

MINUTES OF THE NEW SALEM BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

August 22, 2024 at 3745 Salem Rd., York, PA 17408

The New Salem Borough Council met in a recessed session, held August 22, 2024, from their regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Martin.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Kim Martin, Pres
William Baldauf, VP
Peter Partridge, Pres Pro-tem
Sue Becker
Harvey Thumma Jr.
George Donavos

BOROUGH OFFICIALS PRESENT

Edward Mundorf, Mayor
Judy Albright, Sec/Treas

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Bryan Pugh

Note the following abbreviations

“CP” = Council President “CM” = Council Member “ST” = Secretary Treasurer
“Eng”= Engineer “Sol” = Solicitor “BCO” = Building Code Officer
“Z&CEO” = Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer

1. Police Service

History of Police Service in the Borough – presented by Kim Martin, New Salem Borough Council President. CP Martin provided information on police services in the borough over the last years. When she moved to the borough in 1988, Jackson Twp provided police services. There was only one officer on patrol at a time. Realizing this was not sufficient, the Borough contracted services with West Manchester Township Police in early 90s. For many years West Manchester provided police protection and during that time, their chief, Arthur Smith supplied Council with information and type of calls and other pertinent data in a monthly report. Upon the retirement of Cf. Smith, the new chief began attending Council meetings but was unable to supply sufficient documentation of the services they were providing.

CP Martin also spoke on the overages the Borough had received from the county from fines. At that time the Sec-Treas researched these payments and was told they were correct and the payments continued to be received. It was later learned that due to a computer error these payments just under \$500,000 were to be sent to West Manchester Township. The Township and Borough entered into an agreement where the borough paid a lump sum to the Township and then continued to make yearly payments. There is still approximately 10 years on the contract where the Borough owes the Township around \$160,000.

Shortly afterward, West Manchester Township informed the borough that their pricing for policing would be increasing significantly over the next 3 years.

A public meeting was held to discuss Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) providing police services to the Borough. PSP provides service to small Boroughs in York County at no cost. Council felt, in light of the financial challenges, that New Salem would benefit from this service and thus Council passed a motion to allow PSP to provide the police services for the Borough beginning in 2020.

Increasing Need for Service in the Borough – CM Donavos presented information on the crimes being reported in the last few years under PSP patrolling. It was discussed that due to the length of response time or lack of interest from the residents, there could be crimes not being reported to PSP thus distorting the numbers being reported. He asked that if you see a crime that you report it directly to PSP.

Description of Service which could be provided by Northern York County Regional Police – Chief David Lash introduced those members of the department in attendance. There were five police officers, the Chairman of their Board and the department administrative person. Cf. Lash provided the following items that the department can provide to the Borough residents that PSP cannot do. They included Non-reportable traffic accidents, Animal calls, EMS calls, Ordinance violations, Parking complaints, home checks during vacation, Business safety checks, School resource officers (2), Programs and education, Block watch, Explorers Post, Night out, Trunk or treat, Personal services, Substation at Porters Sideling and Speeding issues. He would also provide Council with monthly reports, presence on Facebook, and their website along with an annual report.

While PSP is a great organization, he indicated they aren't able to provide personal service. His department consists of eleven (11) municipalities who encompass 23% of the land mass of York County. His department consists of sixty-eight (68) total officers. The Spring Grove area is manned by twelve (12) officers working out of the old South Western Regional Police station. There are a minimum of three (3) officers working per shift from this substation. Resident Stephanie Mundorf questioned only 3 officers per shift at the satellite location and felt this was not sufficient. A question was raised about the number of PSP Troopers on any given shift. Cf. Lash indicated PSP divides the county into four (4) quadrants for services. He did not have the number of troopers per quadrant. He offered any resident wishing to speak further to him give him a call or send him an email and he will respond.

