

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF April 3, 2023**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023 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 Katie Santiago. Pam Davis was absent.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Rosemarie Wenzelberger and Borough Secretary/Treasurer Candace Keller were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA APPROVAL

- A request was made by Amy Richard to add Sean Dooley's response and correspondence on the Little Bushkill Creek Streambank to the agenda.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, seconded by Cindy Hower. Motion carried unopposed.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Katie Santiago to approve Council Meeting Minutes of March 6, 2023, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- Katie Santiago asked what "audit costs" were for listed in the accounts payable. Amy Richard answered it was for the yearly audit regarding the Borough's finances.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through April 3, 2023. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Wenzelberger had nothing to address.

Police Report

- Amy Richard had nothing to report except to repeat the difficulty finding police applicants due to the area wide shortage of police forces.

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Zoning

- Amy Richard reported Lezzer Lumber has dropped their interest to proceed with the possible flex warehouse proposal. As a result, the traffic counters, which were approved at the last meeting have been cancelled.

Public Works

- Amy Richard reported a more detailed quote on the roof replacement for Borough Hall has been received. The price has not changed. Kathleen Zdonowski made a motion to accept Todd Miller's quote of \$17,750 as the contractor to replace Borough Hall's roof. Seconded by Joe Gosnell. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard reported Stockertown has been rewarded two grants. One for a track loader with a snow plow attachment of \$69,497. The second grant of \$150,000 for Lincoln Street Improvement. The Borough can reapply for additional grant funds necessary to complete this project. An upgraded quote will be needed for the Lincoln Street Project as costs continue to increase. Total cost of Skid Steer (Track Loader) is \$79,553.59. The remainder of the funds will come from the Public Works Capital Fund. Our present Skid Steer/Track Loader is 15 years old.
- Playground equipment choices were presented by Ken Zemencsik to replace what was damaged by fallen trees. The insurance money received was \$6,081 and the remaining balance will come from the Recreation Fund. Amy Richard requested a Motion to purchase the Dome Climber for \$369.99, Double Advanced Tower with Monkey Bars for \$4149.99 and Playset for \$2599.99 including free shipping. The total cost is \$7119.97.
- **Motion** by Cindy Howell and seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve purchasing the park equipment as presented. Motion carried unopposed.
- Salt Shed updated information. The updated quote includes shipping, but will not exceed cap of \$18000 already approved by council last month. The Salt Shed design was approved by Hanover Engineering.

Solicitor

- Gary Asteak reported the Borough has been receiving numerous Right to Know requests from the Former Police Chief. We have requested 30 day extensions, in accordance with the Right to Know Law.
- We received a complaint from the Fish & Boat Commission regarding the work done on the Bushkill Stream. There is a hearing scheduled to resolve the matter.
- There has been an issue with the return of the Borough Laptop from Mayor Wenzelberger. Gary Asteak stated there is no need for Mayor Wenzelberger to retain the laptop. After a brief discussion between Gary Asteak, Mayor Wenzelberger and Borough Council the laptop will be returned tomorrow, April 4th.

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Agenda

- The Stockertown Rod & Gun Club is interested in purchasing the property formerly owned by Mrs. Obulaney, now owned by the Borough. Amy Richard stated, in her opinion, this property is a swamp land, is landlocked and other than open space, serves no purpose. Council approved having this property appraised. The issue was tabled until next meeting.
- Sean Dooley received a letter regarding the Bushkill Creek Embankment by Lefevre Road area and upstream. Sean Dooley has drafted a letter to the District Manager (Mr. Pritchard) from Northampton County District requesting in any capacity, it can provide to stabilize and restore the four damaged stream bank areas. The letter has been approved to forward.
- Sean Dooley has also asked to have the Planning Commission meetings changed from the 3rd Tuesday of the month to the 4th Tuesday of the Month beginning April 25, 2023, 7pm. Approved and new meeting date will be posted.

Public Comment

- Resident Tom Appleman inquired about any updates on the Grandview Development Project. Gary Asteak stated there is nothing before the Borough at this time. He also inquired about a regional police department. Amy Richard stated it is not financially feasible. The Borough would definitely like to have their own police department and is working towards this goal.
- Louise Di'Achille inquired about any updates on the old schoolhouse building on Center Street which is in disarray. Amy Richard stated permits have been issued and the construction of two additional apartments should begin shortly.

Council comment

- Amy Richard commented that Katie Santiago took a webinar regarding Borough Council duties, which she can share with council members. Amy Richard would like all council members to attend.

Executive Session – Personnel issue

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to exit regular session and enter into executive session at 8:44pm. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:46pm. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to hire Zachary Zemencsik as part time summer help at \$15/hr. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:49PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on April 17, 2023.
The April 17, 2023 Council Meeting was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the **1st** day of **May, 2023**.

President of Council

Attest: _____

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