

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

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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, Renee Cantwell, Pamela Davis and Kimberly Holden-Forsyth.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Ken Zemencsik, Chief Eric Schwab and 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 stated that there were two items to be added to the agenda and asked for a Motion to approve the following:

1. Resolution 2022-2 Supporting Application to the Statewide Race Horse Development and Gaming Grant.
 2. SOP-040 Ride Along Policy
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to added the listed items to the Agenda. Motion carried unopposed.

Public Comment

- Neil Schurgot introduced himself as the President of the Forks Fire Company. He also introduced Jevin Russo, Fire Chief and Pat Mellett, Deputy Fire Chief who were also present. Mr. Schurgot stated that they wanted to give Stockertown an update on the Fire Department. Forks Fire Department received over 20 calls for service last year from Stockertown. He informed Council that the new ladder truck is now in service. He said there were 353 calls in total for the year between Forks and Stockertown and 2000-man hours just on these calls. He explained that Forks is in the process of repairing their training tower located on Glover Road which will be one of their biggest expenses for the year. The training tower is 15 years old and is in need of extensive repairs and upgrades at a cost of approximately \$200,000.00. He stated that the Township would help pay part of the bill and that the Fire Department would be responsible for the remainder. Mr. Schurgot stated that the officers try to come to Stockertown once a year to give an update and meet everyone and answer any questions. Kathleen Zdonowski thanked them for their responses and hours they put in for the Borough. Amy Richard thanked the fire department for their service and stated that since 2006 they have not raised the price for service. She realizes that it cannot last forever especially when development begins to come into the Borough. Ms. Richard then handed Mr. Schurgot a check for \$5,000 which is Stockertown's yearly donation. She was happy to hand it to him personally this year.
- Amy Richard asked Chief Russo if they have had any contact with Lezzer Lumber. Chief Russo said they have received the plans and that they will not change the Fire

Company's response policies at this time. They expect to do a walk through after their plans have been implemented. He informed council that there is a specific person in the department who is handling the Knox Box issue pursuant to the Borough's Knox Box Ordinance.

- John Seibert of Patriot Lane informed Council that the walkway leading to the back door of the Police Department was not cleared during the last snowfall. Amy Richard informed him that all three of the Public Works employees were out sick with Covid during that storm. She further informed him that Ken Zemencsik did come out that night to plow and salt the roads even though he was sick to be sure the roads were safe for residents. He then came back the next day and salted the walkway to the Police Department.
- Jeffrey Miller of Main Street requested 5 Minutes Loading and Unloading parking signs be installed along 407 Main Street so residents would not be ticketed by the State Police when unloading their vehicles. Amy Richard responded that she would look into it and see what could be done, possible changing signage to 5 Minute Drop Off/Pick Up.
- Eric Wenzelberger stated that there was a crack in the road across Center Street. Ken Zemencsik informed him that the extreme cold weather has caused many cracks in the roads and that all of the Borough roads would be crack sealed in the Spring.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2022, with one correction. Kim Holden-Forsyth pointed out that "Mayor Ken Zemencsik was absent from the January 3, 2022 meeting". Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through February 7, 2022. Motion carried unopposed.
- The second page of the Appointments which were approved at the Reorganization Meeting was provided to Council. The second page was mistakenly omitted.
- The Borough Contact List was distributed to Council members.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Zemencsik presented the new Stockertown sign which was created by the Nazareth Sign Company. Two signs were made at a cost of \$523.00 for both. These signs will be placed at both ends of the Borough. Everyone was very pleased with the style and color of the sign.

Police

- Chief Schwab read out the Calls of Service for the month of January, 2022. He stated that there was 1 Fraud; 1 Narcotics arrest; 1 motor vehicle accident; 31 Traffic Summonses; 19 Traffic Warnings along with miscellaneous calls for a total of 127 Calls for the month.
- Chief Schwab stated that the FBI has a pending investigation concerning mailbox theft. He advised everyone to bring important mail into a post office because this is happening in several towns. The Stockertown mailbox is secure but many are not.
- The FBI Supervisor Leadership class information was provided to Council for consideration. This class will be held November 7 – 11, 2022.
- Chief Schwab left the meeting early but stated prior to leaving that the cleaning person listed under the agenda for the meeting must have a background check and be fingerprinted by the State Police prior to cleaning the police department.

Public Works

- Public Works received a complimentary email from the Webers regarding the plowing on Lincoln Street during the last snow storm. Amy Richard reiterated that the Public Works have been doing an excellent job.
- Three quotes were presented to Council to purchase a Jetter to clean out the sewer lines. Even though the Borough is connected to the Easton Sewer Authority the sewer lines are still Borough responsibility. The sewer lines are continually being clogged with non-biodegradable items and will need periodic servicing. It will be less expensive for the Borough to purchase a Jetter rather than hire a company to come out each time and clean the lines. The cheapest quote obtained was for a BossJet Max Skid Mounted Sewer Jetter - Kohler CH750 3000 psi for \$8,695.00. Amy Richard asked what Council thoughts were on this issue. She stated that the Public Works Capital Fund Account has funds available to be used for this purpose. Amy Richard asked if council wanted to table the matter or Motion to approve the purchase of a Jetter at the lowest price quote received. Kathleen Zdonowski stated that if there is sufficient money in the Public Works Capital Fund that she feels the Borough should purchase the Jetter.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to purchase a BossJet MAX Skid Mounted Sewer Jetter, Kohler CH750 at a cost of \$8,695.00 plus shipping fees, to clean and maintain the sewer lines. Motion carried unopposed.
- The Borough is preparing an application for the Statewide Local Share Gaming Grant to purchase a Compact Track Loader with snow blower and wire harness to replace the current 2008 Skid Steer which is in need of extensive repair. A Resolution has been prepared for this application. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve Resolution 2022-2 to apply for the Grant.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Resolution 2022-2 to apply for the Statewide Local Share Gaming Grant for a new 2022 Compact Track Loader if the Grant is approved. Motion carried unopposed.

Solicitor

- Attorney Asteak stated that he has spoken with the new representative of the post office regarding the renewal of the Post Office Lease. He informed the representative that the Borough was willing to sign the renewal based on an appraisal the Borough received, but that Stockertown Borough would not sign the Commission statement. Attorney Asteak asked for a Motion to approve the execution of the renewal of the Post Office Lease for a 5-year term with two additional 5-year extension. The first five (5) years at an annual rent of \$16,104.00. Period 9-1-27 to 8-31-32 at an annual rate of \$17,715.00
Period 9-1-32 to 8-31-37 at an annual rate of \$19,487.00
- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the execution to renew the Post Office Lease for a five (5) year term with two additional five (5) year extensions. Motion carried unopposed.
- Attorney Asteak stated that he had a conversation with the Representative from the Fish and Boat Commission regarding the pending inditement against the Borough for clearing the stream. He told the representative that the Borough was simply not willing to pay the fine that they had suggested. He stated that the Borough was acting in good faith and believed that they had all the permits that were needed. The representative stated that he would take this information back to his boss.
- Attorney Asteak suggested that Council revoke Administrative Order SPD-040 entitled "Ride Along Policy" due to the insurance ramifications and the abuse controversies of the policy. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to revoke the Ride Along Policy.
- **Motion** Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to revoke **Administrative Order SPD-040 "Ride-Along Policy"** due to insurance ramification and abuse of the policy. Motion carried unopposed.
- Kathleen Zdonowski inquired of Solicitor Asteak as to what the status is of the Newpro Development. Attorney Asteak stated that there has been silence. He has not heard anything since his discussion with them concerning some changes they were looking for with regard to the recreation fee.

Agenda

- Council discussed the individual who applied for a cleaning position in the Borough. Chief Schwab had stated that a State Police background check is required for anyone to enter the EMA Building. It was agreed that the Borough would pick up the FBI processing costs, since it is required, if the cleaning person chooses to undertake the FBI background investigation and fingerprinting in order to clean at the Police Department as long as she stays for at least 90 days.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to hire Marci Castellano to clean Borough Hall and to pick up the cost of the FBI background investigation and fingerprinting for her if she chooses to pursue the requirements to clean the

police department as long as she works for the Borough for at least Ninety (90) days.
Motion carried unopposed.

Council Comments

- Pam Davis stated that she received two separate phone calls. The first call was from Mrs. Weber to remind Council to consider adding a Unit of Care Clause to the Zoning Ordinance. Amy Richard stated that the Zoning Officer suggested that it would not be a good idea because there is no way to police an apartment after the elderly person is no longer there. Additionally, it would open the door throughout the Borough for anyone adding a rental unit within their home. Ms. Richard stated that she would have John Soloe respond to her on this matter.
- Pam Davis stated that her second phone call was concerning what was going on at the sewer plant. She questioned whether the Zoning Officer was inspecting the area. Amy Richard stated that the sewer plant has nothing to do with zoning or the Zoning Officer. She stated that the Borough, as part of the construction contract, is paying a full-time independent inspector. The public works employees also check the area regularly.
- Kim Holden-Forsyth mentioned that the traffic lights at Rt. 191 and Rt. 33 were out. Anita Caughy informed her that Signal Services was contacted and the lights have already been fixed. She further stated that the Borough has a contract with Signal Service and that those lights go out very frequently at which time Signal Service is called for repairs.
- Amy Richard asked if there were any other comments and Mr. Wagner of Winona Street asked to speak. He questioned the process of the decommissioning of the sewer plant. He was informed that the decommissioning is being overseen by an Independent Inspector, the DEP and the Borough Public Works employees.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:38 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on February 21, 2022.

The foregoing was approved the 21st day of **February, 2022**.

President of Council

Attest: _____