

Vandling Borough Council Minutes November 15, 2021

Council President Fran Pantzar called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present included Bill Boyle, Bill Matos, John Mayers, and Fran Pantzar. Also present were Mayor Joseph Brady, Treasurer Jennifer Slick, Attorney Jeff Levine, Secretary Nancy Perri, and Code Enforcement Officer Joe Lavin. Councilmen Carachilo was absent.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous regular and special meetings were approved on a motion by Mr. Boyle, second by Mr. Mayers All were in favor.

Correspondence:

- *Liquid Fuels Monitoring Report*
- *PSAB Borough News Subscriptions*
- *NEIC Christmas Party Invitation*

Mr. Matos made a motion to accept the correspondence, second by Mr. Boyle. Motion carried with all in favor.

Persons to be heard:

Mayor Brady explained that when we met with Forest City, they wanted to increase the cost by \$1,000/month. Mayor Brady and Councilman Carachilo looked for other options and approached the City of Carbondale as they offer 24/hour coverage and are already covering Fell Township. Carbondale Police Chief Brian Bognatz addressed Council and noted that across the country many police departments are regionalizing and there will likely be more of this occurring in Lackawanna County due to increasing costs. The Pocono Region already has a regional program that serves as a model program.

The Carbondale Police Department is offering 24 hours/day and 7/days a week coverage with more manpower on the 3 PM to 12 PM shift as this is when there are generally the most calls. Chief Bognatz explained that the contract with Fell was initially a one year contract as a trail period, they are now in their second five year contract. Chief Bognatz attends Township meetings to provide access for residents. Carbondale has trained investigators and a K-9 unit with experienced officers. Chief Bognatz will be available to attend meetings and will provide Council members his personal cell phone number.

Mayor Brady commented that at the meeting with Forest City, they are also requesting an increase in cinder pricing.

Mr. Mayers stated that he spoke with Nick Cost who said the price for police coverage is negotiable. Mayor Glinton and Mr. Cost would like to discuss the matter further. Mayor Brady commented that a contract with Carbondale would be less costly and provide more coverage which would benefit the Borough. Mayor Brady noted that FCPD has done a good job and this is a financial consideration.

Mr. Boyle asked what Mayor Brady's recommendation is and Mayor Brady replied that he thinks a one year trial would be a good idea and would have more coverage. Mr. Boyle also questioned what the patrol schedule would be. Chief Bognatz stated that would be up to the Borough and tat additional police presence can be requested at different times.

Mr. Boyle questioned if Carbondale City Council needs to weigh in on the plan. They had a special meeting on Friday and agreed to the proposal. They will ratify the contract at their December meeting.

Mr. Pantzar asked if there were any questions from the audience. There was some question about code enforcement issues that become police matters. Mr. Pantzar asked if there is a direct line to the police station. There is not but 342-9111 is the non-emergency number to call and request an officer. Carbondale PD would respond to code enforcement calls and assist the code officer as necessary.

Treasurer Jennifer Slick questioned if it would be an issue that landline calls from the Borough go to Wayne County 911. Chief Bognatz stated that they can alert dispatchers to route calls to Lackawanna County. A policy can be developed.

Mr. Matos made a motion to accept Carbondale proposal. Mr. Mayers stated that everything looks good but he would like to review and compare policy we have with Forest City and that we can approve this at our December meeting. Mr. Boyle asked Attorney Levine if there would be any issues with approving the proposal now. Attorney Levine replied that it would not be in effect until the contract was prepared and signed. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion to move forward with the Carbondale proposal. Motion carried with all in favor. Mr. Boyle noted that we can rescind the motion and not sign if any issues arise before the next meeting.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Report of Financial Status: (final for November)

| | Nov 1, 21 |
|--|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| COVID Grant | 2,144.08 |
| General Fund | |
| HNB - 0113 | 235,869.54 |
| HNB - 4601 | 7,386.20 |
| Total General Fund | 243,255.74 |
| Liquid Fuels Fund | |
| HNB - 4613 | 29,979.50 |
| Total Liquid Fuels Fund | 29,979.50 |
| Refuse Fund | |
| HNB - 5401 | 44,143.69 |
| Total Refuse Fund | 44,143.69 |
| CD Balance (.25% Interest Renews 7/24/22) | 27,861.80 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 347,384.81 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| Principal Balance on Loan | 103,953.26 |
| (Payment Due 1/15/22) | |

A motion was made by Mr. Boyle, second by Mr. Matos to approve the Treasurer’s report, Motion carried with all in favor.

Treasurer Report of Receipts: (final for November)

| Revenue ~ November 2021 | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------|---------------------|--------|
| Date | | Name | Account | Amount |
| 11/02/2021 | | Hab-Eit | 310.20 · Wage Taxes | 394.54 |

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 11/04/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 · Wage Taxes | 1,033.78 |
| 11/05/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 · Wage Taxes | 2,147.18 |
| 11/10/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 · Wage Taxes | 2,191.29 |
| 11/15/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 - Wage Taxes | 1,553.20 |
| 11/16/2021 | Mary Ann Risboskin | 364.00 · Garbage Fees | 245.00 |
| 11/16/2021 | Tumblin Tots | 342.00 · Rent | 1,050.00 |
| 11/16/2021 | Mary Ann Risboskin | 305.00 · Occ. Taxes | 417.44 |
| 11/16/2021 | Lack. Co. Rec of Deeds | 310.10 · Real Estate Transfers | 1,332.80 |
| 11/16/2021 | American Water | 389.00 · Misc. Revenue | 50.00 |
| 11/16/2021 | Lack. Co. Treasurer | 319.00 - Delinquent Taxes | 212.13 |
| 11/16/2021 | Lack. Co. Treasurer | 364.00 - Delinquent Garbage | 238.44 |
| 11/17/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 - Wage Taxes | 2,147.92 |
| 11/19/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 - Wage Taxes | 2,850.52 |
| 11/24/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 - Wage Taxes | 1,231.95 |
| 11/29/2021 | Hab-Eit | 310.20 - Wage Taxes | 1,644.88 |
| 11/30/2021 | Commonwealth Financing Authority | 354.07 – Intergovernmental Revenue | 70,200.00 |
| 11/30/2021 | HNB 0113 | 341.00 - Interest Earnings | 28.73 |
| 11/30/2021 | HNB 4613 | 341.00 - Interest Earnings | 2.67 |

\$ 88,972.47

Mr. Boyle, second by Mr. Mayers motioned to approve the revenue report. Motion carried with all in favor.

Treasurer Report of Expenses: (final for November)

| November 2021 ~ Bill List | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Date | Name | Account | Amount |
| 11/02/2021 | PAWC | 409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities | 46.52 |
| 11/02/2021 | UGI PNG | 409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities | 72.12 |
| 11/15/2021 | Forest City Borough | 410.45 · Police | 2,000.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | Visa (Grant Application) | 452 · .20 Grant | 100.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | PP&L | 409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities | 164.61 |
| 11/15/2021 | Forest City News | 404.20 · Legal Advertisement | 15.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | Holt Lumber | 409.37 · Bldgs. /Grounds Rep & Main. | 21.96 |
| 11/15/2021 | Cube Auto Supply | 430.20 · Truck Gas & Supplies | 25.94 |
| 11/15/2021 | NEP Telephone | 409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities | 83.48 |
| 11/15/2021 | PAWC | 448.36 · Water Hydrants | 331.61 |
| 11/15/2021 | The Scranton Times | 404.20 · Legal Advertisement | 82.80 |
| 11/15/2021 | RB Fries, Inc. | 430.20 · Truck Gas & Supplies | 145.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | Jennifer Slick | 402.10 · Treasurer's Commissions | 400.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | Jennifer Slick | 488.00 · Employees Withholding | (91.12) |
| 11/15/2021 | Nancy Ann Perri | 405.10 · Secretary's Wages | 400.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | Nancy Ann Perri | 488.00 · Employees Withholding | (97.12) |
| 11/15/2021 | Thomas Collins, Sr. | 430.10 · Street Maintenance Wages | 374.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | Thomas Collins, Sr. | 488.00 · Employees Withholding | (85.19) |

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|------------|---------------------|--|----------|
| 11/15/2021 | Thomas Collins, Sr. | 409.20 · Bldgs./Grounds Supplies & Exp | 6.62 |
| 11/15/2021 | Mary Ann Risboskin | 403.10 · Tax Collectors Commissions | 20.87 |
| 11/15/2021 | Mary Ann Risboskin | 488.00 · Employees Withholding | (4.74) |
| 11/15/2021 | James Van Leuven | 430.10 · Street Maintenance Wages | 299.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | James Van Leuven | 488.00 · Employees Withholding | (68.12) |
| 11/15/2021 | Browndale Fire Co | 411.50 · Fire Co. Contribution | 500.00 |
| 11/15/2021 | County Waste | 427.45 · Contract Sanitation Service | 6,417.16 |
| 11/16/2021 | Wex Bank (Sunoco) | 430.20 · Truck Gas & Supplies | 67.85 |
| 11/16/2021 | IRS | 6560 · Payroll Expenses | 392.89 |
| 11/16/2021 | PAUC | 6560 · Payroll Expenses | 42.73 |
| 11/16/2021 | John Lavin | 413.2 - Protective Services | 400.00 |
| 11/16/2021 | John Lavin | 488.00 - Employee WH | (91.12) |
| 11/16/2021 | KBA Engineering | 414.17 - Plan Prep Costs | 730.00 |
| 11/16/2021 | Stafursky Paving | 429.45 San Sewer Const | 9,936.00 |
| 11/16/2021 | PPL | 434.36 - Street Lighting | 938.79 |
| 11/16/2021 | IRS | 6560 - Payroll Expenses | 105.20 |
| 11/29/2021 | UGI PNG | 409.30 - Building Utilities | 185.61 |
| 11/29/2021 | PAWC | 409.30 - Building Utilities | 48.90 |
| 11/29/2021 | Visa | 402.20 – Treasurer Supply | 1.25 |

\$ 23,918.50

Mr. Matos, second by Mr. Mayers motioned to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mayor Report: Mayor Brady wished everyone a happy, blessed, and safe Thanksgiving on behalf of himself and his family.

Solicitor Report: Attorney Levine had nothing to report at this time.

Committee Reports:

John Mayers stated that the holiday decorations will be installed on Wednesday.

Mr. Boyle reported that he has tried to contact Tony Grizzanti at KBA regarding the ongoing water problems and has been unable to connect with him so he has nothing to report at this time. He will meet with him and Mr. Carachilo on site before the next meeting.

Unfinished Business

In regard to the plan for a brake retarder ordinance, Mr. Matos questioned Chief Bognatz if these types of ordinances can be enforced. Chief Bognatz replied that they sometimes do that on Fallbrook Street for trucks accessing the Business Park at Carbondale Yards. Mr. Mayers stated that we can implement an ordinance with guidelines provided by the state.

Mr. Mayers noted that the animal control ordinance changes will have nothing to do with any existing issues. The ordinance would change from 75% of the owners in proximity to the chickens consent to the construction of the coop to no permit can be issued unless all neighbors consent in writing with copies provided to obtain the permit. In addition under Section 3.05 it would add that feeding of feral cats is prohibited. Mr. Mayers made a motion to proceed with implementation with these two changes.

Mr. Boyle questioned what the current status is of the existing issue and it was noted that the owner can keep the chickens but has to move the coop. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-1 with Mr. Matos voting no.

