Hawley Borough Council Meeting

 February 8, 2023 7 pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding personnel at 6pm. Present from Council were President Rojas, and Councilpersons Bartleson, Dougherty, Herzog, Mead, and Monaghan. Vice President Faubel was on vacation. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent, Bob Myers, Duane Austin, from the American Legion: Joe Majesky and Hank Schroeder, Mike Stankiewicz of Lake Region EMS, John Clevelawe, Carol Monson, Stephen Prall, Dennis Stinson of Kiley Associates, and Kelly Alogna of Downtown Hawley Partnership.

President Rojas began the meeting with a salute to the flag. She asked for a moment of silence in honor of William “Wink” Reid who had recently passed. He served on Hawley Borough Council and his daughter Rebecca Mead is currently on Council.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Council Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the meeting minutes from January 11.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to ratify the vote to temporarily increase the assistant secretary’s hours up to twenty per week.

Correspondence: on file

Public presentations: Ed Ahern: not present.

Kelly Alogna was present instead of Justin Hoffman to represent DHP in asking for Hawley Borough to partner with them for a Pocono Mountain Visitor Bureau grant. The Borough would be responsible for a quarter of the total amount. DHP was proposing to use the $15,000 grant to erect two freestanding message boards and to repair the stone monuments at the entry to Bingham Park. Motion: made by Councilperson Monaghan and seconded by Councilperson Herzog to join Downtown Hawley Partnership in applying for a grant from Pocono Mountain Visitor’s Bureau.

Motion: Amended by Councilperson Monaghan, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously with Councilperson Herzog abstaining because she is on the DHP board, to partner with DHP for a PMVP grant for signage, repairing the stone pillars, installing a backboard and racks for pickleball, and so going for the maximum grant amount of twenty thousand dollars.

Joe Majesky, President of the local American Legion and Hank Schroeder, their treasurer, pledged $2,500 for bullet vests for the Police.

Non scheduled related to the agenda: Duane Austin asked for an update on her sidewalk repair. Solicitor Bernathy said he has been in contact with her lawyer.

Treasurer: Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and approved unanimously to accept pay the bills as on the bills list with the addition out of the Park account of fifty-six dollars to Hawley Area Authority.

Planning: Councilperson Mead gave the report, now on file.Dennis Stinson of Kiley Engineering had been to Planning and was present with plans for the St. Paul’s Church subdivision that included corrections based upon the county’s suggestions. Solicitor Bernathy suggested that the borough engineer look at the plans and asked that St. Paul’s grant the borough an extension in time to enable this to happen. Councilperson Mead reported that there had also been an informal presentation regarding a potential apartment building on Barker Street.

Rental Inspections: report on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to have registration done in January on a calendar basis.

Ambulance: Councilperson Herzog said that the multi-municipal meeting would be the last Wednesday in February. Mike Stankiewicz of Lake Region EMS gave his report.

Fire Report: Chief Mead gave the report, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: Councilperson Monaghan gave the report, on file. In addition, she spoke about Aqua hitting a sewer line last year by the library despite the fact that Hawley Area Authority had followed procedures from PA One Call.

Zoning: report on file**.**

Code Enforcement: report on file.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty gave the report. Alan Cooper came to Park and Rec to discuss ARC paying for a wheelchair lift for the bandstand.

Grants: President Rojas gave the report, on file. The spillway and bandstand are ready to be bid. Reilly Engineering has been working with DEP. These grants expire in June 2023 so an extension may be needed. The spillway repair will be weather dependent because it needs to be on the dry side. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to advertise on Pennbid for bids for the spillway and for the bandstand with a deadline of March 7, 2023 for them to be received.

Emergency Management: nothing.

Mayor’s report: Mayor Nichols reported he had done a proclamation for a centenarian’s birthday and had visited the adult day care.

Solicitor Update: Solicitor Bernathy had worked on the easement for the Aqua waterline work in Bingham Park and on River Street and had written the rules for the ice rink signage. He suggested Council meet to discuss ordinances.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to advertise a meeting on February 21 at 5pm to discuss ordinances for bonding Paupack Street, to regulate use of the street trash cans, for regulating short term rentals, and any other business that may come up.

Finance: Council is waiting to hear from another auditor before one is selected for the 2022 audit.

Police: Councilperson Herzog reported that the committee did not meet. The 2023 Tahoe is ready to be picked up and the cost is $82,841.00.

Chief’s Report: Chief Drake gave the report, on file. Councilperson Monaghan mentioned that the Volunteers of Paupack would be stuffing eggs on March 23 for the Easter Egg Hunt.

At this point, the discussion turned back to funds to pay for the new Police vehicle and what funds should be used for repair of the bandstand and spillway. Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to use $67,841 from ARP funds and $15,000 from the county with keeping in mind that perhaps a $5,000 donation may be received.

Streets and Roads: report on file.

Building: Councilperson Bartleson had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Councilperson Herzog had nothing to report.

Personnel: Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to hire James Bergefor sixteen hours per week to take care of the parks at $13.50 per hour then going up to $14 per hour if everything is satisfactory after the ninety day probation period and to hire Greg Sorg for thirty five hours a week at $13.50 per hour as general laborer, going to forty hours per week at $14 per hour after the ninety day probation period if everything is satisfactory.

Councilperson Herzog will be writing their job descriptions. Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to establish this protocol for office personnel calling off: the assistant secretary will call the supervisor who will in turn email Council so they are aware and the supervisor if unable to make it in will text the personnel committee and Council President who will send out an email.

Unfinished business: updating the fees will be tabled.

New Business: none.

Public comments: there were none.

Motion: made by Councilperson Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Monaghan, and passed unanimously to go into executive session at 8:13pm. Council went back into regular session at 8:15pm at which point it adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary