

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order on Thursday, August 12, 2022, at 7:30 PM by Council President, Mr. Robert J. May.

ROLL CALL: Mr. May did roll call and the following members, staff and professionals were present; Mr. Robert J. May, Council President, Mr. David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Member, Mr. Michael Fritz, Member, Mr. Steve Geibel, Member, Mr. Warren Lubenow, Member, Mr. Ty Leinneweber, Borough Engineer – SDE, Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor – Kozloff Stoudt, Mr. Derrek Rhoads, Roadmaster, Ms. Allison A. Leinbach, Borough Manager, and Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary. The following members were not present; Mr. Gregory Zawilla, Member and Mr. Barrie C. Kinsey, Borough Mayor.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting, Thursday, July 14, 2022, were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Michael Fritz; Mr. Eggert, Rev. Bennethum, Mr. Fritz and Mr. Steve Geibel were in favor; Mr. Robert J. May and Mr. Warren Lubenow abstaining since they were not present for the July meeting.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the bills that were presented. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$94,551.88. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$2,438.24. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$38,888.82. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$15,640.87. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the bills for payment and ratification as presented and file them for audit; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the treasurer's report. Ms. Leinbach indicated that the treasurer's report could be approve as presented and filed for audit. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$555,147.70 **RESERVE:** \$47,279.93 **FIRE TAX:** \$47,151.06 **SEWER:** \$57,987.33 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$266,719.50

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER, SDE

3301 PERKIOMEN AVENUE – There has been no action of the land development plan and an extension is going to be needed in order to keep it current. It was noted that the property is for sale and there is currently potential for change of ownership.

PINE AVENUE/FUNKE STREET – Mr. Leinneweber indicated that the survey should be underway in the next 2-3 weeks.

3209 OLEY TURNPIKE ROAD - This property has sold. The Borough is currently in receipt of permits for interior work and the contractor has been reminded that exterior work needs to be done as well.

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT

PUC - Ms. London indicated that the PUC has scheduled a hearing on the PA American rate increase issue. A settlement conference has been scheduled for August 18, 2022. This will be discussed further in executive session.

ANTIETAM VALLEY SHOPPING CENTER - This matter will be discussed under new business.

REPORT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER - ALLISON LEINBACH

Ms. Leinbach indicated that there were six enforcement notices sent out this past month. Two of those have been resolved. Two have filed for permits. One may require enforcement action.

REPORT OF PUBLIC WORKS - DERREK RHOADS

The public works report was reviewed by Council. At last month’s meeting there were two complaints from residents on Lynn Avenue with regard to speeding. The speed sensory sign was placed again and the report shows that 98% of the vehicles are traveling at less than 30 mph. No further action will be taken with regard to this issue. Also Mr. Rhoads indicated that Met Ed has removed the poles at Adams Street and Ganster Street after Mr. Rhoads reached out to Senator Judy Schwank’s office who then put pressure on Met ED who finally came out to look at the poles in question and decided to remove the poles.

BUDGET & FINANCE

ARPA FUNDS – Ms. Leinbach indicated that we have received a little over \$300 as a settlement on the first round of ARPA Funds and the second round of ARPA funds that we expected to receive in August is delayed for an unknown amount of time.

PLANNING COMMISSION

JOINT COMPREHENSION PLAN - Apparently, there are talks of starting up the Joint Comprehension Plan again. Ms. Leinbach indicated that much of it does not really apply to the Borough however she was asked by Council to reach out to Mr. Bingaman who is the manager of Amity Township to see if having St. Lawrence Borough take part will be helpful to them. Mr. Leinneweber was directed to give the Borough an estimate on the cost of having our own plan rather than joining in with Amity and Exeter.

MUNICIPAL LANDS

BERKS NATURE - Mr. Lubenow asked now since the Berks Nature Agreement was signed if we could do something about the motorized vehicles namely the motorcycles that ride through the woodlands. He would like to see if we can at least get them to sign a waiver limiting the recreational use of their riding.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Rev Bennethem told Council that the library has received a grant to put an amphitheater to hold programs at the library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FIRE ADVISORY BOARD - Exeter Township still has this in a holding pattern.

NEW BUSINESS

ANTIETAM SHOPPING CENTER - It appears that the shopping center is filing for a reduction on their assessment for tax purposes. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she is recommending that Council authorize Ms. London to attend this hearing on behalf of the Borough arguing the Borough's best interest and using documents that were used when the Borough was interested in purchasing the bank property as proof of value. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to attend the appeals hearing on behalf of the Borough; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

PETITION BERKS COUNTY ASSESSMENT OFFICE: It appears that the assessment office somehow changed Borough properties to Exeter properties. This appeared on the documents on the Berks Nature agreement where land that it is clearly in the Borough having been changed to Exeter property PINs.

MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. London to petition the Berks County Assessment Office to change those properties back to Borough properties; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

FIRE TAX DISPERSEMENTS: This also appeared on the approval of the bills document however Ms. Leinbach is looking for authorization of disbursements of \$17,000 to each Exeter Fire Department and Mt. Penn Fire Department. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the disbursements of monies to Exeter Fire and Mt. Penn Fire departments; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 863 - Resolution 863-2022 is an updated Fee Schedule. The updates include fees under street opening for traffic signal override of \$100 for each action. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the adoption of Resolution 863-2022; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 864 - Resolution 864 sets the Borough Halloween Curfew and Trick or Treat nights. The curfew of 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM will go into effect on Monday, October 24th through and including Tuesday, November 1st. Trick or Treat nights will be Sunday, October 30th and Monday, October 31st from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 864 the 2022 Halloween Curfew and Trick or Treat nights; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION 865 - Resolution 865 agrees to option year 2023 for the 2020 residential trash and recycling contract with Solid Waste Services, Inc. d/b/a/ J. P. Mascaro & Sons. The annual fee for trash collection will be \$168,865.80. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 865; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

AMEND THE AGENDA: Ms. Leinbach prepared an Ordinance regarding proposed sewer rate increase which needs to be discussed. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion amend the agenda to discuss proposed Ord. 451; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

ORD. 451 - Ordinance 451 is a proposed ordinance regarding sewer rate increase. There was discussion about the need to do a sewer rate increase. There has not been a sewer rate increase since 2009. The Borough was able to build up funds for maintenance, repairs and projects; the Borough has just completed a \$300,000 project which has depleted the sewer fund. At this time, the funds need to be rebuilt to cover emergencies, maintenance to the system and future projects for the next 10 years. This proposed ordinance will raise base sewer amount to \$37.50 and a per thousand gallon charge to \$7.50. These rates will still be about 40% of what Exeter Township residents are paying using the same sewer system. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. Leinbach to advertise Ordinance 451; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

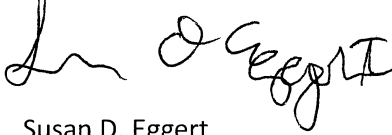
EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to enter executive session to discuss the PUC Settlement hearing and code enforcement issues; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried. Council went into executive session at 8:07 PM. Council came out of executive session at 8:31 PM.

ACTION TAKEN AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: AMEND THE AGENDA: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to amend the agenda to take action from the executive session; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Fritz made the motion authorizing Ms. London to file court proceedings for the demolition of 490 Parkview Road; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan D. Eggert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan D. Eggert
Borough Secretary