Hawley Borough Council Meeting

August 12, 2020 7pm

94 Main Avenue

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

Present for the meeting were President Monaghan, Vice President Herzog, and Councilpersons Bartleson and Dougherty and Junior Councilperson Camille Sealey-Otero Dougherty. Councilpersons Faubel, Ferrara, and Rojas were present via Zoom. Mayor Hawk was absent due to work. Also present were Chief Drake, Director of Public Works/Fire Chief Mead, Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Bolinger, Solicitor Bernathy, and Secretary Racht. Present from the public was Peter Becker of Tri County Independent.

President Monaghan began the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Correspondence: Thank you note from Joan Kyzer, notice of insurance from A. M. Skier, a letter from FEMA congratulating the Borough on passing the 2019 Flood Plain ordinance, a request from Diana Billard to look into the drainage issue and an email from Steve Gironta praising Scott Mead’s work on the roads and drainage.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer’s report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, to pay bills as on the bill list with the addition of out of General $2.90 to Palmyra for motor vehicle fines and $62.98 for rental inspector supplies due to covid-19, and out PLIGIT $122.50 to John Bonham. Motion was amended to include out of Park $750 to Jim Martin for preparing a grant application for the Gorge Trail and passed unanimously.

Rental Report: Inspector Corino had emailed the report, on file.

Ambulance Report: not received.

Fire Report: Given by Chief Mead, on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to give a letter of support to the Hawley Fire Department regarding a DCED grant.

Hawley Area Authority: President Monaghan emailed the report, on file.

Zoning: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Ferrara, and passed with five yes and two no to ratify the phone vote to have SFM Consulting have three office hours per week as originally stipulated in the contract: Bartleson: Y, Dougherty: N, Faubel: Y, Ferrara: Y, Herzog: Y, Monaghan: Y, Rojas: N.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcer Ralph Bollinger emailed his report (on file) and was present.

Planning: President Monaghan emailed the report, on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation to appoint Justin Hoffman to the vacant Planning seat subject to the solicitor’s opinion. There followed a discussion about Mr. Hoffman owning properties in the Borough but not being a resident. Councilperson Dougherty and Vice President Herzog withdrew their motion, the issue was tabled until the September meeting, and the solicitor’s opinion has been received.

Grants: Councilperson Rojas emailed her report, on file. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed with six yes and an abstention from Councilperson Dougherty who couldn’t hear the discussion, to approve the Tim Farrell engagement letter for the Pennvest audit. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vic e President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay the $4,650 invoice from Tim Farrell for performing the Pennvest audit. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to have the drainage work at Paupack and Falls done by the Hawley DPW.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to delay having the crosswalks painted until next year since it is already August.

Motion: made by Councilperson Faubel, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to commit $15,000 to the Paupack Street repair project with $10,000 from PLIGIT and $5,000 coming out of the money reimbursed by Pennvest for previous flood protection projects expenditures.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to authorize President Monaghan to send letters to Eastern Propane and Palmyra Pike Township Supervisors asking for support and perhaps monetary contributions to the repair of Paupack Street.Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty and passedHerzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed uninamously to to

 Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to do a mailing if needed for the survey required for the county block grant.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to authorize the new and old O&M manual. Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to sign and accept the levee certificate report.

Park and Rec: Councilperson Dougherty gave the report. Motion: made by Councilperson Dougherty, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to only accept monetary donations but not items to be used to raise money.

Emergency Management and Mayor’s Report: Mayor Hawk was absent due to work.

Solicitor: Solicitor Bernathy reviewed items to be done: Opinion on emergency letters before August 26, a review of Timothy Farrell’s offer of services, the open records request sent to the Police, the residency requirement for the Planning Commission, review of the 1959 Fire Department ordinance, Tebenhof, and Tigue, fireworks, and landlord delinquencies.

Finance: Councilperson Faubel reported that Tim Farrell was done with the Pennvest audit.

Police: Vice President Herzog gave the report.

Chief’s Report: Report on file. Amada Boyd has been hired as an officer.

Streets: Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Dougherty, and passed unanimously to spend up to $300 to if possible put the right fixture in to upgrade the light fixture that had been damaged in an accident on Main Avenue.

Motion: made by Councilperson Bartleson, seconded by Vice President Herzog, and passed unanimously to pay $3,750 to Steve Lacinski to crack seal 3,500 feet including on Maple, River, Chestnut, Penn, Woodland, and Atkinson.

Building: The generator will be repaired August 13.

Health and Welfare: nothing.

Landlord/Tenant: Solicitor Bernathy will look into the issue about the Barker Street apartment in Inspector Corino’s report.

Motion: made by Councilperson Rojas, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously with one abstention by Councilperson Dougherty, to reimburse Councilperson Dougherty twenty-five dollars for a code enforcement workshop. Solicitor Bernathy will research a policy for education reimbursement.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to ratify the phone vote approval of the roller and crack sealer pot for $5,000.

Motion: made by Vice President Herzog, seconded by Councilperson Bartleson, and passed unanimously to adjourn. The time was 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Racht, Hawley Borough Secretary