PUBLIC HEARING

November 11, 2015

A Public Hearing was held in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. on November 11, 2015 to consider the request by the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation for a reverse subdivision of their two adjacent lots at 41 W. Rose Valley Road (Thunderbird Lodge) and to change the zoning of the consolidated 2.5 acre property from Residential Zone A to Institutional. Advertising for this hearing was posted as required in the Delaware County Daily Times and letters were sent to all the neighboring properties.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President of Council Bill Hale. Those attending the hearing were: Council members Dave Firn, Bob Giorgianni, Bill Hale, Stephanie Middleton, Al Meyer, Bob Siwicki and Penny Sass; Mayor Tim Plummer, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith, Secretary Paula Healy, and residents Andy Detterline, John Innelli, Jean Lovern and Penelope Reed. Stenographer Norma Gerrity recorded the proceedings.

Chairperson of the Planning Commission Stephanie Middleton noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed the matter at hand at its meeting on November 5th, and unanimously voted to recommend that Council approve the reverse subdivision and change in zoning of the consolidated property to Institutional. She also observed that the Delaware County Planning Commission had also reviewed the proposed reserve subdivision and zoning change and recommended approval.

Mr. Hale read a letter from immediate neighbors David and Margaret Dee who live next door at 8 School Lane. The Dee's stated they very much support the mission of the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation and the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society's goal of using Thunderbird Lodge as a museum along with housing for a caretaker. They also indicated they understood the need for fundraising events and activities at the Lodge from time to time. However they expressed their concern that the Lodge not be used as a function hall with uses similar to those of The Old Mill such as wedding receptions, parties or other large, loud gatherings. They requested that the motion approving the re-zoning of the property include language limiting the use of Thunderbird Lodge to its intended purpose as a museum and caretaker residence. Solicitor Smith cautioned that the Borough Zoning Code specifies permitted uses in an Institutional Zone and that Council was limited in this matter to decided if the property would be re-zoned Institutional or remain Residential Zone A.

Penelope Reed, Executive Director of Hedgerow Theatre, expressed her appreciation for how the Planning Commission handled Hedgerow's request to change the zoning of the Hedgerow House property at 146 W. Rose Valley from Residential Zone A to Institutional at its November 5th meeting. Hedgerow withdrew its zoning change request at the end of that meeting. Penelope announced that Hedgerow now intends to pursue a variance request before the Zoning Hearing Board to obtain the relief necessary for additional construction on the Hedgerow House property.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. on November 11, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President of Council Bill Hale. Other Councilmembers present were: Dave Firn, Bob Giorgianni, Stephanie Middleton, Al Meyer, Penny Sass and Bob Siwicki; Controller John Neilson, Mayor Tim Plummer, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Treasurer Jennifer Rimerman was absent.

Resident John Innelli of 8 Valley View Road was a guest.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the October 14, 2015 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

John Innelli asked if the Borough knew of any utility work that was going to be done on Valley View Road in the near future as the residents intended to have their private road repaved. Mrs. Healy said she will look into this.

PLANNING

Chairperson of the Planning Commission Stephanie Middleton moved that the reverse subdivision of the two lots at 41 W. Rose Valley Road and the change of zoning for the consolidated 2.5 acre property from Residential Zone A to Institutional be approved. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Middleton recommended that when advertising for the next public hearing, notice with a description of the purpose of the hearing be put on the Borough’s website. Mr. Meyer suggested that a sign could also be posted on the property notifying people of the hearing.

Mr. Smith reviewed the points he had outlined previously in his memorandum to Council regarding the United States Supreme Court's recent landmark decision regarding First Amendment rights and signage. For now he suggests we wait to see how this complex issue shakes out before attempting to revise the Borough sign ordinance.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that he is still waiting for news regarding the Growing Greener Grant and the Delaware County Conservation District Grant. The deer hunt is progressing well. The Invasives Workshop was a big success. Mr. Firn would like to allocate funding in the 2016 budget for control and removal of invasive species. Mr. Firn moved that up to $800 be allocated for dwarf bamboo spraying, $600 for weed pre-emergent spraying and $1000 for knot weed spraying. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Siwicki indicated that the preliminary 2016 budget has adequate funds in the Parks category to cover these expenses.
Mr. Hale reported that Scout Kevin Yin will be planting native perennial plant plugs and native shrubs along Vernon Run on the Borough properties on either side of the entrance to Old Mill Lane as part of his Eagle Scout Project. These plants will replace the invasive plants removed by Colin Gillespie for his Eagle Scout Project. The Borough will cover the costs of the plants. Resident expert gardener Margery Howe has volunteered to select and order the plants.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Meyer reported that the 2015 Borough Road Work has been completed and that Borough Engineer Houtman had authorized the payment of $62,740.00 to Gessler Construction for the work. $59,240.00 of this amount will be paid from the Highway Aid Fund and $3,500.00 from the Road Improvement Fund.

Mr. Meyer opened the one snowplowing bid received in response to the advertisement in The Swarthmorean on October 9, 2015. The bid was received from R. C. Marland, with the same unit pricing as last year. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, R. C. Marland was awarded the 2015 – 2016 snowplowing contract for the Borough.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Sass reported that Dr. Richard Flanagan was appointed to the Board of Directors at the Library meeting last night. The improvements to the Chadwick room are almost complete. The Well Red fund raiser was a great success. A member of the Library has volunteered to help them with interior design.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Giorgianni reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 5 false alarms; 1 collision; 1 theft by fraud and forgery; and 1 theft from a motor vehicle. The Fire Report noted one incident of gas odor in the 400 block of Woodward Road on October 18.

Mr. Giorgianni reported that the new fire truck for South Media Fire Company has not yet arrived.

Mrs. Healy reported that Nether Providence Township Commissioner Nate Much had called the Borough Office stating that Rose Valley Borough had to use Nether Providence's newly appointed Fire Marshall as its Fire Marshall. Solicitor Smith noted that the Fire Protection Agreement between the Township of Nether Providence and the Borough of Rose Valley states that "Rose Valley shall have the right to call upon the services of the Fire Marshall of Nether Providence and his staff for inspection, investigation and consultation in fire protection matters", indicating the Borough has the right, but not the obligation, to utilize Nether Providence's Fire Marshall as its Fire Marshall. For now, the Borough would like to continue utilizing Jim Orteleva as Fire Marshall due to his familiarity with the Borough's institutions and his extensive knowledge and experience.
There was further discussion about the use of cell phones versus radios to call into the Town Watch base station. Mr. Giorgianni and Town Watch Captain Dick Jacob are working on new procedures regarding this. Mayor Plummer suggested keeping the old radios in case they may be needed in the future.

The speed device is working well.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Reports and the Status of Funds for October. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval for November and answered questions. The Bills in the amounts of $23,213.93 from the General Fund, $59,240.00 from the Highway Aid Fund and $3,500.00 from the Road Improvement Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Siwicki presented and reviewed the preliminary budget for 2016. It reflects a 2% decrease in taxes from 2.42 mills to 2.37 mills, primarily because Real Estate Transfer Tax receipts were substantially higher than expected this year and are expected to continue to remain strong in the future. The budget calls for total revenue of $350,969 with no monies appropriated from Capital Reserves and an equal amount in total expenses. A motion was made to approve the preliminary 2016 budget. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Another motion was made to advertise the 2016 preliminary budget in the Delaware County Daily Times and to put the 2016 preliminary budget on display for public viewing in the Borough Office. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed. There will be a Special Council Meeting on December 16, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. to adopt the budget and pass end of year ordinances and resolutions.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Plummer reported that he, Mr. Hale, Rose Valley Troop 272 Scoutmaster Jim McGaffin and Boy Scout Connor McGaffin raised the Flag at the Borough’s Veteran's Memorial today at 7:00 a.m. to commemorate Veterans’ Day, and that the group will reassemble at 10:30 p.m. to lower the flag.

Mr. Plummer is beginning to prepare his State of the Borough Address for 2016 and would like input from Councilmembers by the next Council Meeting on December 9.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith reminded Council that there will be a reorganization meeting on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 8:00. At that time re-elected Councilpersons will be sworn in by the Mayor. The regular Council Meeting will then be held on January 13.

In recognition of Veteran's Day, Mr. Hale thanked Mr. Giorgianni, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Plummer for their military service to our country.
There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary