



MINUTES

Rimersburg Borough Council Meeting

Date / time May 18, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | *Meeting called by* Regularly Scheduled

In Attendance

Council: Roger Crick, Pam Curry, Mark Deeter, Scott Myers, ~~Dan Stewart~~, ~~F.L. Stewart~~, Robert Whitmer, Timothy Yeany/ Mayor
Also Present: Chief Bob Malnofsky/ New Bethlehem Police Dept.; Josh Walzak/ Leader Vindicator; Frank McNaughton/ Boro. Maint. Sup.

Call to Order

The May 18, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting of the Rimersburg Borough Council was called to order by Council President, Scott Myers at 7:02 p.m. with all present standing for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Mark.

Persons to Be Heard

Frank provided water reports for March and April as regular April meetings were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders. He stated that pumping has been up and that Borough Maintenance has been looking for leaks. A small one was found at the Fairgrounds and repaired averaging roughly 3,000 gallons/ day. He plans to have PA Rural Water in next week at no cost to help look for leaks and, if needed, to hire a firm to come in afterward. Council expressed opinions to see what PA Rural Water finds before contracting the other firm.

Frank hit a deer in March with the 2012 Chevy pick up truck. The insurance claim has already been submitted and the damage estimated at \$2,989.58. There was a \$250.00 deductible and a check received for \$2,739.58. Frank asked council approval to either repair rust on fenders and bed side panel for \$1,651.48 or replace the pieces for \$3,875.15 in addition to repairing the damage from the wreck. The rust repair or replacement is separate from the wreck repair and would be paid from Borough funds. There was discussion over the age of the truck, mileage, how long the Borough is likely to keep it, what vehicle replacement priorities are, etc. Tim and Frank suggested it would be wiser to replace the rusted parts as the borough intends to keep the truck for several more years. Mark made a motion to replace the rusted parts at a total cost of \$3,875.15 from Bob Wiles. Pam offered a second and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chief Malnofsky reviewed the police report with Council and stated that the police department is filing as a non-profit entity. He invited all interested members to participate on the board. The non-profit status should help the department with funding for equipment, etc.

The chief informed Council that the court system was operating on a limited basis through the stay at home order and now is opening back up to closer to normal processing of court cases. They are behind as can be expected, however the police are seeing progress.

The police department is leaving COVID-19 enforcement up to the state police for accuracy and consistency. New Bethlehem police are going into businesses when warranted verbally warning them of state orders and that the state police will likely take action if they appear.

Approval of Minutes

The April 30, 2020 Special Meeting minutes were read and approved by a motion from Mark Deeter, second by Rob Whitmer, and a unanimous vote. The May 4, 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home order.

Financial

Bank Account balances were shown plainly on reports provided for Council review including a first quarter Budget vs. Actual for each of the 4 funds. It was noted that a large portion of the 2020 Real Estate taxes have been received. Mark made a motion to pay \$534.72 to Tom Burns from Highway Aid funds to purchase and haul 22.28 tons of 2A limestone at \$24/ ton for street maintenance and to pay all other bills presented. The motion received a second from Roger Crick, and a unanimous vote in favor.

Committee Reports

Mayor: Ongoing parking issues in front of Klingensmith's and Wanda's Cafe on Main St. were discussed at length as there have been many complaints to the Mayor, Council members, and staff. The police have stated that repeat violators have a schedule of moving their car(s) every 2 hours to side step the 2 hour parking limit. The mayor suggested making the 2 hour parking in front of Wanda's 15 minute parking instead. Roger suggested making all the spaces in that block in front of Klingensmith's and Wanda's 15 minute parking. This would need to be accomplished by drafting or amending an ordinance. It was noted that there are 10 parking ordinances, most street specific and this would be a good time to combine and simplify them. Chief Malnofsky expressed his agreement with this idea. The Street Committee and the Chief will try to meet before the June 1 Council meeting to discuss an ordinance draft.

A Council member received another question about what to do about dogs who attack passersby. After some discussion, it was determined that from previous information, one can call the police if someone has been attacked and can always contact the regional state dog warden. One Council member stated that the response from the state dog warden was next day in an experience he'd had.

