

Laurel Mountain Borough

April 15, 2020

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at the shelter house. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Sharon Detar; Tom Campbell; Matt Thomas; and Ty Honhart. Others present were Jeff Miller, Solicitor; Robin Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer. Mayor Philip Light was absent. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 18, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

The Minutes of the March 27, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The March 2020 Treasurer's Report and invoices to be paid for April were presented. A motion to accept the March Treasurer's Report as presented was made Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously. A motion to pay the April disbursements presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

In Mayor Light's absence, Secretary Roberts said there was nothing to report.

Detar commented on the additional people in the Borough during this pandemic. Most of them are from the Pittsburgh area visiting their vacation homes.

OLD BUSINESS

The road work for the potholes was completed by Dave Herrholtz from Ligonier Construction Co. Someone else had put stone on Maple road but it was not the appropriate stone to be used. No one knew for sure who filled those potholes.

Detar commented that homeowners still need to maintain the ditches along their properties to help maintain the gravel roads. She as well as other council members, Ty and Matt, clean out some ditches as they walk around the Borough.

Ty will get in touch with Tomlinson whom he spoke to last fall about ditch cleanout on a regular basis. Crouse spoke to Herrholz regarding the depreciation of the water diversion belts across the roads for drainage. She did not hear back from him yet.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Crouse – Susan will email a letter to the homeowners regarding an update on the potholes project. She will remind them of Spring clean up and of keeping ditches clear. Crouse spoke of the upcoming primary election. The date has been moved to June 2, 2020 due to covid-19. People are being encouraged to do absentee ballots or mailed ballots for social distancing. The deadline to request these options is May 26, 2020. She will add this information to her email letter to homeowners.

Detar – Sharon noted there is a tree uplifted by entrance on a personal property. The Laurel Mountain Park Assoc.'s contracting is on hold due to covid-19 restrictions.

Campbell –None

Thomas- The tree removal on Maple Road is in the process. Cheap Trees will take down the tree when their time and weather permits.

Honhart- None

NEW BUSINESS

Crouse commented on Senate Bill 841 that would enable municipal governing bodies to meet by telecommunications devices during a state emergency and amends the language to Title 35 Pa.C. S. 7501 (d) to clarify physical quorums at meetings are not required during emergencies. She would like council to act on this bill when finalized to protect the health and safety of the residents. Solicitor Miller stated this does not meet requirements under the Sunshine Law for virtual meetings. A discussion was had as to what services are available and at what cost. Suggestions were skype and zoom. Matt and Ty will investigate further as to what services would meet our situation. A motion to act on meetings by telecommunications devices during the state of emergency pandemic as noted on Senate Bill 841, contingent on the final passing of the bill, was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

President Crouse stated the RK Mellon Grant is on hold due to covid-19. Secretary Roberts' commented the liquid fuels fund for 2021 will be less due to the economy from the pandemic.

Crouse added that if anyone knows of anyone needed help with food etc. due to the hardships at this time to please have them reach out. There are many peoples willing to help. Sharon commented the LMP Assoc. has reached out to some people.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Solicitor Miller stated it is his understanding Council wants him removed, so he hereby gives his resignation.

Council asked if he would stay until another Solicitor is found. He said he would, however, he feels his services are not wanted.

Susan stated that is kind of you to stay until we have a new solicitor.

A motion to accept Miller's resignation was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

All attending thanked Jeff Miller for all the help and service he provided over the years.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Detar, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer