

SAXONBURG BOROUGH
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021

President Weinzierl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call Dave Felsing, June Crawford, Sherry Weinzierl, Scott Herbst, Pat Rinebolt, Mayor Gillespie, and Josh Novotny were present.

Also in attendance were Mary Papik/Manager, Sean Gallagher/Solicitor, Jody Vettori Secretary/Treasurer, Fred Caesar, Crystal Seifert, Tiffany Nolan from SABA, Kim Hester, Don Venturini, Aaron Piper, Ray Kogler, and Judi Dici of the Pennsylvania Borough Councils Association.

Carol Neubert and Christina McCormick were absent. Josh Novotny was unable to stay for the entire meeting.

Pennsylvania Borough Councils Association Award Presentation Honoring Pat Rinebolt as Outstanding Council Member for 2020

Judi Dici, President of the Pennsylvania State Councils Association, presented Pat Rinebolt with two awards for her dedication and service to Saxonburg Borough. Pat received the Outstanding Council Member of the Year award for 2020 and the Board of Directors' Award for her 30 years of service on Council. Pat expressed her love of Saxonburg, her gratitude to its citizens, and her honor at being chosen for these awards.

Correspondence

- On April 26, the Borough received franchise fees from Armstrong Utilities in the amount of \$6,773.58. The funds were deposited into the General Fund the same day.
- On May 3, the Borough received franchise fees from Consolidated Communications in the amount of \$852.52. The funds were deposited into the General Fund the same day.

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/Pat Rinebolt to approve the Minutes of April 20, 2021. The motion carried.

Public Comments

Kim Hester

Kim Hester expressed her concerns living next to 190 Horne Avenue. The home's owner passed away and due to legal entanglements with the lack of heirs, the house has been vacant for years and unable to be sold. There is a dead tree on the property that appears unsafe. The tall grass and weeds may be housing rodents, ticks, and other critters, and the neglected state of the home is a draw for criminal activity. Ms. Hester said she contacted the police when her shed was knocked off its foundation by someone who drove a truck

onto the property, likely looking to steal items from the unoccupied home. Despite her efforts to care for her home, the vacant house next door is a blight on the neighborhood and on property values. It is an embarrassment. She asked that Council look into every ordinance being violated and to issue fines to get the legal owner to take care of the house and property.

- Mary reviewed the legal status of the vacant house with Council and said the Pandemic delayed foreclosures in order to sell. She has been in contact with the government agency in charge of the home. She said High Weed letters are allowed to be sent out as of May 15 and they have started going out today. This house is on the list.
- Scott asked if the Borough is permitted to hire someone to do the lawncare and then lien or bill those costs to the property. Mary said yes this could be done, after the High Weed notice is sent via certified mail and typically 10 days' time has passed for delivery.

Mayor

William Gillespie Jr.

- Mayor Gillespie asked Council to approve the Summit Township Police Agreement when it comes for a vote later in the meeting.
- He asked Council to approve the purchase of a police cruiser at a price not to exceed \$50,000, to replace Unit 344.
- He informed Council that the books and records for the Friends of the Police have been audited and the figures are clean and up to date. The Sister Cities audit is still underway. Thus far, both of these 501c3 organizations have their IRS documents and filings up to date.
- This summer there will be a day-long training session for the police department, likely at the Carnival Grounds. Area police departments and Saxonburg's EMS are being invited to take part. There will be equipment needed for this hands-on training that will include traffic stops, treatment of officers, etc., as realistically done as possible. Friends of the Saxonburg Police will contribute around \$4900 as a reimbursement to the Borough. Additionally, the Stop the Bleed kits at \$600-\$700 have been approved for reimbursement to the Borough as well.
- It's been a very active month for police calls.
- The Saxonburg Volunteer Fire Company is looking to replace one of the fire trucks. If permitted with the pending American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Police Department would like to contribute toward this.
- Mayor Gillespie wanted to clarify that anyone, not just the Field Crew, is able to do shrub work in the Park. There had been a misunderstanding about this.
- Mary said shrub donations could be made through the Friends of the Museum.

Council Members Business presented by Council Members

Scott Herbst

Scott provided Council with an update on the stormwater mapping project, with early June targeted for renting the GPS unit. Scott said he will also look into a temporary subscription for software vs. paying the full expense for specialized software. He is also exploring the concept of charging fees for stormwater management. Scott said the Solicitor suggested that homeowners who help with mitigation efforts could be offered a reduced fee, thereby offering incentive for private homes to disclose their own stormwater information.

- Mary clarified that the Borough's current stormwater ordinance involves new construction mitigation but not existing homes and structures. She said the Borough has no ability to charge stormwater fees directly but must create an authority or work with the existing authority to collect them.

- The Mayor reminded Council that some of the stormwater is coming into the Borough from neighboring townships or pools just outside the Borough's lines. He said we don't know what stormwater management regulations are coming, and suggested researching into this before considering the addition of an authority that may prove costly to the Borough residents.
- Scott reminded Council that the Borough residents don't like flooding, either.
- Mary said the Borough is to receive approximately \$140,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, half this year and half next year. Stormwater projects should be eligible for these funds, though stormwater projects cost vastly more than what this funding can cover. There will be provisions for providing those funds to organizations like libraries and fire stations as grants, but the guidelines have not been written yet.
- Solicitor Gallagher confirmed that ARPA funds can be used for sewer and stormwater projects.

Manager Mary Papik

Bills

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to approve the bills as presented:

\$45,439.67 in checks paid from the Borough's General Fund, of which \$38,272.06 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$7,167.61 the Authority's portion of the expense. In addition, decrease adjustments in April from the Borough General Fund in the amount of \$47,819.44 of which \$16,299.38 was the Borough's portion of the expense and \$31,520.06 was the Authority's portion of the expense, and payroll for April 2021 in the amount of \$79,559.06 of which \$24,880.56 is the Borough's portion of the expense and \$54,678.50 is the Authority's portion of the expense. The motion carried.

Municipal Building Roof Bid

Mary reviewed the various ways roof bid was properly advertised and, in the end, the three eligible bids that were received from:

- SRI Roofing & Sheet Metal LLC \$69,900
- TEMA Roofing Services LLC \$87,780
- S & N Industries, LLC \$144,300

Motion was made and seconded by Pat Rinebolt/Scott Herbst to award the 2021 Municipal Building Roof Project to SRI Roofing & Sheet Metal LLC for the bid amount of \$69,900 contingent upon Authority approval. The motion carried.

Penn United 50th Anniversary Banner

Penn United has asked permission to place a banner over Main Street for the Mingle season in honor of their 50th anniversary as a local employee-owned company. Penn United will be raising funds to benefit the Saxonburg Police Department at each Mingle.

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to allow Penn United's banner over Main Street for the Mingle season. The motion carried.

Saxonburg American Legion Bench

Mary updated Council that a local business owner has graciously offered to discuss the bench with the businesses on Main Street to see if anyone would like it placed in front of their shop before Council looks for a location the Park, or even in front of the Borough building. Council agreed the best foot traffic is on Main Street in front of the shops. The

Mayor reminded there is also a lady looking to get a bench in memory of her son, and Mary agreed she has heard from that lady as well. Mary expects she will have a further update on the bench at the next Council meeting.

Park/Cooper Hall

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Pat Rinebolt to approve the sale of the second kegerator for \$180.00, as the winning bid on Municibid. The motion carried.

Arts Festival 2021

- Mary showed the map of the Carnival Grounds with 149 spaces marked for Arts Festival vendors. She said in years past, there may be 149 total vendors, including those on Main Street. She expressed the need to gain vendors and to advertise the festival through the previously-used channels.
- Tiffany Nolan with SABA said they will be glad to circulate the vendor information through their organization and beyond.
- Fred Caesar said he will email links to the Borough Secretary for the online places previously used.

Solicitor

Solicitor Sean Gallagher, Gallagher Law Group

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/Scott Herbst to adopt Ordinance No. 475 as advertised. The motion carried.

- Solicitor Gallagher commended Council for the adoption of this police services ordinance, saying that intermunicipal cooperation such as this goes a long way to promote good governance in both communities. He and Solicitor Mike Gallagher were happy to help.
- The Mayor thanked the Council and Solicitor Sean Gallagher and Solicitor Mike Gallagher for their work to facilitate this agreement.

Old Business

None

New Business

Motion was made and seconded by Dave Felsing/June Crawford to purchase a new police car, price not to exceed \$50,000. The motion carried.

Executive Session

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

The meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m. and took no further actions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Jody Vettori
Secretary