Hawley Borough Council Meeting

March 12, 2025, 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding personnel and an ordinance hearing for ordinance 2025-1 amending regulating parking meter fees.

 Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Hawk, Mead, and Rojas. Councilpersons Dougherty and Faubel were absent for medical reasons. Also present were Mayor Nichols, Chief Drake, Director of Public Works Mead, Solicitor Weed, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public were Bob Myers, Julie Snyder, Evan and Christine Spano, Duane Austin, Dean Johnson, Steve Wanamaker,BillMesseneti, Brian Hayes, Peter Becker of TriCounty Independent. President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from the February 12, 2025, Council meeting.

Mayor Nichols presented a certificate of appreciation to Steve Wanamaker for participating in the hidden gift program.

President Monaghan reviewed correspondence, on file: PennDot Traffic Survey, DEP violation notice regarding PaupackFuel, a banner request from St. Paul Lutheran’s Church.

Public Presentations:

Evan and Christine Spano spoke about the problem of speeding on Myrtle. Director Mead noted that stop signs require an engineering study before they are erected. Chief Drake said that the speed limit there is 25 miles per hour. Duane Austin spoke about needing her sidewalk issue fixed. Solicitor Weed said that he would address this within the week. Dean Johnson spoke about the condition of Welwood near the railroad tracks. President Monaghan explained that this was in the railroad right of way and that they had been notified. Solicitor Weed will review Solicitor Bernathy’s file.

To ratify the phone vote: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to hire Hunter Mead part time for snow removal, as needed.

There was a brief discussion regarding the problem of parking on Church and Welwood. Chief Drake explained that currently, both the State Police and the Hawley Police Department can cite for creating a hazard and for parking in the roadway. He said that if the Borough created an ordinance to regulate this, only the Hawley Police Department would be able to enforce.

Treasurer’s report: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to pay the bills as on the bills list.

Park and Rec: Vice President Herzog noted that this year’s Easter Egg Hunt will be a joint one with Wallenpaupack Church joining with the Borough. DPW is getting the fields ready.

Planning: Councilperson Mead reported that no meeting was held in March.

Rental Inspections: Councilperson Mead said that some delinquent letters had gone out.

Ambulance Report: on file.

Multi Municipal Ambulance Mtg. Update: Vice President Herzog said that PPH would meet at the end of the month.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan said that they were waiting for DEP to meet with them and the Munich St. developers.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas reviewed the progress for Bill Messetti’s proposed skate park project. The Borough’s insurance policy requires that the skate park be fenced with the gate locked. The grant requires a fifteen percent match, and the application must state where that funding will come from. The maximum award for this grant is $250,000. The estimate for the skate park is $171,812 plus about $20,000 for the concrete. President Monaghan again stated that no Borough money would be used for this project. Solicitor Weed will create a memo of understanding to be signed by all involved parties.

Next, Councilperson Rojas discussed the County Block Grants that were awarded in 2021 and 2022. For the 2021 grant, Welwood paving was approved but DCED, the grant sponsor wanted a large amount of household income surveys done including on state roads. Therefore, a different project needs to be chosen for this $160,000. Possible projects were discussed including phase two for Highland and Cedar, or Academy, Upper Wangum, and Barker Street. Councilperson Rojas has been trying to meet with the county consultant. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously that the borough redirect the project for the 2021 awarded $160,000- to paving Academy Street as far as it will go**.** Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to request an extension for the 2021 and share that request with the county grant consultant. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to request an extension for the Fiscal Funding year 2022 award of $36, 258.26. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize Councilperson Rojas and President Monaghan to sign any documents upon the solicitor’s approval of these grants. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to apply for the Pocono Mountain Visitor’s Bureau grant. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously for President Monaghan and Councilperson Rojas to sign the payment request in the amount of $12,269.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk had nothing to report.

Solicitor updates: Solicitor Weed reported that he has not yet been able to speak with Solicitor Henry regarding the trail MOU with Palmyra. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to pas resolution to allow Barb Middaugh, the tax collector to destroy records as allowed by law.

Brian Hayes spoke up to say that he had had a chain of custody for sixty years done for his property. Solicitor Weed asked him for a copy. Solicitor Weed is working on liens, the DCNR contract, and eminent domain on the Welwood property. He has not heard back about the Colbert deer issue.

Finance report: the audit has begun.

Police Committee: report from Vice President Herzog on file.

Police Chief report: report from Chief Drake on file. Chief Drake mentioned that on April 12 the Wallenpaupack Church will be joining with Hawley Borough for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The rain date is April 19. At this point, Chief Drake and Fire Chief Mead shared their concern to Brian Hayes about access.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to engage an alternate solicitor for the purpose of a lien.

Streets and Roads: report from DPW Director Mead on file. The parking meter request was tabled.

Building: Councilperson Mead had nothing to report.

Health and Welfare: Vice President Herzog had nothing to report.

Personnel: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to accept with regret, the resignation of Nancy Morales from the position of assistant secretary.

Unfinished business: DPW Director Mead said that he spoke with DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers, and they both verbally said that no permits would be needed to install stairs from the dog park up to the Riverwalk Trail. Council requested he get that answer in writing.

Bill Messenetti asked further questions regarding the Awareness skate park he is proposing. Councilperson Rojas explained that there will be costs for advertising for the bids and for engineer fees. The engineer costs usually don’t go above ten percent of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary