

Meeting Minutes-Rockwood Borough Council

July 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:00 pm by Council President Amy Jo Stout. We all stood and did the pledge to the flag. The following guests were in attendance for the meeting; Kelly, Jason and Jean Atchison, Charmaine Montgomery, Leisa Collier, and Samantha Bartko. The Council members who attended were Amy Jo Stout, Nancy Sleasman, Sarah Sleasman, Larry Mazer and Melissa Cramer. In attendance also was Caryoln Romesberg, Attorney Ben Carroll, Engineer Kevin Yoder, and Officer John Loiodici. Absent were Dennis Weimer and Carl Jones.

The minutes from the June 16th meeting were approved by Sarah Sleasman making the motion to accept and Larry Mazer seconded. All were in favor.

The first guest to speak was Jason Atchison. He had concerns about his property being "labeled" as being in a flood plane. Borough Engineer, Kevin Yoder is disputing some of the paperwork that represents the Atchison property and how high the elevation is. Kevin Yoder is working with the Atchison's to get this rectified.

Charmaine Montgomery, Leisa Collier, and Samantha Bartko were all here to address the issue of fireworks being set off in the Borough. They presented evidence of firework shells/debris that they had collected from their property. Officer John Loiodici addressed the situation with them. He got a complaint form for the attendees to fill out. He cannot investigate without a complaint being filled out. Officer Loiodici feels and Attorney Carroll confirmed, it will be hard to prosecute someone without proof of who was setting off the fireworks. Officer Loiodici will investigate the matter more closely.

Amy Jo Stout took control of the meeting again after the guests left, stating that there were numerous items to cover, and she needed to keep things going.

Kevin Yoder gave the Engineer report. He started off with the update with the Alton property. He said he still gets no answer but, he will continue to call daily to South Carolina. In reference to the liquid chlorine permit, He says that his contact seems to be committed to getting this issue resolved. She still has 2 concerns about issuing the permit, the first one being the minimum contact chamber and second the freezing of the feed line to the injection point in conjunction with the contact to the chamber. He is hoping to have this project done until the next meeting.

The grant for the Flood Mitigation was submitted on May 28, 2020. Kevin gave Caryoln a copy of the grant for the office. There are 2 more grants that he is going to apply for. One becomes open in October and one becomes open in January. He feels the one in January is the most important one, given what is going on with our current water system. Larry Mazer asked if the work can be done prior to receiving the grant and Kevin said no. He also told Larry that it usually takes 3 months after submitting the grant information so that, would put the project start date off at least until after April 2021. The estimate that Cambria Systems submitted (\$ 79,700) will be helpful as an exhibit for the grant. This grant has a 15% match and could be submitted for as much as \$500,000. Larry questioned if this project would have to go out on bid. Atty. Carroll quoted the Borough Code 1402-D-1, basically, saying this is not an improvement, this is for maintenance for what is already in place. Carl and Kevin will be working on the grant process together. Kevin is open to having help to write grants because he is not a grant writer. Travis Hutzell from United Way was mentioned as a possible go to person for help in writing grants as

well. Kevin could not remember off the top of his head what the October grant was named and what group was giving the grant funds out. His last item was the meeting with the local government officials. He had spoken to Carl Walker Metzgar about a meeting with Borough Council. Representative Metzgar agreed to help try and set up a meeting with Senator Pat Stefano, Representative Matthew Dowling, and the Council. This will all probably have to wait until things cool down from the Corina Virus.

Mayor Melissa Cramer and Officer Loioidici gave the police report. There has not been an update on the Body Armor Grant since it was applied for. Officer Barry Barron will be working on the Ordinances for the high grass properties that are in the Borough. At this time, Sarah Sleasman requested an Executive Session concerning police matters. Attorney Carroll wanted one for personnel issues. These two were combined into one Executive Session. Caryoln Romesberg and Kevin Yoder were asked to leave while the session was held.

Caryoln and Kevin returned, and the meeting resumed. Larry gave the maintenance report that Carl had submitted. Vegetation Spraying would be done the following day, at the cost of \$985.00 to the Borough. Sarah Sleasman made the motion to have the spraying done at this cost and Larry seconded the motion. All were in favor. The council next voted on ordering a chemical pump for the cost of \$2300.00 (this includes the cost of installation). Nancy Sleasman made the motion to accept the cost and order the pump and Sarah seconded the motion. All were in favor. The cost of a new pump quoted by RAM for \$7396.21 was tabled until the new 2021 budget. Larry is keeping a folder of possible purchases for the 2021 Maintenance Budget for next year. Council will begin working on the budget in September. The bid for the lighting for the grove was tabled and will be added to the agenda for the August meeting. The Mamco Permanent Meter is to be installed in August. Attorney Carroll then introduced the letters from both Barbera Law and Moelan LLC (JR Enos) He stated it is no coincident that these letters both came the same week. He made sure Kevin had a copy of the packet of information to look over concerning the Barbera Law Letter. Kevin looked it over and he said that some of the data seems to be incorrect. After much discussion of these items, it was left like this; the Borough is under no obligation to approve the water/sewer for the Enos's project. They are under no obligation to expand services to the township. Once the meter is installed, they will have more data to be able to make better decisions going forward on this matter. The Hoover property was addressed next. There is no building permit on file for the porch/stairs/deck built on their property. Caryoln confirmed that with PA Code Alliance. Larry stated they were part of the co-op and that Caryoln should contact them again to have them enforce the building code ordinances that the Borough has in place.

Under new business, Zachary Landis was hired at the rate of \$12.50 to start. After the probationary period of 90 days ends, he will be given a raise to \$13.00 an hour and be eligible for benefits. The motion to hire him was made by Larry Mazer and seconded by Sarah Sleasman. All were in favor. Nancy made the motion that there will be a new policy, effective immediately. It states, "all non-police employees will be subject to blood-based drug testing" This drug test will be scheduled by Dennis Weimer and Sarah Sleasman with in the next 30 days. This will be followed by an implementation of a formal written policy to be approved by council at a future meeting. The tests shall be paid for the Borough, be conducted at UPMC Somerset Occupational Health. Dennis Weimer and Sarah Sleasman are delegated to receive confidential confirmation and keep it confidential on behalf of the Borough. They are to receive test results and, execute any necessary contracts with UPMC Somerset Occupational

Health in the short term up to the amount of \$1500.00. Dennis and Sarah are to make decisions regarding the test framework until a formal policy is adopted and referenced. Larry seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Larry Mazer gave an update on The Veteran's Memorial and Community Park. The committee applied for a grant of \$100,000, through the Southern Alleghenies. There is a planned site meeting scheduled for July 28, 2020. Larry feels this is a positive thing. Sarah Sleasman volunteered to be present for the site visit since she is on the Community Development Committee with Larry. Ben is going to write up a proposal for the property sale with the Legion being the one who will take title of the property. Sarah wanted to make sure that there was a reverter clause in the proposal just in case the Legion would disband, or the property was not properly maintained. Larry asked if Atty. Carroll would be able to have that ready for the next Council Meeting.

Larry made the motion to pay the bills and Nancy seconded it. All were in favor.

There were a few committee items mentioned. Larry serves on the water/sewer/flood committee and he wanted the council to know that Chet Cyga gave him a list of books for Caryoln to order. They will be used as a library to help with the training of both Chris and Zack. Under finance, Larry stated that our income is down somewhat from the bigger businesses not running full schedules. Examples: The Rockwood Are School, Rockwood Mfg., and Rockwood Insurance. The tax revenue is down a little also. However, we have saved money in other areas like Wages and Expenses and he feels if we watch what we spend, we will balance the budget. In other finance news, Caryoln told the council, she received the rewards points for the closing of the Bank of America credit card account. The amount awarded to the Borough was \$358.00. Sarah thought it would be a nice idea to purchase blue lightbulbs for the Borough Building to show our support for our local police department.

The meeting was ended at 10:20 PM with a motion to adjourn coming from Sarah and seconded by Larry. All were in favor.