

Laurel Mountain Borough

February 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at the shelter house and via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Sharon Detar, Tim Baacke, Matt Thomas and Sherry Naugle attended via zoom. Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon, Ben Faas, Engineer, and Robin Roberts Secretary/Treasurer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeremy and Melissa Smith, 26 Walnut St., spoke of concern on their property from water drainage. Crouse explained the flow of the water and the improvements the Borough has planned to correct. She will speak more of the project under Ongoing Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting were presented. Tim had corrections. A motion to approve the minutes with the corrections was made by Tim Baacke second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

The Minutes from the February 7, 2023 Special meeting were presented. Tim had a correction. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Tim Baacke, second by Sharon Detar and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for January 2023 was presented. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Tim Baacke, second by Sherry Naugle, and passed unanimously.

The disbursements for February 2023 were presented. A motion to approve the February disbursements was made by Sharon Detar, second by Tim Baacke and passed unanimously. Secretary/Treasurer Roberts explained with the meeting dates changed to the first Tuesday of each month there will be months that she will not have all the information on time for a Treasure Report. She will do her best but there will be a month delay sometimes.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dixon gave the January Police Report. There were 50 routine patrols, 0 calls for service, 0 number of incidents investigated, 0 911 calls, 0 traffic citations.

Naugle stated there were people burning on warning days. Dixon explained that he receives the warning days and can stop the burning. As Council Member, they also, can tell the people to stop burning or call Mayor Dixon.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roberts reminded everyone of the Statement of Financial Interest Forms that are due. She received most of them at the meeting.

She reminded everyone of the upcoming election and to get their Petitions of Election forms from the Election Bureau.

Roberts shared Zoom will have a price increase of \$1.00 per month beginning in March 2023. That brings it to \$15.99 per month.

LAUREL MUNICIPAL INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT

No monthly report.

Crouse explained LMIA is in the first phase of a violation. We are able to join their zoom meetings on the 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 AM. If anyone can do this, please let her know,

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

MJL Construction is to start moving rocks February 16th. They will progress with work as weather permits. Naugle asked that they be informed of the bus schedule at the entrance. 6:45 AM, 8:20 AM and 3:10 PM, 4:20 PM.

We received the Westmoreland Conservation District Grant of \$18,000.00. This money will be used to fix some of the stormwater issues. The plans are made by the Westmoreland Conservation District. There will need to be agreements from the property owners involved and all plans approved by DCEP. Jeremy Smith's property is included in this phase of the stormwater project. He can put gravel so the mail carrier can get to the box until the problems resolved.

Matt asked if there has been more flooding since the reservoir was removed. Faas responded that MAWC's theory it should be putting less water in the streams for the Borough.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: None

Tim: Tim will talk to DT Contracting regarding spring projects on roads and ditches.

Sharon: Sharon notified the Laurel Mountain Park Association of the new meeting dates. The Association voted for changes in their bylaws.

Sherry: None

Susan: A letter from Kellen Detar, Tax Collector was read. Kellen has asked to resign from the tax collector position. A motion to accept Kellen Detar's resignation was made by Tim Baacke, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

A letter from Alyssa Boyd with interest to serve as tax collector was read. Alyssa asked if Council would pay the \$175 for the taxes to be uploaded to her computer system each year. A motion to approve Alyssa Boyd as tax collector for the remaining term (2022-2025) and to pay the \$175 upload to her computer system was made by Sharon Detar, second by Tim Baacke, and passed unanimously.

SOLICITORS REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt asked how many Airbnb's we currently have. Susan quoted seven. She would like the council to work on occupancy permits and inspections for rentals in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tim Baacke, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer