

**ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023**

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 members, staff and professionals were present; Mr. Robert May, Council President, Mr. David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Member, Mr. Michael Fritz, Member, Mr. Warren Lubenow, Member, Mr. Gregory Zawilla, Mrs. Cori Zana, Borough Mayor, Member, Ms. Pamela Stevens, Borough Engineer SDE; Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor Kozloff Stoudt, Mr. Derrek Rhoads, Road Master, Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager, and Mrs. Susan Eggert, Borough Secretary.

ABSENT: Mr. Steve Geibel, Member

PUBLIC HEARING: Mrs. Tabitha Symons of 3547 Stoner Avenue was present this evening for the public hearing with regards to the opening of Funke Street. Mrs. Symons is still opposed to the opening of Funke Street. The hearing will be next month, Thursday, August 10, 2023 immediately following the opening of the meeting for discussion of the opening of Funke Street; the ordinance will also be advertised for adoption as well at the August meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the June 8, 2023, meeting were distributed to the members of 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; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the bills presented. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$97,923.62. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$9,861.24. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$7,350.16. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$2,201.03. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

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

GENERAL: \$691,132.55 **RESERVES:** \$118,409.70 **SEWER:** \$146,090.26 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$264,876.94 **FIRE TAX:** \$43,051.24

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT – PAMELA STEVENS, SDE

PARKVIEW ROAD BRIDGE - Ms. Stevens indicated that she went after the storm which produced about eight inches of rain to inspect the bridge. Ms. Stevens reported the bridge actually held up rather well considering the scour and vegetation that surrounded the bridge, in fact, there is now less vegetation

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than prior to the storm and the scouring is not any worse than it was prior to the storm. The Borough will be moving forward with the repairs to the bridge that were previously discussed at June's meeting. In addition, Mr. May, Mr. Rhoads and Ms. Leinbach met with Alan Piper, Planner III Transportation with the Berks County Planning Commission, Mr. Piper indicated that the Parkview Road Bridge was on their radar for replacement however this can now be expedited. There is an opportunity to replace the bridge at a five percent cost to the Borough. There were a few options that were discussed; they are looking for a letter of interest to move on to the next step for bridge replacement. Ms. Leinbach indicated that if we budget for a 4 million dollar bridge the Borough cost would be \$200,000. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to authorize the Borough office to send a letter of interest for the bridge replacement to the Berks County Planning Commission so that we can enter into an agreement for replacement of the Parkview Road Bridge; seconded by Mr. Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

STORM DAMAGE - Ms. Stevens indicated that she had received e-mails from County DES after she reported the damage from the storm and they indicated that they would do the windshield damage report however Sunday evening after the storm Mr. Eggert, the EMC, filed all of the reports required. Mr. Eggert will look into the confusion about this matter.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - CORI ZANA

Mayor Zana presented a report which is included in the meeting minutes as well as the police report for June. Mayor Zana also talked about the storm and reported that the post office lost their fleet of 33 trucks. Mr. Eggert, the Emergency Management Coordinator, indicated that he had stopped at the post office and they stated that they had no damage; Mayor Zana will share her contact with Mr. Eggert to get the proper information on damage so that it can be reported to County DES.

BUDGET & FINANCE

OPTION 2024 FOR TRASH CONTRACT - J.P. Mascaro is on board to extend the option year 2024 of the trash contract. A letter was received to this effect and an extension agreement will be signed and sent to them for option year 2024. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to send the extension agreement; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR AUDIT - The 2022 tax collector audit was e-mailed to all of the Council members for review. There were no findings. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum made the motion to accept the tax collector audit for 2022 calendar year; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES TAX CREDITS - Ms. Leinbach presented Council with those qualified for the volunteer fire services tax credits. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the certification of the volunteer fire services tax credits; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the disbursement of the actual refunds to those who were certified; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR - DAVID EGGERT

STORM DAMAGE - Mr. Eggert indicated that he was out during the storm and assessed the damage that was done and helped to barricade and close off streets that were flooded. At this time, Mr. Eggert is asking for a declaration of local disaster emergency. Mr. Zawilla asked what doing this will get for the Borough; Mr. Eggert explained that this will get funding for damages that occurred and that the County as a whole, needs to reach a certain dollar amount and the state as a whole needs to reach a certain dollar amount. It is really our understanding that Berks County specifically our area got hit the worse during this storm event. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to file a declaration of local disaster emergency; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

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PUBLIC WORKS - DERREK RHOADS

Mr. Rhoads reported that the Borough did experience an SSO during the storm event and this was reported to DEP today. This back up occurred in the same location as always during a significant rain event because Exeter or now PA American lock their manholes down; we are not sure if they are still being locked down but when the PA American systems backs up it backs up into our system resulting in an overload of the system. Mr. Rhoads also reported that the Antietam Creek through the Borough is now significantly wider than previously, approximately four feet wider.

LIBRARY LIAISON

Rev. Bennethum reported that by next month the library should have a new director.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

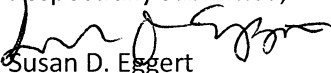
HUNTING ORDINANCE 453 – Mr. May explained that the ordinance did not have enough votes to move forward at the June meeting and since Mr. Lubenow was absent and very much in favor of this ordinance the Council tabled the ordinance until Mr. Lubenow could be present to defend his arguments for the ordinance. Mr. Lubenow indicated that he knows the Council's main concern about this ordinance is enforcement. He told Council that he spoke with members of the Exeter Police Department and the Game Commission Warden who told him that this would be a great thing to have in place. The Exeter Police representatives said they would respond to calls if they received any calls about people hunting on the land with rifles and the Game Commission Warden said they would respond if called. At this time the timeframe for adoption of this ordinance is crucial so that people can start applying for permits to hunt on our land. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion to readvertise Ordinance 453 Hunting ordinance for adoption at the August meeting; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

JOINT COMPREHENSION PLAN - Mr. Lubenow indicated that he sat through the Zoom meeting for the Joint Comprehension Plan with Exeter, Amity and Douglass Townships along with Borough of St. Lawrence. The biggest topic of discussion was the cost and whether or not to split the cost by population or acreage. The reason to involve as many municipalities as possible is because the more municipalities involved the greater possibility of receiving grant monies. There was a possible discussion about what could be done if Antietam Shopping Center could be developed as something to consider. The consensus was to pay by acreage which would cost the Borough \$355.38. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing the Borough staff to send a letter of interest to Berks County Planning Commission expressing the interest in being part of the Joint Comprehension Plan; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to enter executive session to discuss real estate; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried. The Borough Council entered executive session at 8:32 PM. Council came out of executive session at 9:12 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Fritz made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried. The Borough Council adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert

Borough Secretary

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