

Union Dale Council Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2023

Council met in regular session at Union Dale borough hall. Members present were Ann Marie Saam, Donna Tedesco, John Stephens, Mayor Teri Madrid, Secretary Diane Gomola, Mike Fortuner via phone. 3 borough residents were attending today.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comment: A resident states her name as Karen Wray of Norton Hill Road. She has several concerns. She wants to know what's happening with all tree work and asks if she has the right to know if the boro is putting in a new road and the cost because she has a driveway. Resident was advised that tree work is preliminary for future road surface. Councilman Mike Fortuner advised resident more permanent road repairs are years out, when the road work begins there will be public notice and a chance for her to voice her concerns and ask questions then.

Resident would like a new stop sign there as current one is hardly readable. President Saam will order a new stop sign for Norton Hill Rd.

Same resident had multiple issues with personal privacy from her property regarding speeding ATV's, trespassers, and darkness at corner. Asked if Borough could put in a utility pole to light corner. Council advised resident the borough has no jurisdiction over private property, advised her to call the police if feels threatened or unsafe.

Same resident asks if she can erect a gazebo near the waterfall. Council advised resident that if the property is not owned by herself, she must request permission of the actual property owner.

Resident also asks how to get a neighbor to clean up unsightly yard and is open burning permissible? Council advised it is allowed. The Borough enforcement officer made the rounds and found no violations. She was also advised to go online and file another complaint.

Another resident asks where the money received from Liquid fuel funds is allocated? Council advised it is not in CD's but being used for the drainage issues on East Mountain & Norton Hill Rds. Snow plowing, deicing, & street signs, the funds are all part of the road budget. Costs for gravel have increased substantially.

Mr. Carl Sinawa of Sinawa Tree Service spoke next. He was concerned the conversations took on a personal tone. Council acknowledged they were informed by the secretary of the reasons for the delays but the lack of communication in a timely manner, after being given a large deposit left council to voice concerns as they are fiscally responsible for the Union Dale resident's money. Councilman Mike Fortuner apologized personally to Mr. Sinawa for misunderstandings and said council's expectations of starting jobs on time led some members to the conversations. Mr. Fortuner stated that going forward the council will be better prepared with what is written into

future estimates. The secretary also acknowledged that the boro is in receipt of Sinawa Tree Service's updated liability insurance.

Minutes from Previous meeting were approved. Motion to approve by Donna, seconded by Mike Fortuner.

Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from Susquehanna Council on Aging for donation.
- Sharkey Fuel Bill credit
- Susq County estimated Assessed 2024 values
- PA Association of Boroughs (PSAB) invoice \$151
- Association of Mayors annual dues invoice \$50.00
- HNB updated pledged securities.
- Updated Certificate of Insurance Sinawa Tree Service
- Tax collector September report \$-0-
- Susq County Exoneration form
- Better Buy Energy Confirmation letters of new electric supplier both accounts 12 months 10-4-2023 start-10-4-2024 end dates
- Susq County September transfer tax- no transactions
- Greater Forest City Business Alliance -membership request
- Justin Ford Semi retirement letter
- Email from new state auditor- our audit is marked as approved.
- DCED Tax code boundary/ class codes amended through ACT 41

Receipts:

- Berkheimer EIT \$36.79
- Berkheimer EIT: \$596.37
- PA Comm of CCD EIT (liquor tax) \$150.00
- Transfer from Liquid Fuels MMDA to Gen DDA acct \$5,000.00
- PURTA deposit \$30.36
- **Transfer** from Liquid Fuels MMDA to LF DDA \$20,000.00

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Gen DDA account \$60,512.37
- MMDA account: \$ \$154,036.85
- Liquid fuels DDA: \$14,165.99
- Liquid fuels MMDA: \$20,844.49
- Sewer CD: \$53,431.15
- Edward Jones 6 month CD: \$38,980.50 (expires 11-13-23) 1.92% return
- Edward Jones 9 month CD: \$38,934.87
- Edward Jones 12 month CD: \$39,872.80

BILLS:

- **DEBIT** USPS Certified letter \$8.56
- **#1564** VOID
- **#1565** SWIF \$4.00
- **#1566** PPL \$ 29.24
- **#1567** PPL \$657.31
- **# 1568** Diane Gomola: \$425.03
- **#1569** VOID
- 1570 Forest City News: \$26.50
- **#1571** PA State association of Boroughs \$151.00
- Prince Excavating : \$4059.00 (Ck#123 **LF DDA account**)

Motion by Donna Tedesco to pay bills, Seconded by John Stephens. All in favor. Motion passed.

Mayor's report:

Committee reports:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Permission to hang Christmas decorations on PPL utility polls is denied due to liability issues.
- Edward Jones now set for secretary to access online as read only permissions.
- QBooks- New option of annual desktop version \$649/ year using a certified QB advisor VS SEK accountants. Online QB will not work seamlessly for our small boro accounts as originally suggested to use by SEK Accounting Firm.
- January 1, 2024 start of QuickBooks, as soon as signed contracts then transition can begin. Open discussion for options needed. Council asks Secretary which she prefers. Diane states " OK with either, Certified QB advisor has 30+ years of municipal

experience.” Motion to elect contract for QuickBooks to Diana Patton, DBA Numbers Made Easy made by Mike , 2nd by Donna. All in favor. Motion passed.

- Norton Hill Road- updates from Sinawa Tree Service regarding best estimate job start (due to equipment delays). Work has commenced on the project.
- Fox Ledge Water- Mike tells us he spoke with parties involved. The hiccup is the regulation of 10 ton tanker weight limit over the road. This is a DOT issue not Union Dale Boro, Fox Ledge advised to seek proper permission forms with DOT.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Edward Jones 6 month CD will expire 11-13-23 <otion to renew made by Mike 2nd by Ann Marie. All in favor Motion passed. Donna is our contact- will implement renewal
- Hire alternative sewer enforcement officer. Diane to investigate Jim McDonald as possible replacement to Justin Ford.
- 2024 Budget meeting
- Record meetings VS Zoom meeting (Internet needed at boro hall)
- Title 8 – annual audit requirements & penalties.
- Guidance from Solicitor on DCED boundary related topics as read above.
- Need to purchase anti- virus software & an external hard drive to back up old data Excel files as well as for use with QB
- Meeting in 2024 will begin at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Each person shall have 5 minutes to make a comment, comments only taken from Union Dale residents and those who pay taxes to the borough.

President Ann Marie Saam questions council member Michael Fortuner when he plans on returning to attend meetings in person? Mr. Fortner apologizes for any inconvenience in the past for not attending, due to medical issues, although he has attended every meeting remotely.

President states Mr. Fortuner previously told council he would consider resigning. Mr. Fortuner states ” that after reconsideration, I will leave that up to the voters to decide, if I was not doing a sufficient job presently”. President Saam states “she will have to do what she has to do.”

ADJOURNMENT:

Mike made motion to adjourn, Secretary did not get name of whom seconded adjournment.

Next regular council meeting scheduled for

Monday December 4, 2023 @ 7 PM