Financial implication to the Borough – CP Martin indicated the borough recently complete sewer repairs along Water St at a cost of \$72,000 and the borough is looking into applying for a grant to help fund repairs to sidewalks and curbs, and for the upcoming Robin Hood and Palmer Ave. projects. Resident Stephanie Mundorf interjected that the grant has not yet been applied for and CP Martin confirmed again that she indicated Council is looking into it. CP Martin explained that she would share some numbers as a point of reference. She reported there are 822 residents in the borough, Northern York County Police has quoted approximately \$72,000 for 15 hours of coverage per week. This figure divided by the number of residents equates to \$88 yearly increase or \$1.69 to protect our residents. Resident Stephanie Mundorf interrupted stating this isn't the way revenue is generated. CP Martin indicated she is aware of how revenue is generated and asked that she be permitted to finish her explanation. These figures were for general explanation, as millage and assessment of property value are how taxes are generated. CM Martin explained the owner of average sized home would pay \$213 more per year. And that is \$4 per week. The Council has not held discussions yet on the availability of funds as budget talks do not start until October.

CP Martin also indicated that a private source has tentatively agreed to donate \$10,000 to the startup of police protection. Cf. Lash indicated even though the Borough would only purchase 15 hours per week, there would be manpower and police coverage available 24/7 to answer calls.

2. Public Comments/Questions - CM Baldauf explained there would be a two (2) minute, per person comment session so that everyone would be able to voice their concerns.

Resident Ken Worley questioned parking on both sides of Robinhood Dr that sometimes causes congestion. It was noted that some residents do this to slow down the speed of traffic.

Resident Troy Herman reported that with the sale of the Wright farm coming up, there could be much more traffic in the Borough and PSP just can't patrol the street. He feels these small items become bigger ones and that we need police presence.

CM Partridge indicated PSP only patrols Main & George streets which are PennDOT roadways and does not patrol into the neighborhoods.

Resident Stephanie Mundorf questioned finances indicating the borough may need to buy a fire truck to replace the one totaled in the accident that injured New Salem Fire fighters. CP Martin indicated there has been no discussion on this at any meeting.

Resident Marshall Angotti spoke stating he got the feeling Council was putting fear into the residents about crime in the Borough. He did not expect to hear this at the meeting.

Resident Jody Yohe indicated that over the last five (5) years, speeding has increased on Main and George streets along with large truck traffic. Cf. Lash answered his concerns reporting that his department could perform truck checks and this would definitely slow them down.

Resident Jeff Martz spoke on the increased traffic in the developments. PSP can't handle these complaints and we need to be proactive for our children's sake.

Resident Erik Myers questioned if a bid was gotten from West Manchester Township Police. CP Martin addressed his concern and indicated that due to past history with the West Manchester and the Borough contacting them would not be a wise choice but she would check with York County Regional Police.

Resident Sue Barley feels Northern York County Regional Police have the resources and knowledge to keep our children safe and she supports the community policing.

Resident Bob Yeater is in favor of additional police in the area. The one time he called PSP for something, he never heard anything back.

Resident Stephanie Mundorf questioned if we would still need our Codes Enforcement officer if Northern Regional Police can enforce ordinances. CM Baldauf indicated we would still need him for issues that the police don't handle. CM Partridge indicated that recently the Codes Enforcement officer may need a police escort to go to a residence.

Resident Stephanie Mundorf further stated that if the borough decides to go with North Codorus Township Fire Company we will be paying more. Mrs. Mundorf questioned the fire relief funds and what they were used for. CP Martin indicated the fire relief funds are given from the Auditor General's

office to the Fire Company for specific uses as outlined by their office. In addition, in the past the fire company liability insurance and turn-out gear were paid for by the Borough which would not be paid to North Codorus Township. If North Codorus Township Fire Company has a contract with the Borough for fire protection, any monetary amount has not yet been determined.

CM Baldauf asked if anyone had additional comments or questions. Hearing none, he closed the public comment period.

3. Survey of Public Interest – CP Baldauf indicated there is a survey of public interest to be passed around for everyone that would like to complete it. They will be collected at the back of the room when you exit. He further stated there is information from Cf. Lash regarding what his department can respond to along with their 2023 Annual Report available as you leave the room.

Mayor Ed Mundorf wanted to speak. He indicated by his calculations, there are 12 properties that would increase by \$600, 63 properties would increase by \$400 and 11 properties would increase by \$300 if the millage would increase by 1.5 mills. He further indicated that CP Martin's statement that each resident would pay \$1.69 per month for police is not how taxes are calculated and that the crime stats that CM Donavos presented show crime going down. Taxes are based on a millage rate of assessed value of a property and that is the number he is showing.

4. Adjourn - With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Judy Albright, Secretary-Treasurer