

Rockwood Borough Council
October 15, 2019

The meeting of the Rockwood Borough Council was held on October 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Members present were Amy Jo Stout, Larry Mazer and Nancy Sleasman. Also present was Secretary Jill Shultz, Maintenance Supervisor Carl Jones, and Mayor Melissa Cramer. Solicitor Ben Carroll arrived at 7:25. Sarah Sleasman was present via Skype and Dennis Weimer was present via speaker phone.

The motion was made by Larry Mazer to approve the September 17, 2019 meeting minutes as presented with no corrections. Nancy Sleasman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Visitor Comments: NONE

Old Business:

A. Kevin Yoder with Appalachian Engineering Group reviewed his items:

- 1) Representative Carl Metzgar is helping to get the issues resolved with both the NPDES permit and the permit for the liquid chlorine switch over. Kevin spoke with him last Wednesday. The NPDES permit is on the top of the list to be reviewed and he expects that we should hear something this month. Representative Metzgar is working with the secretary of DEP and the Director of Water Quality out of Harrisburg to try to figure out what is going on with the liquid chlorine permit.
- 2) The long term plan for the water tank is on hold for now until we can identify a good grant application for that.
- 3) The DCED grant for the PA small water/sewer comes up in February 2020. We are going to do the telemetry for the grant project.
- 4) In regards to the Flood Control Conduit Repair Grant, we received a letter from the Commonwealth Financing Authority that we were not awarded the grant. Kevin will follow up with them to see where we fell short.
- 5) The Street Scape Grant was submitted and the second one is coming up at the end of the year. This is the PennDOT Multi Modal Grant program. Kevin will verify the dates.
- 6) The center line spikes on all of the tangents of Broadway have been set, including staking Broadway Extension. Kevin will update the drawings and give them to Carl showing him the extent of the right of right of way on the upper portion of the extension.
- 7) In regards to the Amfire drain, Kevin spoke with Sam Outten, whose father owns the property. Mr. Outten stated that they are currently evaluating whether or not to put that property into a family trust. Mr. Outten is to call Kevin back in a few weeks once they figure out exactly what they want to do. The family is open to working with the Borough to come up with some type of lease, right of way or an easement. At this point, they are not interested in selling the property.
- 8) Kevin discussed the Nicholas property at 365 Water Street. That property has got significantly worse since the last meeting. It is only going to get worse once winter comes. Kevin thinks it needs to move higher to the list because it is probably not going to weather extremely well. Larry Mazer stated that we did apply for a grant through the Redevelopment Authority. Kevin will talk to Steve Spochart to see if he has any leverage to help us get the grant to demo the property. Kevin also checked on the other properties in the Borough that is on the list and none of them seem to be failing that fast. The only other one that Kevin suggested that we put high on the list would be 389 Main Street. Kevin stated that we need to bring the hammer down on violations before they get to the point of demolition. According to Kevin, looking from the outside, the Grega property at 742 Main Street still may be salvageable. He however has not seen the inside of the property. Unless we force them to do something soon, it's not going to be salvageable. Carl is still waiting to hear from Officer Loiodici to see if the property has been cited before he can board up the outside. We need to get Officer Loiodici to come to the police committee meeting and ask him where we are at on these properties. Larry Mazer and Kevin went out and researched these properties and gave them to John. We have yet to get a report from Officer Loiodici. Larry stated that this falls back on the Mayor to find out from John what is going on and to get us a report of those properties. We need to get a report before the next police committee meeting to see where we are at on the list of blighted properties that was discussed at July's meeting. Kevin stated that it might make sense to coordinate with the Solicitors to send out a pretty strong written letter to maybe get a better reaction from the property owners.

- 9) There was some discussion regarding an issue Jason Atchison, who lives at 502 Water Street, is having with his sewer system. During peak flows, he cannot do laundry and has trouble flushing the toilets because of surcharging conditions. The sewer only has to come up two to three feet for him to have problems. His line is eleven feet deep and the manhole is thirteen feet deep. Jason is going to bring this to Council at some point. What he would like to do is put a pump station outside of his house to collect the main sewer from his house, let the sewage collect and pump it up into the manhole so it discharges into the manhole at a higher level. Kevin will email a summary of what is going on to Solicitor Carroll so that he can look into whose responsibility it is. Ben can also contact Carl if he has any other questions.
- B.** Council reviewed the police report for September.
- 1) The Mayor met with officers last night. She talked to them regarding the code enforcement, which he told her it was going slowly. He has not done any violations yet. He has given extensions and he has gone back and they have been fixed. Some have not been fixed.
 - 2) Both officers will be on duty for the Halloween parade.
 - 3) The Mayor told them that she wants them both at the police committee meeting. There are issues coming up that she can't answer second hand.
 - 4) There is an issue with the computer system county wide. They cannot print out tickets. Officer Loiodici stated that they can't handwrite tickets because they are now e-tickets.
 - 5) Sarah Sleasman updated Council on George & Bob's and the computer updates. The updates they put on the server should have no bearing on the internet speed but they would like to see what the users are experiencing in case there is something out of the ordinary. Shawn is making great progress on the new website. He needs to move the PDF files, mostly the Ordinances, manually onto the site. The remaining pages, once he gets through the Ordinances, will not take him very long. Creating the email accounts will also take very little time. He is hoping to have this finished up and have the .com address migrated over to the new hosting company over the next two weeks or less if everything goes according to plan. The only thing left to do is setting up the VPN client software for John & Carl. Both John & Carl need to call George and Bob's to set up a time that would work for both according to their schedules.
- C.** Carl reviewed his maintenance report for the month.
- 1) Carl had a cost of \$380 for a rehab tablet to replace the one that was damaged. The cost for a new Surface Pro Go would be \$599 for a replacement tablet and \$80 for a case. The motion was made by Denny Weimer allowing Carl to purchase a new tablet and case at a cost not to exceed \$700. Larry Mazer seconded the motion and the motion carried.
 - 2) Carl stated that the welder needs to be replaced. He had a cost of \$1800. The motion was made by Nancy Sleasman to purchase a welder at a cost not to exceed \$2000. Denny Weimer seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- D.** Solicitor Ben Carroll discussed his items:
- 1) There was nothing new to report regarding the Milford Township Municipal Authority. Carl should have readings from the flow meter by the end of the year.
 - 2) Ben discussed the handicapped parking sign at 800 Broadway that was requested in writing by Larry & Joy Wright. Pennsylvania Law doesn't require you to do anything whatsoever. It does allow you to do it but you are not required to do it. If you know the resident has a handicapped placard or handicapped plate, it allows you to put a handicapped parking space on a residential street with the motive that it would be helpful for that person but it is not reserved for that person. It would be first come, first served. The Federal Law, which presumably applies here, in general, if people make handicapped space requests for residential neighborhoods, you can't deny it on a discriminatory basis but you are allowed to ask follow up questions and you have to follow some type of logic to it. You are allowed to ask that they provide proof of disability, proof of lack of access to off street parking and you are also allowed to ask for periodic updates of continuing disability. If that person ceases to live there, we are allowed to take the sign down unless we are aware of someone else in that area. What we cannot do is according to federal law, is have a cross the board policy which is that we always say no to all residential parking requests. Ben thinks we should establish a policy of proof of disability and proof of lack of access to off street parking. If we establish some type of policy asking for those things, then we look into it and then say yes or no, at least we are following some type of logic if we ever do want to say no. Ben will put together a policy and application for the Borough for next month's meeting.
- E.** The job description for the janitor still needs to be done.

New Business:

- A. Jill had a cost of \$499.95 for the annual QuickBooks subscription and \$650.00 for the payroll subscription. Jill wanted to ask if it was ok of she calls George and Bob's to help update since QuickBooks is now on the server. She will call them and ask them how much it would cost or how we would go about updating it ourselves.

Veteran's Memorial & Community Park:

- A. Amy Jo read a letter from the Commonwealth Financing Authority stating that they were unable to act favorably on our Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program Grant for the park. Amy Jo asked Kevin if he knew of any other grant that we can look at for the park. Kevin will look into it and let Amy Jo know where she can look for grant opportunities.
- B. Larry Mazer gave an update on the park developments:
 - 1) In the interim, they are continuing to raise money and they are probably close to \$70,000 now. One of the things they have talked about is having to do it in steps. That is what they are going to be looking at going forward over the wintertime.

Public Comments: NONE

Committee Reports:

Water/Sewer/Flood: NONE

Finance: Nancy Sleasman stated that the finance committee entertained the idea of prepaying for the propane for the Borough building and the Bridge Street Pump Station. Last year we paid anywhere from \$2.09 to \$2.19 a gallon. If we prepay, we can get it for \$1.74 a gallon (\$1300 from the general account for the Borough building and \$251 for the Pump Station). The motion was made by Denny Weimer to prepay for the propane at the costs provided by Nancy. Larry Mazer seconded the motion and the motion carried. Amy Jo asked if there was anywhere possible we could pull money from if we would get an estimate and switch to Comcast. Amy Jo will call Comcast next week to get prices and get back to Nancy and Larry with those costs.

The motion was made by Nancy Sleasman to pay the bills. Larry Mazer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Police: NONE

Streets/Alleys/Property: NONE

Building Committee: NONE

Personnel: NONE

Community Development: The Rockwood Festival of Lights will be on December 7th from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Nancy Sleasman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Denny Weimer seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion carried and the October 15, 2019 meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm

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

Jill Shultz, Secretary

Date