



**Ebensburg Borough Council Meeting**  
**Monday, July 22, 2013**  
**6:30 p.m.**

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**Borough Council**  
Doug Tusing, President  
Deborah Nesbella, Vice-President  
Susan Barber  
Cecilia Houser  
Terry Illig  
Dave Kuhar  
Joe Lutz

**Mayor**  
Randy Datsko

***AGENDA***

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any item appearing on the agenda.*

**1. CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.*

Item 9A: Approve the minutes of the June 24, 2013 regular monthly meeting of Borough Council.

Item 9B: Approve the Financial Statement and quarterly fund transfers.

Item 9C: Approve payment of bills. Vote to be recorded reflecting abstention by Councilor Barber on amount owed Barber Oil Company.

Recommended Action – Approve the consent agenda.

**2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

**3. MAYOR'S REPORT**

**Item 3A: Report on Police Department**

**4. COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

**Item 5A: Report From Severn Trent Services on Wastewater Plant Operations**

Plant Supervisor Bernie Kozlovac will provide a verbal report on projects and activities at the wastewater plant during the month.

Recommended Action – No action required.

**\* Item 5B: Water Project**

The water project was discussed in detail at the municipal authority meeting. Details are included in the minutes of the municipal authority meeting, contained in the packet.

Recommended Action – No action required.

**Item 5C: Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program**

The municipal authority asked staff to consider implementing a more formal maintenance program for the fire hydrants. An annual flushing program will ensure that hydrant valves are operating, remove sediment, maintain effective chlorine levels, eliminate taste and odor problems and control bacteria.

Staff intends to begin such a program in 2014. A comprehensive maintenance program would include annual flushing, but in a coordinated way. In prior years hydrants were randomly opened and water allowed to flow. The hydrants will be flushed beginning at the source and moving out. The flushing will be done at maximum flow rates to scour the pipes. Other recommended best practices will be followed during flushing. Public information will be an important part of a flushing program.

Other components of a hydrant maintenance program should include exercising all valves in the water system, painting of the hydrants, and flow testing the hydrants. Although we and the fire department know that our fire hydrants are all considered “good”, we do not know what the actual flow rate is from each hydrant. That should be determined and provided to the fire department.

It will be necessary to purchase some equipment for proper flushing, flow testing and exercising the valves. The equipment will allow the flow rate to be calculated while the hydrant is being flushed. It will also allow the water to be distributed in the street instead of risking damage to property.



Staff suggests that a hydrant maintenance program be addressed in next year’s budget, and that a summer work crew be designated for that purpose.

**Item 7A: South Marian Street Sidewalks**

Council asked staff to give further consideration to the locations for any new sidewalks that might be constructed on South Marian Street.

Sidewalks are now required on the west side of the 100 and 200 blocks. A new amendment recently added a requirement for a sidewalk on the west side of the 300 block next to Memorial Field.

Staff will review with Council some photos and aerial images of that street.



Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

**Item 7B: Street Paving**

The 2013 street paving project on East Ogle Street and Sugar Street was completed on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Borough crews will restripe the parking spaces and install signage. Trees will be planted along this street this fall.



Recommended Action – No action required.

**Item 7C: Parking Lot Paving**

The paving of the municipal parking lot was completed on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Borough crews will restripe the parking spaces and finish the grading and seeding of the adjacent alley.

Recommended Action – No action required.



9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- \* Item 9A: Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)  
The minutes of the previous meeting are presented for Council review and approval.

Recommended Action – Approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

- \* Item 9B: Financial Statement  
The financial statement for June 2013 is presented for approval. A 12-month fund balance analysis is also included.

At the end of each quarter, fund transfers are made in order to process transfers made to and from reserve accounts, and to distribute the cost of routine and capital expenses among the proper accounts. Fund transfers made for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter are attached.

Recommended Action – Approve the June 2013 financial statement and quarterly fund transfers.

- \* Item 9C: Bills  
A list of bills totaling \$243,048.73 is submitted for approval. The list of bills includes an account in the amount of \$1,537.66 payable to Barber Oil Company. An abstention will be recorded in the minutes on behalf of Councilor Barber on that particular bill.

Recommended Action – Approve payment of the bills as submitted.

**Item 9D: Stormwater Complaints**

There have been an inordinate number of complaints received this year concerning excess stormwater. Staff wants to make Council aware of the nature of those complaints, and review factors contributing to the cause and what can be done to alleviate the problem.

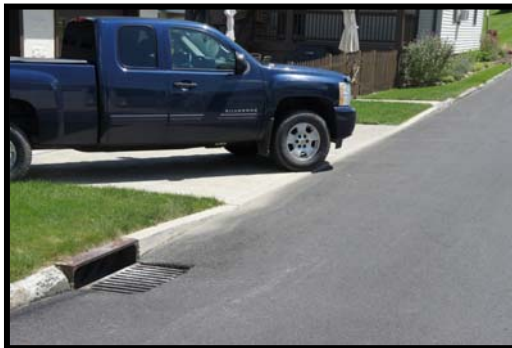
The first area of ongoing concern is the intersection of Center Street at Candlelight Drive. The property owner has been ordered by PennDOT to correct deficiencies in the private stormwater pipe under the Uni-Mart property. Due to inaction by the owner, the tenant initiated some emergency repairs by uncovering the pipe and removing broken sections and debris. It was believed that the channel was at least clear, and they hoped that action alone might eliminate the flooding risk. Within weeks, the area flooded again. PennDOT is continuing enforcement action against the owner.



