

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2021**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2021 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 Rosemarie Wenzelberger.
- 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

Public Comment

- There were no public comments

Council Comment

- There were no Council comments

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Renee Cantwell, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Council Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2021, 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 July 7, 2021. Motion carried unopposed.

Police

- Chief Eric Schwab read out the calls for service report for the month of June, 2021. He stated that there was 1 assault, 1 Narcotics arrest, 2 additional arrests; 58 Traffic Summonses; 28 Traffic Warnings; 4 arrests on warrants; 4 Suspicious persons/circumstances; 4 calls to assist other agencies along with miscellaneous calls for a total of 152 calls for the month of June.
- Chief Schwab informed Council that the new security systems for the Police Department and Public Works Garage has been purchased with the Northampton County Grant and will be installed the week of July 26th. He inquired of Council whether they wanted to pay for the monitoring service monthly or yearly for the public works building. The monthly rate would be \$39.00 a month. It would be \$468.00 a year. Council agreed to pay the monitoring service yearly.

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to pay the security monitoring for the Public Works building on a yearly basis at \$468.00. Motion carried unopposed.

Public Works

- Amy Richard informed Council that several interviews were conducted for a new Public Work Laborer by herself, Alex Hennings and Ken Zemencsik. There were two applicants which stood out with the experience needed. They were both offered the job. Daniel Lawrence started Tuesday, July 6th and Simon Doddy will be starting on July 19th. Alex Hennings will be retiring after the road paving project is completed. Amy Richard stated that Todd Lichtenwalner informed her that he will be retiring in March of 2022 which will provide time to train both of the new employees. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to officially hire Daniel Lawrence and Simon Doddy.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to approve for hire, Daniel Lawrence and Simon Doddy as Public Works Laborers starting at \$17.00 per hour effective immediately. Motion carried unopposed.
- Ken Zemencsik stated that the interceptor project connecting Stockertown to the Easton Sewer Authority has started. There has been some fence damage by the company clearing the trees, but he has been informed that the fence will be repaired. There will be a full-time inspector on the scene for any issues which may arise.
- Amy Richard explained that Ken Zemencsik is looking for a scissor jack for the Borough. He is trying to find a decent used one. There are many projects to be done where it will be very helpful. More information will be obtained before a decision is made.

Solicitor

- Solicitor Asteak gave an update on the Newpro lawsuit. He stated that depositions are scheduled for individuals at the end of this month to supplement the record before it goes to Court. Amy Richard ask Attorney Asteak to explain exactly what Newpro is requesting in their lawsuit. Solicitor Asteak stated that they are asking the Court to void the new Zoning Ordinance and for the Borough to review their development plan under the provisions of the old Ordinance. Attorney Asteak stated that there are many issues with their plan which do not comply with the old Ordinance. Amy Richard stated that the Ordinance was prepared by a reputable engineering firm and what was adopted is perfectly legal. The meetings were advertised so anyone interested was welcome to appear and express their views. No one came to the meetings at that time. Ms. Richard stated that she does not feel that the Borough should have to compromise and make changes to the new Ordinance. Solicitor Asteak suggested that after the Comprehensive Plan is completed, that the Borough should take another look at their Ordinances. The Plan is expected to be completed sometime in the Fall.
- Solicitor Asteak presented the Northampton County Community Development Block Grant Program. He stated that all municipalities within the County have participated in this program. This Contract does not commit the Borough to anything. It will allow the Borough, if they wish, for the next three years to participate in the program if the

Borough qualifies and if the funds are available. Attorney Asteak stated that Council would need to authorize the Borough to sign the Contract to participate in this program. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve the signing of the Contract between the Borough and County of Northampton.

- **Motion** by Renee Cantwell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to sign the Contract between the County of Northampton and the Borough of Stockertown to be part of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Motion carried unopposed.

Agenda

- A breakdown of the Bank Balances as of June 30, 2021 were provided to Council. The breakdown is as follows:

○ General Fund Savings	\$412,938.61
○ General Fund Checking	\$ 55,688.49
○ Sewer Fund Savings	\$ 14,707.05
○ Sewer Fund Checking	\$ 44,649.18
○ Bond Fund (Sewer Project)	\$1,145,283.07
○ Real Estate Tax Account	\$217,635.10
○ Highway Aid Checking	\$126,682.92
○ Recreation Fund	\$ 3,107.25
○ Fire Truck Fund	\$ 3,558.03
○ Escrow Account	\$ 7,036.29
○ Debit Card Account	\$ 631.72
○ Money Market Account	\$556,160.29
○ CD	0.00
○ Police Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 49,605.30
○ PW Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 60,499.13

The Certificate of Deposit was cashed in on June 11, 2021 in the amount of \$314,249.62 and was deposited into the Stockertown Money Market Account. A breakdown of the money market account funds are as follows

○ General Fund	\$161,222.71
○ Sewer Fund	\$364,950.43
○ Fire Protection Fund	\$ 17,992.11
○ Centennial Fund	\$ 11,995.04
○ Total	\$556,160.29

Amy Richard stated that the Centennial Fund was closed in 2018, therefore, she recommends that the CD portion for the Centennial Fund be transferred into the Public Works Capital Reserve Fund for future needed purchases. Council discussed the issue and agreed. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to transfer the funds.

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Pam Davis to transfer the Centennial Funds portion of the CD in the amount of \$11,995.04 from the Money Market Account into the Public Works Capital Account. Motion carried unopposed.

- Amy Richard gave the floor to Anita Caughy, Borough Secretary, to explain the American Cares Act Funds which the Borough received from the Commonwealth. Ms. Caughy explained that the Federal Government passed the American Cares Act of 2021 to provide COVID relief to the States. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sent out emails with the instruction to file an application for the funds. The application was filed. Stockertown has been approved for the amount of \$96,923.70 which will be distributed into two payments of \$48,461.85. The first payment has been received. Ms. Caughy downloaded a summary listing questions and answers as to how these funds can be used. Most of the uses do not apply to the Borough since we stayed within our budget since COVID began. One option for the funds is to pay employees who continued to work through COVID an additional hazard pay which many other organization paid out to their employees. Amy Richard expressed to Council her wishes to pay the Borough employees additional hazard pay, all of which have been working throughout the pandemic. She stated that other options will be looked into.
- Amy Richard asked if anything was ever resolved with the lights shinning on the houses by the gas station. No one seemed to know the answer to that question. Amy Richard stated she would contact John Soloe for additional information.
- Amy Richard asked for a motion to go into executive session for personnel issues.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to enter into executive session at 8:18 pm for personnel issues. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to exist executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Pam Davis to sell the shed at the Stockertown Sewer Plant for \$150.00. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to increase the salaries of Police Officer Brent Castelletti and Public Works Supervisor, Ken Zemencsik to \$20.00 an hour. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Renee Cantwell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:48 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on July 19, 2021
The July 19, 2021 meeting was cancelled.
Next regular Council Meeting is scheduled for August 2, 2021

The foregoing was approved the **2nd** day of **August, 2021**.

President of Council

Attest: _____