

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 18, 2024 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

- Council Members present were: Council President Amy Richard, Vice President Kathleen Zdonowski, Cindy Hower, Katie Santiago, Pam Davis, Joe Gosnell, and Renee Cantwell.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Candace Keller, Borough Secretary were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

- There were no additions to the agenda.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Katie Santiago to approve Council Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2024. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve the Council Budget Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2024. Motion carried unopposed
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve accounts payable for the General and Sewer Funds through November 4, 2024. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor's Report:

- Rosemarie Wenzelberger received an email from Charles Richards of Penn DOT regarding crosswalks. The letter reiterated that Penn DOT would not accept any liability for crosswalks.

Police

- PSP Sergeant Thomas Geerlof attended the meeting. He offered information on how school bus violations are handled and what the PSP could do to relieve the situation. He suggested bus driver's and parents should report violators directly to State Police through the non-emergency phone number. Most often the drivers or parents do not get a license number of the offender and therefore not much can be done. Currently, Jennings Transportation does not have any outside facing cameras on board to capture a license image. Jennings's drivers have not reported any incidents from the Stockertown route according to Sergeant

Geerlof. His best recommendation is for citizens to be pro-active and have cell phones ready for videotaping each day at the school bus to capture any violation and report it.

- Sergeant Geerlof's main concern is his lack of police troopers. He expressed concerns over his inability to hire new or seasoned troopers, stating that currently, his force is at dire levels that he has never seen in his time as a PSP. He reiterated that unfortunately, his troopers cannot babysit bus stops each morning, however he will make a conscious effort to put resources in the Borough for increased visibility.
- Sergeant Geerlof said he had some resources he would try use to locate a weighs and measures station on Main Street to inspect trucks traversing the borough.
- Amy Richard mentioned council's appreciation to Sergeant Geerlof and the State Police for their assistance in the matter of safety for students, school buses and the community. Amy also inquired with Gary Asteak about the possibility of obtaining crossing guards. Crossing guards are typically hired and managed by the school district's school police department. Because there is no police department in Stockertown, the borough cannot hire crossing guards. Amy Richard stated that in so much as Stockertown is part of the Nazareth School District, she would follow up with the School Board, requesting that they consider hiring guards under their school police department and Stockertown would contribute to the training, uniforms etc.
- Amy Richard said she would also request a meeting with Jennings Transportation to discuss the Main Street route and their lack of reporting violations to PSP.

Solicitor:

- Gary Asteak reported on a letter he wrote to the Nazareth School District concerning the school bus situation. He received a letter back from the Nazareth School District's Philadelphia lawyers, which he will follow up on. Attorney Asteak feels the best remedy may be for residents to attend school board meetings and make some noise.
- Resolution 2024-3 authorizing the Borough to be officially included in the Federal Highlands Conservation Region Boundary. This is a request from the County to extend the boundaries to include Stockertown in areas that could protect high priority conservation land to such as historical sites, wetlands, and natural habitats. The Resolution, by extending the boundaries to include Stockertown, allows the County to secure grants which could secure conservation easements within the borough.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower to adopt Resolution 2024-3 for the Federal Highlands Conservation Regional Boundary, Seconded by Katie Santiago. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Pam Davis to approve Attorney Asteak to execute and advertise an updated RCN Franchise Agreement which will continue for ten years. RCN has agreed to provide the Borough with free internet in 3 locations which will be added to the agreement.
- Attorney Asteak confirmed the Casella Garbage Contract has been signed and executed. The Borough chose a three-year option which will expire in December 2027.

Public Works:

- Amy Richard provided a copy of the work projects for the month.
- Ken Zemencsik, Public Works Director, reported the treads on the foot bridge at Newhart Park have been replaced and the bridge has been painted with a rust coat until spring when a second coat of paint will be applied. The new treads will help eliminate slipping when entering the bridge. Photos were provided.
- Public Works employees attended an LTAP class. Ken Zemencsik reported his findings concerning crosswalks as defined by the Penn Dot instructor. Part of the explanation included the necessity for a traffic study before a crosswalk could be permitted.

Agenda Items:

- Amy Richard reported the draft balanced budget needs a few tweaks, and ask to table it until the next meeting.
- Resolution 2024-4 Emergency Management Plan 2024, a bi-annual update for the Borough’s Emergency Management Plan.
Motion by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Resolution 2024-4

Public Comment:

- Resident Eric Wenzelberger suggested we put a portable swap library inside the Borough vestibule area for residents during the winter months.
- Louise D’Achille thanked the residents who volunteered to rejuvenate the Veteran’s Memorial on Main Street. Council concurred they did a beautiful job.

Council Comments:

- Katie Santiago, Council Member, inquired about the Flex Roofing & Construction van parked on Hillside Avenue. The van is blocking the view pulling out onto Sullivan Trail. There have been multiple complaints from residents not being able to see pulling out of Hillside Avenue. Amy Richard said sending a letter to the owner would be appropriate.
- Dan Monek inquired about council’s continuing interest in obtaining a meeting with Tatamy Police and Slate Belt Regional Police for updated proposals. Council asked for updates with quotes and specific conditions.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Katie Santiago to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:45pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2024. The foregoing was approved the **4th** day of **December, 2024**.

President of Council

Attest: _____