

A Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy

James Kissell

Todd Learn

David Hayes

Jerome Yetsko

John Morgan

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary, and Ms. Wozniak, Jr. Council.

Absent was Mr. Wozniak.

Visitors:

Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers, Members of the PAJRC, Members of PAYA, Jean Kinley, and members from the Portage Area School District.

Mr. Koban and Council welcomed all the members from the above organizations for attending the meeting. There was no representation from the Portage Area Youth Hockey Association or the Portage Township Supervisors. The meeting was to discuss available grant funding through the Community Foundation on various projects/ideas at Crichton McCormick Park. Ms. Brittany Blackham is a grant writer through Rep. Frank Burn's Office that will be assisting with the grant application. The grant application is through the PA DCNR Small Community Development Program that provides funding for municipalities with a population under 5,000.00 for any recreation or park projects. The grant funding will provide funds of \$20,000.00 with no matching funds. After the first \$20,000.00, a local match is dollar for dollar. A discussion took place on approximately \$60,000.00 park improvement project. Mr. Koban commented that he would like ideas from the above organizations to prioritize a list of improvements needed at the park. Jill Lamar; representing the Portage Area Joint Recreation Association, had several improvements that included:

- fencing around the tennis courts
- improvements to Kid's Place,
- mulching
- additional playground equipment
- repairs to the shelters and pavilions.

Greg Letzo; representing the Portage Area Youth Association, mainly take care of the baseball and softball fields only do projects that the PAJRC approves. Several improvements that the PAYA would like to address are:

- Drainage in the fields
- Replace sidewalk by the fields
- Construct a new sidewalk to the new restrooms by Kid's Place
- Lighting from the fields to the restrooms

Ms. McCarthy commented that the ½ percent of earned income tax is earmarked for community and capital projects. Mr. Koban also commented that the borough and township should be responsible for any financial obligations. After a lengthy discussion, everyone was in agreement to concentrate on two improvements. Fencing and drainage was to priority. The first is to obtain estimates for the fencing around the tennis courts by the PAJRC and PAYA will obtains estimates for drainage by the ballfields.

Mr. Koban suggested the PAJRC and the PAYA also contact the Portage Township Supervisors to assist with any financial support and attend their next meeting on March 6th, 2019. The timeline for grant submission is March 19th and all information will be forwarded to Ms. Blackham

at Frank Burn's office. Mr. Koban and Council thanked the organizations for attending the meeting and commented that the meeting was a great start in communication and unity.

Mr. Pete Noel; representing the Portage Area School District, was in attendance for the park improvements and also to elaborate on a youth employment initiative for on the job training for students. The program is affiliated with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR). Mr. Noel presented everyone with brochures and documents outlining the program. Mr. Noel is in the process of contacting area businesses as well to become providers of the program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Koban informed Council that there were no updates on the unfinished business portion of the agenda.

- A. Update on Recreation Manager-No update
- B. Update on Borough Roof-No update
- C. Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation
There was no update.
- D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164
There was no update.
- E. Update on PennDot Multimodal for Main Street
There was no update.
- F. Update on Main Street Improvements Phase III
There was no update.
- G. Update on restrooms and Crichton McCormick Park
There was no update
- H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge-12-year plan
There was no update.
- I. Update on repairs to the creek walls at Johnson Avenue
There was no update-Scheduled for in the Spring.
- J. Update on hiring of maintenance workers and funding for the PAJRC
There was no update.
- K. Discussion on candidates for the Portage Area Planning Commission board.
There were no letters of interest received.
- L. Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase I
There was no update.

Buildings

- A. 933 Sonman Avenue Property (Greenawalt)-No update.
- B. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)-No update.
- C. Update on junk vehicles-work in progress.
- D. 828 North Railroad (Gaunts)-No update.
- E. 720 Orchard Street (Plummers)-No update.
- F. 406 Caldwell Avenue (Barclay)-No update.
- G. 925 Main Street (Lewis)-No update.

- H. 532 Dulancey Drive (Gaunts)-No update
- I. 1007 Conemaugh Avenue-waiting on the Cambria County Redevelopment Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proclamation request from PA One Call.

The PA One Call had sent an email requesting municipalities to approve a resolution proclaiming the month of April as the Safe Digging Month.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 2-2019 BY APPROVING AND ANNOUNCING THAT THE MONTH OF APRIL IS THE PENNSYLVANIA 8-1-1 SAFE DIGGING MONTH AND CELEBRATING 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF PA. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

B. Approval to advertise for a part time patrol officer.

Mr. Koban informed Council that with the resignation of Officer Freiwald and Officer Bob Miller, he is requesting to advertise again.

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADVERTISING FOR PART TIME PATROL OFFICERS. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

C. Mr. Koban advised that there will be a building committee meeting on Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

D. Request form the Portage Women's Club for Vic Miller to collect for the Easter Egg Hunt.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE PORTAGE WOMEN'S CLUB REQUEST FOR VMR. VIC MILLER TO COLLECT DONATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2019. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0

Paying of the Bills

Ms. Claar presented a copy of the bills and additional bills to be paid in written form. Mr. Morgan questioned the bill from Ebensburg Collision Center. The repairs were made to the 2017 Ford Explorer that was hit by the trash dumpster.

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PAY THE BILLS IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,053.13. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Mr. Hayes informed Council that he is inquiring if an ATV Parade for the St. Patty's Day would be permissible within borough streets and the football stadium parking lot on March 16th, 2019. Mr. Koban commented the Chief Miller would need to research the ATV's and the School District would also need to be contacted for use of the parking lot. Mr. Hayes commented that the funds raised could be donated back to Crichton McCormick Park. Mr. Morgan commented that this

would be opening up a can of worms and a liability issue. Council agreed to table the issue until additional information is obtained. The issue will be placed on the agenda for March.

Mr. Kissell advised that the signs entering the Borough are in dire need of repair. A suggestion was made to contact Admiral Peary Vo-Tech and the Portage Area School shop class.

Mr. Learn and Mr. Kissell both commented on the snowplowing during the most recent snow and ice storms. The roads have wind rows and the cross streets were a mess. Mr. Learn questioned the protocol for plowing and questioned the timeframes. Mr. Kissell commented that the drivers need to learn from their mistakes. Mr. Koban commented that this year the Public Works Department is now plowing curb to curb, opening up the roads even wider.

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

The meeting concluded at 8:19 P.M.