

Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2020

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present including Mayor Farkas. The October minutes were approved unanimously by a Harris/Little motion. The September and October financial reports and the October police report were approved unanimously by a Harker/Sepp motion.

The only correspondence received was the notification from the Beaver County Commissioners that Beaver County had been granted an exception from the MS4 requirements and would no longer be sponsoring the county required advertisements for participating municipalities. All municipalities will now be responsible for their own advertising and public notifications of steps being taken to meet all requirements of the MS4 project mandated by DEP. The requirements were listed in the letter and passed on to Mr. Heaton.

Mr. Jim Riggio, General Manager of the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority addressed council with the authority's plan to move from quarterly billing to monthly billing as suggested by their Board of Directors. The original plan was scheduled to begin in January 2021 but due to some software issues will now be moved to mid or late 2021. This change will triple the expenses to the borough. We are now being charged \$1.50 per bill and that will remain the same but due to the monthly billing will triple. The authority will increase the cost by 3% as they do every year and the borough has the option to also raise the rates that they have set for sewage to help cover the increase. We currently have one of the lowest rates of the participating municipalities at approximately \$3.50 per 10,000 gallons. The borough receives a monthly check from the authority for sewer usage which is based upon the number of bills paid minus \$1.50 per bill. This will change to minus \$4.50 per bill when the new billing commences.

Mr. Little informed Mr. Riggio that the authority had not repaired Walnut Street after repairing a broken line for which the pavement had been dug up.

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

Mrs. Alicia Cogley 604 37<sup>th</sup> Street Extension was present to report some power lines hanging low and also to complain about the brush not being trimmed on borough roads. It was explained to her that because we were short-handed for a period of time and several other major issues arose, we were unable to trim the berms this year. She also asked about the intersections on Rock and Patterson leading into the underpass. The Rock Avenue has a stop sign but Patterson does not and it's difficult to see. We could paint lines on the road showing where to stop and that should alleviate the problem.

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

**Fire and Police** - Ms. Harker reported that due to the inclement weather there were very few trick-or-treaters out on Halloween.

**Parks and Playground** - Mrs. Sepp - none

**Sewers and Sanitation; Ordinances** -Mr. Kosanovich - none

**Building and Grounds** – Mr. Harris talked about the placement of the spill kits. There is only one in the big truck, one in the main garage and one in front of the other garage. He suggested that there should be one at the fuel tank. This would be costly and there are pads available to take care of any spillage that occurs. The inventories on chemicals has been completed but there should be a written report that is updated with any new additions.

**Streets, Lighting and Bridges** –Mr. Little reported that the Zero turn mower had been taken to the repair shop, the hose on the leaf vacuum has been replaced and salt and anti-skid has been ordered. Christopher Sapp’s phone was damaged in the accident on the Zero turn and Mr. Little requested the borough consider replacing the phone since the damage was done doing borough work. The cost to replace the phone is under \$100. Mr. Harris moved to replace Mr. Sapp’s phone and was seconded by Ms. Harker. The motion passed all in favor.

**Finance and Litigation** – Mrs. McNeely – none  
Mayor Farkas – none

Mr. Heaton informed council that the Columbia Gas donation toward the paving has not yet been received.

Mr. Budicak- none

#### New Business

**Fire and Police** Ms. Harker reported the fire department decided at its meeting to schedule Santa passing out candy to borough children for December 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. Because of the COVID pandemic there will be no borough Christmas party this year. After a discussion, it was decided to increase the treats that are put in the bags for Santa to deliver to make Christmas a little better for our borough children since there will be no Christmas party.

Ms. Harker also informed council that there has been a Black SUV roaming the borough neighborhoods. It was seen on Short Street with no lights. There have also been reports of election signs being vandalized and kids in the fire department parking lot at 3 in the morning. Police have been notified.

**Parks & Playground** – Mrs. Sepp – none. She did report that she will contact Duquesne Light again about the street light on West Fifth Avenue. She asked about the policy for taking personal time off (using comp time) during the winter snow removal time. It is stated in the employee handbook that no one is permitted to take time off or vacation during snow removal. After a discussion, personal time can be used if there is no snow; however, if it does snow, you will be expected to be available for plowing as necessary.

**Sewers & Sanitation; Ordinances** - Mr. Kosanovich - none

**Buildings & Ground** – Mr. Harris – none

Mr. Chris Lemmon had a question from a contractor doing work for the municipal authority who was told that he had to contact MDI about a UCC building permit. Our contract is with Code.sys and there is still some confusion on the matter. A while ago we were told that Code.sys was no longer handling UCC permits so we contracted with MDI. MDI, however, failed to list this with the state and we were contacted by Code.sys that our contract was still in effect. Mr. Heaton is going to check with our former solicitor, Mr. Bovalino, to try to straighten this out. As to the contractor for the municipal authority’s question, since they are replacing a roof, rebuilding an electrical panel for a back-up generator and upgrading a cement pad, there is no permit required for replacement.

Mayor Farkas – none

Mr. Heaton reviewed the proposed 2021 budget. Mrs. Sepp suggested that some adjustment be made for the machinery repair category. It was decided the \$2500 would be subtracted from “Storm Sewers and Drains” and that \$2500 will be added to “Repair and Maintenance of Machinery and Equipment”. The budget also includes a 50 cent per hour wage increase for the two street department employees and a 3% increase in the code enforcement and secretary salaries. Mr. Harris moved to approve the proposed 2021 budget with the discussed corrections and the salary increases. Mr. Little seconded the motion which was approved by a roll-call vote as follows: Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; Ms. Harker – yes; and Mr. Heaton – yes.

Mrs. McNeely voiced her disappointment in the handling of the recent DEP complaint about property belonging to her and her husband. A letter from the borough's attorney was sent to her Mother, addressed to Daniel and Sherry Kimmel, 3807 High Street Ext. Her father is deceased and the property owned by her mother has nothing to do with the complaint regarding their property at 3809 High Street Ext. She also was not happy that a DEP employee entered their property without permission. Attorney Budicak responded that the only information that he was able to obtain came from the Assessment Office at the Courthouse and he apologized to Mrs. McNeely. The letter was meant for her brother Daniel because he lives adjacent to the McNeely property. There was also mention of a fence that was in violation of the borough's building code and there is no fence on their property. There was some confusion about the fence which is actually on Ross Avenue and has nothing to do with the DEP complaint.

The September bills were presented to council and Mr. Little moved to pay the borough bills seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Little moved to ratify all purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion passed all yeas.

With no further business to discuss Mr. Little moved for adjournment at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Lansberry  
Borough Secretary