

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Pamela Davis, Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Carl Zito. Joe Gosnell was absent
- Mayor Ken Zemencsik was present. Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy was absent. Vice President Kathleen Zdonowski took notes for the Minutes.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Attorney Steve Mills and Asst. Chief 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 expressed concern about the large tree on his property and he felt that the Borough should have it removed for safety issues. Amy Richard advised him that while the tree was in the Borough's right of way, the tree was on his property and was his responsibility.
- Emil Lukas complained again about the lights at the Borough Garage being too bright.
- Fire Chief Chuck Gallagher and the Department's Treasurer, Neil Schurgot from Forks Township Fire Company attended the Council Meeting to give an update on services provided to the Borough under their contracted services and to receive any comments or concerns from Borough Council.
Forks Fire responded to 201 calls thus far this year in both communities. Their average response time was reported as 8 minutes from call out to on scene. They currently have a roster of 65 volunteers with 26 very regularly active and available members.
- With regard to the yearly donation request, President Amy Richard ask for the number of request letters mailed and how many were received. Additionally, she requested the percentage of those received from the Borough residents. Mr. Schurgot informed Council that approximately 6000 donation requests were mailed to residents of Forks and Stockertown combined. The combined response was 21% with only 2% coming from The Borough of Stockertown.
- Amy Richard made the stern remark that the response from the Borough was sad, given the service and level of Fire Protection provided by Forks Fire. She continued, reminding all that prior to November 2006, the Borough's Fire Protection budget was in excess of \$68,000 and only provided a roster of 4-5 volunteers with two antiquated semi-operable pumper trucks.
- The fee (\$15,000 per year) charged for Protection Service by Forks Fire has remained the same since the contract inception of November 2006 and in addition to

the number of active volunteers, Forks Fire has a fleet of 6 state of the art fire protection vehicles provided by the Township of Forks.

- Amy Richard commented that the entire budget of the Borough of Stockertown would not be sufficient to purchase one fire vehicle and she hoped the residents were aware of this and comfortable with the protection provided by Forks Fire Co.

Council Comment

- There were no Council comments

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve Council Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2019, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through September 4, 2019. Motion carried unopposed.

Police

- Assistant Chief Eric Schwab read out the Calls for Service report from August 1st through August 31, 2019. There were 6 Arrests; 2 Search Warrants; 16 Traffic Summonses; 56 Traffic Warnings along with Miscellaneous calls for a total of 121 Calls for the month of August.
- **Resolution 2019-4** was presented to Council for approval to support the application to Northampton County for their 2019 Gaming Grant. Asst. Chief Eric Schwab informed Council he would be applying for a Grant to purchase a 2020 Ford Police Utility Interceptor to replace the 2011 Ford Explorer.
- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Carl Zito to approve **Resolution 2019-4** to Apply for the Northampton County 2019 Gaming Grant for the purchase of a 2020 Ford Police Utility Interceptor. Motion carried unopposed.

Public Works

- The bench purchased by Floyce Metzger to honor her deceased husband Mayor Sherman Metzger was installed at Metzger Park for the public to enjoy.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak informed Council that he has filed an OOR Mediation Agreement with the Office of Open Records on behalf of the Borough of Stockertown.

Agenda

- Amy Richard informed Council that Sean Dooley has volunteered to represent the Borough with the preparation of the Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan. She asked for a Motion to approve his appointment as Stockertown’s Representative.
- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Pam Davis to appoint Sean Dooley as Stockertown’s Representative for the Lehigh Valley Comprehensive Plan Committee. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Carl Zito, Seconded by Pam Davis to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:02 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on September 16, 2019.
The September 16, 2019 Council Meeting was cancelled

The foregoing was approved the **1st** day of **October, 2019**.

President of Council

Attest:_____