

## Laurel Mountain Borough

February 19, 2020

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020. A quorum of Susan Crouse, Tom Campbell, and Matt Thomas was reached at the Shelter House. A motion to adjourn and reconvene at the Laughlintown Community Center was made by Matt Thomas, second by Tom Campbell, passed unanimously. At 7:30 the meeting was called to order at the Laughlintown Community Center by President Susan Crouse.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beth Crawford, 20 Walnut, shared her concerns for all the potholes on the roads and especially Walnut Road. She said the holes are so bad, you can not drive on it without having vehicle issues. President Crouse agreed and stated the roads are being addressed at this meeting.

Gladys Light, 23 Beechwood, asked for everyone to please read the minutes carefully before approving. She stated the December 18, 2019 minutes read that the meeting was called to order by Ed Appleby. In discussion, it was determined that was correct.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the January 15, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The January 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report and invoices to be paid for February were presented. A motion to accept the January Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, and passed unanimously. A motion to pay the February bills presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Light read the February Report. The Borough was quiet and no emergency responses. He also commented on the roads with many potholes

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Secretary Roberts read the letter from the Ligonier Valley Endowment regarding the grant for the Laurel Mt Park Association. They approved a grant in the amount of \$7,500.00. We are to receive the funds in a few weeks. The LMP Assoc. had requested \$10,000.00.

We still do not have a signed Lease Agreement with the Laurel Mt Park Association. Council had approved the agreement. President Crouse will check with Emily Honhart for the signatures. The Joint Agreement between Laurel Mountain Borough and Laurel Mt. Park Association also needs the signatures to complete the agreement for working together under the grant for the shelter house. This also has been approved by Council. Crouse will check with Emily Honhart for the signatures.

Regarding the letter to homeowners and residents regarding cleaning up properties, the letter will be drafted for the March meeting.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS**

Crouse – Susan asked Matt for the bids regarding the large tree on Maple Road that need to come down. Matt said Brown's Tree Service bid \$3500; Matson did not give bid because he is currently too busy through the end of April. Cheap Trees from Stahlstown, bid \$1500. Tom's concerns were the ground line near the pole by the tree. A one call will be needed. A motion to approve the bid of \$1500 from Cheap Trees, provided we receive proof of insurance, was made by Matt Thomas, second by Tom Campbell, passed unanimously.

Regarding the pillars at the entrance, Susan received 3 bids that were astronomically different. She will need to speak with each bidder to see why the bids are so different. She would like to see the Borough receive a grant for this project. The pillars were deferred to the next meeting.

Susan found someone that will remove live hemlock trees for free if the LMP Association is interested.

Detar – absent

Campbell – Tom reported the ditch at the entrance has been working fine.

Tom stated we need lots of stone to fill the potholes. The roads with gravel need to be maintained at least three times a year. The roads have not frozen all winter. Now is not the ideal time but need addressed. Tom offered to defer the labor cost if the Borough buys the stone and rents a skid loader from Herrholtz. Crouse will get a bid from Herrholtz with the labor and without the labor. Solicitor Miller reminded everyone of liability of an individual doing such work for the Borough. Robin will check with Higbee Insurance, if there is a way to do this with coverage as an independent contractor and/or non employee.

Tom also shared concerns for the bus stop at the front entrance. He would like to see the rocks moved back from the road 6 or 8 feet. It was discussed the Borough does not own all of the frontage. Boundaries were discussed. The entrance road is only 20 feet wide. Beth Crawford, 20 Walnut, asked, maybe parents could carpool? Comments were made that today, that probably would not go well.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

A letter from Tax Collector, David Fleming, was read. He wanted to inform Council, he will not be running for another term next year. Mayor Phil Light commented that he, also, will not be seeking

another term next year.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's conference is June 7-10 in Hershey if anyone is interested in going.

The Westmoreland County Boroughs Association's annual program booklet is being prepared.

A motion to place a ¼ page ad for \$45.00 was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously. The Banquet will be April 24, 2020.

Information on grant programs by the DCNR for recreation and conservation were provided.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beth Crawford, 20 Walnut, asked for bids to be done before March meeting to repair the roads. She was informed that the Council needs to present and approve bids at a regular monthly meeting.

Gladys Light, 23 Beechwood commented that she did not think the fire relief funds from 2019 were distributed correctly. She was informed by Solicitor Miller and Secretary Roberts that ½ is given to Ligonier Township Relief Fund (44) and ½ to Ligonier's Fire Relief Fund (43).

Roberts added that the 2020 Police Agreement was received and needs addressed. The agreement remains the same except for the monthly rate. It states \$350 a month for 2020. She was verbally informed it will go up to \$400 a month for 2021. Roberts told Ligonier Chief Berger she was concerned that this increase came after the 2020 budget was approved. He verbally came back with we may continue at \$300 a month for 2020, then 2021 will be \$400. A motion to approve the 2020 Police Agreement with Ligonier Valley Police Department with the changes made to \$300 a month for 2020 was made by Ty Honhart, second by Tom Campbell, passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ty Honhart, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer