

BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 11, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 PM by Council President Mr. Robert J. May, on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Council President Robert May did roll call, the following members were present; Robert J. May, Council President, David W. Eggert, Council Vice President, Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Member, Michael Fritz, Member, Steve Geibel, Member, Warren Lubenow, Member, Gregory Zawilla, Member, Corrie Zana, Borough Mayor, Derrek Rhoads, Roadmaster, Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager /Treasurer, Borough Solicitor Joan London, and Amanda Muso, Borough Secretary. Borough Engineer Pamela Stevens was absent for tonight's meeting

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the previous meeting, were presented to Council for review. There was one correction regarding a name at the adjournment in the March minutes. Correction was made and there was no further corrections or questions. **MOTION:** David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Rev.Bennethum; all were in favor so the motion carried.

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification up to and including April 11, 2024 were presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund up until April 11, 2024 totaled \$115,467.31; sewer fund totaled \$55,016.18; liquid fuels fund totaled \$0.00; fire tax fund totaled \$0.00; EMS tax fund totaled \$5,093.90. **MOTION:** Dave Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Michael Fritz; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

GARAGE GRANT FUNDS: A motion was made to approve the return of the Public Works Grant money requested by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A check for \$400,000 was written to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A check for \$13,582.76 was written to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

An EFT was made to the Borough of St. Lawrence for professional services rendered in the amount of \$1,980.50

MOTION: Dave Eggert made the motion to approve the rescinded funds to the Commonwealth; seconded by Warren Lubenow. All were in favor so the motion carried.

MOTION: A motion was made to authorize the closing of the PLIGT Public Works Garage Grant account. Rev. Bennethum made the motion to close the account; seconded by Dave Eggert; all were in favor and so 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 report.

MOTION: David Eggert made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$411,606.28 **SEWER:** \$175,873.26 **RESERVES:** \$133,380.21 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$294,807.05 **FIRE TAX:** \$6,024.30
PW GARAGE GRANT: \$15,563.26; **EMS TAX FUND:** \$4,685.30; **TOTAL FUND BALANCE:** \$1,041,939.66

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments made.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS, SDE

Pamela Stevens submitted her report which was added to council's packet for review prior to the meeting. Included in the report was that before a garage is placed or built, the property must have the residence completed first.

The floodplain ordinance will continue, more work will continue starting April or May when the weather permits. The borough and Engineer will review the existing Ordinance with hopes of a revised Ordinance. There were no questions, comments, or concerns with her report.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR – JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUTD

There was no prior notification of a tax-exempt status change for The Goodwill Outlet and Donation Center located on St. Lawrence Ave. to either the borough or the Exeter School District.

There was a ten-year term of tax exemption for The Goodwill given to them by the county, which is now expired. The Borough of St. Lawrence will join the Exeter School district in filing an appeal, since neither was notified on the date of when the status ended it resulted in the appeal being filed past the 30-day allotment. Joan will be working on behalf of the borough, with the Exeter School District to continue with the appeal process to end the tax-exemption for Goodwill Outlet and Donation Center.

The council agreed to allow Joan continue the process as needed.

A motion was made by Dave Eggert; seconded by Greg Zawilla; all were in favor so the motion carried.

Joan also filed an argument on behave of the borough and residents against the rate increases for water usage.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - CORRINE ZANA

Mayor Zana submitted her report prior to the meeting which has been added into council's packet for review. There was no new news to be reported. The next commission meeting is to be held May 2, 2024.

PUBLIC WORKS - DERREK RHOADS

Derrek Rhoads submitted his report which was added to council's packet for review prior to the meeting. Met-Ed has been contacted numerous times regarding how they leave worksites as well as poles behind. The borough did receive a LS 4 Grant for the purchase of a new dump truck, plow and salter. We are still waiting on the second half of the grant to purchase a new paver and Bob Cat. The truck grant totaled \$104,607; the Bob Cat grant totaled \$222,093. In the upcoming weeks Exeter will assist the borough for spring street sweeping. Our Public Works crew will be assisting Mt. Penn and Lower Alsace on debris and trash clean up from continued waste from the July flooding. They also assisted in cleaning up debris and

litter from the municipal lands. Yard waste pickup will continue to be on Monday's. There were no questions, comments, or concerns with his report.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission does not have any new business to discuss.

ZONING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT: ALLISON LEINBACH, BOROUGH MANAGER

Letters have been sent out to those properties who have had complaints filed due to unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 893-2024: Appoint Michael Fritz as a Library Liaison.

MOTION: Warren Lubenow made the motion to appoint Michael Fritz; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and so the motion carried.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR FLOODING –

The emergency declaration from the July, 2023 flood continues and will be renewed April 14, 2024.

MOTION: David Eggert made the motion to renew the declaration; seconded by Steve Geibel; all were in favor so the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Greg Zawilla made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Michael Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Muso
Borough Secretary



