

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2022**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A BUDGET MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell and Katie Santiago. Renee Cantwell and Pam Davis were absent.
- Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger was present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA APPROVAL

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2022, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through October 26, 2022. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Wenzelberger informed Council that she attended a tour of the Hercules' plant for their Hercules Meadows Project which was very enjoyable.
- Amy Richard informed the Mayor that in response to her question concerning property belonging to Eric Schwab still located in the police department, a letter was sent to him by Attorney Asteak informing him that he has until this Friday, October 28, 2022 by 4:00 pm to pick up his property or it will be donated to charity. Arrangements were made with him on two separate occasions to pick up his property and he did not show up.
- Joe Gosnell inquired as to where the new Borough Secretary was. He was advised that she has already resigned. The Borough is currently looking for another replacement.

Agenda

- Solicitor Asteak advised the Borough that Ordinance 2022-1 has been advertised to be adopted at the December 5, 2022 Council Meeting.

- An estimate has been provided by East Coast Network for a new firewall for the Borough computers. East Coast has informed us that the Borough's system is in need of this additional protection and our current firewall should be updated. Council agreed that the quote in the amount of \$2,570.99 was acceptable. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to authorize East Coast to purchase and install the new firewall.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Katie Santiago to have East Coast Network purchase and install a new Fortinet FortiGate 40F Firewall for the Borough computers in the amount of \$2,570.99 which includes setup, installation and configuration of all hardware and software with 3 year Forticare/Fortiguard. Motion carried unopposed.
- The Nazareth Area Council of Governments has inquired as to whether the Borough wishes to continue with the Animal Control Agreement. The cost will remain the same as last year in the amount of \$1,838.00 for the year. Council was in agreement. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to continue with the Animal Control Agreement for the 2023 year.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to continue with the Animal Control Agreement with the Nazareth Area Council of Governments for the year 2023 in the amount of \$1,838.00 for the year. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard stated that the Borough has not received an estimate for the tree removal on Lefever Road but as an alternative, one of the public works employees previously worked for a tree service for several years and he feels that they could, at least, cut the top of the tree and bring it down to a level where it won't hit the wires. Council's consensus was not to use a public works employee for safety reasons.
- Amy Richard went over a few changes in the Sewer Budget and stated that it would be reviewed further at the next meeting.
- Amy Richard reviewed the General Fund Budget with Council. She explained that the items highlighted in yellow were the changes from last year. The utilities have all increased as well as fuel charges due to the economy. Items that could be cut were reduced, such as maintenance and tools. Ms. Richard passed around forms prepared by Dan Monek with several scenarios for restaffing the police department. The scenarios included different hours and salaries for police officers as well as a police sergeant. Council discussed the many options and would review the changes and discuss the matter further at the next meeting once the Borough receives the assessed value for taxes for 2023 from Northampton County Assessment Division.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to enter into executive session at 8:38 PM for personnel matter. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 9:04 pm. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:04 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on November 7, 2022

The foregoing was approved the **7th** day of **November, 2022**.

President of Council

Attest:_____