

**Rockwood Borough Council**  
**August 20, 2019**

The meeting of the Rockwood Borough Council was held on August 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Members present were Amy Jo Stout, Larry Mazer, Nancy Sleasman and Sarah Sleasman. Also present was Secretary Jill Shultz, Maintenance Supervisor Carl Jones, Solicitor Ben Carroll and Mayor Melissa Cramer. Dennis Weimer was absent.

The motion was made by Larry Mazer to approve the July 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with no corrections. Sarah Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Visitor Comments:**

Carter and Savannah Atchison were present to discuss their Boy Scout Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award projects. They were both thinking about fixing up the grove. Savannah will be working on the stage area including: replacing the roof, fix the stairs, replace floorboards and siding, plant a flower bed in front of the stage, reseal the siding and the boards, replace the broken sign and plant some trees. Carter is going to take the broken ends off of the fire pit, shorten them and fix them up, move the grills that are inside of the pavilion to another side so that the rain doesn't get into them, grind tree stumps, trim off any dead branches on the trees and clean that all up, clean out the gutters and fix the downspouts, fix broken picnic tables, clean the bathrooms and possibly put dividers in between the toilets. They will be looking for funding but do not know what they will need yet. They are hoping to begin in the Spring of 2020. The motion was made by Larry Mazer giving approval for them to do their Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects. Sarah Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried. Solicitor Carroll suggested that they submit to Council a formal letter as to what their ideas are. Ben also suggested that we contact our insurance agent before they start to make sure that they are not going to require a waiver before they start. Since they are both under the age of eighteen, a parent or guardian will have to sign the waiver if one is needed.

**Old Business:**

- A. Kevin Yoder with Appalachian Engineering Group reviewed his items:
- 1) The NPDES permit remains in review. They are saying it will probably be ninety days yet.
  - 2) The permit for the liquid chlorine switchover has been approved according to Lisa Milsop with the DEP. Kevin mentioned to her if it would make sense to her to have someone of political influence possibly call DEP to help us get both the NPDES permit and the Liquid Chlorine Permit. She said that would not be a bad idea. Kevin has been in contact with Representative Carl Metzger and he said he is more than willing to help us. Kevin wanted to bring that to Council first to get their blessing before going ahead and doing that. Representative Metzger will have someone from his office call to see what is up and walk them through everything, at least on the liquid chlorine permit, to try to get that permit issued very quickly. The NPDES permit is not as big of an issue. As long as we submitted it to DEP as per their requirements, which we did, we are grandfathered into our existing permit. That permit remains in effect until they issue the next permit.
  - 3) The long term plan for the water tank and the DCED grant for the PA Small Water/sewer grant for the telemetry at the sewer plant both open up again in November. We await for that grant process.
  - 4) The FEMA grant for the conduit replacement on Market Street also opens up in November. Kevin believes both the Small Water Grant and the FEMA grant both end at the end of February but he will double check those dates and let Jill know.
  - 5) Kevin is going to credit the Borough \$1000 for the flow meter that they took back. That will show up on the next invoice.
  - 6) In regards to the parking issue on Broadway, they put the first round of paint on. There are places that they could not paint because there were cars parked along the road. They will be back out on Friday to restripe everything. Jill will post a notice on the Borough's Facebook page that there is to be no parking on the lower side of Broadway from Market Street out to the Borough line past Garrett Street. We will also have the police department post temporary no parking signs as well. Kevin was instructed by Council to paint just the parking lines and not parking stalls. There was also some discussion regarding installing two handicapped parking spaces at the apartments at 800 Broadway. Council stated they would have to place a formal written request before we could make a decision. Jill will write them a letter letting them know that. The center line spikes will also be installed on Friday. Kevin prepared a map for the police officers showing the distance from the front of the curb to the right of way on every property from Market Street to Garrett Street. Kevin is going to make a list of the address of each property and the distance to the right of way so if there is an issue, the officer doesn't have to pull a map out but just the paper.

- 7) Kevin, along with Steve Spochart from the Redevelopment Authority, submitted the Streetscape Grant for the first block of Main Street to include water lines and sidewalks for the first two blocks. Steve wasn't aware that they changed the program requirements for the grant. They will no longer include utilities in that. So what they are going to do is go for the grant for just concrete sidewalks and curb. Steve will look for us a grant to apply for that would offset the water line portion of the project and basically combine the two grant applications together. As of right now, he is thinking of doing a partial CDBG Grant, which would be a small grant and possibly combine that with some Somerset County funding to do the water line upgrades. Assuming we get the funding from DCED for the sidewalks and curbs, then we will try to go through CDBG and the Commissioners to do the water line portion. We are going to use the same numbers and take that amount as far as we can curb wise.
- 8) Kevin did not do anything with the Amfire drain this month. He understands that we have had several problems since then. Kevin spoke with Steve Spochart about this. Steve said that there is a Storm Water Grant program opening up in January and ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. If we want to do something, that would be the application to go through. The other application that we probably go through, which would actually be a gray area, would be a FEMA flood mitigation application. We do have documented damage to residents. Even though we are in a protected area because of the flood control, you can still have flood mitigation. Kevin is not sure how high the Borough would score because we are already protected by the flood control.

**B. Council reviewed the police report for July.**

- 1) Code enforcement, abandoned and blighted properties and dangerous structures were discussed. At last month's council meeting, Kevin gave a report to Officer John Loiodici of the five or six blighted properties that he and Larry Mazer took a look at. John was going to start processing some of those. Sarah Sleasman said that at the last police committee meeting, John stated that he understands all of the information that Kevin gave to him. Jill stated that the owner of the garage on Bridge Street was in and he has applied for a demolition permit. The only one that Kevin is concerned about that wasn't addressed last month is the property on Leora Avenue because there are current residents living there. We may want to reevaluate that one because there are some serious issues there, especially since small children live there.
- 2) Sarah Sleasman discussed the gun storage. If someone was to come into the police department and state that they want to turn over their firearm, we by law have to take it and store it. We currently do not have a place for that. Larry Mazer suggested that we add a gun safe into the budget for 2020.
- 3) Council asked John get us a price for lawn care so we could come up with a total cost to bill residents when maintenance mows lawns. John asked Bowlby's to come down and give us a quote and they were going to charge us to come down to give us a quote. Larry prepared a cost based off of the maintenance staff's hourly wage plus factoring in social security, Medicare, state tax and health care benefits. They also factored in supervision, equipment usage and fuel at 20% of the hourly wage and came up with a total hourly wage of \$16.78. The motion was made by Larry Mazer to designate the rate for reimbursement for mowing as \$25.00 per hour. Nancy Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jill will document the times and invoice the residents as needed. She will also keep the documentation in a file in case we would have to enter a municipal lien against the property to collect payment.
- 4) Sarah verified that John placed his files on the external hard drive so George & Bob's can complete the updates. The original updates on the police computer have been completed and John stated that the computer is running much better and faster. Tomorrow at 3:00 pm, George & Bob's is going to access the office computers remotely to do some cleanup to make things run smoother. This is all that needs done as far as computer updates. The only things they have left to do is install the Microsoft word suite, the firewall, the website and new email addresses.
- 5) John will post no parking signs on Broadway on Thursday so Kevin can complete the line painting.

**C. Carl reviewed his maintenance report for the month.**

- 1) The uninterrupted system service plan has been completed and will be sent to DEP.
- 2) The sealcoating of the parking lot was discussed. Larry Mazer asked Kevin Yoder his thoughts on it since LTM stated before the last meeting that we would not get a lot of life out of it because the aggregate would not adhere to their seal coating. Kevin has worked with LTM in the past and he would tend to believe them. Council decided that we will just do the crack sealing as was decided on at July's meeting.
- 3) Carl has everything he needs to install MAMCO's permanent meter. He just needs to find the time to do it.

**D. Solicitor Ben Carroll discussed his items:**

- 1) The Fireworks Ordinance was discussed. The motion was made by Nancy Sleasman to advertise a summary of the ordinance in the Daily American. Sarah Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried. Formal adoption of the Ordinance will be at the September meeting. Ben will take care of the advertisement.

- 2) Ben sent a letter last month to Capital Tax regarding their audit and has not heard anything back.
- 3) Ben discussed the proposed closing or vacating of an alley as requested by Craig Breegle on behalf of the Rockwood Community Bible Church. The motion was made by Nancy Sleasman to accept the petition of the Rockwood Community Bible Church in regard to the proposed closing or vacating of Penn Alley as it exists between Hay Street and White Oak Street on the Plan of the Highland Addition to Rockwood and to direct the Solicitor to prepare an appropriate ordinance and provide notice to parties to whom notice is required by statute, with said ordinance to be advertised for adoption as part of the meeting of Council on September 17, 2019. Larry Mazer seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- 4) There was some discussion regarding the filing of Municipal Liens on a property. As in past, a lien is worth doing of somebody has a water/sewer bill between \$150-\$200 (or more) and the house is either up for tax sale or the property is up for sale. At that time, Jill would call Carroll Law Office to have them file a lien on the property. Ben will file municipal liens on two properties that are currently listed on the tax sale. Bradley Hay at 1117 Bridge Street and Billy & Jennifer Mize at 516 Main Street. He will check first to see if they are still on the tax list.

E. In regards to the community service hours, there is nothing happening at the moment.

**New Business: NONE**

**Veteran's Memorial & Community Park:**

A. Larry Mazer gave an update on the park developments:

- 1) There will be a pork barbeque dinner on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Kingwood Church of God Fellowship Center. This will be a free will offering.
- 2) A cash bash will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Comments: NONE**

**Committee Reports:**

**Water/Sewer/Flood: NONE**

**Finance:** The motion was made by Larry Mazer to pay the bills. Sarah Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Police:** There was discussion regarding an issue that came up at the committee meeting about lunch and defining what lunch was. Sarah got John a flash drive so they can start creating a police procedure manual. Sarah thinks it needs to go back to the committee and be formalized with said manual. That needs to be done at workshop and not a council meeting. Workshop will then give a draft copy of the manual to Council to review. Also to be discussed at the next police committee is to better define that lunch needs to be taken within the Borough or if he wants to go home, go home then check in.

Committee was also asked by John to revisit the Comcast vs. Verizon because John states that the C-Net can take like thirty minutes to load. When we first discussed switching to Comcast a few months ago, it was discovered that Comcast was significantly higher than Verizon. If the police department would want a better server, they would to research the costs and submit it for the 2020 budget and we would look at it then. Caller ID was also discussed. If the police department wants that, he will have to submit that for the 2020 budget as well.

**Streets/Alleys/Property: NONE**

**Building Committee: NONE**

**Personnel: NONE**

**Community Development:** We received an application for a demolition permit for Clapper's. Larry Mazer is trying to get ahold of John Clapper to see what the future plans are for the land. Demo is set to begin September 1<sup>st</sup> according to the permit. Sarah Sleasman stated her concerns for all of the businesses if Dollar General builds on the property, as has been rumored. She has tried contacting County Commissioner Pamela Tokar-Ickes several times and has not heard anything back from her. Sarah wants to know what the proper procedure is for denying the demo permit. Solicitor Carroll stated that she could oppose it as a citizen of the borough but he doesn't think Council can do anything to stop it. Larry also talked to Lindsey Pyle, who is the director of Somerset County Parks and Recreations, about preserving the mural on the side of the building and she is going to start processing that to see if there is any way to save the mural.

Sarah Sleasman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Mazer seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried and the August 20, 2019 meeting was adjourned at 10:07 pm.

I, Jill Shultz, attest that the above public record is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

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Jill Shultz, Secretary

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Date