

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 5, 2024 AT 7:30 PM AT BOROUGH HALL.

Attendance

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

The Meeting was called to order by Council President, Amy Richard, at 7:37.

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA APPROVAL – No additional items were added

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Council Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024 as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Katie Santiago, to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through February 5, 2024. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor's Report – Ad is in for Hiring of Police. Nothing else to report.

Solicitor

- Gary Asteak, Borough Solicitor reported on the Long Meadows development regarding the retention ponds. Mr. Asteak recommended we abide by the Engineer's inspection with our public works. Kathleen Zdonowski does not recommend putting any of our employees in the pond which will make the situation ours. "It is not the Borough's responsibility. If we want to hire someone and charge the owners fine, but the original deeds the homeowners signed had a codicil stating they are solely responsible for the pond". Joe Gosnell and Katie Santiago agreed and stated there is so much debris in there, and they do not want to risk our employees. Joe Gosnell responded, "It is not a Borough maintenance issue, it is not the

Borough property. Once we touch it once, we are married to it". There are specific Pennsylvania rules regarding having a retention pond which need to be followed. There are garbage, pallets, shopping carts, etc. debris in this pond. Amy Richard recommends we wait until we get a response from the letters sent out by our Zoning Officer to the three property owners (based on the tax records). Kathleen Zdonowski has a copy of the original codicil signed by Borough Council and the property owners, specifically number 7 on page 2 that addresses the ponds. It was approved by the Borough that the ponds are the ownership of the people that live there, not the Borough's.

Amy Richard emphasized if we put our employees in the pond, it becomes our pond.

Gary Asteak stated the Borough could file a lawsuit against the homeowners if they do not adhere to the covenants on the plans. Mr. Asteak will contact his title company and pull the deeds for the three properties. He will then await the Borough's decision to file an enforcement action against the homeowners.

- Mr. Asteak reported in reference to the letter from the Nazareth Area COG comprehensive plan. Anytime a municipality amends its zoning ordinance or subdivision ordinance, all 10 municipalities need to be notified. These notifications are for informational purposes only.

Agenda Items

- Stewart sign needs a new component. The quote to replace it is approximately \$2,300 and East Coast \$350 to install it. Amy Richard recommended we look into new sign for cost effectiveness moving forward. This topic is tabled until prices are obtained.

Public Comment:

- Eric Wenzelberger inquired about Planning Commission Meetings if any are being held. Amy Richard reported they are working on zoning ordinance updates with Suzanne Borzak, Zoning Officer. Next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, February 27.
- Eric Wenzelberger asked permission to donate "Memories of Stockertown" book to the Easton and Mary Meuser Library. This request was approved. We have extras that are for sale \$10.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Katie Santiago to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:15pm. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council is scheduled for Monday, February 19, 2024.

The foregoing was approved the day 19th day of **February 2024**.

President of Council

Attest: _____