

## Laurel Mountain Borough

January 19, 2022

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at the Laughlinton Community Center due to snow and ice. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Sharon Detar; Matt Thomas; and Janice Seigle. Also present were Mayor Ross Dixon and Robin Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes from the December 15, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

The Minutes from the January 3, 2022 Reorganization meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report for December 2021 was presented. A motion to accept the December Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously.

The disbursements for January 2022 were presented. A motion to approve the January disbursements as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Dixon reported there were 56 routine patrols, 2 incidents investigated and 2 emergency 911 calls. There was a discussion on purchasing a plaque for the former Mayor Light for all of his services to the Borough.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Roberts stated the \$1,000 of unused water line funds from the 2021 budget will be transferred to a Certificate of Deposit as stated in the Ordinance NO. 83-03-12.

Robin distributed The Statement of Financial Interest to everyone concerned.

### **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

The vacancy on Council was addressed.

Ed Appleby, Walnut Road, stated he would take the position if no one else volunteered. As he has a very busy Fall schedule. Appleby previously served on Council. He provided IT services for the Council. He is a Veteran and a Blacksmith. He currently works 5 or 6 days a week and volunteers on weekends at the Compass Inn.

Sherry Naugle, 9 Hemlock, stated she would take the position if no one else volunteered. She is a traveling Notary, which is an on call job. She said she would be willing to learn the local government procedures. Tim Baacke, Whiteoak, stated he was interested. However, he will be moving to Ligonier Township in the future. He said the move would be late summer or early fall at the earliest. He feels he has experience to bring to the Council during that time. He has taught part time at Bishop McCourt since retiring. He was President of Moxham Renaissance.

Council went to an Executive Session. Upon returning, Thomas commented that Baacke would be a temporary solution but he was the only candidate that did not comment, "if no one else is interested". A motion was made to appoint Tim Baacke to the vacancy position on Council by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously.

Baacke signed his affidavit with Sherry Naugle notarizing. Mayor Dixon swore Tim Baacke in to office.

Regarding Emergency Manager, Steve Barron's name had been recommended. This position needs to be finalized. Matt will reach out to Barron.

President Crouse went over the role of the Mayor with Emergency Management. The Mayor can call a state of Emergency during a flood. There has been flooding in the past.

The tree designated to be cut down was removed earlier in the day of the meeting.

We are still waiting for DT Contracting to repair their equipment to finish the ditches/leaf removal project.

No further action was taken with the agreement with the Township for a Joint Municipality Agreements. Due to the recent elections and appointments in the Township, we will probably need to readdress.

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

Matt- No updates from the planning committee

Sharon – The LMP Association closed the grant funds from the Ligonier Endowment.

Janice – Janice is attending the Boot Camp for newly elected council members. She is also scheduled to meet with a new code enforcement company to consider, along with Susan.

Susan – Updates regarding the American Rescue Grant. The water lines of concern have been verified that they are PVC. The Grant Funds will now focus on the storm water issues. The Conservation District has already looked at the situation. It was recommended to have another engineer take a look at the issue.

Matt and Susan will meet to discuss.

The meeting with Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency has been rescheduled due to weather.

Road Management needs addressed for spring. The roads have not been graded for a long time. Tim will meet with Susan to get updated on the road conditions and history of the roads. He will then get different quotes for projects. Crouse reminded everyone, there are many classes available to council members to learn about projects that the Borough needs to keep updated.

### **SOLICITORS REPORT**

None

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Crouse shared that an envelope for school property tax was found outside at a Hemlock Address. The contents were returned to the sender.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed Appleby, Walnut Road, asked if road shavings by the pool could be used to fill potholes? He asked if the Borough provided gravel, may volunteers would fill the potholes. Crouse responded, modified gravel is needed to fill correctly. We do not want peoples putting other gravel in the potholes. Council had been advised previously that residents are not to do that type of volunteer work as they would not be covered by workers compensation insurance.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Thomas, second Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

The next monthly meeting will be February 16, 2022 at 7:30 PM at the Shelter House and via Zoom in the instance of inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer