BOROUGH OF CANONSBURG GENERAL PURPOSE COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 24, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bevec at 7:00 P.M.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

IV. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Richard Russo, Paul Sharkady, Joseph Graff, Joseph McGarry, John Bevec, Patricia Romano, Fran Coleman, Timothy Bilsky, and Peter Lucas Others Present:

Attorney Patrick Derrico and Mayor David H. Rhome

Absent:

Assistant Borough Manager Denise Lesnock

V. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Bevec advised those present that this special voting meeting was called specifically for one item that is on the agenda. Because it was his understanding that almost everyone was in attendance concerning the South Central issue, he advised them that this matter was not going to be addressed. Mr. Bevec said that public comments could be made, but the committee is still meeting, and it is hoped that it will be presented at the Agenda Meeting to be held Monday, July 1, 2013.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A. Ms. Emma Jean Horwatt, of 243 Lincoln Avenue, stated that it took her forty years to get that road on Lincoln Avenue and wanted to know if Council intends to "bust" the road down and take her house after she worked so hard for it.

 Ms. Horwatt informed Council that she is going to submit a bill. She said that her husband (who had both legs amputated) cut the grass for forty years. She asked why Council isn't going to pay her instead of throwing the money away down at the sewer place.
- B. Ms. Agnes Lesniakowski, of 201 Crawford Street, expressed the following concerns:
 - 1. Spacing No sidewalks and no place to walk;

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- 2. Speeding Drivers don't stop for stop signs. Increasing that by 88 more cars, as Mr. Bove has stated would be on that street there's no way. Ms. Lesniakowski stated that if \$40,000 is the price of a life, then she hopes that this Council does not approve this access to this road.
- 3. Road cannot support proposed traffic Is leaning now. Retaining rolls are cracking; iron railings on one retaining wall are completely rusted.
- 4. Topography of land will be changed by Bove on the Ciaffoni farm. She asked about environmental effects.
- 5. Soil Erosion Surrounding people will suffer. The pipes the Borough put in last year will not take all that water that's going to come off that hill.
- 6. Wildlife What will happen to them?
- 7. Underground Springs Go down 20 or 25 feet there's nothing but water. Everyone on Crawford Street had a well at one time. If you go down 100 feet on the hill, you'll hit water. The end result will be mine subsidence.
- 8. Heavy Equipment Surrounding homes will suffer.
- 9. No benefit to Canonsburg Taxes for this development will all go to North Strabane, and Canonsburg will suffer the consequences.

Ms. Lesniakowski stated that Canonsburg will be liable, and there will be legal action taken eventually. She said she hopes Council will consider this thoroughly and listen to what the people have to say.

C. Mr. Kevin Oelschlager, of 129 Greenwood Drive in North Strabane, said he is hearing about 88 cars in traffic. He said he has been to all the North Strabane meetings, and their traffic reports actually show about 1,300 plus cars on a daily basis on Greenwood Drive.

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He stated that the developer is telling North Strabane that it would be 20 - 30%, which means that 200 - 300 cars would be coming to Canonsburg – not 88 cars.

D. Mr. Matt Binotto, of 409 Park Avenue, expressed concern for the safety issue. He said his daughter rides her bike around there, and there are problems with speeding and people not stopping at the stop signs.

Mr. Binotto felt that all the residents up in that area need to be informed of any change that comes along. He didn't know about the meeting until Friday, and he put a sign up in the front of his yard that the meeting was coming up.

Mr. Binotto expressed his opposition to the proposed access road.

E. Ms. Marie Edwards, of 104 Crawford Street, informed Council that there is no place for them to park their vehicles. She said it is really a one-way road. They have no driveway and no place to park – other than on the street.

Ms. Edwards asked what will happen with all this traffic coming up and down the hill. She asked if they will be ticketed for parking their vehicles there.

Mr. Bevec replied that he could not answer that. All the questions are valid and are being recorded in the minutes. The committee will get copies of the minutes. This matter is not on the agenda, so information only is being taken at this time.

- F. Ms. Lucy Binotto, of 409 Park Avenue, informed Council of the many reasons she opposes this:
 - 1. Safety of Children No sidewalks, and they walks to school.
 - 2. Drivers not stopping at stop signs.
 - 3. Loss of parking spaces.
 - 4. Condition of the road Problems with gas lines, holes in the road.
 - 5. Who did a traffic study? Felt that in a two-hour period there are more cars than the 17% they are predicting

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would be coming through there.

- 6. Drainage -- Movement of erosion and earth will have an effect.
- G. Mrs. Porter, of 306 Crawford Street, (which is the very end) informed Council that their yard is already surrounded by water and is slowly eroding. She said that tearing up the top of the road would cause damage to their house.

Mrs. Porter questioned who would be responsible. She felt that it certainly would not be the Porters.

Other concerns expressed by Mrs. Porter:

- 1. Safety of children
- 2. Increase in traffic
- 3. Speeding
- 4. Environmental Issue

Mr. Bevec stated that all the safety items are being looked into by the Public Safety and Public Works Committees.

H. Ms. Nancy Gregory stated that she lives on a road that is not even on the Borough map. She said she lives at the end of Fourth Street, but the name of her road is actually called East Street. She felt this should be addressed because East Street adjoins North Strabane as far as boundaries are concerned. Her back yard is North Strabane. Ms. Gregory stated that about twenty-five years ago she had an issue with her property and had mine subsidence, which caused her house to sink three inches and to twist. You couldn't open a window or a door, and every time they tried to open the garage door, the springs would break. Ms. Gregory stated that no one wanted to listen or help her. She said she hired GeoMechanic from Elizabeth, PA to investigate and help her. They looked at mining maps, looked at her area, and put her in touch with people at the OSM and the DER. Ms. Gregory stated that the OSM came out and did core sampling drilling on top of the hill and all around. She said she was told by Dr. Elvy that you should be able to go down 245 feet before hitting a mine shaft. He explained to her

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that years ago, for the sake of progress, I-79 was built. As they were going through the south side of Canonsburg, they did a lot of blasting. When they blasted that hillside for I-79, it was a domino effect that rippled back and caused the mine pillars to erode and collapse. Ms. Gregory stated that her house sat above a pillar that collapsed. All this information is documented. The OSM has the records. She said they only went down 120 feet, which was 100 feet less than they were anticipating, before they hit water. Ms. Gregory said that her house butts North Strabane and a wall of water comes down every time there is a heavy snow or rain. There is a little gully that they maintain. It fills up with water and overflows. Ms. Gregory stated that it's only going to get worse – not better. She added that she doesn't believe the developer will be conscientious enough to put in buffers and drainage. Therefore, before any action is taken, Council should understand all the ramifications that this is going to have and the impact on the Borough itself. She said she can't believe that this Council would agree to sell its soul for \$40,000. Ms. Gregory ended by stating that North Strabane is going to get all the property tax rebates, all the property tax monies, all of the occupation taxes from the residents. She said that North Strabane is going to be rolling in green while Canonsburg is left with smog. If North Strabane really wants this development to happen, let North Strabane find a solution to this problem. It's not our problem, and it shouldn't be. (Applause)

I. Mr. Bob Poness, of 110 Victoria Drive, was of the opinion that the Township of North Strabane is trying to find a reason not to give Mr. Bove permission, and they are relying upon Canonsburg to say no. He said that they are going to come across their complex, and they gave them a traffic study, which was two cars per hour more. Mr. Poness stated that there will be 233 units up there. He said he may not be a mathematician, but he knows

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someone who's pretty good at it. The calculation for a normal eight-hour period of a day for 200 plus units with two-car garages on their one road alone comes out to 121 vehicles per hour. Mr. Poness stated that their roads can't handle it either, but according to Mr. Bove, they are sufficient. He said that in his opinion, they are sufficient for one reason: Mr. Bove sees a way to make a dollar, and he doesn't care about anything else. Mr. Poness informed Council that the people of Victoria Court are at the mercy of this Council. He also said that with the traffic the way it is now on Weavertown Road and in the Canonsburg area, these folks will be trying to find a short cut. Mr. Poness stated that the residents of Victoria Court are begging Council to take a good solid look at this and tell Mr. Bove to take his \$45,000 and put it back in the bank. (Applause)

- J. Ms. Gwen Frazier, who lives in Victoria Court, made reference to the proposed Greenwood Village, which she said Mr. Bove is building in five stages one stage per year. For the first three stages, he will not have a connection to traffic. All those cars will be coming out of Greenwood and most likely will go to Morganza.
 - Ms. Frazier also reported that they are having major settling problems in their subdivision. They're still getting cracks, and at one point in time after it was built, they put a moratorium on building because they didn't know whether or not the houses were going to slide down the hill.
- K. Mr. Ryan Porter, of 306 Crawford /street, expressed his concerns for safety.
- L. Ms. Cheryl Weishner stated that there aren't many of them who live up on that hill. There was only one accident about twelve years ago. She spoke about water run-off and trees.Ms. Weishner informed Council that she agrees with all the other residents who spoke tonight.

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M. A gentleman (who did not identify himself at this time) invited everyone to attend the North Strabane Township Supervisors meeting tomorrow evening.

VII. HIRING OF BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mrs. Coleman motioned to approve the hiring of Robert Kipp as the next Borough Manager.

Mr. McGarry seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL ON THE MOTION:

Richard Russo Yes No Paul Sharkady Joseph Graff Yes Joseph McGarry Yes Patricia Romano Yes Fran Coleman Yes No Timothy Bilsky Peter Lucas Yes John Bevec Yes

RESULTS OF THE MOTION: Seven Yes, Two No. Motion carried.

(Applause)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was none.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. McGarry motioned to adjourn.

Mrs. Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

Mary A. Solomon

ATTACHMENTS:

None