Tim asked Frank if things were going well with the brush dump. He responded that it seemed to be going fine. Tim mentioned to Council that he had noticed trail user parking was bottle necking the entrance or use of the brush dump at times and suggested posting 2 signs "No Parking This Side." Tim offered to obtain the signs himself and donate them to the Borough. Council members expressed no opposition and indicated they were pleased with the donation.

Personnel Committee: Roger informed members that Personnel has met and is considering the possibility of hiring a part time assistant to the Borough Secretary. This will not only be helpful in times of heavy work load, but also provide back up in the position when one is on vacation, out ill, etc. At present, there is no one else who knows how to perform the job and that is not a good place for the Borough to be. Roger proposed that this be discussed more at budget time and members indicated a general consensus in favor.

Public Safety: None

Building Committee: Council briefly discussed the Community Building in response to an event request. General consensus was in favor of opening the Community Building according to state guidelines for the appropriate assigned phase for our area at any given time. State guidelines say Community Centers shall remain closed in the current Yellow Phase.

Streets Committee: Frank outlined the portions of the streets earmarked for the 2020 Seal Coat Project. PennDOT had estimated the total project to be under thresholds for bid advertising, so Frank obtained three phone quotes per state guidelines. SuitKote quoted \$16,400.80, Jefferson Paving \$15,173.47, and Hager Paving \$14,950.00. Pam made a motion to award the 2020 Seal Coat Project to Hager Paving, which was seconded by Mark, and approved with a unanimous vote in favor.

The mayor has received at least 2 complaints of drivers speeding up Cherry Run St. toward the Main St. intersection out of Toby Township. The complaints were from parents of young children who live on Cherry Run St. concerned for their safety. Various solutions were proposed such as signs saying "Slow Down, Children at Play." Radar speed signs were discussed briefly as a possible solution to drivers speeding as they enter the Borough on either end of Route 68/ Main St. and up Cherry Run St. Some expressed concern over the cost of the radar signs at \$2895 to \$4100 each. The mayor will speak with PennDOT and Frank to see what may be done in the way of signage.

Unfinished Business

Per the previous regular meeting, the Mayor was to contact the Rimersburg Elementary principal regarding drop off/ pick up safety complaints. Since that time, the school board has decided to close down this particular building and school is in an at home state for the remainder of the existing school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the issue no longer exists. Josh expressed desire for part of the building to remain intact such as kitchen, gym(s), bathrooms and the Little League to have ownership of it and share the fields with school softball. The Mayor stated that he would be pleased to speak to the school board and propose this.

Resolutions 3-2019 Water and 4-2019 Sewer Rules & Regulations updates were proposed for adoption, recommended by the Rimersburg Borough Municipal Authority. The revisions include clearer specifications for capping off services after demolition, relocation, etc. w/ appendix drawing details per FM; clear statement requiring a 2 year maint. bond after any main line extension; and as-builts required after any mainline extension. The Authority adopted these resolutions at one of their previous meetings. **Roger made a motion to adopt Resolutions 3-2019**

Water and 4-2019 Sewer Rules & Regulations as presented which received a second from Pam and a unanimous vote in favor.

Correspondence

None

New Business

Rob made a motion not to assess late fees and impose disconnection of services for non-payment of water and sewer services until Clarion County is moved to the state ordered Green Phase of the COVID-19 pandemic Stay at home Orders. Mark gave his motion a second and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Per County Resolution #6 of 2020, Council considered passing a Borough resolution to postpone due and penalty dates for property taxes. Over \$57,875.16 (79.1%) of 2020 expected taxes have already been paid. \$14,143.14 or 19.3% remains collectible. **Mark made a motion that Council resolve to postpone the due date for Borough Real Estate taxes until October 31, 2020 to match the County's resolution and make record keeping easier for the tax collector. Rob seconded his motion, and Resolution 6-2020 passed with a unanimous vote.**

An email was received with COVID-19 CDBG grant information from the Borough engineer on 05/15/2020 inquiring whether Council thought the Community Building might have some qualifying project ideas to help serve residents during the pandemic. Tim had emailed Council and the engineer with some thoughts and stated he is waiting for a response from the engineer. Council members expressed interest.

Adjournment

Monday, June 1, 2020 | 7:00 p.m., is the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Rimersburg Borough Council at the Rimersburg Borough Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. by general consensus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana L. Solida
Borough Secretary