The second area of ongoing concern is the northeast corner of town bordered by Locust Street and Sugar Street and by Crawford Street and High Street. The red line on the map above indicates the route of the borough's only stormwater collection pipe in that neighborhood. The pipe is under-sized for the amount of stormwater entering it, and surcharges to the point that catch basins back-up and water shoots up out of the ground several feet along the pipe's path. Mr. Bortel (Sample Street and Sugar Street) can attest that this situation has existed for decades. His rear yard is littered with holes caused by the mini-geysers.

It was necessary several years ago to divert the pipe around a house at Tanner Street. The pipe had previously been directly under the house, and collapsed. Replacement of the entire line is problematic due to the diagonal path through town and the number of homes, garages, fences, sheds and retaining walls that have been constructed over it.

Flooding most frequently occurs in this neighborhood along Locust Street and Poplar Street just south of Crawford Street. The curbs are low or nearly non-existent in those areas, and the stormwater backs up through surcharged catch basins. In the photo to the right, water has crossed the curb and driveway and entered the garage. The photo below illustrates that a catch basin is nearby, and how low the curb and driveway are.



The best solution to this problem is the construction of a new sanitary sewer collection system in this side of town, and then the conversion of the existing sanitary sewer system to a stormwater collection system. The earliest that a new sanitary sewer system could be constructed is 2015, and that is very optimistic. Conversion of the old system to stormwater use would likely require a year or two longer.

The third area of new concern this summer is along the streets north of West Highland Avenue. The only stormwater drainage in this area is along West Highland Avenue toward Center Street and then north to the reservoir, and from along the fairgrounds property east toward Center Street. The curbs on all of those streets are relatively low, making it difficult to keep stormwater in the street.

Because of the lack of an adequate stormwater system, Ebensburg experiences some minor flooding concerns on a very occasional basis every year. This year, however, the number of flooding incidents is up dramatically. It is important to realize that the very heavy and frequent rainfall that we received this year is the primary cause of the recurring flooding. Our poor stormwater system is no worse than it has ever been. Adding additional catch basins to an already overloaded system is not a solution.

A stormwater analysis that was phased over several years will be completed by Kimballs later this year. We can use that study to make improvements to our stormwater system in the future, and to make sure that components of the system are adequately sized.



It is important to note also that residents can help to reduce the stormwater problem by not discharging stormwater directly into the street. One of the property owners that recently experienced flooding was discharging water from the downspouts to the street. Stormwater is best retained on each property.

Recommended Action – Dependent on discussion.

**Item 9E: Appointment to Ebensburg Mainstreet Partnership**

Brian Shrift has resigned from the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership. The members have recommended Matt Shutty to fill the seat. Matt is employed by Precision Business Solutions.

Recommended Action – Appoint Matt Shutty to fill an unexpired term on the Ebensburg Main Street Partnership, term expires 12/2013.

## 10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**Item 10A: Police Department**

Chief Wyland will provide a verbal report on the police department’s activities during the month. A written report was e-mailed to Council separately.

**Item 10B: Public Works Department**

Public Works Director Dave Dodson will provide a verbal report on the public works department’s activities during the month.

**Item 10C: Community Development**

Community Development Director Danae Koss will provide a verbal report on the community development department’s activities during the month.

**Item 10D: Recreation Department**

Recreation Director Matt Pfeil will provide a verbal report on the recreation department’s activities during the month.

\* Item 10E: Codes Enforcement

A monthly codes enforcement report is provided in Council’s mailbox.

\* Item 10F: Ebensburg Municipal Authority

A copy of the minutes of the last municipal authority meeting is included in Council’s packet.

\* Item 10G: Ebensburg Planning Commission – No activity

\* Item 10H: Ebensburg Zoning Board

1) Ed Menie

The zoning hearing board approved a variance for the side setback for a swimming pool at 520 West Highland Avenue.

**11. MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

*Representatives of the media are invited to comment and ask questions at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.*

**12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Members of the public are invited to comment at this time on any issues, whether or not on the agenda.*

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

*Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available for public inspection the Thursday before each regularly scheduled meeting at the Borough office, located at 300 West High Street, Ebensburg, Pa. Any documents subject to disclosure that are provided to members of the Borough Council regarding any item on this agenda are available for public inspection at the Borough office or at [www.ebensburgpa.com](http://www.ebensburgpa.com).*

*In accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Borough office (814) 472-8780 or [eburg@ebensburgpa.com](mailto:eburg@ebensburgpa.com). Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the Borough to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.*