

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 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, 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, Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager, Mr. Derrek Rhoads, Road Master, Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary and Chief Ray Serafin, Central Berks Police. Mr. David Eggert, Council Vice President, Mr. Gregory Zawilla, Member and Mr. Barrie Kinsey, Borough Mayor were absent this evening.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the Thursday, April 14, 2022, meeting were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. Warren Lubenow made the motion approving the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Michael Fritz; 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 approval. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$95,755.04. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$138,438.54. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$2,887.59. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$4,048.78. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the bills that were presented. **MOTION:** Mr. Fritz made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mr. Steve Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was presented to the members of Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the treasurer's report. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion approving the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**GENERAL:** \$641,448.67 **SEWER:** \$99,416.92 **RESERVE:** \$82,248.89 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$238,201.69 **FIRE TAX:** \$39,531.27

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER, SDE**

**SURVEY OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE EASEMENT** - There is a property off of Church Lane Road who was previous granted an easement from the Borough however the easement was done incorrectly and needs to be fixed. The property has since sold. Mr. Leinneweber presented a map detailing the easement. Ms. London will need to prepare an easement agreement according the survey map. There are two pins that still need to be placed and this was discussed in detail. SDE will place the pins according to the survey. Mr. May also suggested that the Borough get its own easement from the property owner in question who is Mr. Henry Koch, for Borough use by employees and possible contractors for the Borough. Mr. May also suggested that the easement expand to lat and long which can be accessed by cell phone.

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUDT**

**LETTER TO BERKS NATURE** - Ms. London indicated that she has sent a letter to Berks Nature regarding the agreement that is currently in place. She is awaiting response from them at this time.

**REPORT OF BOROUGH CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER - ALLISON LEINBACH**

Ms. Leinbach discussed with Council the various properties that were for sale and were sold or have sale pending proposals in place and the potential for zoning issues with each of those properties. This was discussed in detail and all questions were answered.

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - BARRIE KINSEY**

Mayor Kinsey was absent this evening. The police report was available for review. Ms. Leinbach also noted that the resident's request for detailed police reports in the newsletters are now posted on the website.

**PUBLIC WORKS - DERREK RHOADS**

Mr. Rhoads report was reviewed. Tests were done by MJ Reider for the MS 4 waiver where the water comes in and exits the Borough to prove there is no change added by the Borough. This information will add in obtaining a waiver on MS 4 stormwater. It was also noted that the Borough uses Mt. Penn's backhoe but shares in the maintenance cost of the equipment. Ms. London was directed to work on an agreement with regard to shared equipment with other municipalities to aid in the workman's comp issues that could arise from accidents with using such equipment.

**SANITARY SEWER - ALLISON LEINBACH**

Ms. Leinbach indicated that she received e-mails from PA American about sewer rates. They have submitted rate increases before the PUC (Public Utility Commission). Ms. Leinbach prepared a handout with regard to rates showing current rates and rates that are being presented to the PUC. There is a significant change in the rates, which shows a 30% increase. At this point we will have no choice but to raise sewer rates this year and possible raise them again next year. The sewer fund has been used to maintain the system and has been pretty much depleted at this point. Mr. May explained that there has not been a rate increase since 2009 and that a lot of work has been done to the maintenance of the system since that time. Mr. May is suggesting that we send Ms. London to the PUC hearing showing how much work the Borough has done to the collection system and prove that we only flow through such a small section of what was the Exeter collection system to argue the kind of increase that PA American is proposing to the PUC. **MOTION:** Mr. May made the motion authorizing Ms. London to go to the PUC hearing to represent the Borough in the matter of sewer rate increases; seconded by Mr. Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried. Mr. Rhoads also indicated that manholes are being pulled and monitored during significant rain fall events looking for additional I & I.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

There will be no Planning Commission meeting in May. The Commission did meet to discuss the small communications ordinance and there have been a lot of questions with regard to restricting height of poles and units. Ms. Leinbach and Mr. Leinneweber will be doing more research on this matter. There may be a June meeting which will be determined after the next Council meeting.

**RECREATION**

**PLAYGROUND PROGRAM** - At this time we have only been able to recruit one playground leader. We cannot run the playground with only one leader. This was discussed and if we cannot find reliable good candidates for leaders by June 1, 2022, the playground program for summer 2022 will be canceled. Mrs. Eggert indicated that she has reached out to Exeter High School for help in recruiting leaders for the summer program.

**ZONING HEARING BOARD**

Ms. Leinbach indicated there is a possibility that two applicants may go before the Zoning Hearing Board since their zoning permit applications were denied and variances will be required if they want to do what was requested on the application.

**MUNICIPAL LANDS**

Mr. Lubenow indicated that he did take 10 to 12 people on his annual hike in the woods on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**LIBRARY LIAISON – REV BENNETHUM**

Mr. Lubenow and Rev. Bennethum were helping the library move books today getting ready for their book sale this weekend.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**EXETER ADVISORY BOARD** - Exeter Township has tabled the matter at this time.

**AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPALPAY** - Ms. Leinbach indicated that we have entered into agreement with Municipipay for people to pay for permits online with the use of the Traiser system. They will also have the option of dropping off checks or mailing them in. This agreement has fees being charged to the individual when using credit cards or e checks. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum made the motion to confirm the signing of the Municipipay agreement; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

Mr. Fritz just wanted to comment on the continuity of the Borough Council to work together to get things done in the best interest of the residents of the Borough since neighboring municipalities are having so many issues among themselves and how proud he is of Council’s ability to work together. Mr. Geibel was in agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert  
Borough Secretary