

**STOCKERTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2021**

THE BOROUGH OF STOCKERTOWN HELD A COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY, APRIL 5, 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 and Rosemarie Wenzelberger. Pam Davis was absent.
- Solicitor Gary Asteak, Mayor Kenneth Zemencsik, Chief Eric Schwab, Borough Secretary/Treasurer Anita Caughy and Zoning Officer John Soloe were present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

- Christopher Eckhart of 311 Main Street inquired as to the status of the bright lights from Tolino's Service Station. John Soloe stated that the owners were notified and that the matter was turned over to the Borough's Engineer and that he would follow up with them.

Council Comment

- There were no Council comments.

Secretary / Treasurer Report

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve Council Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2021, as written. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to approve accounts payable for the General Fund and Sewer Fund through April 5, 2021. Motion carried unopposed.

Mayor Report

- Mayor Zemencsik stated that he has been trying to contact Representative Joe Emrick's office to address some issues in the Borough but has not had any luck so far. Amy Richard asked him to keep trying.

Police

- Chief Eric Schwab read out the Calls for Service report from March 1st to March 31st, 2021. Chief Schwab stated that there were 7 Arrests, 4 for Theft; Narcotics matter is pending; 1 DUI; 61 Traffic Summonses; 28 Traffic Warnings along with Miscellaneous calls for a total of 133 for the month of March.

- Chief Schwab introduced, Brent Castelletti, who is a new perspective police officer. Mr. Castelletti addressed Council and introduced himself and provided his background history to them. Amy Richard asked what hours he would be available and he stated that whatever the Chief needed.

Zoning

- John Soloe stated that there is a Zoning Hearing Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM. The hearing is regarding, Forks Church Cemetery and Joshua Tree.
- Mr. Soloe stated that he has spoken with the new owners of Tolino's Service Station with regard to the bright lights. He advised that they stated they are agreeable to work with the Borough to rectify the issues.

Public Works

- Amy Richard informed Council that the Road Specs for the road resurfacing project have been prepared by Hanover Engineering and are being reviewed to be advertised. Each Council member was provided with a copy of the roads to be resurfaced. Solicitor Asteak has reviewed the specs. The list of roads to be resurfaced are as follows:
 - Faith Avenue, Jubilee Drive, Hope Street, Patriot Lane, Crown View Freedom Way, Birch Street and Hillside Avenue.

Ms. Richard asked Council for a Motion to approve the road specs for advertising.

- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to approve advertising of the Road Specs prepared by Hanover Engineering for the Road Resurfacing Project. Motion carried unopposed.
- The question of paving Lincoln Avenue was brought up since it is not part of the specs. Council was informed that the residents on one side of the road will lose a portion of their front yards since the Borough's road should be much wider than it currently is. Widening the road will allow for better maintenance, but more importantly it will allow an ingress/egress through the Borough in the event of an incident on Main Street. Zoning Officer John Sole stated that the center line of the blacktop is not the center line of the right of way. The right of way is pushed more to one side. Solicitor Asteak stated that residents have been cutting grass in the Borough's right of way for years and the Borough has the right to reclaim the property at any time. The matter will be looked into and possibly paved in the near future.
- Branch Pick-up is scheduled for May 3rd, 2020 with a rain date of May 4th. Branches must be cut into 3 – 4 feet length. No bushes or grass will be picked up. Branches should be placed close to the curb. Notification will be placed on the Borough Marque and also on the Borough website.

Agenda

- Amy Richard informed Council that the Borough's Garbage Contract with County Waste is up at the end of this year. Council discussed preparing Bid Specs to be advertised for a new contract. Solicitor Gary Asteak suggested that Amy Richard contact the current contractor to discuss an arrangement for future services. Ms. Richard stated that she would call them and advise Council at the next meeting. Attorney Asteak stated that the bids should be ready to be advertised by the end August. Attorney Asteak stated that the Borough is one of the few municipalities in the region to include garbage collection as part of the expense in their taxes. Amy Richard stated that most of the homeowners do not realize that this is included. She stated that Tatamy is charging homeowners \$300 per unit toward their garbage collection.
- Amy Richard informed Council that she and Alex Hennings met with Nathan Prichard of the Northampton County Water Conservancy and Emil Lukas to discuss the damage which occurred to Emil Lukas's property as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias. It was suggested that the damage to the Borough's property be fixed prior before addressing the damage to Mr. Lukas's property so it does not cause any future damage to his property. Ms. Richard stated that they walked the stream and that they will be getting together again shortly. There are multiple areas with damage and islands withing the stream. Many trees are down on more than just one property. Amy Richard informed them that they could fix the Borough property in order to preserve Mr. Lukas's property as long as there is no cost to the Borough. She does not feel that it is fair to put Borough taxes into one property since there are many properties affected. She asked for Council's opinion on this matter. Joe Gosnell stated that he does not feel the Borough should use tax payors money to fix the damage caused by an act of nature. Kathleen Zdonowski also agreed that tax money should not be used for an act of nature. She stated that anyone living along waterways risks water and storm damage.

Executive Session

- Executive Session for Personnel Issue and Legal Matter
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Kathleen Zdonowski to enter into executive session at 8:00 PM. Motion carried unopposed.
- **Motion** by Cindy Hower, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to exit executive session and enter back into regular session at 8:45 PM. Motion carried unopposed
- Amy Richard asked for a Motion to hire Brent Castelletti as a new Stockertown Police Officer.
- **Motion** by Joe Gosnell, Seconded by Cindy Hower to hire, Brent Castelletti as a new part-time Stockertown Police Officer. Motion carried unopposed.

Adjournment

- **Motion** by Kathleen Zdonowski, Seconded by Joe Gosnell to adjourn the Council Meeting at 8:50 PM. Motion carried unopposed.

The next regular meeting of Borough Council will be held on April 19, 2021
The April 19, 2021 meeting was cancelled.

The foregoing was approved the **3rd** day of **May, 2021**.

President of Council

Attest: _____