

A Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Monday, September 16th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
David Hayes

George Wozniak
James Kissell
Todd Learn

Jerome Yetsko
John Morgan

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; and Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary

Visitors:

Ron Portash, Mainline Newspapers, Members of the Allegheny Ridge Riders ATV Club (Doug Wagner)
Brent Kinley; Portage Municipal Authority.

Ms. McCarthy called on a spokesperson for the Allegheny Ridge Group, Doug Wagner. Mr. Wagner and members questioned Council if they could provide boundary maps for the water shed area that has been posted by the Portage Municipal Authority last week. Mr. Koban informed Mr. Wager that the issues and maps should be addressed to the Municipal Authority, the Borough has no say in the matter. The watershed area is off limits to all ATV/UTV's due to the sediment entering the Benscreek reservoir. There are several trails that are severely damaged by the ruts and impeding sediment into the watershed. Mr. Morgan commented that it is not only from the ATV/UTV but also from the timbering companies, the windmill farms, and approximately 700 acres are clear cut for a proposed solar farm for energy generation. Mr. Morgan also advised that it would take at least 3 years to have the areas recover. Mr. Brent Kinley; representing the Portage Municipal Authority, informed the group that the PA DEP had inspected the area and made the recommendation to post the area for no ATV/UTV traffic. Mr. Kinley also informed the group that this is all new and that he will be working with the forester for recovery options. Mr. Wagner provided an overview and a list of activities the club participates in which include:

- Support Charity Runs-approx \$20,000 in two charity events
- Repair trails with machinery and materials
- Volunteerism for local communities
- Obtaining a non-profit organization status
- Assist in any boundary areas
- An activity the whole family can enjoy
- In the process of forming a search and rescue team

Mr. Hayes commented that he has asked for several items from the Water Authority and hasn't received anything. He also questioned if the Municipal Authority is a government entity that would have to follow the Right to Know Law with any requests. Mr. Kinley advised that he can request any information/documentation as long as he completed a right to know request form. Mr. Kinley also informed Mr. Hayes that the issue should not have been brought to the borough or remarks made on social media. Mr. Hayes and Mr. Kinley got into a debate about several issues. Mr. Wozniak also commented that several trails are in poor shape. Mr. Kinley informed the group that he will work with the DEP, the Game Commission, and the forester for the best options and invited the group to the next Water Authority meeting. Mr. Koban thanked the group for attending and encouraged them on there future endeavors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update on Recreation Peer Consultant

Mr. Koban advised that we are waiting on a representative from the Portage School District. Mr. Portash commented that Kathy Hough was appointed at the last school board meeting. Representatives from Portage Township will be Supervisor Ben Selapak and resident John Nicholson. David Hayes- the Planning Commission; Sharon Squillario-Joint Recreation Commission, George Wozniak-Boro and just need a resident member.

- B. Update on Borough Roof-No update
- C. Update on Trout Run Rehabilitation-successful on the grant funding with DCED.
- D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164-PennDot is mapping out utilities
- 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 Main Street Improvements Phase IIIA-Application was submitted for grant funding.
- H. Update on restrooms and Crichton McCormick Park-Mr. Koban advised that he spoke with Gary Wisor of Stiffler, McGraw and there are still issues on the grading and grass areas being muddy. Andre will be talking with Brickley Construction on the above issues.
- I. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge-12-year plan- No update
- J. Mainline Trail Feasibility Study Phase-Mr. Koban informed Council that Mr. Laird is working with Gary Wisor and himself on the small study for bridge access in and out of the borough. Mr. Wisor will provide additional information at the October regular meeting.
- K. Update on grant funding for Crichton McCormick park through DCNR and Frank Burns Office. There was no update.
- L. Update on welcome signs-There was no update.
- M. Update on Richard Bernazzoli property-Mr. Koban advised that he did have the property surveyed and the attorneys have been in contact with each other.
- N. Update on fire damage at 1010 Jefferson (Plummer) and 1012 Jefferson (Seese)-Ms. Claar sent out letters to the property owners advising of the fire escrow ordinance and to seek their options for repairing and if they had insurance.

Buildings

- A. 933 Sonman Avenue Property (Greenawalt)-There was 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)-There was no update.
- F. 406 Caldwell Avenue (Barclay)-There was no update.
- G. 925 Main Street (Lewis)-No update.
- H. 532 Dulancey Drive (Gaunts)-No update

I. 1007 Conemaugh Avenue-scheduled demolition between 8/19/19 and 10/17/19 - Mr. Koban informed Council that Penelec was notified of the meter that still has power and service that was for a trailer. Ms. Claar contacted Penelec and have the remove the meter and the service.

New Business:

A. Approval of a resolution to transfer a liquor license from Portage Township to Portage Borough. A short discussion took place on the Sheetz liquor license transfer concerning the timeline for the PA Liquor Control Board. Mr. Morgan commented that the Borough of Coalport had denied a liquor transfer for the Unimart.

MR. KISSELL MOTIONED, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF THE LIQUOR LICENSE TO SHEETZ. ANOTHER DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE WHEN Ms. MCCARTHY CALLED FOR QUESTIONS/REMARKS. MR. KISSELL AND MR. HAYES BOTH RESCINDED THEIR MOTION.

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO TABLE THE TRANSFER UNTIL THE OCTOBER MEETING. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

B. Sign Variance request by Portage Alliance Church-Ms. Claar presented Council with the specifications of a sign for the Portage Alliance Church. The sign measured 29.2 square feet and the sign ordinance has a maximum of 26 square feet. Mr. Koban commented that the ordinance requires a public hearing when a variance request is submitted.

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. MORGAN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ADVERTISE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT THE EXPENSE OF THE REQUESTER. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

C. Approval to pave Green Avenue- Mr. Koban informed Council that he has had several requests from residents to pave Green Avenue from Main Street to the trailer courts. Mr. Koban also advised that with the rental of a paver, the project can be completed in house. Mr. Kissell questioned the Township paver to be used. Mr. Koban advised that the Township paver is in poor condition. Mr. Morgan suggested contacting other paving contractors. Mr. Koban commented that he contacted several of those companies and they would not be able to get it done this year. Mr. Koban also commented that with the paver rental, other small projects can be done within the week. The cost for the paver for a week would be approx. \$3,500.00 and the material would be approx. \$4,875.00. With the delivery of paver coming from Butler, PA, the fee would be close to \$1,000.00. After a short discussion;

ON MOTION OF MR. MORGAN, SECONDED BY MR. LEARN, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PAVE GREEN AVENUE AND TO RENT THE PAVER FROM WALSH EQUIPMENT, WITH THE COSTS BEING PAID FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

D. Approval to advertise for a part time patrol office-Mr. Koban suggested to Council that a part time patrol officer will need to be hired. We are down two part time officers due to resignations. Mr. Koban commented on placing the ad on Indeed.com website. There is no charge for the first week but there would be a fee after that. Indeed.com would assist in a greater exposure of the job posting.

ON MOTION OF MR. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ADVERTISE WITH INDEED.COM FOR A PART TIME PATROL OFFICER. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO PAY THE BILLS IN WRITTEN FORM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,642.90. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

The Borough of Gallitzin sent notice of the Cambria County Borough Association Dinner. The dinner will be held at the Gallitzin Sportsman Hall on October 22, 2019 with social hour at 5:30 p.m. RSVP is expected by October 15th, 2019.

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. LEARN, SECONDED BY MR. YETSKO, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO ADJOURN. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. MORGAN, MR. YETSKO, MR. WOZNIAK, MR. HAYES, MR. KISSELL, AND MS. MCCARTHY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The meeting concluded at 8:02 P.M.