

Laurel Mountain Borough

May 19, 2021

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, May 19, 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; Ty Honhart; Matt Thomas. Sharon Detar was absent. Others present were Mayor Philip Light; Solicitor Mark Sorice; Engineer Eric Roble; Robin Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, and passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for April 2021 was presented. A motion to accept the April Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, and passed unanimously. Roberts asked to add an invoice submitted by Kellen Detar to disbursements. Council said they would discuss the mowing later in the meeting. The disbursements for May 2021 were presented. A motion to approve the May disbursements as presented was made by Matt Thomas, second by Ty Honhart, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Light shared the April 2021 police report. There were 65 routine patrols and 1 call for service.

Sharon Detar entered the meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

None

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Regarding Emergency Manager, Susan spoke to Chris Tantlinger from the County Emergency Management. He would like to see our Borough in a joint management with Ligonier Township and Ligonier Borough. However, the Borough has not been cooperative in doing so. Chris is willing to attend one of meetings if needed. Steve Barron is still interested at this time. Susan will follow through with Mr. Tantlinger.

Regarding Fees, Susan has not been able to contact Merle Musick. She wanted information from him to post to our website. She thinks the Borough needs to look at some alternatives. Solicitor Sorice suggested she contact Hempfield Township for guidance, Len Dellera. Engineer Roble added he has a

few contacts if she needs also. Everyone agreed if she did not hear back from Musick to look for an alternative. A motion to approve the Fee Schedule presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously. Mayor Light suggested more definition of some of the fees should be added. Sorice suggested looking at the Townships in regard to definitions and add a sentence to be relevant. Ty and Sharon will work on the definitions to be added to the Fee Schedule for the next meeting.

MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: The Committee did not meet in April. Susan and Matt shared the committee's top concern seems to be the AirBnBs. The members have looked at similar municipalities for ideas about fees and permits. It was suggested instead of short term rentals listing them as transit rentals which could then be banned from residential areas. Sorice commented the Borough does not have money for a legal approach and needs to take that into consideration of changes.

Tom: Tom said he was happy with what Ligonier Construction accomplished on the roads. There was an issue with the bid, approving the bid, and getting the invoice. It was suggested, in the future, we can more specifics on cost and labor on all bids before approval.

Tom asked about getting the meetings back to in person. Crouse stated many people have gotten vaccinated and some regulations have been lifted. Mark asked about the meetings in the winter. Sharon stated they have installed a heater and added insulation. The Borough has a lease agreement with the Park Association to use the building for meetings and storage for \$200 per month. In the past, council met at the Laughlintown Community Center during the winter months. It was mentioned that the borough should get a credit for not using the building while having the zoom meetings due to the pandemic. A discussion was had, that the credit for rent is hindsight, that the Borough has an obligation to help support the Park Association, the Association's income is supported partly by dues, the Borough uses tax dollars to pay the rent, etc. Nothing was resolved at this time. It was agreed the meetings will go back to in person at the shelter house starting with the June 16, 2021 meeting.

Sharon: None

Susan: Susan commented on Election Day. She was glad to see the community come together to fill the vacant offices.

Crouse would like some help with the Pa One Calls. Ty said he would help. Roberts gets the email from One Call and will forward them to both Susan and Ty for completion.

Susan said she has attended several classes regarding flood ordinances and regulations. She has received a few samples and would like to work on an ordinance after completion of the storm water. Crouse thanked Robin for all the paperwork she has completed for the American Rescue Plan Grant.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Sorice thanked Eric Roble for his work and time reviewing the Storm Water Ordinance and tailoring the details for our Borough. Eric said the first half was on him and Solicitor Sorice completed the second half of the job. A motion to approve the Storm Water Ordinance as presented was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously.

Mark explained the Revised Partnership Agreement with the Westmoreland Conservation District was approved as a MS4 which we are not a part of. Therefore he presented a Resolution for a new revised

Partnership Agreement. A motion was made to approve the new Revised Agreement between Laurel Mountain Borough and Westmoreland Conservation District as not being a part of MS4 was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously.

The condition of the pillars at the entrance to the Borough was mentioned again. Susan said the last grant she submitted for the pillars was denied but she will try again. Ty mentioned Darlington Construction has several masonaries.

Susan commented there were no bids for mowing presented. Hopefully by the June meeting there will be several. Robin presented Kellen Detar's invoice of 4 mowings at \$80 for a total of \$320. A motion to pay the invoice as presented, with no contract, was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

Robin shared the Westmoreland County's Demolition program is open for application.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Emily Honhart, 29 Maple Road, thanked everyone for helping with the rummage sale. The proceeds paid for the dumpster. Someone has been putting stuff in the dumpster without permission. If you see anyone, please let her know.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

The next meeting will resume at the Shelter House.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer