Hawley Borough Council Meeting

February 12, 2025, 7:00pm

94 Main Avenue

Prior to the meeting there was an executive session regarding personnel.

Present from Council were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Dougherty, Hawk, Mead, and Rojas. Councilperson Faubel was 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 and Michele Myers,BillMesseneti, Brian Hayes, Pete and Betsey Robinson, Kayla Troast, Mark Carachillo, John and Angel Hanrahan, Rick McElroy of Lake Region IGA, Sarah Tigue, Nathan Gilpin, Vinnie and Kristine DeMarinis, 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 Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve the agenda with flexibility.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to accept the minutes from January 8, 2025.

Correspondence:

Solicitor Weed will review Tax Collector Middaugh’s request to dispose of certain older tax records.

PennDOT has sent notice that they will be replacing the bridge over Middle Creek.

President Monaghan has been in touch with Wayne County Housing Authority who has now donated $5,000 towards Public Safety.

Public Presentations: There were none.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Nichols presented certificates of appreciation:

To Sarah Tigue for generosity to the community including donating a turkey and Christmas presents.

To Kayla Troast, Betsey Robinson, Mark Carachillo, Nancy Morales, Andrea Racht, the Hawley Fire Police, and the Lakeville Fire Police for work on the parades.

To Pete Robinson, Rick McElroy Of Lake Region IGA, and First Baptist Church of Hawley for work on National Night Out.

Mayor Nichols spoke about the Hawley Bicentennial. He will form a committee to prepare for this event.

Treasurer’s Report: motion made by Councilperson Hawk, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report and pay the bills as on the bills list except for the MRM invoice. MRM will be contacted to ask why the invoice was sent two months earlier than other years and if installment payments are allowed.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Rojas, and passed unanimously to open an interest-bearing account at the Dime Bank for the Outdoor Town Grant.

Park: Councilperson Dougherty announced that a free family movie will be shown on the last Saturday of each month at either Bingham Park or the Hawley Fire Department, depending on the weather. A porta- potty will be kept permanently at the dog park. The Park and Reck Commission has voted to move forward on supporting Bill Messeneti in his project to replace the skate park as long as the Borough does not have to provide the funding.

Planning: Councilperson Mead said there was no report because Planning did not meet.

Rental Inspections: Councilperson Mead said that the letters should be going out. The form was updated to make sure it includes the landlord’s emergency contact. Solicitor Weed will work on the older letters.

Ambulance Report: Vice President Herzog said that the report is on file. PPH met last month and is trying to get other municipalities involved. Only twenty percent of the calls were in the participating municipalities: Hawley, Palmyra Wayne and Paupack. If the PPH hadn’t been formed, maybe the ambulance wouldn’t be here to benefit everyone.

Fire report: Chief Mead gave, on file.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan said it was on file. The DEP meeting regarding the Munich Street project was delayed.

Grants: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to approve submitting a letter of request to extend contract 83203.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to authorize Ann and Michele to electronically sign the contract extension for the Church Street paving project.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay Reilly Engineering Invoice #5 for $3,250 out of the General Account.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to sign the updated contract to engage Reilly Engineering for the LSA grant.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously for the treasurer to submit the LSA distribution report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas and seconded by Vice President Herzog to select the skatepark as a proposed project for the greenways trail grant. There was a discussion that included Bill **Messeneti.** There are other expenses that will take the cost over the estimated $158,000. That does not include a pad or fencing. There was a discussion on where the fifteen percent match would come from. Mr. **Messenti** said that he had raised six thousand dollars and could raise the rest. Solicitor Weed will draw up a memo of understanding for the skate park to be signed by all parties involved. There was a discussion regarding signage and Vice President Herzog remarked that advertising was not allowed. The motion was tabled until the Memo of Understanding is prepared. The Borough will get a quote on fencing and ask the insurance carrier if a fence is required.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas that upon the solicitor’s approval, to sign to engage the engineer for Highland and cedar paving and any other projects that may have been previously approved but need updating. There was no second, but a discussion followed. Motion: made by

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas and seconded by \_\_\_to sign to engage the Borough engineer for Highland and Cedar paving to update.

Emergency Management: Councilperson Hawk had nothing to report.

Solicitor’s report: Solicitor Weed reported that he has been playing phone tag with Solicitor Henry. He has no update regarding C&C, the liens, the Colbert deer population question, or the Austin sidewalk. At this point, Brian Hayes said that he is working on a chain of custody for his property. Solicitor Weed reviewed the Eastwick contract. Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Mead, and passed unanimously to execute the contract with Eastwick for a peer-to-peer Outdoor Town project from DCNR, with the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau providing $2,000 so there will be no cost to the Borough.

Finance report: nothing to report.

Police Committee: Vice President Herzog announced that the Police had gotten new radios and that Sargeant Bertholf will be taking a defense tactics course and the Taser 10 instructor program. Vice President Herzog asked for an executive session regarding personnel at 6:30pm prior to the March 12 meeting.

Chief’s report: on file. Chief Drake said that the Wallenpaupack Church wants to join the Easter Egg Hunt. He reported that a local resident had been scammed by a letter sent from a Virginia address. The letter implied that his donation would go towards bullet proof vests for the Hawley Police Department. The Chief emphasized that the Hawley Police Department does not send letters requesting donations.

Motion: made by Councilperson Mead, seconded by \_\_\_\_, and passed unanimously to advertise a hearing for 6:45pm on March 12 to pass an ordinance amending ordinance 4-2004, regulating parking meter fines.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by councilperson Hawk, and passed unanimously to pass Resolutions 2025-1 and 2025-2 for the Chamber of Northern Poconos to hang banners to advertise the June and September Craft Fairs.

Building: Councilperson Mead said that the electrician had installed a breaker, and that the plumber had been in to repair the boiler.

Health and Welfare: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Unfinished business: Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to authorize Reilly as the Borough Engineer, with Kiley as the alternate.

New Business: nothing to report.

Public comment: Bill Messeneti expressed frustration over the time that the skate park project is taking to get under way. Councilperson Rojas pointed out how much progress has already occurred and noted that these projects take time. Motion to adjourn. The time was 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary