

Laurel Mountain Borough

December 16, 2020

A regular meeting of the Laurel Mountain Borough Council was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Susan Crouse.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Tom Campbell, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously.

Sharon Detar entered the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The November 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented. Honhart questioned the LMP Grant balance. Roberts explained the figures on the Treasurer's Report for the Grant only reflect the checking account credits, debits, and balance for the month of November. It does not show the actual amount of the grant and the remaining balance. A motion to accept the November's Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Ty Honhart, second by Tom Campbell, and passed unanimously.

The disbursements for December 2020 were presented. Secretary Roberts added to the disbursements presented. Sanners Tree Service of \$275.00 for the removal of the tree previously approved and a reimbursement to Ty Honhart of \$401.19 for the heat pump he purchased for the LMP Grant funds. A motion to approve the disbursements as presented, with two payments added, was made by Ty Honhart, second by Tom Campbell, and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Light reported there were no incidents. They did 53 routine patrols totaling 7 hours and 26 minutes. The YTD time is 74 hours and 54 minutes.

Mayor Light presented the 2021 Police Agreement for the Borough and the Ligonier Valley Police Department. The monthly fee will be \$400 per month in 2021 which was figured in the 2021 budget. A motion to approve the Ligonier Valley Police Department Agreement for 2021 was made by Tom Campbell, second by Sharon Detar, and passed unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Roberts shared Berkheimer's Covid EIT Projection Report. The studies done by Berkheimer reflect an estimated drop in local EIT for the Borough each month the covid-19 restriction remain in effect.

Roberts reported the Borough was approved for the Westmoreland Cares Municipal Support Grant in the amount of \$744.96. This covers the unbudgeted expenses related to the pandemic. We should receive payment by the end of the month.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Code Enforcement Officer – Continues to be of concern.

Emergency Manager – Continues to be of concern.

Solicitor Sorice commented that when communicating with Beaufort from Ligonier Township, he had stated that even without an emergency manager the Borough is still covered by the fire departments. Sorice states that Steve Barron is a possibility for Emergency Manager but does not wish to be involved with doing extensive rewriting of an emergency plan. Mayor Light commented the Borough needs an ordinance to increase penalties to pay an enforcement officer.

MEMBER'S REPORTS

Matt: Matt stated he has not spoken to those interested in the zoning committee at this time. He wants to address the boundaries for him as a council person with Mark before meeting with them. With Solicitor Sorice's guidance, it was decided that Matt will schedule a zoom meeting for the committee and talk to them regarding the Borough's zoning concerns. Matt will contact Robin with the dates, times and members emails to schedule on zoom. Matt will act as an advisory to the committee. The committee will then present a plan to Council which can adopt or reject the proposal.

Tom: Tom stated the second tree removal was completed.

Sharon: The Laurel Mt Park Association's lease renewal for the Borough was presented. A motion to approve the lease renewal as presented was made by Sharon Detar, second by Tom Campbell, Crouse stated she slightly opposed due to a lot of money, motion passed.

Ty: The 2021 Budget Ordinance was presented. A motion to approve the 2021 Budget Ordinance as presented was made by Ty Honhart, second by Sharon Detar, passed unanimously.

Susan: The Ligonier Construction bill discrepancy was resolved.

The speed limit signs and supplies have not all arrived yet.

Crouse stated the Grant, for the roads regarding storm water, with the Westmoreland Conservancy has been completed. A Grant, for the pillars at the front entrance, with the Ligonier Endowment has also been completed. It would be helpful if we receive these grants.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor Sorice stated he spoke to a person from the Westmoreland Conservation District.

He explained the Borough's situation of not having funds to hire an Engineer to implement a plan. The Borough wants to have a plan and be part of the Stormwater Ordinance but will not be able to pass an ordinance by 12/31/20. He asked for their help with recommendations and to take in to consideration of a small area with no open lands. They emailed him a worksheet for guidance.

He noted it being a basic format. His concerns are details with septic tanks and flowing water and how much detail is required in the ordinance. The Conservation would then review the plan and the Borough would approve.

Matt said he has an Engineer friend that may be willing to work for us for a minimal cost. Crouse said an Engineer friend of hers did all the work for the PEMA reports for free after the flood. Matt will discuss with his contact. Crouse added paved driveways can affect soil and storm waters also. Questions were asked regarding past ordinances, that are not signed, but had been approved and filed. These were intended to be uploaded to our website. Sorice stated we can ratify that these records were adopted in the past and had been neglected to be signed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ty added that more information be gathered from local municipalities to work on a fee schedule. Roberts had information on some fees but not on zoning fees to compensate an enforcement officer.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Thomas, second by Ty Honhart, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Roberts, Borough Secretary/Treasurer