

MACUNGIE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Macungie Borough Council held a workshop on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA. Council members present were Jean Nagle, Chris Becker, Robert Bogert and Joseph Sikorski. Also present were Borough Manager Chris Boehm, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Brian Nixon and Attorney Stephanie Kobal. Vice President Sikorski called the workshop to order at 7:05 p.m. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss proposed amendments to the Uniform Construction Code (UCC).

The Borough adopted the UCC pursuant to Ordinance 2004-2 on July 6, 2004, without any amendments and is now looking to amend the Ordinance. Municipalities are permitted to enact an ordinance relating to the administration and enforcement of the UCC that meets or exceeds the requirements. A municipality is permitted to require permits for work that is exempt from the permitting process.

Attorney Kobal distributed a memorandum listing the exemptions from the UCC and building permits from the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC).

Council thought it best to determine why and for what purpose they wanted to require additional permits. After discussion Council approved the following statement, "The Borough of Macungie requires permits to verify that alterations and additions to properties within the Borough meet generally accepted standards of safety and the requirements set forth in the Code of the Borough of Macungie." After determining the purpose for amending the UCC, Council reviewed the list of exemptions. It was the consensus of the Council members in attendance to revise the exemptions as follows:

- 1) The UCC applies to a carport, detached private garage, greenhouse or shed that has a building area equal to or greater than 350 square feet or is connected to any utilities and is not accessory to a detached one-family dwelling.
- 2) The UCC applies to alterations to residential buildings which (i) make structural changes; (ii) change means of egress; or (iii) expand living space. Under this section a structural change shall not include a minor framing change needed to replace existing windows or doors.

It was the consensus of everyone present that this was a good place to stop. At the next workshop, Council will discuss what work will require permits under the various codes. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Chris L. Boehm
Borough Manager