

Laurel Mountain Borough

October 21, 2020

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Susan Crouse.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Patricia Hayes, 19 Maple, introduced herself as a new resident to the Borough. She was welcomed by everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The September 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented. A motion to accept the September Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously. The disbursements for October 2020 were presented. A motion to approve the disbursements as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Light reported there were no incidents. They did 50 routine patrols totaling 6 hours and 44 minutes. The YTD time is 61 hours and 52 minutes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roberts asked if anyone had any comments and/or suggestions for the website. Ty asked about posting information for the Laurel Mountain Park Association. Robin told Emily Honhart to send her the information they would like posted. Matt asked Roberts to check with the PSAB to advance the website. Roberts asked the Borough for suggestions on paying the Zoom account. It had previously been approved to go month to month due to the unknown length of time the Borough meetings will be held via Zoom. However Zoom will only do a checking account debit for a yearly subscription. A monthly subscription needs to be paid by credit card or paypal. Since the Borough has neither of those, Roberts paid by her credit card as to not have any delays for the meetings. Roberts asked for approval for doing so and approval to continue for the duration necessary for meetings to be held virtually due to the Pandemic. A motion for Roberts to pay the Borough's Zoom account by her credit card during the Pandemic was made by Ty Honhart, second by Matt Thomas, approved unanimously. Robert asked the Borough for an Application Resolution for her to apply for the Westmoreland Cares Municipal Grant to cover expenses not budgeted due to the Pandemic. A motion to have an Application

Resolution for Secretary Roberts to file the Westmoreland Cares Municipal Grant was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

Old BUSINESS

Code Enforcement Officer – The Township is currently between appointments. Robin and Sue will speak to Rick Schwab from the Borough.

Emergency Manager – Mark will speak to Beaufort from the Township.

Solicitor Sorice we discuss and determine how to compensate, possibly on a case by case.

MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: Matt is contacting people interested in forming a zoning committee. They will set goals, review Ordinances, and form opinions. Matt can only advise the committee. They will discuss short term rentals as well. Matt will then present the committee's recommendations to the Council.

Tom and Susan presented several bids:

A bid from Sanner Tree Service for removal of a dead ash tree in front of Tom's property at \$275 was presented. A motion for Sanner Tree Service to remove the dead ash tree for \$275 was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

A bid from DT Contracting was presented to replace a 12" pipe at the driveway of Molly MacDonald, 28 Beechwood for \$575.90. The pipe has been purchased by the home owner. A motion to approve the bid from DT Contracting for \$575.90 to replace the 12" driveway pipe at 28 Beechwood was made by Ty Honhart, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

Ligonier Construction's bid of \$1300 a day for a skid loader and 1 triaxle load of 2A gravel for Maple Road pot holes, the back entrance, and to touch up other potholes and grading on some roads was presented. A bid for the same from DT Contracting in the amount of \$1305.90 was also presented. A motion to approve the bid from Ligonier Construction for \$1300 for the skid loader, load of gravel was made by Matt Thomas, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

Ligonier Construction placed a bid of \$2800 to clear road ways by trimming trees and brush along the roads. It was decided to wait till Spring for this job.

A bid from DT Contracting in the amount of \$600 for leaf cleanup along roads and ditches was presented. A motion to approve DT Contracting's bid of \$600 for leaf cleanup was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously.

Bids for plowing and anti-skid are pending.

Crouse reviewed the bid for speed limits signs. Garden State changed their previous bid amount. A motion to repeal the prior motion for approval of the bid from Garden State was made by Tom Campbell, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously. A motion to approve the current and corrected lower bid for speed limit signs, posts and markers for \$1,121.20 with freight from US Municipal was made by Tom Campbell, second by Matt Thomas, passes unanimously.

Ty : Ty shared a graph to discuss the course of Revenue in the Borough. It was discussed the mileage has not been changed for several years with the last change being a 2 mileage decrease. Matt asked about having a license or fee for short term rentals. Crouse commented we need a proposed budget for the end of November's meeting.

Sharon: Sharon said the shelter house is ready for Election Day and will be heated.

Susan: Susan shared that the address issue with Ligonier Reservoir Lane has been resolved with 911. It had been named Ligonier Reservoir Road in error.

Susan spoke with Rob Crownover from the Conservation District. He had some recommendations for updating the Grant Application of \$37,400. A motion for Susan to pursue the grant application with the Conservation District in the amount of \$37,400 was made by Ty Honhart, second by Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

Regarding the Dirt & Gravel Road Grant, Crouse reported there is a point system used for this grant. We received 9 points for upgrading the water diversion belts. We could earn another 9 points by having a partnership with the Westmoreland Conservation District. This could also provide professional technology instead of hiring an engineer. A motion to do the partnership with the Westmoreland Conservation District was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously. Solicitor Sorice will dictate a Resolution.

Crouse would like to apply for a Grant from the Ligonier Endowment in the amount of \$10,000 to repair the pillars at the front entrance. A motion to apply for a Ligonier Endowment Grant in the amount of \$10,000 for repairs to the pillars was made by Sharon Detar, second by Ty Honhart.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor Sorice presented the Sign Ordinance that had been advertised. A question was asked regarding the size of the sign at the Shelter House. It was determined that sign would be grandfathered. A motion to approve the Sign Ordinance as advertised was made by Ty Honhart, second Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

A Speed Limit Ordinance was presented. A motion to approve the Speed Limit Ordinance for advertising was made by Ty Honhart, second Matt Thomas, passed unanimously.

Sorice is still waiting for information he had requested from the DCED regarding the Westmoreland County Storm Water Ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE

An email was read from the Snyder's, 5 Laurel Road, regarding their continuance flooding problems. They are asking what the Borough is going to do for them regarding the drainage to their property. Thomas commented that the Borough is primarily stone based and located on the bottom side of a mountain. He basically said flooding is an issue for everyone due to the location. His basement often floods knee deep. Crouse commented her sump pump runs constantly. However she has gone to trainings, spoke to different people and is trying to get grants to help improve drainage and roads in the Borough. Water drainage is and will probably always be an issue for the Borough. Ty thanked Susan for working on the grants and trying to resolve the water issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Thomas, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer