

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 7, 2022**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2022 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA APPROVAL

- Amy Richard informed Council that there is one item which needs to be added to the Agenda for approval. She stated that the issue is regarding Sean Dooley and the tree removal. She asked for a Motion to add this item to the agenda.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Pam Davis to add Sean Dooley's tree removal issue to the agenda. Motion carried unopposed.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve the Budget Meeting Minutes of October 26, 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 November 7, 2022. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Wenzelberger stated that a letter was sent to Eric Schwab to remove his personal items from the Emergency Management building which he did not comply with. These items will now be donated to a charity.
- The Mayor also stated that Halloween went smoothly and everyone seemed happy. There were constables in police vehicles handing out candy and providing security for the children. Forks Township Fire company also made an appearance in the Borough with their fire trucks.

Police

- Amy Richard stated that the garage at the Emergency Management building has been extensively cleaned and painted. The offices will be completed shortly. The

doors have been reinforced so there will be no more break-ins. Potential officers will be interviewed in the next several weeks to staff the new department.

Zoning

- Amy Richard read out a letter of resignation from Zoning Officer, John Soloe. He stated that he will finish out the calendar year and will assist the Borough in finding a replacement. Amy Richard thanked him for his time and services and asked if he would be heading south to Florida which he acknowledged.
- Amy Richard asked John Soloe to speak with the owners of the old school house on Center Street and have them clean up the area. The orange fence needs to be removed and the area filled in. Mr. Soloe said he would speak to them.

Public Works

- Public Works is picking up leaves throughout the month of November and working in the emergency services building.

Solicitor

- Attorney Asteak stated that the only item he has is the Newpro Lawsuit and he would like an executive session to discuss that matter.
- Attorney Asteak informed Council that the matter regarding the stream clearing with the Fish and Boat Commission has not been resolved. Attorney Asteak stated that he thought the matter was over. Amy Richard and several Council members stated that Officer Rudd from the Fish and Boat Commission informed them at a Council Meeting that the matter was resolved and he found no violations.

Agenda

- Amy Richard stated that Halloween was a success. There were 129 bags of candy given out. She wanted to thank those individuals who came out to help that night.
- Amy Richard stated that Ordinance 2022-1 which was adopted at the last council meeting is not valid. The Ordinance was advertised for the December 5, 2022 meeting at which time it will then be officially adopted.
- There will be a short budget meeting after the executive session to go over the changes to the budget.
- Amy Richard asked for any public comments.

Public Comment

- Neil Schurgot from the Forks Township Fire Company was present to share some upcoming events. He stated that they were in the Borough for Halloween and that Santa would be coming around after Thanksgiving. He informed those present that they will be starting their letter drive to obtain donations. There will also be a Santa run this year where residents can bring a gift to the fire house for a child to be delivered by Santa to that child's home. This is part of a fund raiser and there will be a fee of \$10.00 to have Santa deliver the gift. Amy Richard stated that she wished the residents would realize what Forks actually does for the Borough as opposed to the Borough having its own fire company. Mr. Schurgot stated that the Santa run is usually put on Facebook as to when they will be coming around. Kathleen

Zdonowski and Amy Richard thanked them for everything they do for the Borough and especially for the kids.

- Amy Richard addressed the issue with Sean Dooley and the tree on Lefever Road which needs to be removed. She stated that it is actually 100 percent on the Borough's right-of-way. The tree is totally dead and will definitely be a hazardous issue in a storm. Mr. Dooley obtained two estimates. One estimate was over \$9,000 and the other estimate is \$4,800. The estimate is to remove the tree down to the base of the tree, not to the ground. All brush will be chipped and hauled away. Fire wood is to be left on site. Stockertown Public Works would handle road safety and flagging. Mr. Dooley and his neighbor are asking for the Borough to contribute \$800.00 towards the removal and have our Public Works handle traffic control. Property owners on either side of the tree, Mr. Dooley and Mr. Martin will both pay \$2,000 each to cover the cost and Mr. Dooley inquired as to whether the Borough would help financially in light of the fact that it is the Borough's tree. Kathleen Zdonowski stated that the Borough needs to set limitations. Attorney Asteak stated that if a dead tree causes a threat to public safety and welfare, then it is the Borough's concern. Every tree should be handled separately. The fact that the residents have offered to cover the majority of the cost is very thoughtful. Council feels that the Borough should contribute. Attorney Asteak stated that he will check into the agreement with the tree service. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve the contribution.
- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to contribute \$800.00 towards the removal of the tree on Lefevre Road as well as to have Public Works handle traffic control contingent upon Solicitor Asteak's final approval. Motion carried unopposed.
- There were no other public comments. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to enter into executive session.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to enter into executive session at 7:55. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 9:24 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Pam Davis to approve the Sewer Fund Budget for advertising. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Pam Davis to approve the General Fund Budget for advertising. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to adjourn the Council Meeting at 9:36 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on November 21, 2022
The November 21, 2022 Council Meeting was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the 5th day of **December, 2022.**

President of Council

Attest: _____