

Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2020

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present including Mayor Farkas with the exception of Mrs. McNeely who was excused.

The March minutes were approved unanimously by a Harris/Sepp motion. The officers' reports were approved unanimously by a Harker/Little motion. There were no minutes for April and May due to the cancellations because of the pandemic.

Mr. Harris moved to hear the citizens present at the meeting and was seconded by Mrs. Sepp. The motion passed.

Cheryl Sudano, 3782 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue was present because of a safety concern. Her neighbors have a chain link fence and gravel in their back yard. They let their dogs out but do not clean up the feces and the odor is very offensive. They cannot open their windows or sit outside because of the odor. She requested that we adopt an ordinance to regulate dog waste. Mr. Bovalino explained that would be difficult to enact because it would have to pertain to everyone in the borough and there had to be a rationale to adopt such an ordinance. He asked if she had said anything to the neighbors and she had not. He suggested that she try to talk to them because it would be better to speak with them first to let them know about the issue rather than having it done by code enforcement. She is hesitant to do that so he will work with Chris Lemmon to see what can be done. We do have an ordinance addressing obnoxious odors that would work if the problem isn't solved. We will do whatever we can to help rectify this issue. She also asked for a copy of the ordinances and Mr. Heaton suggested that Mr. Kosanovich give her a copy of the disk we have so that she can peruse them.

Kathy Brewer, 3628 Matilda Street informed council that residents are constantly running the stop sign on Matilda by her house. The Chief of Police said that as soon as the stay at home ban is lifted he will have a traffic detail assigned.

Mayor Farkas commented that both of these issues have been a long-time problem and it seems as though people just don't care. He mentioned the continuing problem with residents across the street from him taking their dogs to the fire department parking lot to do their business.

With no other citizens who wished to address council, Ms. Harker moved to return to the regular order of business and was seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion carried.

Old Business

**Code Enforcement** – Mr. Lemmon - none

**Fire and Police** - Ms. Harker –introduced the new Chief of Police for Beaver Falls, David Johnson who replaced Chief DeLuca. She also reported that the car break-ins have receded for the time being but residents should still make sure their cars are locked at all times.

The street light on 37<sup>th</sup> Street and Jean Street is still no repaired after numerous calls to Duquesne Light.

**Parks and Playground** - Mrs. Sepp – the borough workers trimmed the willow tree at the park.

**Sewers and Sanitation; Ordinances** -Mr. Kosanovich – the small water grant has gone through. It seems that we are going to have a favorable consideration. Rather than digging up West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to replace the lines, they will have them relined. The grant is for relining 23 different areas and will probably cost \$32,000 out of pocket. There is a 15% match. Insight Pipe will give a price break because of the magnitude of the work.

**Ordinances** – none

**Buildings and Equipment** – Mr. Harris – none. Mr. Heaton reminded him that the spill containment has to be documented. First Aid kits have been purchased and must be documented as well.

**Streets, Lighting and Bridges** -Mr. Little reported that the road repair is taking longer than anticipated because we had an employee resign. The storm drains had all been cleaned but the heavy rains ruined that. Craig and Lennox have been patched in preparation for resurfacing.

**Finance and Litigation** – Mrs. McNeely – She relayed a message via Mrs. Sepp that she left a message for Joe Budicak to contact her about setting up an interview but has not heard from him.

Mr. Heaton reported on the MS4 requirements. We have to redo banks off Walnut Bottom Run through the park. DEP says there has to be a slope from the center of the stream 35 feet out and 260 feet on each side. An engineering study has to be done and a contractor has to be hired.

White Township run still has an issue and he has a meeting scheduled with them to discuss.

The year-end report has to be completed.

He also discussed the Agility Program with PennDot. He has not had any response from them. It is a five-year agreement. Work schedules have to be planned (both theirs and ours). The municipality has to do their work in the first 2 years. His question is, what will PennDot do in the remaining 3-year period? The agreement is not clear as to the scope of work to be performed. He feels that it is not a viable agreement and that we should not enter into it at this time.

Mayor Farkas suggested that we put up signs at the park and the fire hall that have bag containers for pet owners to use to pick up after their dogs.

Mr. Bovalino asked about the Young Refuse Contract. The signed document has been received.

#### New Business

Ms. Harker reported that a number of people are burning brush and said they are allowed to. Any complaints received about burning will be directed to the fire department – they will put out the fire and the police will be called.

Mrs. Sepp discussed the issue of some of the pavilions at the park needing repairs. The Jubilee Pavilion needs the roof replaced and the kitchen and restrooms at shelter 3. She will get some bids and have them for the next meeting. On June first, she, Bill Chris drove around the borough inspecting properties and looking for properties that were in disrepair. A number of the properties have had some progress and properties have been tagged to let the owner know of the violations.

She suggested that we send out a newsletter to borough residents to keep them informed about what is going on in the borough. She and Michelle would work on it.

Mr. Heaton built a train during the COVID stay at home requirement and would like to donate it to the park. We would just have to make sure that there is a pliable surface around the train to avoid any injuries if someone fell out of it.

Ms. Harker said that kids have been playing inside the Christian School which is no longer being used. The police have been contacted and they are taking care of it.

Mr. Kosanovich informed council that when the dam broke above the Vets Club the water coming down took out the guardrail and now has caused a sink hole. It is 60 foot span and the 6 foot galvanized culvert under the road at the bottom of the pipe is rusted away and just sticking out. Nothing is supporting the sides. He had attended an L-Tap demonstration and contacted someone in Cranberry. This person does bridges and it would be anywhere \$150,000 to \$200,000. He contacted a steel reinforcement company who would line it with concrete. He got an estimated quote. The concrete lining is 4800 per foot and if prevailing wages are required would be around \$51,000. Non-prevailing wage would be about \$42,500. The company is just finishing a job in Erie and would give a \$2000 discount if they could do the work as soon as the Erie job is completed. Mr. Bovalino said that we really should advertise for bids since the repair is so costly and we would also need an emergency permit from DEP if it is emergent to the road damage. He wants to research

the legalities of an immediate repair and will contact Bill by 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. Eli would like to have a motion to repair it because he is afraid that if it is not repaired soon, a car could be severely damaged if it fell into the sinkhole. Mr. Little move to authorize the repair of the culvert in the amount of \$40,000 to \$50,000 as long as approval has been given by Mr. Bovalino to proceed without proper bidding. Mrs. Sepp seconded the motion and a roll-call vote passed it as shown: Ms. Harker – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Little – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes. He would also like to get a quote to see what they would charge to lay some mesh and spray concrete at the Brook Street creek because it is damaging the road. He would also have them look at Patterson Avenue.

He is going to call the representative to see what the protocol is to receive the recycling grant money. The items listed on the grant application were the block to build the recycling bins, the camera repair and cabling to move the camera to the bin area and the purchase of a wood chipper as well as possibly paying on the truck. He has found a wood chipper from a Canadian Firm at a cost of \$15,000 to \$16,000 with a 5-year consumer warranty. Co-Stars has an agreement with Vermeer for \$16,000 – no bids necessary. He will try to have some news by the July meeting.

Several municipalities have enacted a storm water management fee to help offset the costs involved with the DEP mandatory MS4 repairs. He will get more information on that for next month's meeting. Some are charging \$6 per month, others \$2 and the charge is added to the resident's water bill.

Mr. Harris - none

Mr. Little reported that interviews had been conducted to replace Benjamin Langer's position as general laborer for the borough. The committee decided that the best candidate for the position was Christopher Sapp. His salary would be \$11 per hour and after a 90-day probation period would increase to \$12 per hour. Mr. Harris moved to hire Christopher Sapp at the rate of \$11 per hour and after a 90-day probation increase the rate to \$12 per hour. Ms. Harker seconded the motion which passed by roll-call vote as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mrs. Sepp - yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Little – yes; and Mr. Heaton – yes. Mayor Farkas – none

Mr. Little requested permission to use borough equipment to repair the fire department pad and trim the Christmas tree. Permission was given.

Mr. Heaton is going to check with Columbia Gas to see what they would charge to pave the whole road instead of just replacing where they laid new gas lines. West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 43<sup>rd</sup> Street road repair would have to be done according to PennDot Specs, other roads considered for repaving are the entrance to Mayfield Village, West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Mr. Bovalino - none

Mr. Heaton asked about the park reopening. If ball games are played, hand sanitizing stations must be available. He would like to keep the park closed until July.

Mr. Bovalino – none

The June bills were reviewed by Mrs. Lansberry and copies of all the April and May bills given to each member. Mrs. Sepp moved to pay the borough bills and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion carried.

Mr. Little moved to approve purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion carried.

Ms. Harker moved to adjourn at 9 pm; seconded by Mrs. Sepp with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry