

Oakland Borough Council
Special Business Meeting
October 5, 2020

Council was in executive session from 5:55 to 5:59 for contractual purposes.

The special meeting of the Oakland Borough Council was called to order at 6:04pm. Present were council members Gary Boughton, Valerie Senese, Ron Beavan, Robert Muiiter, Pat Gall, and Brad Krayeski; Mayor Randy Glover; Solicitor John Martin; and Secretary Rhonda Parfitt. Council woman Debra White was absent.

Also present was Gregory Garnett, owner of Garnett Excavation and Snow Removal.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

Mr. Boughton added the front door knob to the agenda before public comment. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiiter, to adopt the amended agenda. The motion was approved by vote.

Mr. Boughton announced that there had been an executive session at the last meeting on September 16th for contracts. There was also an executive session before this meeting for contracts.

At this time, Council prepared to open the bids that had come in for the Pierson Street and 3rd Ave drainage project. Mr. Martin instructed Ms. Parfitt to enter the sealed bid advertisement into the official record, and to state when it was noticed. Ms. Parfitt stated that the Sealed Bid notice had been placed in the Scranton Times on September 18, 2020 and September 22, 2020 and read the sealed bid notice, as follows: "Oakland Borough of Susquehanna County is seeking SEALED BIDS for a drainage project. Interested parties should contact the Borough Secretary for a project work plan. Bids must be addressed to the Borough Secretary and clearly marked "SEALED BID." Bids are due to the Borough office at 380 State Street, Susquehanna, PA 18847, on October 5th at 5:30pm in order to be opened at a public meeting at 6:00pm." Mr. Martin asked Ms. Parfitt how many requests she had gotten for the project work plan and she answered that there had been approximately twelve. Mr. Martin asked Ms. Parfitt how many bids had been received by the deadline and she answered that there were five. Mr. Boughton opened the bids and the tabulation was as follows:

- Garnett Excavation and Snow Removal- \$62,132.30
- Insinger Excavation, LLC- \$55,230.00
- Wayco Inc- \$52,541.63
- Linde Corporation- \$85,661.00
- Boland's Excavating and Topsoil Inc.- \$32,300.00

Mr. Martin instructed Ms. Parfitt to enter copies of the bids into the official record. Council combed through each bid individually and gave consideration to each one. Ms. Senese stated that she felt Mr. Garnett was the most qualified bidder since he had worked with the grantor to design the project. No bids had the amount of detail that Mr. Garnett's had, so it would be hard to do a proper cost comparison and know if the bids containing less detail were going to be accurate for the work. It was also noted that some bidders could not start the work until the spring, but the project needed to be completed this year to avoid any further damage. Eventually, Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to approve the most qualified bidder, Garnett Excavation for \$62,130.32 which was the amount of the grant funds. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Roll call was as follows: Gary Boughton, Valerie Senese, Ron Beavan, Rob Muiteer, Brad Krayeski, and Patrick Gall all voted in favor. Council woman Debra White was absent and unable to vote.

Discussion was had about proposed Resolution 2020-7. Mr. Beavan was concerned that the Council could not make the residents do something by resolution. Mr. Martin read the resolution and explained that the wording was such that the Council was just stating what was already the law, which is that property owners are to maintain their own ditches. Ms. Senese stated that the only reason they were passing it was so that Soil and Conservation would have it for their records. Mr. Krayeski inquired if they needed to state that the work had to be maintained in the condition in which the Borough fixed it, or if that was implied, and Mr. Martin stated that it was implied. Mr. Martin made a few word changes to the typed resolution. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiteer, to adopt Resolution 2020-7 with the changes. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Muiteer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Senese, to accept the NEP franchise agreement. The motion was approved by majority vote, with Mr. Beavan being opposed.

Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiteer, to adopt Resolution # 2020-8. The motion was approved by majority vote, with Mr. Beavan being opposed.

Ms. Parfitt stated that she had received correspondence from the County treasurer regarding a repository property owned by Edward Trynoski. She reminded the Council of the original correspondence back in January, in which the County requested for the Council to vote to accept any price negotiated. At that time, the Council requested to know how much tax money was owed, and they also had the concern that the property would be turned into a blighted property by an out-of-area buyer. Ms. Parfitt stated that she had never heard back from the County and neglected to follow-up. The current communication from the treasurer was to inform the Council that an interested party had offered \$2,500 for the property. If the Council accepted this price, the Borough would receive some tax money back from 2016 and 2017 and the property would be put back on the tax rolls. Conversation turned to blight remediation and there were some back and forth ideas. Ms. Senese stated that she would continue working on a blight remediation proposal. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiteer, to accept the price of \$2,500 for the repository property owned by Edward Trynoski. The motion was

approved by unanimous vote. It was noted after the vote that the Borough has the option to purchase these properties also, in order to keep them from becoming blighted areas, and use them for whatever purpose they deem appropriate.

Ms. Senese presented information from the DCED, stating that the DCED was working to offer a regional comprehensive plan with Oakland's neighboring municipalities and that they were going to work hard to make it free for the participants. If it was not free, the test plan would be a match of 10%, which would be split between all municipalities who participated. Ms. Senese stated that she thought it was a good idea because the DCED would control the plan and it would cause less conflict with other individuals that the Borough usually has cooperation problems with. Mr. Muiteer stated that they would have to think of a way to assure the public that this plan would not necessarily lead to a merger, because he was sure that is all the public would see. Mr. Beavan asked what services could be included, and Ms. Senese stated that the plan would go over the economy and census data, sharing services, surveys, boards, police, etc. Mr. Krayeski asked if any other municipalities had agreed to participate. Ms. Senese stated that because the StMP program was for Oakland, they would have to be the ones to agree to extend the comprehensive plan to the other municipalities, and they would have to do so by resolution. If no other communities wanted to participate, Oakland would still get their own comprehensive plan. Mr. Beavan made a motion, seconded Ms. Senese, to open the regional comprehensive plan through the DCED to neighboring municipalities. Ms. Senese made a motion for Ms. Parfitt to create Resolution 2020-9 to send to the DCED. There was a clarification of what the resolution was supposed to say, and there was some back and forth between Ms. Senese, Mr. Muiteer, and Mr. Beavan. Ms. Senese ratified her previous motion for Resolution 2020-9 to state that Oakland Borough has approved a regional comprehensive plan through the DCED under Phase Two of Oakland Borough's StMP program. Mr. Muiteer seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote. Mr. Martin stated that regionalization was the way of the future, because everyone is afraid of mergers. Council agreed.

Mr. Boughton stated that the door knob on the entry door of the Borough building needed to be replaced. Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to order a keypad lock for the front door. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Senese made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiteer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 to enter into executive session for contracts. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote and the Council convened into executive session until 7:25 for contractual purposes.