

Laurel Mountain Borough

June 17, 2020

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at the shelter house. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Susan Crouse.

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

Solicitor Mark Sorice was introduced to the Council and the public attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Snyder, 5 Laurel Road, commented on the outside burning of garbage. He can repeatedly smell the burning of plastics. He asked that council give notice to residents about outside burning regulations.

Daneen Kinsey, 28 Walnut, agreed with comments made by Jeff Snyder. She also informed Council of people cutting down trees and burning fires unattended. Places that cannot be seen by a home. She also has concerns for the continuing use of fireworks in the Borough. Dust control is another concern. When she was on council they used a dust control on the roads and it did help. Solicitor Sorice encouraged residents to get license plates of those burning and report to police.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The May 2020 Treasurer's Report and invoices to be paid for June were presented. A motion to accept the May Treasurer's Report as presented was made Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously. Secretary Roberts asked to add an additional invoice to the disbursements presented. An invoice from Kellen Detar for 3 mowings at a cost of \$180.00. A motion to pay the June disbursements presented and the invoice added by Secretary Roberts was made by Ty Honhart, second by Matt Thomas, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phil Light reported there were no incidents or emergencies in May. There were 53 patrols totaling 8 hours. He also addressed the concern for burning garbage.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt reported on the tree removal on Maple Road. He has not heard from Cheap Trees. He will reach out to Scott Matson. He previously did not give a bid due to being so busy. Ty said his neighbor recently had some trees taken down. He will inquire as to who they contracted.

Tom reported on the ditch clean out and water diversion belts. It took 1 ½ days to clean the ditches. The diversion belts are to be installed next week. They will replace three belts and add one new belt. He said the ditches look great but will have to be maintained on a regular basis.

Ty & Matt reported on the status of the bids for pipe installation at residents' loop driveway. They were not able to get another bid at this time. By ordinance, the homeowner is to purchase the pipes and the borough pay for the installation. There is currently one bid from Herrholtz. They will try to get another bid for the July meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS

President Crouse stated the water line break servicing Township residents has been resolved with no cost to the Borough.

Crouse received an email regarding a request for a street sign on Conestoga Road. After investigation it was determined to be a Ligonier Township property.

New Business

Crouse asked Solicitor Sorice questions regarding the Boroughs enforcement of the zoning ordinance. Since there are some concerns regarding the signing and delivering of the zoning ordinance.

Sorice explained the process of drawing a new zoning ordinance and adopting a formal ordinance.

This involves a hearing board which would interpret the ordinance of nonconforming and make the decisions. A code enforcement officer would enforce any violations. The code officer can be shared between Municipalities, hired part time, or hired on an as needed basis. He also stated it is very expensive to have an ordinance rewritten. He suggested applying for a grant to rewrite the zoning ordinance. He suggested contacting the Planning Department at the Courthouse.

Mayor Light added the code enforcer needs to be certified. Crouse added she would prefer the code enforcer to be a person out of the Borough. Solicitor Sorice also added the building permits are separate from the zoning permits. Most municipalities use the Department of Labor & Industry.

Daneen Kinsey, 28 Walnut, stated they used to be able to reinforce issues by sending individual letters and threatening a fine of \$350, but no one does that any more.

The zoning hearing board, which deals with variances based on design nonconforming use, has one vacancy. Lance Appleby has moved out of the Borough. If anyone is interested, they should notify council.

Crouse encouraged all officials to take online courses provided by the PA Borough Association. They have a lot of information available.

A website is still needed. We need to check on hosting fees. One suggestion was Comcast to possibly host for free.

A dual LEMC between Laurel Mountain Borough and Ligonier Borough was discussed. Both use Gene Stouffer as an emergency manager. This would need to be advertised and adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE

WCBA annual banquet has been canceled for 2020. The ad that the Borough purchased will be carried over to the 2021 banquet booklet.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ty mentioned placing signs for children at play. The traffic is flying down our roads and putting our children and people walking in harm. Mayor Light commented on the traffic control results are on hold due to covid-19. He is hoping to get the speed limit legally changed from 35 MPH to 15 MPH. The speed is also causing the dust concerns. There have been vehicles flying up Beechwood at 2:00 AM. The areas around the B&B are very active. Sorice stated we cannot exclude B&Bs. We can only limit parking regarding to safety as in fire trucks and first responders having access.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sharon Detar, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer