

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy

Jerome Yetko

David Hayes

James Kissell

Todd Learn

George Wozniak

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar-Secretary. Absent was John Morgan.

**Visitors:**

In attendance were: Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch, Randy Griffith with the Tribune Democrat. Several PAJRC members, Rich Olshavsky-Township Supervisor, several Summerfest Committee members, several PARPC members. Residents Jean Kinley, Gary Yusko, and

The meeting commenced with Mr. Matt Grohal; the Recreation Director for the Windber Municipal Authority. Mr. Grohal provided a detailed account of his responsibilities as the Recreation Director and the functions of the Authority. Mr. Grohal also presented several fliers for Council to review. The PAJRC members questioned Mr. Grohal on the fund raising, generation of revenue, and control over expenditures. Mr. Grohal also elaborated on the following programs and attractions at the park that included:

- Summer Day Camp
- Pavilion rentals
- Swimming pool rates and programs
- Gym rentals
- Dance hall and Zumba
- Roller derby
- Wine festivals
- Music and bands
- Basketball

Council also questioned the formation of the Authority vs a Commission, and the chain of command. Mr. Grohal advised that the Authority is run by the Board of Directors that are appointed by Borough Council. The Board oversees the Recreation Director. Council has a liaison on the Authority and Mr. Grohal attends the Council meetings. Mr. Grohal also commented that he was successful in several grants for the Authority. Mr. Grohal also elaborated on the lifeguards, certifications, employees, testing, maintenance, security, compensation, and benefits. The Windber Recreation is not classified as a 501-c3 status. The materials provided by Mr. Grohal are on file in the Secretary's office. Council thanked Mr. Grohal for attending the meeting.

Borough resident; Mr. Gary Yusko advised Council that he has had flooding in the alley and in his basement due to the recent sewer project. The contractor had repaved and the curb is now too low. Mr. Yusko advised that he already approached the Sewer Authority, the Contractor, and the Eads Group. Mr. Koban and Mr. Bowman had investigated the area as well. Mr. Yusko also commented that the repairs to be made by the Contractor, will only be a temporary band aid fix. Mr. Yusko informed Council that the fire company responded the last time for flooding but was concerned with the upcoming weather calling for rain storms. Mr. Koban advised Mr. Yusko that he will contact the Eads Group and talk with the engineer first thing in the morning. With the project being with the Portage Sewer Authority; it is their responsibility to remedy the situation. Mrs. Yusko's neighbor Laverne also advised Council that her basement had flooded as well. Council informed Mr. Yusko that the Sewer Authority meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month and to report the damages at the meeting. Mr. Yusko thanked Council for their attention in this matter.

Ms. McCarthy went out of order on the agenda to address the Portage Area Joint Recreation Commission of implementing a “zero tolerance” policy at Crichton McCormick Park. Several members of the Commission received complaints of 4 juveniles who are using foul language, damaging property and harassing other people within the Park. Ms. Kinley advised that it is the same 4 juveniles every year that cause the issues and they are usually at the park around 5:00 p.m. She also advised that a police officer informed her that kids will be kids and they can’t do anything about it. Mr. Wozniak commented that was an acceptable answer and to get the officer’s name. Mr. Koban commented that the rules and regulations are enforceable through the Code of Ordinances; Chapter 16 “Parks and Recreation. Ms. Claar informed Council that Chief Miller has a park violation book in his office noting any individuals that have been warned of their conduct. Mr. Kissell advised the PAJRC and area residents to contact the police dept of any individuals who are causing trouble or misconduct. Other suggestions were to post the Ordinance on the board at the park under the regulations.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Gaunt Property-there was no update provided.
- B. Nicholson Property-a ten-day notice was issued.
- C. Borough Roof-Mr. Koban advised that a meeting will be held with American Roofing, the Building Committee, and Stiffler, McGraw on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- D. Lee Street Retainer Wall-Mr. Koban has a letter drafted; along with pictures, to send to Norfolk Southern.
- E. Crum Property – 907 Jefferson Avenue: Mr. Emerick will be sending a letter to the Crums advising of a public hearing on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
- F. Moyer Property-1100 Lincoln Ave-the grass has been cut.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The USDA grant for the police cruiser is being reviewed. The USA submitted an e-mail requesting additional information that was not included in the application. Mr. Koban advised that motion will be needed from Council to obtain a RD Loan/grant for the police vehicle.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO SEEK/OBTAIN A RD LOAN/GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE USDA FOR THE PURCHASE OF A POLICE VEHICLE. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

2. Borough Tax Collector; Mrs. Joanne Redfern submitted a request to purchase new tax collection software from RAK Computer Associates. The previous version is antiquated and will not be supported. RAK sent a proposal in the amount of \$300.00 annually that would be split between the Borough and the Portage Area School District for a total of \$150.00.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PURCHASE TAX COLLECTION SOFTWARE FROM RAK COMPUTER ASSOCIATES; BETWEEN THE

BOROUGH AND THE PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, A COST OF \$150.00 ANNUALLY. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

3. The Portage Volunteer Fire Department sent notice of a revised rental agreement for the social hall for special events purposes. There was a previous agreement under Resolution 9-2003. The revised agreement set new rental prices that are required by a borough resolution.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 6-2016 BY APPROVING THE RENTAL AGREEMENT AS SUBMITTED BY PORTAGE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENTING THE SOCIAL HALL FOR SPECIAL EVENT PURPOSES. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. A resignation letter was received from Mr. Mark Stancovich on the Portage Water Authority Board, effective on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MR. MARK STANCOVICH FROM THE PORTAGE WATER AUTHORITY, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2016; AND TO ADVERTISE FOR THE VACANT POSITION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

### **3. Paying of the Bills**

Ms. Claar presented a copy of the bills to be paid in written form.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AND ADDITIONAL BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,995.96. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MAYOR KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

### **GOOD OF THE BOROUGH**

Ms. McCarthy questioned the status of the Cambria County Firemen's Convention that will be sponsored by the Portage Vol Fire Co in 2017. Mr. Koban advised that the issue should be placed back on the agenda for an update at the July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Mr. Yetsko questioned if they were going to utilize the back alley as in the past. The convention committee will be contact to attend the next meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Kissell read correspondence from a Johnstown Film Company encouraging enthusiasts and communities to be part film for tourism. The film would promote tourism and businesses. Mr. Koban suggested placing the issue on the agenda for the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M.