

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2021**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President, Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Joe Gosnell, Renee Cantwell and Rosemarie Wenzelberger. Pam Davis was absent.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Ken Zemencsik, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval

- Amy Richard asked for approval to add a quote for JOAO Construction to the Agenda.
- Motion by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to add a quote from JOAO Construction to clear out Bushkill Creek to the meeting agenda. Motion carried unopposed.

Public Comment

- Rich Dailey of Patriot Lane stated that he heard around the neighborhood that the Sewer is now connected to Easton Sewer Authority and because of that there is going to be some developments around the Borough. He asked for some insight from Council on this issue. Amy Richard stated that the sewer was connected as of September 29th to Easton. She informed everyone that there are three plots of land waiting to be developed. The Borough is in receipt of one preliminary plan above Longs Development at this time.
- John Seibert of Patriot Lane asked what the hours were at the Borough Office. He was informed that the office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm but there are times that the Borough Secretary leaves early to go to the bank for Borough business with Council's permission. Mr. Seibert also inquired whether Council funds and supports the Stockertown Police Department. Amy Richard stated that Council is 100% behind the Police Department and we fund them with just about everything they ask for.
- Mr. Dailey asked what Grants the Borough has received. Amy Richard stated that the 3 Police Cars were purchased with Grants as well as the last Public Works truck. The Borough also received a substantial grant for the sewer project. Mr. Dailey then asked if the sewer bills were going to change. Amy Richard stated that the bills will not change at this time but possibly in the future.
- Eric Wenzelberger stated that he mentioned, at a previous meeting, the speed of cars driving down Center Street. He stated that the previous minutes stated it was

Bushkill Street. Let this be a correction to the previous minutes wherein the cars are speeding down Center Street.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2021, 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 October 4, 2021. Motion carried unopposed.

Police

- Mayor Ken Zemencsik read out the Calls for Service for the Month of September. Chief Schwab was unable to attend the meeting. Mayor Zemencsik stated that there were 6 Narcotics Arrests; 1 Narcotics pending; 5 False Alarms; 2 Motor Vehicle Accidents; 82 Traffic Summonses; 49 Traffic Warnings along with Miscellaneous calls for a total of 218 for September, 2021.
- The purchase of Halloween candy was discussed. Council agreed to purchase candy to be distributed to the children on Halloween which is Sunday, October 31st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Zoning

- The Forks Church Subdivision Plan was before Council for review and approval. Charlie Unangst of Hanover Engineering reviewed the conditions which were required to approve the plans. He stated that the subdivision comments have been addressed. The 9 Waivers and 1 Deferral have been approved by the Planning Commission which Mr. Unangst read aloud to Council for their approval from his review letter dated August 31, 2021. Solicitor Asteak asked if there were any questions. He stated that he was in agreement with the waivers as long as the Engineers were good with them. Solicitor Asteak stated that the Waivers all seemed to be technical waivers. Attorney Asteak asked for a Motion to Grant the SALDO Waivers and deferral as set forth in Forks Church Cemetery plan.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to grant the SALDO Waivers 1 through 9 and 1 Deferral under Section 213.35.A as described in Hanover Engineers review letter of August 31, 2021 for Forks Church Cemetery. Motion carried unopposed.
- Mr. Werkheiser of Forks Church stated he has a question about the recreation fee. John Soloe stated that this is not a new construction, therefore, there is no fee.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to approve the Fork's Church Cemetery Minor Subdivision/Final Plan. Motion carried unopposed.
- John Soloe advised Mr. Werkheiser to take the plans back to his engineer for them to provide the Borough with 2 mylar copies and 3 paper copies to be brought to the Borough for signatures. Forks Church Cemetery is required to have them recorded and provide the Borough with proof of recording. Solicitor Asteak stated that there is an access legal description required which needs to be reviewed before the Borough signs off on the plans.

