

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021
Via Conference Call & Remote Computer Connection

President Weinzierl called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Roll Call Dave Felsing, Josh Novotny, Carol Neubert, and Mayor Gillespie were present via phone. Scott Herbst, Sherry Weinzierl, and Christina McCormick were present via computer connection.

Also in attendance via computer were Mary Papik/Manager, Mike Gallagher/Solicitor, and Jody Brown Secretary/Treasurer, Meghan Pohl/SABA. In attendance via phone were Chief Beachem, Fred Caesar, and Rich Goldinger.

June Crawford joined by phone 15 minutes into the meeting.

Pat Rinebolt was absent.

Correspondence

- On February 11, 2021, the Borough received \$744.34 in Franchise Fees from Consolidated Communications. The funds were deposited in the General Fund on the same day.
- On February 24, the Borough received an email from Meghan Pohl with SABA looking to set the dates for the 2021 Mingles as June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 16.
- On March 1, the Borough received a letter from First Commonwealth Bank stating the Borough's loan has been paid in full and is now closed.
- On March 11, the Borough received a thank you card from George Geist for the flowers sent to his wife's funeral.

Executive Session Announcement Under the terms of Act 84, Section 8A, subsection 1, Council would meet in Executive Session just prior to adjournment, to discuss employee, contract, and/or public safety matters. After the Executive Session, Council will reassemble in open meeting and take any actions that are required.

Minutes

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Carol Neubert to approve the Minutes of February 16, 2021. The motion carried.

Public Comments

Rich Goldinger

Mr. Goldinger, the District Attorney in Butler County, is running for Common Pleas Judge in May's primary. Mr. Goldinger reviewed his legal career, ability to make tough decisions, courtroom experience, support for law enforcement, and leadership abilities.

The Council thanked Mr. Goldinger and wished him well in the primary.

Mayor

William Gillespie Jr.

Mayor Gillespie had a variety of topics to discuss:

- He reminded Council that Saxonburg's police training is paid for in two ways: Through Borough payroll to pay the officers for their time, and through donations made to Friends of the Saxonburg Police to pay for the trainings themselves. This year, he said, the Friends have paid for \$5,500 in training thus far. The trainers are certified, which means that if anything should be questioned in the future, the trainers could be called upon to explain the training.

- The Mayor asked Mary to look into any possible insurance discounts the Borough would be eligible to receive due to the police training.
- The Police Department has applied for a couple of grants, including a local grant whose selection will be announced in June.
- The Mayor asked Mary to send periodic reports to the Chief regarding the parttime officers' time so that the police department can be sure they're track with their budget.
- The American Legion would like to have a Memorial Day Parade this year.
- The Mayor asked Council if they would like to put together a small group of 3-5 community members, including one member of Council, to come up with recommendations regarding the work needed for Cooper Hall and the Museum. The Council agreed and thanked him for this suggestion.
- The Mayor reminded that the Museum security will soon be changing. Mary said Sherry has stepped up to take on a new role with this.
- Saxonburg Memorial Church would like to do a summer concert series this year at the Church or at Roebing Park. No pricing was discussed. Jody will reach out to the Church to make sure the dates are available.

Police Chief Chief Joseph Beachem

Chief Beachem reminded Council that the most common lawsuits against police departments involve failure to train. He then described the current police department trainings:

- The Chief, Lieutenant, and newly hired Officer Oesterling attend ongoing Krav Maga training for law enforcement, for handling control techniques and indicators of an attack, decision-making for disengagement, etc.
- The Department is required to attend Defensive Tactics training and show a proficiency in tactics and safety.
- This year an optional training has been added that the officers are signing up for which includes a physical and tactical readiness program. To get Department certification by the end of the year, two tactical scenarios will be completed that include combat medicine. These trainings will be done with the Saxonburg Ambulance Department and Quality EMS from Mars.
- In addition, by the end of the year, they'll do a physical readiness program in order to meet the standard of physical fitness requirements to enter police academy.
- The Department has recently purchased tactical bags to have all their tactical equipment readily available in the police cars. They've also purchased five tactical medicine kits.

In all, the Chief believes these trainings are helping to make the officers healthier and safer for themselves and the community.

Sherry thanked the Chief for the ongoing work of the Police Department and the Council agreed.

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

Scott Herbst

Scott updated the Council on the progress with storm water mapping project. Superintendent McGee was able to import the Authority's extensive data into AutoCAD with property lines and gradients along with aerial photography information. In April or May, the next step will be to rent the GPS unit and open the manholes to get exact locations to build a final map that can be used for any stormwater projects.

Sherry Weinzierl

Sherry asked if the sign ordinance includes a time limit for businesses to post signs in the grass along Main Street, as some have been out for an extended period of time and are deteriorating. Mary said the Ordinance Committee has been unable to meet due to the pandemic, but their tasks include aligning the sign ordinances for the Historic District and the Borough in general.

Enforcement can go back into effect at any time Council approves, she said, as Council had previously suspended enforcement of the sign ordinance.

Motion was made and seconded by June Crawford/Scott Herbst to allow a Memorial Day Parade on Memorial Day annually with use of the Park and restrooms, and to include street closure, and must follow any COVID-19 restrictions in place. The motion carried.

Manager

Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to approve the bills as presented: \$36,062.14 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$31,183.30 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$4,878.84 the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in February from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$51,348.40 of which \$35,537.97 was the Borough's portion of the expense and \$15,810.43 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for February 2021 in the amount of \$78,361.68 of which \$27,001.09 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$51,360.59 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.

Butler County Board of Commissioners Park Grant

Mary let the Council know that this grant application was turned in by the February 18 deadline, and that awarded grants will be announced in May. However, she's been advised by the contractor that prices for materials are going to go up considerably as of April 1. She reminded Council the total cost of the project is \$10,750, with \$7500 coming from the Grant if awarded and the balance coming from Friends of the Saxonburg Museum. The Council agreed that next year's cost will likely still be elevated, and the roof will be in worse condition.

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to begin the pavilion roof project at the contracted cost of \$10,750.00, knowing the Park will be responsible for the \$7500 if the grant is not awarded, in order to take advantage of the current materials cost. The motion carried.

Municipal Building Roof and Siding Work

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve advertising for a bid for roofing and siding for the Municipal building. The motion carried.

Garage 2/Beatty Garage Materials Shed

The Garage 2/Beatty Garage materials shed has been budgeted at \$30,000 to be split with the Authority, but now lumber prices have increased nearly 200%. Materials may be as much as \$10,000 more than what was budgeted. The additional funding needed would be split with the Authority, who has authorized the increase contingent upon the Borough's similar approval.

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Carol Neubert to increase the Garage 2 budget by \$10,000 to be split with the Authority for the installation of the salt and storage bins. The motion carried.

Certificate of Appropriateness for Signage and Paint

Motion was made and seconded by Josh Novotny/Scott Herbst to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Hotel Saxonburg's signage at 29 square feet total and for paint, contingent upon HARB approval. The motion carried.

Park/Cooper Hall

- The Cooper Hall Air Handler/AC Unit estimate by Cunningham Shaner has gone up in price. A second contractor's proposal is pending, and Kennihan's is scheduled for Friday. All can be discussed at next month's meeting.

- Discussion on rates for 2022 events.

Motion was made and seconded by Sherry Weinzierl/Scott Herbst to increase the 2021 Park/Cooper Hall rates by 5% for 2022. The motion carried.

Mingle on Main 2021

Update: New restrictions will begin April 4, 2021 that will allow ~1900 people on Main Street, from Pittsburgh Street to the Church, including sidewalks.

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Dave Felsing to approve the proposed dates of the 2021 Mingles as June 17, July 15, August 19, and September 16, from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. each, and street closures to begin at 4:30 p.m. The motion carried.

Arts Festival 2021

Discussion included:

- The Festival dates are September 11 and 12, and this being the 20th anniversary of 9/11, including a memoriam on Saturday would be appropriate.
- Setting 2021 vendor rates.
- The need for a Festival Chairperson and volunteers.
- A Festival Planning Meeting was set for April 8 at 7 p.m. at Cooper Hall.

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Carol Neubert to hold the Arts Festival with the 2021 rates as presented, to include any COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time. The motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to start advertising to vendors and crafters for the 2021 Saxonburg Arts Festival subject to COVID-19 restrictions in place at event time. The motion carried.

Solicitor Solicitor Mike Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group
The Solicitor had no further report at this time.

Old Business None

New Business None

Executive Session The meeting recessed at 8:10 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss Employee, Contract, and/or Public Safety Matters.

The meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m. and took the following action:

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to submit the proposed Summit Township Services Agreement and its attachments to the Solicitor for final review as presented. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Jody Brown
Secretary