

HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH

Luzerne County

Virtual Council Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2020

President Boice welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order at 5:09 and led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mayor Samson - absent Councilmember Kehler - present
President Boice - present Councilmember Flack - present
Vice President Hilburt - present Councilmember Hogan - present
Councilmember Blaine - present Solicitor Bufalino - present
Councilmember Kelly - present
Quorum established

It was announced that the meeting was being recorded.

****Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Council member Kehler made a motion to waive the reading and accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting on September 15, 2020. Vice President Hilburt seconded it, and the motion passed.

Reports from Appointed Officials and Special Committees

Fred Lubnow: Fred reported that Harveys Lake has a number of stormwater basins Princeton Hydro has installed in the watershed since the late 1990's. Instead of installing another, he would like to see if they can increase phosphorus removal efficiency of these structures by adding Biochar, which is a processed wood material that has a high affinity at removing phosphorus. Biochar is relatively cheap to purchase and after being used (typically good for 3 - 6 months) it can be turned into mulch. They will be installing it in April/May and removing it in October - and the Borough can then use it as mulch. They have been using Biochar in NJ this year and the municipalities like the material.

Also, this year they have been installing the Biochar sausages in inlets and streams and would like to do this at Harveys Lake as well, but would need to meet with the regional DEP office and determine what permit would be involved (probably an Obstruction permit); this would be covered under the grant. Also, they may be able to install some in the road-side swales.

Princeton Hydro would like to get some funds to continue to monitor the hydrilla and tubers (not sure if they can use funds to treat the hydrilla but will ask; however, since these are 319 funds and not Growing Greener this is highly unlikely). However, they should be able to get funds to at least monitor hydrilla, which could possibly be used for a match for other sources of funding.

Finally, they will continue water quality long-term monitoring; expanding it a little to collect more data on Harmful Algal Blooms and include another monitoring station just off the Beach area.

Police: The Police Report was sent in advance to all council members

Roads: Vice President Hilburt gave the Roads Report.

Finance: Council member Kehler announced that work on the 2021 Budget has begun and meetings will be held to work on getting it ready for the November meeting.

Zoning: Vice President Hilburt gave the Zoning Report.

Back Mountain Community Partnership: Council member Kehler said that the Partnership is putting together a grant for Police Vehicles, Body cams, and Police computers. The Partnership will send a sample resolution shortly to be adopted at the November meeting.

****Motion to Accept Reports** was made Vice President Hilburt and Seconded by Council member Flack Motion carried.

Opportunity for Citizens to be heard – Residents were invited to send in questions and concerns by email to be heard at this meeting or to join the virtual meeting on Zoom. No emails were received.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Health Insurance – Vice President Hilburt and Council member Kehler met with the representative from Creative Benefits and went over different Plans for 2021. The least expensive option was Geisinger Health and Beam Dental. Council member Kehler made a motion to keep Geisinger Health Plan and change to Beam Dental Plan. Council member Kelly seconded the motion and it passed.

Donations to Individual Department – It was discussed whether donations can be made from a business or individual to a specific department of the borough. Solicitor Bufalino said that they cannot because it is against the law. The gift may create the appearance that the donor is seeking to influence an official action by the department. All donations must be given to the borough and the borough will decide where they will go. The donator can suggest the funds or equipment be earmarked for a purpose and the Borough will keep that in mind when deciding where it will be used.

Renewal of County Waste Garbage Contract – The contract will have to be put out for bids and bid requests will be advertised this month. Council member Kehler made a motion to start the bidding process and Council member Flack seconded it. Motion carried.

DAMA Resolution – The DAMA ordinance on sewer inspections will be advertised and voted on at the November meeting.

Comcast Franchise Renewal

After discussion, it was decided to invite with a representative of Comcast to discuss any benefits we can receive other than increased franchise fees at the November meeting.

Borough Building Grant – Council President Boice announced that we are moving forward with the improvements on the current Borough building. Council member Hogan presented plans to build a new building adjacent to the Police Building. Vice President Hilburt explained that we can't build there because studies were done that showed it was not buildable. Council member Blaine made a motion to talk with the builder and get more information on this. Council member Hogan seconded it and a roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call: Councilmember Kehler no Councilmember Flack yes
Vice President Hilburt no Councilmember Hogan yes
Councilmember Kelly no President Boice no
Councilmember Blaine yes

Motion did not pass

Email of Packets – Council member Blaine asked that any information be emailed to him going forward.

Old Business

****Motion to pay the bills from September** – Council member Kehler made a motion to pay the bills from September of \$77,558.04. Vice President Hilburt seconded it and the motion carried.

Next meeting November 17, 2020 – at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

****Motion to Adjourn** – Council member Kehler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm and Vice President Hilburt seconded it. The motion passed.