SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

DUPONT BOROUGH COUNCIL

OCTOBER 17, 2019 6:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by President of Council Stanley Knick.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Mr. Knick – Present Mr. Kowalczyk - Present

Mr. Kaminski – Present Mrs. Hansen - Present

Mr. Karkut - Present Mayor Lello – Present

PURPOSE FOR TIS MEETING IS TO DISCUSS AND FINALIZE DECISION ON THE 2020 REFUSE COLLECTION, RECYCLING CALENDARS SO THE BUDGET CAN BE FINALIZED.

Mr. Knick called for comments on this. We said that Mascaro was the lowest bidder, do we want to go with Mascaro; do we want to keep garbage on our own; that is what this is about, we have to discuss everything before we bring anything else up.

Mr. Kowalczyk stated he would like to discuss the matter if he can have the floor.   
  
Mr. Kowalczyk began that he introduced the idea because we are no longer mandated by the government. Recycling is costing us more, more and more. Next year we will be paying. He doesn’t care if it is January or March, we will be paying for tonnage. We need a new garbage truck if we are going to continue to do refuse on our own. The garbage truck will not be safe whether we use it for garbage or recycling. For one year, minimum, ok, depending on how things go for that one year, we are not locking ourselves in to forever, he would like to remove recycling collection; change the recycling truck to our refuse truck; our crews can continue to collect the garbage on Monday and half day Tuesday, do yard waste after garbage is finished and we have the manpower at that point to finish and complete special projects of which we are very far behind on the rest of the week. By doing it that way we will not have to raise our refuse fees. Details will definitely have to be worked out, final details. We will save a tremendous amount of money by going that route and our options will be open at that point. We cannow work in June and July next year to plan for 2021. This is specifically for 2020. I know the environmental impacts, we are supposed to be recycling and so on and so forth, but it is costing this town money. If we are gong to hire Mascaro our backs are to the wall, we will have to raise the garbage fees fifty dollars. There are people out there living paycheck to paycheck and people living on social security to social security check. What is more important recycling or whether people have to pay their garbage fee or sacrifice a couple of meals. Whether they are a working family or retired he feels this is the way to go for 2020 and it will set an example for the government to say hey we need to help these towns out more if we want to continue recycling; we cannot keep putting the burden on the small person. That is my opinion.

John Slivanch asked do we put out recycling in with the garbage then. Mark stated yes. John responded good.

Mr. Knick said one thing on that, and I agree with what you are saying, but you have an Ordinance in place that everyone is mandated to recycle so tonight we have to vote that ordinance down, or do it next month (Erik stated can’t do next month). Patty stated it has to be advertised. It is an ordinance.

Stan said get rid of it, bring to a regular meeting, have to do a new ordinance. Now we are in to November. Now we are in lame duck. Erik stated you have two choices tonight, keep Mascaro or go back to where you were. After election you guys cannot enter into any contracts. That is the problem. You can’t do it next month. After the election you are lame duck, you are done for two months.

Mr. Kowalczyk asked Mr. Joseph Jones , how do you feel on this if you get elected. Mr. Jones stated truthfully he would like to see the town recycle but he agrees with Mark that it is going to cost the town a lot and we need a packer. He suggested when we use the recycling truck for yard waste, the day before recycling. If you look in there, and he hasn’t been inside, but from what he can see that yard waste cleans the truck out pretty good. So why can’t we use that truck for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, just one truck. Mrs. Hansen added that the guys are supposed to be using the recycling truck for yard waste. Mr. Knick stated we can remove the recycling stickers and continue using it as we are now. Mr. Kowalczyk stated it is still putting us in the same predicament. We have one driver, one truck, if the truck goes down we are in trouble for not one but two days a week or three days, two day and a halves. We are backing ourselves further in a corner and we are not saving any money. We are still going to have to hire somebody . Mr. Kaminski stated all we are doing is kicking the can down the road with the garbage. We are pushing it down to the next year, rates will go up and residents will have a higher fee. Mr. Knick stated even if are throwing everything in the truck at the same time, you are still picking up the same amount with one truck. Mr. Kowalczyk said so what, our recycling dramatically dropped. That was one of the major arguments when we talked about going with Mascaro, How low our dumping fees were with just garbage. Our recycling tonnage has dramatically dropped since we went to comingle. Dramatically since we went from singlestream to comingle. Mr. Knick asked how do you work this lame duck out. Mr. Kowalczyk questioned $200,000? Mr. Kowalczyk asked Mr. Slivanch

how he feels, there are two running. Mr. Knick said it doesn’t matter what they think next year. It matters what we are doing right here and it is against the law. Mr. Dingle stated if you are going to pass an ordinance or change the ordinance you have now, you have to advertise that. Go ahead and do that anytime you want to, recycling. . Mr. Kowalczyk said we are not hiring anybody.

Eric stated tonight if you are going to take Mascaro or not that is the only thing you can do. Either accept that contract and go with Mascaro or get rid of all of it, that’s ok there is nothing they can sue us far that I can find out. Mascaro is done, then ok, do something with your budget and do something with recycling but you have to advertise it. You cannot enter into a contract next month. You cant renege and then say lets take Mascaro. Mr. Knick asked if it is lame duck next month if saying we are picking up garbage and recycling at the same time. Erik stated you are just back to where you were before. You are not contracting with anybody. Mr. Knick said we picked it up separately. Erik explained you are not contracting with anybody. Mr. Kowalczyk stated it has nothing to do with lame duck. We are taking recycling on Wednesday and pickup everything on Monday. Mr. Knick said you have to change the ordinance next month now are you going to have enough time because you are still not going to have a reading we are down to the nitty gritty to pass our budget. We cannot put anything in the budget because you don’t know if the ordinance is passing. Mr. Kowalczyk asked if we can do a tentative vote because the same people will be here next month. Erik stated no because you have to advertise it.

Mr. Kowalczyk asked if he can ask the opinions of individual council members without voting yes or no. Erik said it will give you some type of direction. Mr. Knick stated he is not sure that is legal and he won’t vote on it at this time. Mr. Kowalczyk stated he won’t ask for him to vote on it, just what is your opinion at this time at the October 17th special meeting. If we brought this up next month how do you feel on it as it stands right now.

Erik is making one legal statement, Mascaro is tonight or not it is not tonight. It is on or it is off. What you do next month you do next month. You cannot enter into any contracts next month.

Mr. Knick stated we are getting off the agenda right now.

Mr. Slivanch talked about Mascaro and the meeting where he said 18.5% increase. Erik stated this is a done deal. If you say no we are rescinding it, then go ahead that is what this is about. If you don’t, Erik has a contract at his office for Mascaro. Mr. Knick stated if we decide not to take Mascaro tonight, it is done and over with and next month we will put everything in place on how you want to do recycling and ow you want to do the garbage. That is what we will do at our regular meeting. Tonight is just to basically say we are taking Mascaro or not.

Mr. Slivanch commented how can you possibly think that people are going to take a $55.00 increase for these two years and then $75.00 after those two years. He said it right here, it is going to keep going up. We are going to be up to $240,000 a year by the year 2022. That is what it is going to cost. Mr. Slivanch asked if you are going to tell people every couple of years they have to kick in another $30.00. Knick stated every couple years you will have to pay more for a brand new garbage truck and wage increase. Everything is going up. At this time everyone was talking at the same time, cannot copy. Mr. Slivanch was yelling something about bad deal. Mr. Knick banged the gavel and called for the following motion.

MOTION TO REJECT /RECIND SEPT. 24TH SPECIAL MEETING MOTION TO ACCEPT JP MASCARO BID AND GO ON OUR OWN

Motion: Mr. Kowlaczyk to reject  
Second: Mrs. Hansen will stay with Mark because she voted no on Mascaro because she thinks it is a mistake.   
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, at this point, yes I have to reject; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes reject ; Mr. Kaminski, no ; Mrs. Hansen, rejecting Mascaro ; Mr. Karkut, reject .

Motion Carried 4/1.

Mr. Slivanch said thank you. Mr. Knick noted we will trash everything out at the next meeting on how we are going about the trash.

Mr. Kowalczyk addressed Mr. Slivanch Sir I understand your concerns but out backs are to the wall on certain issues. At the time we asked for garbage bids and Mascaro was the best option. We are not trying, believe me, especially now with the county raising five percent. I see people out there struggling, and none of us up here want to make people struggle more. The town also, our backs are to the wall. We are in a predicament. We have a lot of things coming down it may not happen in the next month or two months, but in the next year and two years it is going to get worse. The option I brought up tonight is for 2020. We are going to be faced with the same thing if we go with what I discussed. We are going to be faced with the same problems in 2021 barring that the government doesn’t change the laws and mandate us to recycle. But for now it gets us above water and hopefully save money for the town. That is the point we are at. I am now arguing with ? and I am not arguing with Mr. Knick.

Mr. Slivanch talked about a bunch of people at Home Depot, that moved to this area, bought homes, and work there. It is convenient. Everyone I spoke to said Johnny, why are we not staying with what we have. It is good. They are willing to pay more, but are happy with what we have. Mr. Kowalczyk responded what we have is backing us into a corner. We are trying to find a way out. It is getting worse.

Mr. Kaminski stated that Mascaro also say they do a three and five year contract. Mr. Slivanch said that would be worse 18.2%.

Again everyone talking, can’t copy.

MOTION TO REJECT NOT JUST MASCARO BUT ALL BIDS RECEIVED AND READ AT THE SEPTEMBER 10TH MEETING

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk

Second: Mr. Karkut  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes ; Mr. Kaminski, yes ; Mrs. Hansen,yes ; Mr. Karkut, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

Mr. Kaminski addressed Council on looking at the commercial fee. Some businesses can live by three bags, others can’t. Mr. Knick suggested if you want to stay this way and use the packer or recycler, take the stickers off it, do what other towns do, if you want to recycle, put a dumpster out back and bring it yourself. Mrs. Hansen stated if we do that we will have to increase garbage to pay for the tonnage. Mr. Knick stated check with other towns to see what they charge. You won’t have to worry about wear and tear Whoever we are contracted with will have to give us a price. Some companies take for free. It is there dumpster. Mr. Kaminski stated then you have to watch because they can throw one bag of garbage that can ruin the whole thing.

Motion to Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, Adopted this day of

Patricia McDonald Stanley Knick Jr.

Secretary Council President