

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016, AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Robin Davis, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito.
- Mayor Charlie Davis and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy were present.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Chief John Soloe and OIC Eric Schwab were present.

The Meeting was called to order by Council President, Amy Richard, at 7:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Council Comment

- Joe Gosnell stated that the door on an electrical box on the Street light pole at Rt. 191 and Main Street was hanging off. Anita Caughy responded that she would ask Public Works to take a look at it and repair it if possible.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2016 as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Robin Davis to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through November 21, 2016. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Davis suggested that Council look into installing a Stop sign at the bridge on LeFevre Road because of the speed and traffic along that road. Solicitor Asteak stated that a traffic study would need to be performed before anything else could be done. An Ordinance would also have to be written in order to issue tickets for violations. Amy Richard asked Solicitor Asteak if Chief Soloe could install a temporary Stop sign during tournaments being held at the ball field and the fishing tournaments at the pond. Attorney Asteak stated that a study would not be needed for a temporary sign during

those events. This would be considered an emergency traffic control device and violators can be ticketed for not obeying a traffic control device.

- Mayor Davis also wanted to thank the Police Department for allowing himself and Amy Richard to drive along with them on Halloween to give out candy. He stated that he really enjoyed the evening.

Police

- Chief Soloe read out the Calls for Service Report for the month of October. He stated that there were 5 narcotics arrests; 1 DUI; 5 Trespassing; 4 Ordinance Violations; 89 Traffic Summonses; 31 Traffic Warnings, plus miscellaneous calls for a total of 183 calls for the month.
- OIC Eric Schwab stated that the Police Facebook page is up and operational. All upcoming information will be posted on that cite.

Solicitor

- Information on the Nazareth Area Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan was distributed to each Council member. Solicitor Asteak explained the benefits of participating in the plan. By participating in the plan Stockertown will be part of the study and data collection process and in the end, Stockertown would have the option to approve or disapprove of the plan. Solicitor Asteak stated that each Municipality's Planning Code requires of every Municipality to do a comprehensive plan. Amy Richard stated that by joining into the plan with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), Stockertown would not have to do one themselves which would save cost and time. The cost to the Borough to participate would be \$1,828.58 paid out over three years which would be a minimal cost.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Carl Zito to participated in the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's Multimunicipal Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried unopposed.

Agenda

- The General Budget and Sewer Budget were reviewed once again. Amy Richard discussed the changes which were highlighted.
- Amy Richard explained that Chief Soloe requested approval to commandeer the current EMA office in the Police Department. Chief Soloe explained his need for the additional space. A desk will be provided for EMA use in the police department office. This request is the reason that the EMA and Police budgets were combined. Ms. Richard asked for Council's approval to allow Chief Soloe to take over the EMA office.
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to allow the Police Department to take over the use of the Emergency Management office in the EMA Building. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard stated that an executive session would need to be held to discuss wages.

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to enter into an executive session at 8:08 PM.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Carl Zito to exit executive session and enter into regular session as 8:27 PM.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the 2017 General Budget in the amount of \$544,333.55 with the proposed salary increase. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Robin Davis to approve the 2017 Sewer Budget in the amount of \$210,175.00. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard suggested that Council raise the tax rate by .25 percent in order to accumulate a buffer for any future issues which may arise in the Borough so tax payer will not be hit with a large increase all at once. Motion was carried with a 5 to 2 vote. The Vote went as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Amy Richard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robin Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cindy Hower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joe Gosnell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathleen Zdonowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carl Zito	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosemary Wenzelberger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Amy Richard informed Council that she had a 2nd meeting with Representatives of Joe Emrick’s office and Lisa Boscola to discuss grants which the Borough could apply for to assist with the sewer plant issues and also road repair. They agreed to draft a letter to the DEP on the Borough’s behalf citing the lack of negative impact on the Little Bushkill from the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Carl Zito to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:44 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on December 5, 2016. The December 5, 2016 Council Meeting was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the **14th** day of **December, 2016**.

President of Council

Attest:_____