Mr. Mayers stated that we need someone to plow and clean the sidewalks around the Borough building for the daycare center. Joseph Farrell is currently on sabbatical and is willing to take care of these activities twice a day. Mr. Mayers recommended hiring Mr. Farrell contingent upon the completion of a physical exam. Mr. Pantzar questioned what would happen when he leaves but that will not be until June. Mr. Mayers made a motion, second by Mr. Boyle to hire Mr. Farrell at a rate of \$15/hour for snow clearing. Motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Mayers stated that the Ash Boulevard sewer problem will be corrected tomorrow, however, the cost is unknown. Mr. Mayers provided a history of backups in the area stating with having the pipe scoped on August 15th. After he could not obtain responses from other contractors he asked Tom Prince to fix it. Mr. Mayers met with Frank Regal last Wednesday. Mr. Matos stated that the problem at 249 Ash is not a Borough issue.

Mayor Brady noted that Tom Prince is the Sewage Enforcement Officer for the Borough and asked if we shouldn't be going to him for guidance on where the lines are located. Mr. Mayers replied that Frank Regal already knows and has surveyed the area. The issue was a delay in getting someone to complete the project. When the Borough is ready to undertake the larger project we will prepare plans and specifications for distribution.

It was noted that Tom Prince has maps and prints of where the lines are located and this information needs to be brought to the Borough building.

Mr. Boyle questioned how we can approve a project when we don't know the cost. Mr. Pantzar replied that it is an hourly rate. It was stated that we can't stray from the process that was just established. Mr. Boyle does not believe that the project shouldn't be done or that Mr. Prince shouldn't be doing it but that we need to stick to our approved process. Mr. Matos was asked about an estimate and he believes it to be between \$1500 and \$2000.

Mr. Mayers made a motion to move ahead with Tom Prince to repair the sewer problem on Ash Boulevard. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion.

At 201 Ash they will consolidate two storm drains and Mr. Mayers is looking to issue the project to a number of contractors to obtain an estimate. Mr. Matos questioned if this falls under liquid fuels. It does.

Mr. Mayers made a motion for Council to accept the specification prepared and to proceed with bidding. Mr. Matos questioned why PVC is being taken out and concrete installed. Mr. Mayers replied it is to accommodate merging the pipes. The concrete is to accommodate the angle of the pipe coming in from different sizes pipes with multiple issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion, which carried with all in favor.

In regard to the Peterlin Drive sewer pipe depression, Mr. Mayers stated that the Borough has paid for three blockages that were in the main. Mr. Matos disagreed and stated that the blockages were not in that area but were further down the line and the last problem there was on March 9th due to a rock at the end of the main letting debris into the pipe. There was further discussion about this issue. Mr. Pantzar stated that based upon Mr. Matos statements that there may not be a problem and if there is no intention to undertake a project we shouldn't get bids which waste contractors time. Mr. Pantzar stated that we do appreciate all that Mr. Mayers does for the Borough. Mr. Mayers stated that there should be a committee or someone else to address these issues.

New Business

The 2022 budget was introduced with no increase or garbage fees or taxes. The budget is balanced or appears to be balanced but does include federal COVID funds which we are not sure how we are going to expend. Mr. Boyle stated that we should adopt the budget in good faith with expenses. We need to identify projects for the additional \$38K that will be received in 2022.

Mr. Mayers requested to add \$600 to enforcement line item for towing of vehicles. There was a discussion about towing from private property and Mr. Mayers stated that he would still allocate funds for vehicles on the street. Attorney Levine stated that we can work with towing company for charges to go to owner.

Mr. Mayers made a motion to approve the refuse fee to remain at the current rate. Motion carried with a second by Mr. Boyle and all in favor.

Mr. Boyle made a motion to approve the tentative budget, second by Mr. Matos. Motion carried with all in favor and no addition for towing.

Public Comment:

Some residents questioned where the Borough engineer was as they were supposed to be at the last meeting. It is hoped that they will be at the next meeting after a site visit with Mr. Boyle and Mr. Carachilo.

A motion was made by Mr. Mayers, second by Boyle to approve the \$5/load increase in price for cinders from Forest City Borough. Motion carried with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM on a motion by Mr. Matos, second by Mr. Pantzar. Borough Secretary Nancy Perri prepared the minutes.

Nancy Perri
Signature

December 19, 2021
Date