

Town Hall Meeting begins: 6:30 p.m.
11-17-15 Council Meeting

DISCUSSION REGARDING 2016 BUDGET

President Andrea Lage welcomed the residents who were present for the Town Hall portion of the meeting and explained that the first item to be discussed will be the 2016 Proposed Budget for the Borough. Manager John Epley explained that they have been diligently working on the 2016 budget have prepared documentation that shows where we currently are with the budget as far as projected expenses, revenues, projected revenues, etc. Mr. Epley reported that there are several items that are anticipated to go down in 2016 and very few increasing. He stated that we will obviously be experiencing some large costs on 2016 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant due to a DEP mandated inflow and infiltration study of the Borough's entire sanitary sewer system, which will be over a two year project. Mr. Epley explained that what they are looking at this evening is not the final budget numbers but very close and plan to have it ready for the December 1, 2015, Borough Council meeting to approve advertising and then hopefully to adopt at the December 15, 2015, meeting.

President Lage thanked all of the managers and noted that in looking at expense trends you can see that everyone has worked very hard to try and keep expenses under control realizing that some expenses are out of their control and costs go up, but nonetheless, the overall budgets are holding and even diminishing in some departments, which is an achievement that is much appreciated.

Mayor Hockersmith stated that he would like to point out the different budgets and how they are supported financially. The Mayor explained that the general fund budget funds everything other than sewer, water, and sanitation; therefore they have a total of four budgets. He went on to explain that the general fund budget is supported by taxes and grants, and other income that is generated through fines, etc. The Mayor also explained that the wastewater budget is supported by sewer rates, the water revenue fund is supported by water rates, and the sanitation fund is supported by refuse or trash and recycling rates. Mayor Hockersmith further explained that all of the four budgets are kept separately and not intermingled with the exception of using some of the fund balance to support what they were doing at the sewer plant but that will be reimbursed into the sewer fund. President Lage explained that those funds still remain separate except for some of the administrative costs, for example when they use general fund personnel to assist with some of the administrative issues with the other departments they charge for those services, but other than that there really isn't much cross sharing of funds. Mayor Hockersmith reported that the Borough office is supported by all funds and separated by certain percentages for each fund. The Mayor asked if any of the budgets reflect an increase in rates or taxes, or anything of that nature for the coming year? President Lage stated that taxes are not projected to need to go up for the general fund, however, because they do have the DEP mandated I & I studies and whatever corrective action comes out of those we do expect increased expenses in the sewer area and it is possible that they will need to raise rates accordingly. President Lage stated that

there is no projected increase for sanitation; either recycling or refuse and no expected increase for water either.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Manager John Epley explained that there has been a lot of comingling of trash and recycling noticed throughout the Borough and the Borough mandates trash removal and recycling so it's just a reminder to residents that they are required to separate their recycling and trash. He went on to state that there have been containers provided by the Borough and they are being found full of trash and recycling. Mr. Epley explained that there is a possibility of reimbursement to some extent for recycling therefore we cannot have that mixing as it will cause a loss to the Borough. He further explained that if there is comingling and recyclables are being thrown away and they could actually be coming back as a revenue to the Borough. President Lage reported that this is our first full year of our comingled recycling rather than having everything divided out and the good news is, is that the Borough has seen a lot of participation and not only do we possibly get revenue from our recyclables, but the less that goes to the landfill the less we pay in tipping fees which can reduce the cost to the borough and less to all of the tax payers by having more recycling and less to the landfill. President Lage also stated that the program is also mandatory. The Council members discussed the process of notification if the drivers find someone is not recycling or recycling properly. Council President Lage reported that some of our issues may be in areas with large numbers of rentals and possibly just reminders to landlords to constantly have something posted in the rental units. She stated that possibly they need to work a little more on their outreach and education.

SHIPPENSBURG COMMUNITY RESOURCE COALITION-HOMELESSNESS IN SHIPPENSBURG

Laura Mascalas, a social worker with the YWCA in Carlisle, explained that she is also the chair of the Shippensburg Community Resource Coalition. Ms. Mascalas reported that the Resource Coalition is newer and has been in a formal board since 2013 and started as some community members and some social service providers who were concerned about different things happening in the Shippensburg Area specifically access to social services, such as mental health services, drug and alcohol services, and youth programing in Shippensburg. Ms. Mascalas went on to explain that when they formed together as a Board they did a community assessment and out of that assessment came three main areas, access to social services, safe and accessible youth programing and some concern over homelessness. She explained that out of that assessment they formed some subcommittees who work on those different areas and one of those is a homelessness taskforce. Teri Mowery, principal at the Intermediate School, and district homeless liaison k-12, reported that the type of homelessness that is seen in Shippensburg is more of families doubled up with other families due to poverty or other poverty related situations, families that are living in local hotels or motels, and some families living in shelters that are not located in Shippensburg. Ms. Mowery reported that the McKinney-Vento Act is the act that all schools are under for homelessness, and that act does provide for students to main in their school district of origin with a host of their requirements attached. Ms. Mowery explained how they support students and their families who are experiencing poverty and homelessness in Shippensburg is by first a personal contact

and a resource packet. Ms. Mowery reported that they are provided with a Franklin County resource guide which has housing, financial, mental health, drug and alcohol, etc., and they also have a Cumberland County guide and a Shippensburg Community resource guide. She further stated that they provide their families with the time and days of the Shippensburg free meals at our area churches, and providing information to homeless veterans in the community. Ms. Mowery stated that she is frequently asked how many families she is working with. She reported that last year it was 36 families and this year she has already worked with 16 which range from 1 student to 5 or 6 students in the same family. Ms. Mowery expressed her appreciation to the Community in all that they do for these families which includes not only the free meals from the churches but the generous donations that come in to help the students and their families. She stated that they receive donations of school supplies for every school in their district, a K-5 clothing closet at the intermediate school that is stocked by their staff, student council has done toiletry drives for things such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothbrush, etc., the Angel Tree, fire companies donating holiday meals, etc. Ms. Mowery stated that she would like to make it known that she is interested in partnering with other groups to help get supplies and resources out to the families and students. Ms. Mowery stated that the Resource Coalition meets at Katie's Place every month which includes a variety of people who are interested in partnering. Councilperson Coy stated that she feels these organizations should be recognized for what they do which is phenomenal. President Lage asked what they would consider the areas that they have the greatest need for if someone wanted to try to help, and also what happens when school is not in session? Laura Mascaldas explained that one of the things that they have been successful in doing is securing Big Brothers and Big Sisters and they are doing a piolet program at James Burd Elementary and currently recruiting Bigs for the littles that they have and they have a few more that they would like to match up if possible, so if someone would like to donate some time at a school based program that is an option. She further explained that in the summer time one of the big successes of the Resource Coalition is the summer lunch program. Ms. Mascaldas stated that they have been running that for the past three years and they are actually talking with the school district to open multiple sites for that this coming summer and because they have had such great success and that targets kids who qualify for free or reduced lunches and that relies heavily on volunteers. Ms. Mowery explained that they also partner with the public library to offer programs for the kids over the summer months also. President Lage stated that it is encouraging to hear what is working but sometimes it is good to hear what the gaps might be so we can think about how we can creatively address them, if there is anything they want to bring up that people may put their minds to helping where the need is. Ms. Mascaldas stated that certainly volunteering for those programs and one of the other things they were able to do this summer was to secure some money to give children grants or scholarships to attend summer camps. Councilperson Coy stated that she received a call from someone asking where they could volunteer to assist with serving a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal to homeless. Janice Hockersmith stated that the Thanksgiving meal will be at Prince Street United Brethren Church this year with all the donations for the meals coming from various churches. Tyler Fairchild stated that the Christmas Eve dinner will be on December 22, 2015, with registration opening up December 1st. Tyler stated that Branch Creek Place will be fielding all the registration calls as they will be assisting with the dinner this year. Janice stated that the Thanksgiving meal is also by reservation and residents would need to call Prince Street Church to register. Tyler stated that Christmas meal will still be at the Firefighter's Activity Center and the doors

will open at 10:30 a.m. and dinner will start being served at 11:00 a.m. He further reported that Meals on Wheels will also be participating so they will be delivering meals to those who cannot make it to the actual event. Councilperson Burrows stated that in the past they have been short on drivers to deliver meals. Tyler stated that he can check with Meals on Wheels to see if they need any extra drivers that day, but Kathy's Deli will have enough people on staff to help serve the food, and the National Honor Society students assist with checking people in. Tyler reported that they served 220 meals last year and in speaking to Branch Creek they are expecting more this year. Kerri stated that it is not income based and just a community dinner. Tyler stated that it is sponsored by the Stewart Foundation which is a foundation that has supported Shippensburg since back in the 1950's and have supported the meal every year. Councilperson Burrows stated that it is a great community event and would encourage everyone to come. Councilperson Coy questioned the housing vouchers and what they are and what they involve? Laura Mascalas stated that it is through the county level so it would be something that prospective tenants would have to go to the county to get information on. Councilperson Burrows stated that something that she found that was staggering was the percentage of kids K-12 that qualify for free and reduced lunches in the Shippensburg School District. She stated that it drops off significantly when they reach middle school and high school which has nothing to do financial reasons but more because they are embarrassed and there is a stigma. Teri Mowery stated that that it is a little bit higher at James Burd than at Nancy Grayson and it does taper off in the higher grades and their numbers are currently around 40% of students overall, but each building is different. Kerri stated that we are very fortunate to live in a community that is caring and giving, and very supportive with so many who need the support. Tyler Fairchild stated that he will be attending a meeting this Thursday about the summer lunch programs and to see what the new authority can offer at the park next summer.

CRIME/DRUGS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SHIPPENSBURG

Chief Scott reported that Jeff Mohn, head of the Cumberland County Drug Task Force is present this evening to give a presentation. Mr. Mohn reported that the Cumberland County Drug Task Force is administered by the District Attorney's office, and by and large within the last four years heroin has been their biggest problem. He stated that the drug task force prioritizes heroin at approximately 60 to 70% of the cases that they initiate are dealing with the heroin problem. Mr. Mohn provided some statistics from the coroner's office citing 20 drug deaths in 2011 in Cumberland County, 27 in 2012, 28 in 2013, 35 in 2014, and this year so far there have been 37. He stated that some are attributed directly to heroin and others are attributed to mixed drugs. Mr. Mohn stated that the problem is very real and Shippensburg is not exempt from it. He reported that another serious problem they are experiencing which started in the last 4 or 5 years is the synthetic drugs. Chief Scott explained that because Shippensburg is in two counties Mr. Mohn is only getting the statistics for Cumberland County but there are a lot of deaths that occur in Shippensburg but are transferred to Chambersburg Hospital so those deaths are attributed to Franklin County statistics. Mr. Mohn reported that in the past two or three years drug overdoses have taken over the spot that auto accidents used to have for people under a certain age. Chief Scott asked how long it takes to complete an investigation on a suspect from the beginning until the end, considering most people think it's like it is shown on TV and it's very quick. Mr. Mohn stated that if they strictly target users of drugs and small level dealers they can usually do a pretty

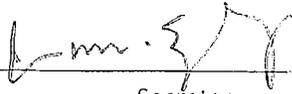
quick case, but it doesn't really do much to solve the problem. He explained that their goal is to identify the actual source of the drugs, use those people that they know about, follow them, and use some sophisticated techniques to follow their activities. He went on to state that they then try to go to the people they are getting their drugs from. Chief Scott explained that thefts have been way down since the drug task force has made a few big raids, but its matter of time before something else fills the gap. The Chief also stated that they are experiencing a lot more individuals that have children where the husband and wife/girlfriend/boyfriend are both heroin addicts and the kids are caught in the middle. He also stated that binge drinking is still a problem for the department and are experiencing a lot more high alcohol content users in the Borough. Chief Scott also reported that in light of the recent incident at the school in South Carolina he spoke to the Mayor and they are going to review their policy on responding to calls from parents who cannot control their kids and calling the police department to respond. He stated that they will get with the school district with the counselors and talk about proper usage is of the police department on those types of incidents. President Lage asked if he has a lot of calls for those types of situations. Chief Scott stated that it is unreal the amount of calls they get for kids that the parents say are out of control and he doesn't want the officers to get into situations that they are accused of hurting a child, etc. Officer Eric Varner reported that the drug box at the police station for the take back prescription program has been working out very well and they have made three trips to the county lab of large boxes of prescription medications that have been dropped off to be destroyed. Officer Varner stated that he feels this has been a tremendous resource to the area, which keeps the medications off the streets and out of the hands of people who are not prescribed to have them. Officer Varner also reported that he's very busy and the Chief has assigned Officer Rinaldi the past few months to help him out and it has helped considerably. He explained that with the new laws in child protective services it has affected them because everyone is really scared and are reporting everything and they have to investigate the cases. Officer Varner provided some statistics which includes, roughly 10 burglaries, 6 robberies, 15 fraud cases, 20 sexual assault cases, and when the victims are going to the hospital at 3 a.m. he is the one that is getting the call. He explained that he has to go and conduct the interview, etc., and then there are meetings with various agencies that are required by law, so the cases are no longer a matter of receiving the case, doing the follow-up and closing them out, because it doesn't work that way anymore, therefore the time that is being spent is overwhelming. Officer Varner stated that drugs are the reason they have the robberies, the thefts, etc. Councilperson Burrows asked how many full time police officers they have not including Chief Scott or Officer Varner, who are patrol officers? Chief Scott stated that he has 7 officers. Kerri asked how many calls to service they have received as of today? Officer Varner stated that they are over 6200 calls, and the reason Officer Rinaldi was able to assist him with his cases was because Chief Scott covered the shifts which does not happen at other departments. Councilperson Burrows expressed her appreciation for the Police Department and all that they do for the community and would hope that the residents of the Borough would remember their efforts when looking at the budget and how much of the general fund goes to fund the Police Department. Angelo Tsambrias stated that he is the Chair of the Civil Service Commission and they have not been asked to review the hiring of any police officers in the past few years and to him the officers are overwork. He asked what it would take to hire two more officers and take some of the workload off of the current staff? Joe Hockersmith stated that the police department is supported out of the general fund with tax dollars and right now the most they could legally raise taxes is roughly

\$60,000, which wouldn't even cover one police officer. Councilperson Hockersmith stated that they do not want to raise taxes but by law they cannot. Councilperson Burrows reported that there are part-time officers but unfortunately they do not stay for very long because they are able to find full time employment elsewhere. Councilperson Coy stated that what they see is the community of people coming together to try to make Shippensburg what it is. She went on to state that the EMS are many times the first responders for the drug and alcohol overdoses and the EMS and fire departments are worked triple time on weekends when there are big events going on in town, which proves that the town really does come together to help humanity in Shippensburg and that is to be commended.

CUMERLAND VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER

Manager John Epley reported that he asked the representatives from Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter to come this evening because when they met to discuss their contract they had a very good conversation about things that happen that a lot of people are not aware of and also ways to help keep the costs under control for the Borough. Connie Woody of the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter gave an overview of animal shelter and stressed the importance of spay and neutering your pets to avoid having the stray population issue because they have to have the funds to feed these animals on a daily basis and they rely 100% on donation. Ms. Woody also stated that they have to vaccinate animals that they get if they are strays because they do not know if the animals have rabies vaccinations so that is another expense they must incur. Jen Vandeau also representing Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter stated that they sincerely appreciate the support that they get from the Borough. Ms. Vandeau also stressed the need to spay and neuter animals and reported that they have 200 cats at the shelter right now that they need to find homes for.

President Lage stated that having no other topics for the Town Hall meeting, Borough Council would be having an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Executive session began at 8:12 p.m. Executive Session ended at 8:43 p.m. Having no further business Joe Hockersmith moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kerri Burrows. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


Secretary