

Laurel Mountain Borough

July 20, 2022

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at the shelter house and via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:29 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Sharon Detar; Matt Thomas; Janice Seigle; and Tim Baacke. 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 May 18, 2022 meeting was presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Tim Baacke, second by Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for May 2022 was presented. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Tim Baacke, second by Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for June 2022 was presented. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Tim Baacke, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously.

The disbursements for July 2022 were presented. A motion to approve the July disbursements, with the date July 2022 correction, was made by Tim Baacke, second by Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dixon reported for May there were 58 routine patrols, 0 calls for service. For June he reported, 55 routine patrols, 5 number of incidents investigated, 4 911 calls, and 1 traffic citation/warning.

Dixon reported a discussion with West Penn Power Company regarding the tree at 28 Maple Road.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roberts' shared information from Brandon Firestone, PennDOT Representative, regarding road work contracts to cover several years instead of yearly bids. He said we should include statement of "subject to material costs".

Roberts' presented a letter and sample resolution from several municipalities in Westmoreland County regarding the use of the County's ARPA funds. A motion to pass a resolution to include the Borough of Laurel Mountain in the group of municipalities urging the County for ARPA funds for all of the County's Municipalities was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

Robin continued to urge everyone to take the NIMS courses to insure the Borough can work with FEMA if there should be a cause in the future.

The Higbee Insurance renewal was presented. Questions were raised on the coverage of students at our bus stops and coverage on the filing cabinets stored at the shelter house. Roberts' agreed to request answers for the next meeting. Since the insurance is due, any changes to reflect these questions would be made by change at a later date.

A motion to renew the Insurance Policy as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

Roberts' shared the Westmoreland County Tax Collection District agreed to renew the contract with Berkheimer's to continue collecting Earned Income Tax for a 5 year term. (2023-2027).

The Westmoreland Development Block Grant Applications are open. The information was provided and council members agreed to work on the application this year together. This requires meeting with residents and getting their information.

LAUREL MUNICIPAL INSPECTION AGENCY REPORT

A work session was held with LMIA. A system was developed for a better flow of paperwork and communication between the Borough and LMIA. It was decided to mail homeowners LMI Brochures and a letter informing everyone of the information on our website and the process of zoning, permits, etc being done by LMIA. A motion was made to spend the necessary moneys for postage and envelopes for the mailing, by Tim Baacke, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously. LMIA will send us the necessary copies of their brochures.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

As far as the uncompleted ditch work, the work not completed at this time will be done the next time the ditches are cleaned. DT Contracting has not been able to replace the parts for his machine.

Attorney Sorice has not received any information from the Township Solicitor yet regarding the Agreement between the Borough and the Township. Sue and Sharon will attend the next township meeting on 7/26. Pillar update under Solicitor's Report.

Sharon and Tim both stated the roads are holding up well.

Susan reported the storm water project as completed and working well. She will be meeting with Ty Honhart for another location to address. Susan will write a letter to the Westmoreland County Conservation District thanking them for all their help with the project.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: none

Susan: Susan reported on working with Solicitor Sorice regarding the pillars. The trucking company's insurance does not want to pay the amount of the given bids. Sorice would like permission to file and pursue. He is not charging the Borough for his services. A motion to allocate funding for Solicitor Sorice as needed on the pillar issue was made by Janice Seigle, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

Crouse asked Mayor Dixon to address the streetlight out on Walnut Road and ask about switching out to LED lights.

She expressed concern with tree removal requests. We are getting more and more requests and they are costly.

Crouse presented a bid for the 6 yellow culvert markers at \$435 plus \$75 shipping and 2 "Permits Required" signs at \$35 plus \$20 freight. A motion to purchase the culvert markers and permits required signs was made by Sharon Detar, second by Janice Seigle, and passed unanimously.

Janice: none

Tim: Tim will work on bids for road, ditches and plowing.

Sharon: Sharon shared information from LMP Association. They have opened the pool for a limited number of outside memberships. The outside members are to be sponsored by a member of the association. At this time, they have received the quantity alligated.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Attorney Sorice continues to work on the pillar project as noted under Susan's report.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Janice Seigle, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously. The next monthly meeting will be August 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM at the Shelter House and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer