Police and the Fire Marshall to ensure access for all emergency services vehicles including the ambulance. Also, the Chamber must submit an indemnification form and a Certificate of Insurance before the event takes place. The liquor aspect may expand the insurance requirements.

**Mr. Child** stated that the wineries would be responsible for getting the insurance coverage and licenses they need. They will be separate from the event and will have a separate tent.

**Ed Duffy** asked if there would be I.D. checks to make sure that there is no underage drinking and asked if parking for this event could be at the school.

**Mr. Child** stated that there would be a uniformed officer present and that they would contact the school about parking.

**Sharyn Keiser** mentioned that it would be premature to make a motion this evening. There are a number of areas that need to be satisfied.

**John Burke** asked if Council could approve the event, contingent on an acceptable emergency services plan and all other requirements including insurance and the indemnification forms.

**Claire Shaw moved to approve the event contingent on an acceptable emergency services plan and all other requirements including insurance and indemnification form. Ed Duffy seconded.**

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Sharyn Keiser announced a request by the Eagle Fire Company to close certain roadways for the fire company's 5K Run, scheduled for October 3, 2009.**

**Mr. Bruce Robinson**, a representative of the Eagle Fire Department, stated that the insurance certificate has been submitted along with the indemnification form. The event starts at the Fire Company. Approval from PECO was also obtained.

**Sharyn Keiser** stated that the Chief must approve the route.

**John Burke** stated that arrangements must be made for police protection and traffic flow.

Council decided that the cost, if any, of providing police protection should be reimbursed and asked the fire company to work with the Chief of Police.

**Sharyn Keiser asked for a motion.**

**Claire Shaw moved to approve the request of the Eagle Fire Company, and Ed Duffy seconded.**

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that there is a new County requirement to update the Borough's Open Space Plan, which is number 4C on the consent agenda. Bucks County has allocated 26 million dollars in municipal grant funds for open space projects and New Hope's share is \$245,058. Plus, the county has appropriated another 7 million for open space projects by Delaware River front communities. In order to be eligible for these funds each municipality has to update its open space plan. The Borough's Open Space Plan is 10 years old. Lynn Bush, Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission, has prepared a proposal to update the Open Space Plan. The County Planning Commission is also developing the Borough's new Comprehensive Plan. The cost to update this plan is \$4,330.00, which amount would be reimbursed by the County from the County's open space funds.

**Sharyn Keiser asked for approval of the consent agenda, as follows.**

- A. Consideration of approving payment of accounts payable for April 1, 2009, in the amount of \$71,230.26; of payroll for March 11, 2009, in the amount of \$59,528.31; and of payroll for March 25, 2009, in the amount of \$56,149.11.
- B. Consideration of approving the minutes of Borough Council's public of March 11, 2009.
- C. Consideration of approving an agreement with the Bucks County Planning Commission to update the Borough's Park & Open Space Plan.
- D. Consideration of adopting **Resolution No. 2009-05R**, authorizing the Chief of Police to execute certain PennDOT documents.
- E. Consideration of approving issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, as recommended by HARB, for:
  - (1) 95 Old York Rd., by Valerie Brown and John Strachan, for roof installation; and
  - (2) 52 S. Main St., by New Hope Soap Company, for installation of sign(s).

**Claire Shaw moved to approve the consent agenda, and Geri Delevich seconded.**

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

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

**JOHN BURKE** stated that at the request of Council at the March regular meeting, the Borough prepared an RFP to include both plan review and inspections. The four firms submitting proposals were:

Keystone Municipal Services Inc. of Morton PA.

Pennoni Associates, Inc.

Code Inspections, Inc.

Cowan Associates, Inc.

**John Burke** recommended that Council consider the proposal of Keystone Municipal Services because this firm provides this service to a great number of municipalities in Bucks County. **Mr. Burke** stated that he checked with a number of municipal officials, and they are satisfied with the services that they are receiving from Keystone. The cost is \$65.00 per hour compared to the \$42.50 per hour that the Borough is paying to BIU. To compensate for the cost increase the Borough will cut back the hours from Monday through Friday, at 4 hours per day, to

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 2 hours per day. There will be two people on duty during those times. One of them will be reviewing plans and answering questions, and the other will be doing the inspections.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for a motion.

**Rey Velasco moved to accept the proposal from Keystone Municipal Services Inc., of Morton PA, and Claire Shaw seconded.**

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Rey Velasco** asked if Keystone provides this service in Solebury.

**John Burke** answered Solebury, Warwick, Tinicum, Warrington, Warminster, Buckingham, Nockamixon, Montgomery, Bedminster, West Bradford, Lansdale, Bridgeton, Newtown Township, Newtown Borough, Haycock, Hatfield, Hatfield, Telford, Worcester, Chalfont, Ridley Park, Riegelsville, Richland, Swarthmore, New Britain, City of Easton, East Nottingham, Wrightstown, Ivyland, Easttown, Malvern, Doylestown, and Upper Makefield.

**T. J. Walsh** asked Council for consideration to approve a Reciprocal License Agreement with the Bucks County Railroad Preservation and Restoration Corporation, Inc. for the Canal Walk Project.

**T. J. Walsh** stated that this agreement requires licenses that are essentially easements allowing people that are walking from the Borough parking lot at Union Square and also vehicles at the Public Works Department to cross the existing railroad tracks to access the Canal Walk, which is located adjacent to the canal. In exchange for the licenses, the Borough will allow the railroad to park some cars, roughly equal in number to the parking spaces lost on the railroad property, on Borough property. There are five licenses that the railroad is granting. The railroad has already signed the 25-year agreement, which is a dollar a year lease, and there are three additional ten-year terms. The Borough is not compelled by the agreement to build the Canal Walk. The cost of the Canal Walk is strictly the Borough's responsibility. There are some other provisions that were accommodations to the Railroad as far as construction goes to work around their busier times in order to not impact their business. Part of the motion to approve the license

agreement would be to withdraw a portion of my letter terminating the negotiations after a four-year effort by the parties.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for a motion.

**Ed Duffy moved to approve the Reciprocal License Agreement, and Claire Shaw seconded.**

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**Geri Delevich** asked if the \$150.00 penalty in the agreement for the temporary loss of a parking space during construction requires the contractor to reimburse the railroad instead of the Borough.

**T. J. Walsh** answered yes the bid and the construction documents will be designed so that the contractor is aware that there are a minimum number of spaces that the railroad wants to be able to use.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Ed Duffy** thanked the Borough Solicitor for moving this contract forward successfully.

## **LAND USE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REPORT**

**Sharyn Keiser** announced that Item 7B, the Rabbit Run/Scannapieco Project has been pulled from the agenda at the applicant's request.

**Ed Duffy** announced that the next item on the agenda is a review and discussion of Zoning Hearing Board appeal no. 331, submitted by Tom L. Molnar, for a variance to allow construction of a single family dwelling unit at lot #17 on Riverstone Circle.

**Carl Lindsay, who is representing the Molnars,** stated that his client is looking to create a single-family house to fit on the grounds. The request is for a rear yard variance. The Catholic Church does not have any objection to this.

After a brief discussion, Council did not take a position on this application.

## **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

**Geri Delevich** announced that the Garden Club would be planting at 10:00 am this Saturday.

**Geri Delevich** announced that volunteers are needed to clean the canal on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am; anyone is welcome to join.

**Geri Delevich** announced that Dorothy Grider of New Hope would be having an Art Exhibition on May 6, 2009 at the PNC Bank from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

**Geri Delevich** announced that Ethel Ashen Brenner, whose mother was the first female wrestler, has completed a documentary about her mother called, "Pin Down Girl." On June 16 she is having a community party at The Logan Inn to celebrate her mother's accomplishments and life.

**Geri Delevich** announced the Golf Outing on May 4, 2009.

**Geri Delevich** announced the Landmark Towns community award event would take place on April 29, 2009. The following New Hope people are receiving awards:

**Earl Bierman**-Bucks County Volunteer of the year award.

**Dee Dee Bowman**-Economic Development award.

**John Burke**-Landmark Towns Bucks County Chairperson of the Year award.

**Ed Duffy** announced that there is a workshop, Thursday at 7:00 pm, at the New Hope Winery on water conservation and other water issues. The Aquetong Watershed Association, in conjunction with the New Hope Winery, is hosting a round table discussion on the water shed, and Les Isbrandt is the President of the Association.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Glen Stephan** introduced himself as the new President of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Ed Hild**, President of the Historical Society, asked if the Society could install a double-sided banner on the northeast corner of the Parry mansion property for the Garden Tour, so that it will be visible to both streets. The banner will be 5 feet high and 8 feet in length.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for a motion.

**Ed Duffy** moved to approve this request, and **Claire Shaw** seconded.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked for comment by Council and the public.

**The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Ed Hild** announced the April Speakers' Series.

**Elaine McNeely** stated that Rep. Bernie O'Neill is one of two Republican members of the General Assembly supporting House Bill 300, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Rey Velasco** asked why the new Bridge Street bridge has galvanized metal rails?

**Sharyn Keiser** answered that John Burke has been following up on this with PennDOT. PennDOT will install wood trusses at the end of the project.

**Geri Delevich** asked what could be done about the metal rail?

**Ed Duffy** stated that Spencer Saunders, who attended a recent PennDOT meeting about the Bridge Street Bridge, had requested that they cover the metal rails with wood.

**Sharyn Keiser** asked Ed Duffy and Geri Delevich to head up a task force to deal with PennDOT on changing the appearance of the Bridge Street bridge.

**Ed Duffy** agreed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**