

Rockwood Borough Council
June 18, 2019

The meeting of the Rockwood Borough Council was held on June 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Members present were Amy Jo Stout, Nancy Sleasman, Larry Mazer, Sarah Sleasman and Dennis Weimer. Also present was Secretary Jill Shultz, Maintenance Supervisor Carl Jones, Solicitor Ben Carroll and Mayor Melissa Cramer.

The motion was made by Larry Mazer to approve the May 21, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with no corrections. Sarah Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Secretary Jill Shultz swore in Barry Barron as a Rockwood Borough Police Officer.

Visitor Comments:

Old Business:

- A.** Kevin Yoder with Appalachian Engineering Group reviewed his items:
- 1) Kevin has not heard anything regarding the NPDES permit renewal. Kevin's office has three others that have not been issued yet either. Kevin spoke with Lisa Milsop with the DEP and she is going to look into it. We should have it by the end of the month.
 - 2) Lisa Milsop is also going to look into the permit for the liquid chlorine switchover. She was under the impression that the permit has been issued. She had seen confirmation that it was issued. She will look into that as well.
 - 3) In regards to the long term plan for the water tank, Kevin spoke with Steve Spochart at the Redevelopment Authority about trying to find some funding for that. He is going to speak with the Commissioners to possibly get them on board to give us some of their discretionary funds to do a water project in the Borough. Steve is also going to look for other funding as well.
 - 4) The next round for the DCED grant for the PA small water/sewer is coming up in November. We talked at the last meeting about new telemetry for down at the plant. Kevin will update the cost estimates and bring those to the next meeting so we can start putting that application together for November.
 - 5) Kevin and Steve Spochart are going to come up with a game plan for what Council wants to submit for a project down on Main Street for the Street Scape Grant. The last round of Street Scape Grants were very politically driven. It is important for the Borough to see if we can get some political power to help push our application, put their weight behind it and do what they can to get us some money.
 - 6) Kevin put together a cost estimate for the AMFIRE storm water pond. The total estimated cost for material, permitting and inspection is \$300,933. Steve Spochart told Kevin that there are some Storm Water Grant programs available that we might be able to apply to considering that we have documented evidence of direct flooding in the Borough that is caused by runoff from outside the Borough that a grant would solely resolve.
- B.** Sarah Sleasman read the police report for May.
- C.** Carl presented his maintenance report for Council to review.
- 1) Carl discussed the video inspection on the conduit that needs to be done every five years. It was last done in 2015. This will need to be budgeted for 2020. Jill will see if she can find the information so we can estimate a cost for the 2020 budget.
 - 2) Carl still needs to get bids to seal coat the parking lot.
 - 3) Carl still needs to do a report on the new employees for Council.
 - 4) Broadway needs to be measured so that lines can be painted for the Borough's right of way and parking. Kevin Yoder offered his engineering service to locate and paint lines at a cost of approximately \$2000. The motion was made by Larry Mazer to approve Kevin to measure and paint lines at a cost not to exceed \$2000. Nancy Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- D.** Solicitor Ben Carroll discussed his items:
- 1) Ben spoke with Amanda at Beer, Ream & Co. regarding Capital Tax's audit and to date, they have not received anything. Ben will send a letter to Capital Tax.
 - 2) We are still waiting to hear from Milford Township Authority regarding their I & I.
 - 3) The Dangerous Structure Ordinance was discussed. Officer Loiodici stated that it is hard for him to win a case because he is not a qualified building inspector. Kevin Yoder said for John to give him a list of several properties, he would come over to do an inspection of the properties, take a couple of pictures and send a report to Officer Loiodici and copy Jill on the report. In the meantime, Ben will hold off on revising the Ordinance until we see what the Magisterial District Court does with the Borough's experiment with the properties.

- E. Amy Jo Stout has not had a chance to do the job description for the janitor yet.
- F. Amy Jo talked to George & Bob's Computer today and they are short staffed this week. They are hoping to get us back on track and start updating more computers next week. They can finish all of the office items but we need to decide what we want to do regarding the police computer. According to Officer Liodici, we are not even upgraded to where the PSP compliance is even close. A compliance audit is done by the State Police on John's computer system. The Borough needs to meet compliance with that audit and as of right now, John states that it is OK. He has had to move some things around in his office to meet compliance, such as moving his tower into a locked office. No one without police or hazard clearances can enter any room and touch the computer, regardless if it is on or off. In the meantime, Officer Liodici will contact Roy Fritz. Roy does a lot of the computer stuff in Somerset and got them where they needed to be. Also, once everyone goes to get fingerprinted, we are good to go and there is no issue.
- G. The motion was made by Sarah Sleasman to retain Barry Barron as a part time police office retroactive effective June 8, 2019. Nancy Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- H. In regards to the community service hours, there is nothing happening at the moment.

New Business:

- A. We are still waiting to hear from JVS Recycling to confirm a date for the electronic recycling day. Both Larry Mazer and Sarah Sleasman will work together to try to get that resolved so Sarah can finish the newsletter.
- B. Craig Breegle dropped off a letter and paperwork before the meeting regarding closing/vacating an alley that runs from Hay Street to White Oak Street parallel to Somerset Avenue and Grandview Avenue to build a new Church. This property is owned by Matt and Amanda Harbaugh (Craig's nephew). The motion was made by Denny Weimer to allow Matt and Amanda Harbaugh to hire Carroll Law Office, or any Attorney of their choice, to proceed with presenting a formal petition to vacate an alley and if they contact or chose to hire Carroll Law Office, the Borough will waive the conflict of interest or the perceived conflict of interest, provided that it is understood that the Harbaugh's will pay all fees and costs and will also execute a waiver of interest. Sarah Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- C. There was some discussion regarding the high grass at properties within the Borough. Larry Mazer's opinion is that it would be for the betterment of the Community if we had our Maintenance Department weedwack two properties. It was also discussed condemning the properties, getting them torn down and then resell it through a public auction.
- D. Amy Jo Stout talked to Connie at Jerich Insurance regarding Jill needing to be bonded, as Officer Liodici stated, to answer the police phone. Connie explained that bonding is only for theft of money and HIPPA is only for medical. It was suggested that the police department add to their message on the answering machine that if you have a citizen complain about something to please stop in the borough office during normal business hours to fill out a complaint form. As any complaints come in, Jill will give the complaint form to the police department and keep a copy in the office police file.
- E. Amy Jo also talked to Connie about coming out with Ken from EMC to inspect the Borough's property for liability purposes. This will include the Community Park as well. Amy Jo Stout, Nancy Sleasman and Denny Weimer will go with them when they set up a date.

Veteran's Memorial & Community Park:

- A. Larry Mazer gave an update on the park developments:
 - 1) They got a grant to do some benches and they are also entertaining that they may put some picnic tables down at the park. Going forward, if they don't get anything more done by fall, there still will be a good facility there for the Christmas gathering.
 - 2) They made \$1800 on their last chicken barbeque and the next one is scheduled for July 27th.
 - 3) They are starting to look at developing the plan for the next phase, which would include drainage and getting electricity involved at that time. It all depends on funding.

Public Comments: Mr. Jeff Engel, who lives at 921 Schoolhouse Alley, spoke earlier in the meeting while Officer Loiodici was present to discuss the high grass at his neighbor's property. He said they can't even sit outside because of the bugs and any critters that may be living in the tall grass. He would just like the property taken care of so he can enjoy his property. Officer Loiodici said he would take care of it.

Committee Reports:

Water/Sewer/Flood: Jill is going to write a letter to Gretchen Irvin regarding her meter not registering any usage. Letter states that she has 15 days to get in contact with the Borough office to set up a meeting to give us access to her meter or her water will be shut off.

Jill is also going to send letters to those customers who were previously shut off that still have an outstanding balance to see if we can get any payments.

The Mayor excused herself from the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Finance: The motion was made by Larry Mazer to pay the bills. Denny Weimer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Police: Mayor Melissa Conner is to talk to the police department about re-recording their voice message to include filling out formal complaints.

Sarah Sleasman asked Ben Carroll about an Ordinance for Fireworks. Officer Loiodici was going to talk to Randy Cox with the Somerset Police Department to see what they do. The problem we have was on Broadway last year. Ben is going to look into it because he believes the state law has changed.

Streets/Alleys/Property: NONE

Building Committee: NONE

Personnel: NONE

Community Development: NONE

Denny Weimer made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Sleasman seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried and the June 18, 2019 meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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

Jill Shultz, Secretary

Date