

**HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 22, 2022**

The meeting of the House Committee was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by Chairman Gene Gabel. Present in addition to Mr. Gabel were committee members Keith Endy, and Barry Christman.

Also in attendance were Councilman Jeffrey Cascino; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly, Alex Eidle and Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc., and interested citizens.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Gabel, seconded by Mr. Endy, and approved.

Mr. Gabel called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

**Unfinished Business**

**Community Swimming Pool** – Jeff Thoms, SSM, Inc., provided a written report of his inspection of the Community Swimming Pool and his recommendations. Mr. Thoms noted that the YMCA reports a water loss of three inches of depth per day, equating to approximately 23,000 gallons of water lost per day. The YMCA reported that the rate of loss in 2022 is greater than in 2021. Mr. Thoms noted that the concrete appears to be in good condition, with no indication of cracking that would cause the loss of water reported by the YMCA. The expansion joints were reviewed and found to be in poor condition. In many locations the sealant is no longer bonded to the base material and it appears that newer sealant may have been applied over an older sealant. The top layer has lost adhesion in many locations and can be easily pulled away. Based on this observation Mr. Thoms believes that the source of the leakage is very likely the failed expansion joints. Mr. Thoms noted concern about the path to which 23,000 gallons of water per day follows and how this may be impacting the soil below the pool.

Mr. Thoms recommends the existing expansion joint sealant be completely removed and replaced. Mr. Thoms provided a product data sheet with the recommended product to use for this application. This information has been provided to Deep Aqua, the contractor used by the YMCA, for a cost proposal.

With regard to the potential undermining the leakage may have caused, Mr. Thoms recommends the ground below the pool be further investigated. Mr. Thoms' report includes a proposal to perform Microgravity Testing of the areas in and around the pool. Microgravity Testing will determine the relative density of the soil below the pool structure. If large areas of low density material are identified, this could be an indication of a potentially hazardous condition. The proposal also includes options for a geophysical survey of the pumphouse area and SP survey in the grassy area. Both could be beneficial to trace the path the water may be taking. The Geophysical Survey – Pool Area cost is \$16,170.00; the Geophysical Survey – Pumphouse Area cost is \$5,390.00; and the SP Survey in the grassy area cost is \$9,940.00. Total cost to perform all surveys is \$31,500.00.

Mr. Thoms initial recommendation is to remove and replace the existing expansion joint sealant and put water back into the pool to confirm it doesn't leak. The committee discussed the recommendation and feels that Microgravity Testing should be done first to determine if undermining has occurred. Mr. Newhard agreed and advised the committee that he would discuss the idea with Mr. Thoms and advise Mrs. Loder. The committee agreed that further discussion on this subject could be held at the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Finance Committee.

**2023 Schedule of Meetings** – The 2023 Schedule of Meetings was provided to the committee and the remaining members of Borough Council in October. No changes are recommended to the schedule. A motion to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise the 2023 meeting schedule will be listed on the agenda of the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council.

### **New Business**

**2023 Term Appointments Boards, Commissions, Offices** – Mrs. Loder provided the members with a list of term appointments which are due to be made at the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Borough Council.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Gabel called for public comment and recognized Ms. Michele Moyer of Gilbertsville who addressed the committee concerning use of the Community Park on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for “Yoga Under the Stars”. The event time would be 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and it would be a one time event. Ms. Moyer is able to provide the required certificate of liability insurance. Discussion was held on the specific location in the park; noting that lighting is not available in many areas of the park. Following discussion, the committee agreed that they are willing to consider entering into a Park Use Agreement for the event. Mrs. Loder will reserve the date and time on the park calendar and Ms. Moyer will advise Mrs. Loder of the specific location in the park for the event.

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. was made by Mr. Gabel, second by Mr. Christman. The next meeting of the House Committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Secretary