

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, October 17th, 2016.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Jerome Yetsko

David Hayes
Todd Learn

George Wozniak
John Morgan

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

Visitors:

In attendance were: Mr. Ron Portash with the Dispatch.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Recreation Director/Manager position

Mr. Koban advised Council that he has not been successful on any return calls from the grant writer; Mr. Tim Longwell regarding the Recreation Manager position. Mr. Koban commented that he will attempt to contact Mr. Longwill and PADCNR to move forward with a future meeting.

B. Borough Roof Project

Mr. Koban advised that there was no update and we are now coming into the fall and winter months.

C. Public Works Building Loan

Mr. Koban commented that we are waiting on DCED approval. Ms. Claar advised that the last proof of publication for the adoption of the ordinance was submitted to Mr. Emerick and DCED.

D. CVA grant for Trout Run Flood Protection

There was no update from Mr. Wisor.

E. Promoting Tourism in Portage-

Mr. Portash informed Council that he is now working on two magazine articles for the brochure and will present it to Council in the near future.

F. Sell/bids for 2009 Ford Cruiser

Mr. Koban advised Council that until we have the new 2017 Police Interceptor vehicle in service or on the premises, the 2009 cruiser won't be made available for sell or public bids.

BUILDINGS:

A. Gaunt Property-532 Dulancey Drive

Mr. Koban advised that there was no update

B. Nicholson Property-517 Main Street

A citation was filed with District Magistrate Prebish's office and is pending a hearing date.

C. Nicholson Property-Storage units at Sugar Alley

Mr. Koban informed Council that a letter was received from the previous Attorney; Mrs. Michelle Tokarsky, regarding the Nicholson Estates and the easement. Mr. Pat Nicholson submitted a Right to Know Request for various items. Mr. Koban advised that the information requested was provided to Mr. Nicholson that was on file at the borough office.

- D. Kissell Property-1315 Jefferson Avenue
Mr. Kissell obtained a compliance permit from Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency and is in the process of repairing the structure due to the fire damage.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

A. USDA Grant/Loan for 2017 Police Interceptor

Mr. Koban advised Council that the proposed ordinance was advertised and the final step is adoption.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED ORDINANCE 2-2016 BY PURCHASING A 2017 POLICE INTERCEPTOR THROUGH GRANT/LOAN FUNDING WITH USDA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,800.00. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

B. Pro Disposal garbage contract

Mr. Koban advised Council that the garbage collection contract with Pro Disposal will be expiring on December 31st, 2016. Mr. Koban questioned Council if they would want to place the garbage collection out for bids or to have Pro Disposal renew the existing contract for another year. After a short discussion, Ms. McCarthy straw polled each member (6) of Council and agreed to have Pro Disposal submit a renewal contract for 2017. Council will review the proposed renewal contract and take official action at the next regular meeting.

C. Various requests from the WinterFest Committee

Ms. Claar received various requests from the Committee to hold the annual event from December 9th thru December 11th, 2016.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE WINTERFEST COMMITTEE REQUESTS TO ACCESS THE ELECTRICAL SERVICE ON MAIN STREET; TO HANG THE WINTERFEST BANNER ACROSS MAIN STREET; TO CLOSE SEVERAL LOCATIONS ON MAIN STREET; AND TO CLOSE MAIN STREET ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2016 AT 2:00 P.M. FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, 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. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AND ADDITIONAL BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,574.88. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Ms. Claar advised Council that two (2) letters of interest/re-appointment were received for the Portage Joint Recreation Commission and the Portage Area Sewer Authority. There were no letters of interest/re-appointment for the Portage Area Planning Commission or Portage Water Authority Board. After a short discussion,

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING:

MRS. SHARON SQUILLARIO TO THE PORTAGE AREA JOINT RECREATION COMMISSION TO A THREE (3) YEAR TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1ST, 2017 THRU DECEMBER 31ST, 2019.

MR. DONALD MOORE TO THE PORTAGE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY TO A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1ST, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST, 2021.

VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

After another short discussion on the Portage Area Water Authority and the Portage Area Planning Commission:

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO RE-ADVERTISE FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST ON THE PORTAGE AREA PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM AND THE PORTAGE AREA WATER AUTHORITY FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1ST, 2017-DECEMBER 31ST, 2021. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Trick or Treat for the borough will be held on Sunday, October 30th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

WinterFest is scheduled for December 9th through December 11th, 2017 with the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 10th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. sharp.

There being no further business

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION PURPOSES. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INTO THE REGULAR MEETING. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 7:14 P.M.