Public Works

- As stated at the beginning of the meeting, the Sewer flow is now hooked up to Easton Sewer Authority. The next step is decommissioning the existing sewer plant which has begun.
- Ken Zemencsik informed Council that the 2014 Ford Interceptor went to Koch Ford for recall work and he was informed that the car needed approximately \$6,500 worth of additional repairs. The vehicle has now been brought to Joe's Garage for a 2nd opinion and to perform the repairs needed.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak informed Council that the Post Office Lease expires in September of 2022. The US Postal Service has been in touch with us regarding renegotiating and extending the Lease for up to 15 years. His recommendation would be to obtain a fair market value for the purpose of negotiating the lease. An estimate for the appraisal of the post office has been obtain from the Deitrich Group in the amount of \$1,500. Attorney Asteak stated that the Deitrich Group are real estate appraisers with an excellent reputation and are certified to do this type of appraisal. Amy Richard asked for a motion to approve Deitrich Group for \$1,500.00.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the Deitrich Group to provide an appraisal for the rental of the Post Office at a cost of Fifteen Hundred (\$1,500.00) Dollars. Motion carried unopposed.

Agenda

- Amy Richard informed Council that the Borough needs to find a new Accountant since the current one has now retired. Anita Caughy asked for any recommendations. Solicitor Asteak stated that it is a very specialized area and suggest that we call around to other municipalities to see who they use.
- Council did a quick review of the Budget vs. Actual in preparation of preparing a Budget for 2022. There will need to be some changes/increases due to the over-all increase in costs and activities in the Borough.
- Amy Richard stated that with respect to the Budget, the Borough's newest Police Officer, Brent Castelletti, has completed his probationary period. With Council's approval, she would like to bring his salary up to the current police officers' salary. She asked for a motion to approve this increase.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to increase Officer Brent Castelletti pay rate to the current police officers' salary.
- Amy Richard stated that with respect to the budget, Chief Eric Schwab had put in for an Executive Training class at the end of October in the amount of \$695.00. The police budget for training and seminars is currently over budget at this time and she wanted to ask Chief Schwab, if he was here, if he would be willing to take the class

in the Spring and use the funds towards police street hours. She stated that she would get a letter out to him for him to make the decision of attending the class or postponing it to another date and increasing street hours.

- The JOAO Construction quote was added at the beginning of the meeting. Amy Richard stated that JOAO is the Construction company who has been working on the sewer plant. During Tropical Storm Isaias the Bushkill Creek flow has been disrupted by trees and rocks. Amy Richard informed Council that she had approached JOAO and asked if they would be interested in cleaning out the creek since they already have all the equipment needed on site. She asked them for a quote which was provided in the amount of \$9,800.00 to open up the stream and pull out the trees so it would flow and not continually flood the sewer plant area and the Borough garage. An emergency permit has been obtained to clean the stream out. This quote is lower due to the fact that the equipment is currently on site. Amy Richard stated that there are additional areas which should be cleared while their equipment is still on site. Council stated that they were willing to approve an amount not to exceed \$20,000. Kathleen Zdonowski stated that if it goes above that amount, they would have to obtain additional approval.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve the quote from JOAO Construction in the amount of Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred (\$9,800.00) Dollars to clean out the Bushkill Creek and not to exceed Twenty Thousand (\$20,000.00) Dollars for additional work needed which is not included in the quote. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard informed Council that she has given Emil Lukas the contact information for JOAO with the hopes that they can assist him with his erosion problems from the creek.

Council Comment

- Amy Richard asked John Soloe about the lighting complaints at the gas station. Mr. Soloe stated that he would reach out to them again.
- Amy Richard would also like to have the Minutes reflect that there was an Executive Session held on Thursday, September 30, 2021 for legal and personnel matters.

Executive Session

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to enter into executive session at 8:36 PM for a legal matter. Motion carried unopposed. No decision will be made after the session.
- **Motion** by Rosemarie Wenzelberger, Seconded by Cindy Hower to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 9:19 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:20 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on October 18, 2021

The foregoing was approved the **18th** day of **October, 2021**.

President of Council

Attest: _____