

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

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

ROLL CALL: Mr. May did roll call and the following people 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. Gregory Zawilla, Member, Mr. Barrie Kinsey, Borough Mayor, Mr. Ty Leinneweber, Borough Engineer, Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor, Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager, Mr. Derrek Rhoads, Road Master and Mrs. Susan Eggert, Borough Secretary.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the Monday, January 3, 2022, Reorganization meeting were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes from the reorganization meeting; seconded by Mr. Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried. The minutes from the regular meeting on Monday, January 3, 2022, were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2022, meeting as presented; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Bills requiring payment and ratification were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$112,991.89. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$158,421.34. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$6,478.34. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$2,750.00. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications of the bills presented for payment and ratification. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was a revised December 2021 treasurer's report presented to Council for approval. Ms. Leinbach indicated that there was an error in the reserve account balance and therefore a revised report was presented. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the revised December 2021 treasurer's report; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$438,383.12 **RESERVE:** \$82,191.79 **SEWER:** \$336,318.38 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$255,427.54 **FIRE TAX:** \$4,441.09
The treasurer's report from January 2022 was presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the treasurer's report. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the January treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$387,738.21 **RESERVE:** \$82,209.25 **SEWER:** \$212,117.27 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$250,875.15 **FIRE TAX:** \$1,988.72

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER, SDE

Mr. Leinneweber told Council that he has nothing new to report.

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUT

ORDINANCE 450 - Ordinance 450 is the new open burn ordinance. Ms. London has reviewed and Council has previously authorized the Ordinance for advertisement. The open burn ordinance will be advertised for adoption at the March 2022 meeting.

DRAFT ORDINANCE FOR MUNICIPAL FEES, LIENS - Ms. London indicated that she had sent a draft ordinance for municipal fees and liens. This will be forwarded to Council after Ms. Leinbach has a chance to review.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - BARRIE KINSEY

The Mayor read his report which is part of the minutes for review. Also the police report was available for review.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 7:30 PM. The small communication ordinance will be the topic of discussion.

RECREATION - DAVID EGGERT

The Borough is planning on having the annual Easter Egg hunt this year. It will take place on Friday, April 15, 2022, at 9:00 AM at the playground.

LIBRARY LIAISON - REV BENNETHUM

The library will be having their book by the bag sale this coming weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SMALL WIRELESS COMMUNICATION ORDINANCE - The Planning Commission will be reviewing this at their February 23, 2022, meeting.

BERKS NATURE AGREEMENT - This will be discussed in executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

CERTIFICATE OF UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES - The tax collector reported that there were two unpaid real estate tax bills totaling \$898.73. These bills will be turned over to Berks County Tax Claim for collection. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion ratifying the certificate of unpaid real estate taxes to Berks County Tax Claim totaling \$898.73; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

CERTIFICATE OF UNPAID FIRE TAX: The tax collector reported that there were two unpaid fire tax bills totaling \$86.60. These bills will be turned over to the Borough of St. Lawrence for collection.

MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion ratifying the unpaid fire tax bills totaling \$86.60 to be turned over to the Borough of St. Lawrence for collection; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

AEP ENERGY - The contract for electricity will expire in 2023. We have received a quote and have locked in with a price of \$0.05388 for a new five-year contract. Authorization is needed to ratify this contract. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion authorizing the signing of a contract/agreement for electricity at a price of \$0.05388; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

DISBURSEMENT OF ARPA FUNDS - There has been a request from the Central Berks Police Association for \$14,444.35 which is 7.5% of the funds the Borough has received to be used as premium pay for essential workers that bear the greatest health risk during COVID. There was a short discussion and all

questions were answered. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing \$14,444.53 to cover premium pay for essential workers during COVID to Central Berks Regional Police Association; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REIMBURSE SEWER FUND FROM ARPA FUNDS - Ms. Leinbach is requesting that a reimbursement be made to the sewer fund out of ARPA monies to cover the cost of the sewer infrastructure project totaling \$75,225.00. This would pretty much wipe out the ARPA funds that have been received to date however another \$92,000 is expected around the March timeframe. Mr. May indicated that he is opposed to doing this because once the reimbursement is made to the sewer fund it can be transferred out if the Borough has another project that they would like to do with those funds. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the reimbursement of \$75,225.00 to the sewer fund from ARPA monies to cover the sewer project costs; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; Rev. Bennethum, Mr. Eggert, Mr. Fritz, Mr. Lubenow, Mr. Geibel and Mr. Zawilla voting in favor; Mr. May opposed; the motion carried with a vote of 6-1.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. May indicated that at this time he is requesting an executive session to discuss the Berks Nature Agreement, real estate and personnel issues. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, Berks Nature and Real estate; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried. Council went into executive session at 8:04 PM. Council came out of executive session at 8:49 PM.

PERSONNEL: After a lengthy discussion, Council has decided to make a current part time employee full time to the road crew. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Ms. Leinbach to make the appropriate changes to the road crew taking a part time employee, Jennifer Ulrich, to full time status; seconded by Mr. Fritz; 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 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert
Borough Secretary