

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 7:30 PM by Council Vice President, Mr. David Eggert.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the Thursday, June 9, 2022, meeting were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Steve Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification were presented to Council for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$108,395.85. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$4,608.23. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$58.67. There was an addition to the liquid funds bills for the signs that were approved last meeting. The invoice totaled \$9,983.47. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mr. Gregory Zawilla; 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. **MOTION:** Mr. Geibel made the motion approving the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mr. Zawilla; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$578,633.81 **RESERVES:** \$47,272.42 **FIRE TAX:** \$45,521.39 **SEWER:** \$37,912.64 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$281,204.35

PUBLIC HEARINGS, PETITIONS:

JILL KEMP/JOHN LALCUP - Residents lives at 3945 Lynn Avenue and 3946 Lynn Avenue. They both e-mailed in with a concern about the speeding on Lynn Avenue. This was discussed and addressed about a year and a half ago when we did a speed study with the speed sensory sign in this area. The top speed was about 42 but the study revealed that only 1.2% of the vehicles were traveling over 30 MPH. This was discussed and Council asked Mr. Rhoads to put the speed sensory sign back up to deter people from speeding and to post a Watch Children sign in this area. Copies of the past study and the new study will be sent to the concerned residents. **MOTION:** Mr. Geibel made the motion to put the speed sign back up in this area after new batteries are obtained and to place a Watch Children sign in this area as well as provide to those concerned copies of the past and present speed study; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER, SDE

Mr. Leinneweber indicated that he really had nothing new to report. He indicated that they are working on the survey of Pine Avenue and Funke Street but needs to get any official maps the Borough may have in their possession to help with the survey. Mr. Rhoads will look for the maps and get them to Mr. Leinneweber.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT

PUC HEARINGS – Ms. London indicated that she did intervene on the Borough’s behalf for the PUC hearings regarding PA American and the proposed sewer rate increases. They are going to be holding public hearings over the next two weeks and Ms. London will be in touch with Mr. May to get his availability to attend these hearings.

REPORT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER - ALLISON LEINBACH

Ms. Leinbach did submit a written Borough Manager’s report; all information is included in this report.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Mr. Rhoads submitted a written report. Mr. Rhoads indicated that Ms. Leinbach, Mr. May and himself attended a PennDOT preconstruction meeting involving the resurfacing of St. Lawrence Avenue as well as placement of handicap ramps. It was noted that they will be installing 31 handicap ramps along St. Lawrence Avenue this fall and will do the resurfacing in May of 2023. It was noted that the Borough has given them permission to work at night in order to get the paving done in a much smoother fashion than working through the day because of traffic conditions. Mr. Rhoads also indicated that Comcast is moving forward with the project and are in the process of pulling the necessary permits.

AMENDING THE AGENDA - At this time a motion to amend the agenda to authorize Mr. May to sign the MS4 permit. **MOTION:** Mr. Zawilla made the motion to amend the agenda to discuss the MS 4 stormwater permit; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried. **MOTION:** Mr. Zawilla made the motion authorizing Mr. May to sign the MS4 application for stormwater; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - BARRIE KINSEY

The Mayor gave his report which is included in the minutes. The police report was available for review as well.

BUDGET & FINANCE - ALLISON LEINBACH

Ms. Leinbach indicated that the ARPA funds are expected to be deposited into the Borough account shortly.

RECREATION - DAVID EGGERT

Mr. Eggert reported that the playground program is running very well and attendance has been overall very good.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

READING REAL ESTATE - It was noted that the improvements agreement with Reading Real Estate needs to be filed. Ms. London indicated that her paralegal was assigned to that duty today.

NEW BUSINESS

BERKS NATURE - Ms. London noted that the amended Berks Nature Agreement with all of the changes requested is ready to be signed. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum made the motion authorizing Mr. May to sign the amended agreement with Berks Nature; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REQUEST TO REMOVE HANDICAP PARKING ON GANSTER STREET - Mr. Rhoads is looking for authorization to remove the handicapped parking sign on Ganster Street. This was requested by a tenant who is no longer living at that residence. Ms. Leinbach indicated that parking on Ganster Street is limited and that is the reason for asking to eliminate the handicap parking space. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum made the motion authorizing Mr. Rhoads to remove the handicap parking sign and space from Ganster Street; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried.

BAMBOO - Ms. Leinbach indicated that she received an e-mail from a resident who is concerned about her neighbors bamboo taking over her yard. This was discussed and Pennsylvania law does not declare it an evasive. The resident was encouraged to keep it trimmed back off her property which is allowed by Borough Ordinance.

SEWER PAYMENT FORGIVENESS - The Borough received an e-mail request that was included in the packet from a resident whose daughter and granddaughter live at the property. Apparently, they had a sprinkler timer malfunction resulting in a \$400 water/sewer bill. They are asking for forgiveness of the sewer portion since the water never entered the sewer system. Council discussed and felt that since we are billed by PA American based on water usage that forgiveness could not be given because the Borough still needs to pay that amount for sewer processing and suggested that the resident call Mt. Penn Water for a payment plan.

RATE CALCULATION FOR SEWER - Ms. Leinbach prepared a spreadsheet with sewer rate calculations. This was discussed; Ms. Leinbach told Council what was needed to be brought in to cover the expenses and that a sewer rate increase is going to be have to be done at some point. It was further noted that the Borough has not done a sewer rate increase since 2007. It would be easier to justify small increases over time versus a large increase all at once which typically angers the residents.

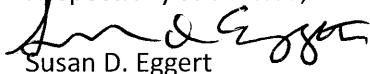
TRAISSER – There was a meeting with Traisser and they are actively working on the software. Apparently, the online portal is complete and the GIS material is in the process for being inputted. Ms. Leinbach said that she is very interested in getting the tenant/landlord application up and running and that will be a large focus once the software is ready to be used by the Borough.

MASCARO TRASH CONTRACT - Mascaro has verbally expressed interest in extending the one year option of the 2019 trash contract. Information was mailed out to be signed.

COUNCILS AVAILABILITY FOR MEETINGS - It was noted that Mr. Zawilla will not be available for the August meeting and Rev. Bennethum will not be available for the October meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Zawilla made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert

Borough Secretary

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

7/22