

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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.
- Attorney Steve Mill from Asteak Law Office, 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 request to add an item to the agenda regarding police vehicles.
- **Motion** by Pam Davis, Seconded by Cindy Hower to add the item of police vehicles to the agenda. Motion carried unopposed.

**Public Comment**

- Jeffrey Miller of 407 Main Street addressed Council regarding the fact that he has no parking access to his property. He stated that he has a medical condition and that he has an autistic child whom he needs to bring into his home along with groceries and he is unable to do that if he has to park across the street. He stated that he has been harassed by the state police when he stops in front of his house to unload and that he received a warning and a ticket from Stockertown police when he pulled his car up on the curb. He stated that he is not disputing the ticket but asking for a resolution to his problem. Amy Richard informed him that they would like to table this issue to the end of the meeting to discuss the matter and try to come up with a solution. She requested his phone number so she could call him with the outcome.

**Secretary / Treasurer Report**

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve Council Meeting Minutes of August 2, 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 September 8, 2021. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the payable from the Bond Fund to Joao Construction for the Interceptor Project in the amount of \$438,382.80. Motion carried unopposed.

## Police

- Chief Eric Schwab read out the Calls for Service Report for the month of August, 2021. He stated that there was 1 DUI Narcotics arrest; 4 Motor Vehicle accidents; 4 Suspicious Persons; 81 Traffic Summonses; 58 Traffic Warnings; 15 Assist other Agencies along with miscellaneous calls for a total of 219 Calls.
- **Resolution 2021-1** was presented to Council for approval to apply for the Northampton County Gaming Grant for a new Public Works Truck with full plowing equipment. The cost of the truck with full equipment is \$87,000. Chief Schwab is writing the Grant and requesting \$67,000. He is asking Council to approve contributing \$20,000 from Borough funds towards the purchase of the new truck. Amy Richard asked for a Motion to approve Resolution 2021-1 as well as contributing \$20,000 towards the purchase.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Resolution 2021-1 to apply for the Northampton County Gaming Grant to purchase a new Ford F-550 Truck with plowing equipment for the Public Works Department. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve the Borough's contribution to \$20,000 from Borough funds towards the purchase of the new Ford F-550 with plowing equipment. Motion carried unopposed.
- Chief Schwab excused himself for a family matter.

## Zoning

- Zoning Officer John Soloe was not in attendance so there is no further information on the lighting issue at the gas station location at 307 Main Street. Amy Richard and Joe Gosnell stated that it still is not resolved. This will be looked into further.

## Public Works

- An Invoice in the amount of \$15,970.00 for the purchase of a 2012 Scissor Jack was provided to Council. Council had previously approved the purchase of a Scissor Jack not to exceed \$18,000. Ken Zemencsik informed Council that this equipment has only 400 hours on it and the Borough was provided with new batteries along with the purchase.
- Amy Richard informed Council that she requested Ken Zemencsik to obtain some quotes for the Borough's Skid Steer which were provided to Council. The first quote was for replacement of the rubber tracks for the current skid steer in the amount of \$2,080.00. A Quote for a new snow blower attachment for the skid steer was provided in the amount of \$7,915.20. Ken Zemencsik stated that there would be additional costs with the old skid steer based on replacement of several other parts.

- Ken Zemencsik also provided a quote for a new Compact Track Loader with a snow blower and all necessary attachment in the amount of \$65,498.77. Ken recommended that Council hold off putting funds into the old 2008 Skid Steer and waiting until next year and apply for a grant for a brand-new compact track loader. Council discussed the matter and all were in agreement to hold off a year in hopes of receiving a Grant for the purchase of new equipment.
- A quote for a pair of Galvanized Steel Doors with Steel Frame and accessories for the rear entrance of the post office was provided to Council in the amount of \$3,373.00. Council was advised that the current doors are in bad condition and the post office has been having issues opening the doors in the morning. The Post Office is in the Borough's building and, therefore, the Borough is responsible for maintenance of the building. Amy Richard recommended that these doors be replaced. She asked for a Motion to approve the purchase of new doors.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Pam Davis to purchase new Galvanized Steel Doors with Steel Frame and accessories for the rear entrance of the post office in the amount of \$3,373.00. Motion carried unopposed.

## Agenda

- An email was provided to Council received from Lori Stauffer, Township Manager of Lower Nazareth Township regarding the continuation with Pibble Paws for animal control. The email stated that Pibbles Paws intends to hire two new animal control officers to meet demand which will result in an increase in price for 2022. The annual cost for Stockertown will be \$1,838.00. Council discussed the benefits of having somewhere to bring lost animals and have them returned to their owners and agreed to continue working with them. Amy Richard asked for a motion to approve the new fee.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to continue the contract with Pibbles Paws in the amount of \$1,838.00 per year for the Borough's animal control needs. Motion carried unopposed.
- Amy Richard informed Council that she has been in discussion with County Waste in hopes of extending the current garbage contract. She has been informed that they would like the Borough to put the contract out for bid. Attorney Asteak has reviewed the bid documents. The bids have an option for either a 2 or 3 year contract. With Council's approval, Attorney Asteak will advertise the bids for opening at the October 18, 2021 Council Meeting.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Pam Davis for Attorney Asteak to advertise the Bid Document to be obtained at the Borough Office for opening at the October 18, 2021 Council Meeting. Motion carried unopposed.
- A quote was received from Signal Service regarding installing a Video Detection System at the intersection of Main Street and Route 191 in the amount of \$3,980.00 was provided to Council. Signal Service stated that the left turn loop in the road is damaged due to the condition of the road and cannot be repaired. Council was informed that PennDot has agreed to fix that intersection and Amy Richard does not

feel that anything should be done until the road is fixed. She suggested that this matter be tabled until PennDot fixes the road.

- Ken Zemencsik obtained a one sample for replacing the current Stockertown signs at both ends of Main Street. More samples will be provided. He stated that they are made of a composite that is UV resistant. The signs will be 34" x 48" at a cost of \$500.00 for two signs.
- Amy Richard presented the Notice added to the Agenda regarding the Police Patrol Vehicles at the beginning of the meeting and asked for Council's approval. The notice has been reviewed and approved by Solicitor Asteak.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to implement the Police Vehicle Notice effective immediately stating the following:

"Police vehicles will only be used for official police business within the Borough of Stockertown and its surrounding municipalities

Officers attending pre-approved official training sessions, meeting or functions outside of the Borough will use their personal vehicles to attend, unless they have obtained specific permission from the Mayor or Council before the event. The officer will submit his or her mileage and toll receipts for reimbursement in a timely fashion.

Transporting prisoners, crime victims or civilians involved in official police business only will be permitted to be transported in the Police Patrol Vehicle"

Motion carried unopposed.

### **Council Comments & Questions**

- Pam Davis also received a complaint regarding the high grass on Winona Street
- Pam Davis stated that she was approached by the Lukas's and I had attended a meeting with the Bushkill Conservancy and Emil Lukas regarding Emil Lukas's eroding bank along Bushkill Creek. Amy Richard advised her that she has meet with them several times regarding the same issue. She told them that if he can find funding that the Borough would be more than happy to help with the project.
- Pam Davis informed Council that residents asked about the tree being removed along the sewer plant. She was informed that it was all part of the interceptor project and that all the wood has been chipped by the contractors.
- Amy Richard informed Council that the Borough has obtained an emergency permit to clean out the creek bed, remove dead trees and open up the creek along the sewer plant to prevent further flooding like that of Tropical Storm Isaias. Ms. Richard asked JOAO Contractors to provide a quote to clean up the creek since they currently have excavating equipment staged by the sewer plant. She has not received a quote from them at this time.

**Executive Session – Legal Issue**

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to enter into executive session for legal matter at 8:30 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Amy Richard to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:52 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

**Adjournment**

- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:52 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on September 20, 2021  
The September 20, 2021 Council meeting was cancelled.  
The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on October 4, 2021.

The foregoing was approved the **4th** day of **October, 2021**.

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President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_