

Laurel Mountain Borough

March 17, 2021

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by President Susan Crouse.

Council members present were Susan Crouse, President; Tom Campbell; Matt Thomas; Sharon Detar. Ty Honart was absent. Others present were Mayor Philip Light; Solicitor Mark Sorice; Robin Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer. A moment of silence was held.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor Sorice stated that the State must approve the Emergency Manager we appoint. Then we do an ordinance.

Sorice contacted Kathy Hamilton again regarding an example table for storm water for Eric our Engineer. Both Eric and Mark spoke and shared information. Once Eric has an opportunity to overlook the areas in the Borough, he can incorporate language for our use. Eric is using New Alexandria as a module except as soil conditions and infiltration rates as we have tight clay and stone. Also noted is the rainfall intensity rates and intensity conditions. Mark thanked Eric for his resources. Crouse asked how much time is needed to complete the Storm Water Ordinance. Eric stated fairly quick. Eric asked about swampy areas, as he was not able to find a flood map online. Susan told Eric of the bottom areas listed as flood zone but that area doesn't usually flood. Susan thanked Eric for his kindness and willingness to help the Borough. Eric gave a bid of approximately \$500 unless more information is found and demands more of his time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Tom Campbell, passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for February 2021 was presented. A motion to accept the February Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Tom Campbell, and passed unanimously. The disbursements for March 2021 were presented. A motion to approve the disbursements as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Tom Campbell, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Light reported there were 56 routine patrols in February. There was one call, but later cancelled. Matt commented the patrols whip through the Borough to fast to be looking around. Mayor Light commented the State Police are for our emergency calls. The Agreement with the Ligonier Valley Police

Department is primarily for investigation requests. They are not a security service. Matt requested a copy of the Police Agreement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roberts reminded everyone to submit the Statement of Financial Interest forms for prior year 2020 to her. They are due May 5th.

The Audit has been completed from Rennie & Associates.

The Borough has received the Liquid Fuels funds of \$8,519.04.

The Grant from the Westmoreland Conservation District has been denied.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

A motion to approve Merle Muscik as the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

Council held a work session on March 3rd to address the fees schedule. A motion to approve the new fee schedule, pending approval from Solicitor Sorice, was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas.

A motion to approve Mike DeAlrico as the Borough's Sewage Enforcement Officer was made by Sharon Detar, second by Matt Thomas.

MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: Matt reported the committee will meet again tomorrow, March 18th at 7:30. They are to categorize items to be addressed. They have been discussing short term rentals and ways to improve contact with the owners of these properties for safety and nuisance concerns. Susan asked for the link to the committee meetings be sent to all council members.

Ty: Absent

Sharon: Sharon reported the Laurel Mt Park Association will be finishing the insulation and final projects at the Shelter House when school is out for the year.

Susan: The speed limit signs will be put in place as soon as Mr. Tomlinson asks for the PA one calls. Crouse reported there is to be a sign on each street near where it begins and one in the middle of Walnut as specified by LTAP.

Tom: Tom reported on a road bid from Ligonier Construction for a grater and roller and 2 loads of 2A stone at \$3,000. Tom does not recommend. He recommends 1 load of 2A gravel with a drag track for now, due to it being early spring and anticipating spring showers that will wash away gravel. Light commented that the Ultra Bond is still holding to the roads in some areas and a grater would likely take that off the roads. A motion to do the 1 load of 2A gravel with a drag track, pending a bid under \$1800, was made by Matt Thomas, second by Tom Campbell, passed unanimously.

It was reported that many hemlocks in the area have woolly adelgid (bugs). If seen they should be destroyed to try to save the trees. They look like white cotton on the end of the needles. There has also been sightings of the spotted lantern bugs.

Matt shared a question from the planning committee, is it possible to ban fireworks in the Borough. Mayor Light stated there is a state law banding the use within 150 feet of an occupied building. There is a \$300 fine and possible jail time. This needs to be enforced by State Police.

CORRESPONDENCE

Information from the PSBA states there is an American Rescue Fund that the Borough should qualify for as a grant to be used for water/ sewage/ broadband to name a few. One half of the allotted amount would be provided this year and one half next year. Crouse commented many of the Borough's water lines are cast iron and not as deep as they should be.

Sharon said she walked to the reservoir. They have equipment there do start the demolition. It was noted the DEP required the reservoir demolition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer