

Laurel Mountain Borough

April 4, 2023

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at the shelter house and via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Tim Baacke, Sharon Detar, Sherry Naugle. Matt Thomas attended via zoom. Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon, Solicitor Lee Demosky, Ben Faas, Engineer and Robin Roberts, Secretary.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Snyder, 5 Laurel, asked when something will be done with the roads and potholes. Crouse said we have bids and road repair is on the agenda.

Rosena Jordan, 3 Hemlock, asked for an update on the pillars. Crouse will provide an update.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the March 7, 2023 meeting were presented. Matt corrected an o to be changed to the number 0 in the police report. A motion to approve the minutes, with the correction, was made by Tim Baacke, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

The Minutes for the March 28, 2023 special meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sherry Naugle, second by Tim Baacke and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for March 2023 was not completed due to the early April meeting date. It will be presented at the May meeting.

The disbursements for April 2023 were presented. A motion to approve the April disbursements was made by Sharon Detar, second by Tim Baacke and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dixon reported there were 46 routine patrols, 0 calls for service, two 911 calls, 0 traffic citations.

Ross thanked everyone for their help cleaning up after the storm. He notified the power company of lines down and had help with the wood cleanups. He also has gathered phone numbers and email addresses to help in the future.

Matt commented the trail is blocked by several trees. Sue said it is private property and they should get permission from the owners to clear the trail. Sue and Ross will check with the owners. Solicitor Demosky stated to have written approval and the property owner may want proof of insurance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

None

LAUREL MUNICIPAL INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT

No monthly report.

Representatives from LMIA joined us to review and improve our communications with the Agency.

Noah, SEO and Building Codes; Dave, Property Maintenance; Melissa, Administrator
The three of them explained the process of receiving a zoning application, property complaint, sewage complaint, and other forms needing completion by a borough official. Sue asked for the Borough to be given monthly reports from work completed such as the one used to report code inspections the LIMIA does. Concerns regarding sewage in the Borough were discussed as it is not up to code. Updating to requirements is hard due to the small lot sizes. The only overall solution is municipal sewage (which is hugely expensive). The enforcement and property maintenance procedures were also discussed. Council thanked them all for coming and explaining the processes.

Ed Appleby, Walnut, commented there is a tree on lines on Beechwood. Ross will call. The power company decides and assesses the need for removal of the trees impacting power lines only.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

We will be working with the Westmoreland County Conservation District on the stormwater projects. Sue and Ross will be joining them on April 11th for a joint meeting in the Borough.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: None

Tim: Tim told council he will be moving and will be done by the June meeting. He will provide his resignation at the May meeting.

He only received one completed bid for the road work in spite of others being requested. A bid from DT Contracting was presented for 20 tons of 2A gravel, fixing potholes and regrading all roads in the amount of \$4,309.558. A motion to approve DT Contracting's bid was made by Sherry Naugle, second by Matt Thomas and passed unanimously.

Sherry: None

Susan: Sue received an email from Del Nolfi III, advising he can no longer serve as Solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Crouse asked for Council's approval to advertise through the Westmoreland County Bar Association to replace him. There is a \$35.00 fee. A motion was made to approve the advertisement and fee by Tim Baacke, second by Sherry Naugle and passed unanimously.

Sue asked Tim to review our fee schedule in comparison to other local municipalities.

Crouse pointed out we need people to serve on council.

It was suggested to send letters and/or emails for people to clean up their property of limbs and debris near the roads for the road work project.

Regarding the pillars, Crouse stated MJL Construction may want more money because of the time frame. It took time for the settlement with the trucking company, however, their contract does not have an expiration date or a clause for price changes in material. Sue will try to resolve so work can proceed without further delay.

Sharon: Sharon gave an update from the Laurel Mt Park Association. They have filed to change their Bylaws. They have received 2 bids for the pool and need to fix the water pipe at the shelter house. The annual meeting is 4-22-23 @ 4PM.

SOLICITORS REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Westmoreland County Borough's Association Banquet 4-28-23. Sue and Sharon plan to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Baacke, second by Sherry Naugle and passed unanimously.

The next monthly meeting will be May 2, 2023 at 7:30 PM at the Shelter House and via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer