

MEETING MINUTES

ROCKWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL

JANUARY 19, 2021

The meeting started promptly at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Amy Jo Stout, Larry Mazer, Dennis Weimer, Melissa Cramer, Nancy Sleasman and Attorney Ben Carroll. Virtually attending were Sarah Sleasman, Carl Jones, Holly Lefever, Ashley Schulli, and Attorney Marc Sevavitch, from PennTex. There were also 3 visitors in attendance, Jon Wahl, Dan Brant, and Cathy Brant.

The Minutes from the December 15, 2020 and the special meeting on January 4, 2021 were reviewed and Larry Mazer made the motion to approve the minutes and Dennis Weimer seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Jon Wahl and his team were there to update the council on the Veteran's Memorial and Community Park Grant. Jon Wahl went over the process on how things were going to proceed from here. The Borough can draw down 50% of the grant for beginning costs. After that is gone, you (the Borough) can draw down another 40%. As long as we (the Borough) have funds from that process, you will just pay the bills as they come in and keep a file with all the invoices and expenditures in it. You will need to keep accurate records in case of an Audit. Larry talked with Amanda Coleman from Beer- Ream and she suggested a separate checking account for this grant. He went over the invoicing process that will happen once the 90% of the grant is used. The process will look like this: 1. Receive invoice from Contractor. 2. Invoice will be reviewed and sent to Borough Council for approval. 3. Julie Cramer will submit invoice to Southern Alleghenies Community Foundation. 4. Southern Alleghenies will pay from the invoices that have been approved. Julie Cramer will be able to check on these transactions online. She will then provide documentation to the Borough of payment for our records.

The project will be broken down into a couple of phases for bidding purposes. The retaining wall, storm water projects and the railing will be bid in the first phase. The next phase will be the pavers, concrete work, and placement of the electrical conduit. The next phase will be the construction of the pavilion. The fourth phase will be the electrical work wiring and lighting. The fifth phase will be for change orders. Jon Wahl will put together the bid packages and Attorney Carroll can review and make sure everything is done properly. Jon will also do the advertising, and get all permits need for the jobs progress. Jon is hoping the project will be done by the end of the summer. There was an informal commitment from Jon Wahl and the Borough Council to proceed. Jon Wahl will present a formal proposal at the next Borough Council meeting on February 16, 2021 for him and Somerset Planning and Engineering to be the manager on this project.

There was no engineer report given due to Kevin Yoder's absence.

The police report was given by Melissa Cramer. She had an issue that had to go to Executive Session. Caryoln Romesberg reported that we received the funds from the Body Armor grant and The Borough also got reimbursed for the police wages from March 1st until November 13th from the Cares Act through Somerset County. John's K9 training is for 90 days.

The Maintenance Report was next. Carl Jones asked for approval to enter into a contract with Verizon for the new telemetry system. Larry Mazer made the motion to give Carl permission to enter into contract with Verizon for a minimum of \$175.00 with a maximum of \$400.00. Dennis Weimer seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Nancy Sleasman asked if there was an update from a meeting that Larry and Carl attended earlier that day with Lehman Engineering. Lehman's had a few ideas for the Main Street project and the Amfire Project.

Larry said that that the DCED Grant that Kevin Yoder was to submit in February had been cancelled. There is no current funding thru CFA. There will be a meeting (virtual) coming up with DEP and PennVest concerning loan and grant ideas. This will be an educational meeting. Larry stated even with starting things now, it would be until 2022 or even 2023 for all the funding to go through to do the projects they want to do. They will let everyone know when the virtual meeting is scheduled so that if anyone wants to attend, they can.

Carroll Law was next. He called on Attorney Marc Sevavitch from PennTex. Attorney Sevavitch presented a petition to Council to vacate the alley at the site where they want to build. The parcel of land (known as 140 on the property map) is owned by the Borough and the parcel of land (known as 141 on the property map) is owned by Christine Lape- Nippert. The alley is owned between these 2 property owners. According to Borough code, the property owners must be notified and the Hearing that needs to be held must be advertised to comply with code. Nancy Sleasman made a motion to hold the hearing to vacate the alley on February 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM. which is the next regularly scheduled council meeting. Denny Weimer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The Felesky agreement is a general services agreement. Attorney Carroll made the agreement so that it can be used in other circumstances. The basic statement of this agreement is that the Felesky's will pay a fee of \$1700.00 for the purpose of the Borough hiring a contractor to excavate the property where the sewer pipe is located. If the problem is found to be the Borough's fault, they will be refunded that money. If the issue is the property owners' and not the Borough's, the Borough will use the \$1700.00 towards the excavation and fixing the problem. He went on to say that if the cost is higher than the \$1700.00 dollars as predicted that all parties will be informed in a timely manner so that payment can be made. The homeowner will be responsible for the additional costs, in that event. Denny Weimer made the motion for the Felesky agreement to be approved with changes to a third party working on the behalf of the Borough be added to agreement. Larry Mazer seconded the motion, all were in favor. The Milford agreement was discussed. Attorney Carroll made sure he had the proper information to continue. His notes were from the previous council meeting stating that the Borough wanted to raise the tap in fee to \$2000.00 and the inspection fee was to be raised to \$100.00. The gallon rate was put on hold for now because as Carl Jones stated, we they meet with PennVest about the loan and grant, they will tell them if their rates are to low.

Attorney Ben Carroll is going to make a few revisions to the Milford Township Agreement that he drew up last month. The council is working on amending the fees to be charged for services to the township. The following fees were discussed \$2000.00 tap in fee, \$100.00 inspection fee. Council is working on the basic water fees to be charged. Carl Jones stated that they might want to put this off until the meeting with PennVest because, they (PennVest) would let them know if they rate, they are charging is to low or not. Atty. Carroll suggested we add a caveat to the agreement to let them know the fees are

subject to change. Council gave the approval for Atty. Carroll to share the agreement with Atty. Barbara so that they could get the ball rolling.

Under new business, the upcoming election was brought up. Larry Mazer, Dennis Weimer, Sarah Sleasman and Melissa Cramer are all up for re-election. Election forms need to be picked up at the Court House by February 1st. It is unclear who will be running for re-election. Once the forms are picked up, they will have from February 16th to March 16th to get the required number of signatures for the petitions. Same party signatures are required.

The amusement tax ordinance needs to be revised. It is from the early 80's and the wording needs to be corrected in it so that it accurate with todays society needs. The machines in question no longer just take quarters.

Larry Mazer made a motion for the bills to be paid. Denny seconded it; all were in favor.

Nancy Sleasman and Larry Mazer requested also, that some of the money in our checking accounts be moved to the savings accounts. \$50,000.00 from general checking at FNB be moved to advantage savings at Somerset Trust. \$50,000.00 from the sewer checking account at FNB be moved to the sewer money market account (savings) at same bank, and \$25,000.00 from the water checking account at FNB be moved to the water money market account (savings) at same bank.

The meeting moved into Executive Session and Caryoln Romesberg and Carl Jones were dismissed from the meeting at 8:43 PM