

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, March 20th, 2017.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Jerome Yetsko

David Hayes
Todd Learn

James Kissell

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; Ms. Jean Kinley; S&T Bank reps: Mary Ann Brunnet and John Carey.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL AGREED TO GO OUT OF ORDER ON THE AGENDA TO RECOGNIZE THE VISITORS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

S&T Bank representative; Mrs. Brunnett introduced herself as the bank branch manager and Mr. Carey as the financial loan officer. Mrs. Brunnett informed Council that S&T Bank would like to provide and offer financial services to the Borough. Mrs. Brunnett commented that the Borough hasn't had a financial relationship with S&T for several years. She is requesting that the Borough open up an account with them, as well as First Summit Bank. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Koban commented that the Borough has an excellent relationship with 1st Summit Bank and they provide great services and rates. In the past, the Borough was with Portage and M&T Bank and the relationship was poor. Mr. Koban advised that every two years (re-organization) the Borough advertises and designates the bank depository. Mrs. Brunnett commented that S&T Bank would like to put in a proposal for financial banking services. A lengthy discussion took place on:

- the relationship and services with the prior management of now S&T;
- S&T services and financial loan quotes
- Support to local organizations and the community
- Municipal investments and rates

Council thanked Mrs. Brunnett for attending and advised that in December, 2017; the Borough will be advertising for a financial depository in 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on DCNR Recreation Director/Manager Peer to Peer Grant Study

Mr. Koban informed Council that he attended the last Portage Area Planning Commission meeting and elaborated on the letter of support for the Peer to Peer Study grant application. Mr. Koban advised Council that the board was misunderstanding what the request for a letter of support was to be utilized for. After a short discussion, Mr. Koban informed Council that the Portage Area Planning Commission will provide a letter of support for the Peer to Peer Study grant application. Mr. Koban also advised that Mr. Longwill is waiting on a response from DCNR. The local share of the \$1,000 or \$1,100.00 will now longer be required upfront for the grant application. Ms. McCarthy suggested that the grant be reviewed prior to submission.

B. Borough Roof Project

Mr. Koban advised Council that American Roofing is in the process of reviewing the agreement and will be discussed at the April 3rd regular meeting.

C. CVA grant for Trout Run Flood Protection

Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Wisor provided an update at the March regular meeting.

D. Promoting Tourism in Portage

Mr. Kissell advised that he did not have Mr. Portash's number to contact him regarding the brochure and the pictures. Mr. Portash provided his contact information to Mr. Kissell.

E. Sacred Heart Church Tax Exemption

Mr. Koban advised that Ms. Claar completed the appeals hearing paperwork and that signatures are required from Ms. McCarthy to submit to the Cambria County Tax Claim Bureau. Mr. Koban also commented that he received an e-mail from the Christian Post seeking background information on why the Borough is seeking the taxation.

F. Special Events Parking

Mr. Koban provided a proposed ordinance amendment for the special events parking regarding the back of the Administration Building on Central and Branch Street. Mr. Koban commented that Ordinance 2-1999 was adopted at a fee of \$20.00 per event. During the codification process with Penns Valley Publishers; Ord. 3-1999 encompassed ALL the ordinances, at there was a typographical error that has the fee for the special events parking reflecting \$2.00 per event. Mr. Koban proposed that the draft be amended as follows:

from \$2.00 per event to \$2.00 per space, per event, per day

Mr. Koban commented that this would be fair to any and all businesses in the future. After a short discussion on parking situations, leases, spaces, and fees,

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADVERTISING OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE; BY AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PART 7, SECTION §705 CONCERNING SPECIAL EVENTS PARKING. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Mr. Kissell questioned if the Portage Vol Fire Dept provided any updates or plans for the upcoming Cambria County Firemen's Convention. Mr. Koban advised that he has not had any additional information from the firemen. Council agreed that the Fire Company be invited to April 3rd, 2017 regular meeting of Council to provide an update. Mr. Wozniak suggested sending them a letter and outlining what information we are requiring. The information being requested is: security, parking, traffic control, footprint or plans of where events will be held, crowd control for Josh Gallagher on Thursday, and meeting with Mr. Yetzko to determine the roping off of his property.

BUILDINGS:

A. Gaunt Property-532 Dulancey Drive

Mr. Emerick advised that Mr. Wisor had inspected the property and the Gaunts are in compliance with the demolition agreement. Mr. Emerick contacted District Magistrate Prebish's office to withdraw the complaint and hearing. Per Council direction, the issue can be removed from the agenda.

B. Nicholson Property-517 Main Street-Mr. Emerick in process of civil proceedings. Several members commented that the safety of the property is getting worse.

- C. Nicholson Property-Storage units at Sugar Alley-there was no update and per Council direction, the issue can be removed from the agenda.
- D. Mark Kissell Property-1315 Jefferson Avenue – No update.
- E. Property at 1007 Conemaugh Avenue-Vivis
Mr. Koban informed Council that Ms. Claar had contacted the Cambria County Tax Claim Office to place the property on the next Judicial Sale. Ms. Claar advised Council with a timeline for each sale:
- Private sales are held on a quarterly basis; March, June, Sept, and December
 - Upset Sales are held the seconded Monday in September; usually after Labor Day
 - Judicial Sales are held annually; usually in October

2. New Business:

A. Discussion on Ash Street

Ms. McCarthy questioned Mr. Kissell if his property was landlocked from Ash Street, to which Mr. Kissell commented yes. Mr. Koban provided a timeline of what transpired in the past with a history of Ash Street and advised that it was never opened. Mr. Koban questioned Mr. Kissell as to what his intentions would be. Mr. Kissell commented that in the past, he did not want it open due to future expansion on his property. Mr. Kissell is now seeking Council consideration to maintain, open, and repair Ash Street in front of his residence. Detailed maps were reviewed with property lots, alleys, and roadways within the area of Ash Street. Mr. Koban commented that Ash Street is not really considered an alley; only that it used to be called Shady Avenue, prior to 9-1-1 street addressing. Mr. Wozniak commented that this is a unique situation to a property owner that is landlocked for ingress and egress. A lengthy discussion took place on maintaining Ash Street extension by gravel and stone base, repairing, compacting, where to begin and end. Mr. Kissell commented that it would be approximately 250'. Other issues discussed were assessments and locations.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL APPROVED TO PLACE SHALE ON ASH STREET EXTENSION AT THE START POINT OF LOT 10 DOWN THROUGH LOT 5 ON THE SOUTH SIDE AND TO MAINTAIN THE ROADWAY IN THE FUTURE. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1; WITH MR. KISSELL ABSTAINING.

B. Review and approval of the 2017 list of Activities for Portage Volunteer Firefighters

President Patty Rousell submitted the 2017 list of activities for the fire department to be covered under the borough's workers' compensation insurance. Council reviewed the list and did not approve number 15: Other activities approved by the officers of the fire company throughout the year. Council requested contacting the Fire Company to have them remove the item in the future.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE 2017 LIST OF ACTIVITIES FROM THE PORTAGE VOL FIRE DEPT; EXCLUDING #15 ON THE LIST. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

3. Paying of the Bills

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

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,879.55. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

The Portage Women's Club will be sponsoring the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Crichton McCormick Park on Saturday, April 15th at noon.

The Cambria County Borough Association will be holding the 2017 Spring meeting/dinner at Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Ebensburg on April 18th, 2017, with social hour at 5:15. Those attending; Mr. Wozniak, Mr. Kissell, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Koban, and Ms. Claar. (5)

The Portage Public Library sent a dinner invitation for their 2017 "Love the Library" campaign to be held on April 24th, 2017 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. RSVP's by April 20th, 2017.

Mr. Hayes presented a brochure of an ATV/UTV's program that was implemented by Renovo Borough Council. Mr. Hayes elaborated on the program and suggested that Council consider such a program for Portage. After a short discussion;

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PLACE THE ISSUE ON THE APRIL 3RD, 2017 REGULAR MEETING FOR DISCUSSION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Mr. Learn conveyed that he was upset with the Mayor declaring a snow emergency and shutting down the avenues within the Borough during last weeks' snow storm. He received several residential complaints on where to park their vehicles, etc. Mr. Kissell commented that the media coverage was not effective by informing the residents. Mr. Kissell also commented that in the future, discussions should be held for a snow emergency shutdown on avenues.

Ms. Kinley commented that Main Street is in poor condition with all the coal residue on the street coming from Amfire/Rosebud Mining and suggested contacting them to clean up the streets. Amfire/Rosebud will be contacted for a street sweeper to clean Main Street. Another issue was the speeding of the coal trucks and the jake brakes being used. Mr. Koban commented that since it is a state highway, the Borough has no control on the use of jake brakes.

Mr. Kissell questioned if the Hockey Club had received a liner for the rink. Mr. Koban commented no, that he has not heard anything.

Ms. McCarthy requested an executive session.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY WENT INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL ISSUES. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY WENT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY WENT INTO THE REGULAR MEETING, VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

There being no further business

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 8:19 P.M.