

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF APRIL 3, 2017**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017, 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 and Rosemarie Wenzelberger. Carl Zito was absent due to a broken ankle.
- 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**

- Emil Lukas of LeFevre Road attended the meeting to express his concerns to Council about rules at the Stockertown Rod and Gun Club. He stated that someone has been shooting after hours. Mr. Lukas stated that he has been in touch with the Gun Club to make them aware. Solicitor Asteak advised Mr. Lukas that if he is ever able to identify the individual(s) that he should report the incident.

**Council Comment**

- Joe Gosnell apologized for his absence at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. He stated that he was called out to work that evening.

**Secretary / Treasurer Report**

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Robin Davis to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2017 as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Accounts Payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through April 3, 2017. Motion carried unopposed.

**Mayor Report**

- Mayor Davis stated that he had nothing to report.

## **Police**

- Chief Soloe read out the Call for Service report from March 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017. He informed Council that that were 6 Criminal Narcotics Arrests; 1 Harassment; 9 Township Ordinances; 2 Hit and Run incidents; 84 Traffic Citations; 21 Traffic Warnings along with Miscellaneous calls for a total of 168 for the month of March.
- Chief Soloe informed Council that he has checked with Milham Ford as to the status of the new Police vehicle. He was advised that it is currently in transit.
- Chief Soloe introduced a new applicant for the Police Department. Her name is Samira Sabbagh. She currently works for the Lehigh County Sheriff's Department. Council asked numerous questions of Ms. Sabbagh prior to Chief Soloe offering her a position with the Borough.

## **Zoning**

- John Soloe questioned whether anyone on Council remembered many years ago when the Borough did away with Grant Street behind the old Social Hall. He inquired as to whether Grant Street was entirely abandoned. Solicitor Asteak stated that if it was entirely abandoned, it would have been done by Ordinance. No one remembered whether it was formally vacated. Mr. Soloe stated that the road literally does not exist. Mr. Asteak stated that if the road needs to be vacated, there is a process to follow. No one on Council had any objections to vacating the road if it has not already been done.
- Amy Richard questioned John Soloe regarding the renovations submitted by the Saw Mill Golf Club to construct a complete kitchen and dining facility in an area which is currently used for catered events. John Soloe informed Council that he is against this renovation since the Golf Club is connected to the Borough Sewer system. He believes that the proposed use, especially with a full kitchen, will increase the EDU usage currently allotted to the Golf Course and the Borough's moratorium does not allow for any increase. Kevin Frank, the Borough Sewer Engineer has been contacted to provide the guidelines necessary to determine the sewer usage.
- The Widow Brown's Tavern grease issue was discussed. An ordinance will be prepared to address all future issues along with enforcement of violations. Amy Richard requested Solicitor Asteak to prepare a Grease Trap Ordinance for all businesses in the Borough to comply with.

## **Public Works**

- Amy Richard informed Council that the new pump has arrived for the waste water treatment plant. Ms. Richard stated that all new wiring has been installed to replace the overloaded wires for the pumps. The new wires have corrected the problem with the alarm system; therefore, public works will not have to continue to check the levels at night and over the weekend. Amy Richard pointed out that the new pumps had to be converted from 460 volts to 230 volts since the original specifications were incorrect. All specifications have been corrected for future orders.

- Amy Richard informed Council that Easton Sewer Authority has agreed to sell sewer capacity to the Borough as well as Nazareth Sewer Authority. There is also the possibility that we will not need a pumping station if we hook up to Easton. Ms. Richard stated that she is still waiting to hear from PennVest and DCED as to the median household income in the Borough to determine whether we will be eligible for a Grant to assist with the sewer plant conversion. The Grant approval depends completely on the median household income in the Borough being at or below \$42,000. The last census was compiled in 2010 which puts Stockertown's median income around \$78,000. The 2015 Census states the medium income at \$82,000. Robin Davis thanked Amy Richard for going above and beyond to attempt to resolve the continuous problems with the sewer plant.
- Amy Richard stated that she is obtaining price quotes to replace the rusted railings by the Post Office and along the back of the Borough building. Prices have not yet been received.

### Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak discussed Amy Richard's meeting with PennDot regarding the Borough taking over Bushkill Street. Ms. Richard was advised that Bushkill Street is scheduled to be paved by PennDot from Center Street to the end of the road, PennDot offered certain incentives to the Borough to take over the street after it is completed. Ms. Richard stated that she would only be interested in taking over the street if the Borough was able to vacate the street from Mrs. Homoki's driveway to the end. Solicitor Asteak stated that letters need to be sent to the property owners along the boundary line for their approval. Ms. Richard asked for Council's approval to have Mr. Asteak send letter to the property owners.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to have Solicitor Asteak send letters to residents adjacent to the road concerning the turn back and vacating Bushkill Street from Mrs. Homoki's driveway to the end. Motion carried unopposed.
- Solicitor Asteak presented the Nazareth Area Council of Government's Intermunicipal Agreement for approval. Mr. Asteak stated that if the Borough did not participate in the Intermunicipal Agreement, the Borough would be responsible for preparing its own Comprehensive Plan which would cost substantially higher. Mr. Asteak stated that the project cost would be \$184,000.00. The cost would be divided by population percentage of each participating municipality. The cost to Stockertown Borough would be \$1,324.17 which can be paid out over 3 years.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Cindy Hower to participate in the Nazareth Area Council of Governments Comprehensive Plan and execute the Intermunicipal Agreement. Motion carried unopposed.

## Agenda

- Council agreed to schedule the Borough Wide Yard Sale for May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Borough office will advertise the yard sale.
- Amy Richard stated that she would like to discuss the possibility of rescinding the dedication of Center Street as a snow emergency road. Chief John Soloe stated that he does not feel it is necessary to make one block of a road designated as a snow emergency. Chief Soloe stated that a Police Chief can declare any road a general emergency road if needed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to remove the designation of Center Street as a snow emergency road and have it declared a normal street. Motion carried with a 5 to 1 vote. All snow emergency signs will be removed.
- At the March 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting the possibility of a donor planting a tree and providing a bench in Metzgar Park with a plaque for former Mayor Metzgar was discussed. Rosemarie Wenzelberger stated that Ryan Fry is willing to plant and maintain the tree. Amy Richard suggested that the bench and tree be placed by the playground area and have it match the bench currently there. Council agreed. Price quotes are being obtained for the bench.
- Amy Richard informed Council that Alex Soloe, formerly the Emergency Management Coordinator has resigned. Ms. Richard stated that she is willing to take over his position as long as council approves unless someone else was willing to take over the position. There were no other volunteers. Council agreed to appoint Amy Richard as Emergency Management Coordinator.
- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to appoint Amy Richard as the new Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to exit regular session and enter into Executive Session at 9:05 PM for personnel issues. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to exit Executive Session and enter back into regular session at 9:16 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to accept the changes to the Employee Handbook as discussed. Motion carried unopposed.

## Adjournment

- **Motion** by Robin Davis, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:17 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on April 17, 2017.

The foregoing was approved the **17th** day of **April, 2017**.

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President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_