

A meeting of Portage Borough Council was held on Monday, March 7, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in Borough Council Chambers.

Those in attendance were:

Todd Learn, President  
Dave Hayes  
Brent Kinley

Bruna Kissell  
George Wozniak

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager; Attorney Michael Emerick, Solicitor; Brian Shura, Stiffler-McGraw; Scott Maul, Director, Public Works; Shaun Gregory, Chief of Police; and Sharon Squillario, Recording Secretary.

Excused: Michelle Claar, Borough Secretary; Ron Cadwallader.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Learn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a reflection provided by Mr. Kinley.

### **II. RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Learn recognized the guests that were in attendance: Jean Kinley, Resident; Ron Portash, Portage Dispatch.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO GO OUT OF ORDER OF THE AGENDA TO RECOGNIZE THE GUESTS PRESENT. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. HAYES, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN, AND MR. WOZNIAK.

Ms. Kinley and Mr. Portash both indicated that they had nothing to bring before Council.

### **III. REPORTS**

- Borough Manager

Mr. Koban indicated that his report was provided prior to the meeting.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he did contact the Rosebud cleaning plant following the last meeting and spoke to Russ. Russ gave Mr. Koban several reasons/excuses as to why they are unable to do something about the dirt during cold weather, why they cannot run the wash and sweeper, etc. Mr. Koban stated that he listened to everything that Russ said and understands why they are unable to do certain things in subzero temperature; however, the day Mr. Koban spoke with Russ it was in the 50s. He emphasized to Russ that there had to be something done to correct the dirt concern on Main Street and explained to him that the concern came about because of complaints Council received from some residents living in the area. Mr. Koban commented that he was told a few days later that someone saw the sweeper going up Main Street. The area looked a little better but really does need stripped and cleaned again. Russ also informed Mr. Koban that he receives complaints from residents as well each time the sweeper

goes up and down Main Street. Mr. Koban commented that if the residents are complaining about the dirt, they cannot be complaining about the noise from the street sweeper as well. Mr. Koban stated that he believes the sweeper that day went from Borough line to Borough line, but he does not think it went north or south on Route 53.

Mr. Learn commented that with 350 trucks going back and forth per day, he does not feel that cold weather should be an excuse. Mr. Koban stated that Russ was decent to talk to; however, he was more interested in telling Mr. Koban why he could not do anything rather than addressing the concern. Mr. Wozniak indicated that perhaps there are concerns with the water freezing in the sweeper because of the low temperatures. Mr. Koban pointed out that Russ had mentioned that if he runs the wash, he does not have a great recovery system on the water and it ends up looking like an ice skating rink in the area. Also, where the wash is at, the trucks drag a lot of sludge out onto the road. Russ also stated to Mr. Koban that, when it gets bad enough, he receives a call from DEP. Mr. Koban noted that he would keep Council updated on this matter.

Mr. Koban reported that there is a Resolution on the agenda for approval by Council this evening. He explained that Mr. Maul and Mr. Steberger have provided information regarding the current street sweeper. The sweeper is 21 years old; and we have already replaced the motor, rebuilt the storage container, etc. Mr. Koban informed Council that a list of available grants was received from Representative Langerholc's office; and after reviewing the list, there is a no match grant available that could be used for purchase of equipment. Mr. Koban asked that Mr. Steberger check with the Township to see if they would be interested in a shared services agreement for the purchase of a new sweeper. He noted that Mr. Selepack has taken the lead in getting the grant paperwork filled out with Representative Langerholc's office; and what Council has to do is draft some language for the grant and approve the resolution relative to the grant. Mr. Koban explained that the cost of a new sweeper ranges between \$265,000 - \$335,000. He noted that, when the current sweeper was purchased, it cost approximately \$125,000; and it was purchased with \$25,000 from the Borough, \$25,000 from the Township and the remainder with two grants – a shared services DCED grant and a DCNR recycling grant. Mr. Koban commented that the technology in the new sweeper is better; and the construction of the box for what we are using the sweeper for is much better. Mr. Maul and Mr. Steberger have had to rebuild the inside of the box on the current sweeper numerous times. Mr. Koban explained to Council that, due to the age of the current sweeper, we really run into concerns with getting parts as well. The sweeper continues to show its age and the cost of parts continues to go up.

Mr. Koban stated that he has received multiple calls and comments from different residents relative to the Tax Collector not returning calls. Mr. Koban has found that the easiest way to get in touch with the Tax Collector is via email; and it is usually a two-to-three-day response time. Therefore, if Council receives any concerns from residents, they should instruct them to email the Tax Collector rather than contacting him by telephone.

As it relates to the item in Mr. Koban's report relative to the Water Authority, Mr. Kinley indicated that he believes that it would be smart that Council ask Mr. Alexander anytime they want to have a discussion on the Water Authority Board wages, they should contact Council directly rather than a secondhand discussion, to which Mr. Koban replied that he did tell Mr. Alexander that. Mr. Hayes stated that he brought this matter up on his own at the last meeting, to which Mr. Kinley replied that Mr. Hayes had said that someone had told him about this. Mr. Hayes noted that he did not say that. Mr. Koban commented that the way the conversation was left with Mr. Alexander the last time was that Mr. Alexander requested that this matter be taken off of the Council agenda. Mr. Koban questioned Mr. Alexander if the matter was to be taken off the agenda for a period of

time, and Mr. Alexander replied that it should be taken off of the table. When Mr. Hayes brought the matter up at the last meeting, Mr. Koban reached out to Mr. Alexander again; and Mr. Alexander again stated that it should be taken off of the agenda. Mr. Hayes questioned why Mr. Koban had told Mr. Alexander that Mr. Hayes had stated that the Water Authority asked him to bring it up. Mr. Hayes pointed out that the Water Authority did not ask him to bring up the matter at the last meeting; he brought the matter up on his own because he was seeing Council members very against giving the Water Authority Board members a raise because of having so many meetings and interviews. Mr. Hayes stated at a previous meeting that he thought Council should give the Water Authority Board members a raise; and he never brought up that someone had asked him to come to the meeting and bring this up. Mr. Koban commented that he did recall Mr. Hayes stating this, to which Mr. Hayes interjected that we could review the tape from the meeting. Mr. Koban pointed out that this is not a matter of argument, to which Mr. Kinley agreed, stating that if the Water Authority wants to discuss this again, they should come to Council directly. Mr. Koban agreed, noting that a letter from the Water Authority should also be written to Council if they want to discuss this matter again, just like he had requested the last time. Mr. Hayes noted that he talked to Mr. Koban about this matter following the last meeting and agreed that if the Water Authority wanted a raise they should submit the paperwork to Council. He then contacted them afterwards and let them know the outcome; and then he heard from Mr. Alexander that Mr. Koban had stated to Mr. Alexander that they had contacted Mr. Hayes to find out for them, which is not true. Mr. Hayes asked that Mr. Koban quit lying because this is why individuals get so upset with Council. He does have text messages from Mr. Alexander stating what Mr. Koban had said; and he asked that Mr. Koban stop putting words in his mouth because everyone should know by now that if Mr. Hayes brings something up, he has evidence to back himself up.

- Solicitor

Attorney Emerick commented that his report was provided prior to the meeting.

As it relates to the Hammers Street property, Attorney Emerick noted that he was hoping to have the agreement between the County and the new owner, but he has not received it yet. He understands that there is a conference scheduled for March 14 on this matter; and hopefully he will have more information for Council at the next Committee meeting.

- Engineer

Mr. Shura noted that his report was provided to Council prior to the meeting.

As it relates to the Trout Run project, Mr. Shura commented that there are no changes. The Engineer did resubmit for the permit on February 18, 2022. Mr. Shura reported that he is in the process of preparing the construction bid documents and where we may need easement access. He will contact Mr. Koban with the easement information before they are prepared. Mr. Shura explained to Council that, if we get the permit in time and have the easements prepared, we may be able to place the project out to bid this year. He noted that he has received no updates from DCED on the extension requests, to which Mr. Koban replied that all of the information has been submitted. Mr. Koban has been told that once it gets through that level, there will have to be administrative signatures and then the Borough will receive a final copy.

Concerning 909-11 Jefferson Avenue, Mr. Shura stated that the inspection was completed on March 2; and he included a copy of the report with his report for this evening's meeting. Mr. Learn questioned what the next step will be. He questioned if we would not be able to claim that it is

two different structures until you are inside, to which Mr. Shura explained that the inspector did not answer whether or not it was two different structures, but the assumption is that it is one structure. It does not require any type of remedy or demolition, but the structure does meet the criteria for dangerous buildings. Mr. Learn questioned if Council can send a letter stating that the structure was deemed to be a dangerous structure. Mr. Wozniak questioned if this was just 909 Jefferson Avenue, to which Attorney Emerick replied that Tim does reference 909 Jefferson Avenue in his report. Mr. Koban commented that it would solve the problem if it is only one side of the structure. Mr. Shura commented that the report reads that the report was based on an exterior inspection of the structure. Attorney Emerick stated that it is a common wall building

- Chief of Police

Chief Gregory commented that his report was provided to Council prior to the meeting and that he had nothing to add to the report.

- Director of Public Works

Mr. Maul commented that his report was provided to Council prior to the meeting and that he had nothing to add to the report.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Learn noted that the following correspondence was received:

- Portage Fire Company invitation for Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m., Cassandra Hall – no Council members available to attend; if anything changes, Council members should contact Mr. Koban.
- Notice of 2022 State Liquid Fuels Allocation of \$78,903.69.
- Invitation for the Cambria County Planning Commission meeting at PVFC on March 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
- Invitation to the 2022 Cambria County Association of Boroughs spring dinner meeting on April 19, 2022 at Gallitzin Sportsmen's Association. RSVP's due by April 1, 2022. Mr. Koban asked that Council members be prepared at the next meeting to let him know if they will be able to attend.

#### **V. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

ON MOTION OF MRS. KISSELL, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 REGULAR MEETING AS PRESENTED (NO MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2022 DUE TO LACK OF A QUORUM). COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES.

#### **VI. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS TO BE PAID**

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE TREASURER'S REPORT, BILLS AND ADDITIONAL BILLS TO BE PAID AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM. VIA A

ROLL CALL VOTE, COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES.

**VII. REPORTS RECEIVED**

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE REPORTS FROM THE PORTAGE WATER AUTHORITY, PORTAGE SEWER AUTHORITY AND LMIA AS PRESENTED. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES.

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Peer Grant

As it relates to the Peer Grant, Mr. Koban stated that, following the recent PAJPRC meeting, he agreed to get in contact with DCNR to find out the status of the Peer Grant. Mr. Koban stated that he found that the individual at DCNR is out on an extended leave until March 17. As soon as he returns, Mr. Koban will send an email hoping to get some sort of response. The day after Mr. Koban spoke with Mr. Wozniak regarding the PAJPRC meeting, he did receive an email asking for a written update. Mr. Wozniak questioned if DCNR has no coverage for someone that is on leave, to which Mr. Koban replied that you would think it would forward to someone as we have numerous contacts at DCNR regarding the grant.

Concerning the Trout Run rehabilitation, Mr. Koban noted that we have filed for an extension and are awaiting a response.

Mr. Koban informed Council that he will be meeting with Bruce from PennDOT on Friday, March 11. Mr. Maul has a list of items on Main Street to be discussed, after walking the project site with Dave the inspector; i.e., standing water on Caldwell Avenue, sidewalk open issue in front of the laundromat, multiple cracking and lifting issues on the sidewalk, etc. Bruce also wants to review some of the items on the close-out. Mr. Koban explained that the grant is to expire in June; and given these circumstances, he does not know what will be done if we receive an invoice so he does not want to wait to file for an extension. He commented that we will probably want to file for an extension, which would require a motion from Council; and if we need it, we will have it. He does not know if we will come to a point where we would have to pay an invoice or not if everything is not addressed, but we would not want to be backed into a corner because the grant is expiring. Mr. Kinley questioned if Mr. Koban talked with Matt Decort. Mr. Kinley spoke with Mr. Decort about two weeks ago and he mentioned the damage to the brickwork on his building. Mr. Koban commented that he talked with Mr. Decort a few times; however, he had not mentioned that the heaving of the sidewalk must have damaged the stone on the building. Mr. Decort had also emailed Bruce and copied Mr. Koban; and this is how Mr. Koban was made aware of the concern. Mr. Koban explained that a contractor charged Mr. Decort \$200+ to do the repairs and Mr. Decort was requesting that the cost of the repairs be covered by PennDOT. Bruce stated to Mr. Decort that he was meeting with Mr. Koban on Friday and would look at it.

Mr. Maul pointed out that he walked the project site again with the inspector last Friday; and there probably should have been expansion joints between the buildings and the sidewalk and there were none. This is where we could have had Gulisek to come back; if we would have had the expansion, the damage may not have occurred to Mr. Decort's building. Mr. Maul indicated that

they noticed as well that there were no saw cuts. He explained that to do concrete, you have to have saw cuts for relief, but they are all just trialed in at only an inch deep. Mr. Learn questioned the status of the bottom of the light poles, to which Mr. Koban replied that they did put screening on the bottom, which was their resolution of our concern. Mr. Koban is not happy with it, but he does not know what else to do. He stated that Ebensburg's poles have domes the same size as the cover. Mr. Koban noted that it was a poor design to begin with. Mr. Kinley questioned what we are to do about fixing the problem, to which Mr. Learn replied that it really could be worse in his opinion. Mr. Kinley pointed out that he is speaking from a Borough resident's perspective; and the residents' money was put toward making Main Street look nice and now there are gaps between the sidewalks. Mr. Learn questioned if we know the amount of work that will be required to correct it now, to which Mr. Koban replied that if things were designed like they were and PennDOT approved the plans, we cannot go back on Gulisek. Mr. Wozniak questioned if we could look at some type of perforated metal skirting, to which Mr. Koban replied that if you look at it up close, in his opinion, no matter what they do it will look bad. Mr. Learn noted that they put the mesh in, but it is far enough back that you cannot see it, to which Mr. Koban interjected that you can see it on only one or two poles.

- Buildings

As it relates to 909-11 Jefferson Avenue, Mr. Koban questioned Council if Attorney Emerick should be requested to do a letter to the resident; and if so, Mr. Koban will include this on the agenda for the next meeting. Council agreed that a letter be written by Attorney Emerick.

Concerning 925 Main Street, Mr. Koban noted that Mr. Wozniak had requested on a few occasions regarding securing the back of the building, garbage at the back of the building, etc. Mrs. Kissell also contacted Mr. Koban regarding the disgraceful American flag that is in the front of the building. Mrs. Kissell explained that the flag is tattered and torn and is a disgrace. Mrs. Kissell contacted Mr. Panick regarding the flag, and he stated to Mrs. Kissell that she did not have to get on his case about being an American. She indicated to Mr. Panick that she was not doing that, but that a few residents in town asked her who owned the building because they noticed the flag as well. Mr. Panick indicated to Mrs. Kissell that he was tired of people in the town bad-mouthing him, and that he also gets grief from the police regarding the back of his building. Mrs. Kissell questioned Mr. Panick if he would have a problem if she would get someone to take the flag down, and he stated that he did not want her to do that and that he would see if he could get to it. Mr. Wozniak pointed out that he does not feel the back of the building is secure. There is white plastic construction fence placed, which is 10" from the ground in the middle and is not even 2" in the ground. Mr. Wozniak questioned when the 10 days is up that Mr. Panick was given to secure the area, to which Chief Gregory replied that Mrs. Panick came in to speak with him and said that she was going to try to do something to the back of the building but does not have the experience. Chief Gregory explained to her that she would have to figure out some way to block the back of the building up so kids do not fall in.

Mr. Kinley commented that it looks like it is every excuse in the book. Mr. Koban stated that every time Mr. Wozniak brought this up in the past, we have contacted the owners each time to get the same issues resolved. Mr. Wozniak looked at the area again this past Sunday and took pictures to send to Mr. Koban. He also received a complaint earlier last week about the garbage as well; and this is when he instructed Chief Gregory to provide the 10-day notice. Chief Gregory questioned if there is some type of special fencing that Council is looking to be installed, to which Mr. Koban replied that it should be the same as was done to the front of the building. Mr. Kinley commented that it has to be more than just a fence because of it being a dangerous situation.

Mr. Shura explained that it has to be something outside the structure to prevent anyone from getting inside the structure. Mr. Koban indicated that he would need to contact LMIA to see when the demolition permit expires. Mr. Maul expressed his concern that we gave a resident on Grant Street 30 days to get a garage torn down and she is on a fixed income; and we have given Mr. Panick over a year to address the concerns. We have also been to court on the Starlight, as well as Mr. Nicholson; and perhaps it is time to take more action in this area as well. Mr. Maul indicated that we gave Mr. Panick 10 days; and we cannot just sit here another year waiting for something to be done, to which several Council members agreed. Mr. Learn agreed, stating that it is not up to Council to figure out for the resident how to secure the property. Mr. Maul noted that the demolition started and then it stopped. Mr. Kinley pointed out that the excuses stopped for him when securing the front of the building only required a sheet of plywood and some screws.

Mr. Koban questioned Council on the next steps, to which Mr. Wozniak noted that we do have the 10-day notice in place; and after it expires, we can move on to the next step. Mr. Koban indicated that the next step would be to have another study done and pay the Engineer to do that. Mr. Learn questioned when the 10-day notice was issued, to which Chief Gregory replied that it was issued after the last Council meeting. Mr. Koban explained that the 10-day notice was for the garbage and closing up the back of the building. Mr. Learn commented that we need to find out when the demolition permit expires; and when it expires, we should not grant an extension. Mr. Koban explained that LMIA would need to grant an extension on the demolition permit, to which Attorney Emerick interjected that he believes you can only grant one extension, perhaps two. Attorney Emerick indicated that this has been going on for two years. Mr. Wozniak questioned if we have had a study done on the building, to which Mr. Koban replied that we did on the initial previous owners. Mr. Koban commented that the liens still exist as well. Mr. Wozniak questioned at what point do you gain the money from the liens, to which Mr. Koban replied that we would probably not see the money from the liens because they would not be able to see the property with the liens attached. Mr. Wozniak commented that, at that point, you are stuck with a building that is an eye sore and a safety concern. Mr. Koban indicated that he has said before that he believes up to this point the owners have been doing us a favor because the previous owner was not going to do what this owner has already done no matter what pressure we put on the previous owner.

Mr. Learn questioned what will happen if we contact LMIA, to which Mr. Koban replied that he will contact LMIA to see what our options are. Attorney Emerick noted that he does not think LMIA is required to grant an extension. Mr. Koban explained that the last time we had contacted LMIA was on a property on Prospect and LMIA indicated that the permit was expired and that the resident would have the building down and cleaned up. Mr. Koban noted that he is not aware of what the LMIA criteria is for reissuing a permit. Attorney Emerick pointed out that Council is not bound by any terms of permits, to which Mr. Koban interjected that he is aware of this but he feels perhaps LMIA can put a little pressure on as well. Attorney Emerick questioned what has been done to the building since the last study was done by the Engineer, to which Mr. Koban replied that the entire roof has been torn off and the building has been demolished down to the first floor. Mr. Shura questioned if there is any component of what is deemed a dangerous structure is still there, to which Mr. Koban replied that they have partially tore the building down and started gutting the inside. The roof is off; and it is basically four walls with an open pit in the inside. Mr. Shura commented that he could pull the former engineering study. Attorney Emerick questioned if we were requiring that the building be demolished or repaired, to which Mr. Koban replied that the building was to be demolished. Attorney Emerick commented that, since the building has not been demolished, the former engineering study could be used since the matter has been going on for one year. He questioned if the current owner is aware of the previous litigation, to which

Mr. Koban replied affirmatively. Mr. Koban explained that the current owner bought the property at a tax sale because it is next to a property he currently owns. Attorney Emerick indicated that one of the things that Council needs to talk to the owner about is the amount of judgments against the property; and if the property is cleaned up within such a period of time, they might be willing to negotiate. Mr. Koban commented that the owner had already contacted him asking this question; and Council indicated at that time that they would not be willing to talk about this until the building is torn down (this was over a year ago). Mr. Learn asked that Mr. Koban contact LMIA and then place this matter on the agenda for the next meeting.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. KINLEY, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT THE MATTER OF 925 MAIN STREET BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES.

Mr. Koban commented that Attorney Emerick would need to prepare a letter to the current owner. Mr. Wozniak indicated that we already have an engineering study that we will be able to use as well. Mr. Learn indicated that he does not know what the time limits were to the previous owner, but there has to be time constraints on the current owner. Mr. Wozniak questioned if there are time constraints currently, to which Mr. Koban replied negatively because it sounded to him that the current owner was going to demolish the building. He does not think that the current owners were actually thinking about doing the demolition themselves until they received pricing on this. Mr. Wozniak stated that, with the amount of water that is currently inside the building, does there need to be a certain way that it needs to be pumped out, to which Mr. Shura replied that should be pumped out and put through a silt bag. Mr. Koban commented that the building is filled with water but the majority is not from rain or anything. There must be some sort of underground spring in the inside. Mr. Shura stated that ultimately you would not want to backfill before doing some type of draining. You would not be able to do anything about the underground spring, but once you start backfilling, any water that was present before the building existed (the spring) would be absorbed. Mr. Wozniak questioned if there is a certain way to backfill or a certain material that should be used so the water is not pushed to the next property, to which Mr. Shura replied that he would have to look at the property. Mr. Shura pointed out that, if there is no way to discharge the water, the water would just find its way to a different location. The water would either find an outlet or continue to be at that level whether there is a hole in the ground or not; and when they start backfilling, they may have to put more backfill in later to address the water because there may be a depression.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Banners for Lamp Posts**

Mr. Koban informed Council that Mr. Maul did an inventory of the banners we currently have and reviewed the new light poles. He stated that he was concerned with the diameter of the rods on the new light poles. With the current banners, Mr. Koban explained, we had stainless steel bands that we used to clamp the bracket to the former light poles. The diameter of the current rods are much larger; and Mr. Koban asked that Mr. Maul check to see if the current banners would fit the diameter of the current poles. We did find out that the brackets are narrower on the current poles. The former brackets were two feet; and the current ones are 18 inches. Mr. Koban indicated that he also asked Mr. Maul to do an inventory of how many banners we would need as well because he did not want to wait until spring and have someone asking about the banners not being up.

Mr. Koban noted that if Council is interested in exploring this, he has some catalogs he can use to obtain an estimated cost.

Mr. Wozniak questioned what the supports are made of, to which Mr. Mall replied that they are steel. Mr. Wozniak questioned where they are attached to, to which Mr. Mall replied that they are clamped to the pole. Mr. Koban replied that the brackets would match the pole. The brackets have a ball on the end that has to be removed to put the banner on. Mr. Wozniak commented that perhaps we could fabricate something to extend what we have currently because the banner would cover that. He stated that the estimated cost that Mr. Koban provided is pretty pricey. Mr. Koban noted that we need additional banners anyway. He asked that everyone keep in mind that we have 16 banners currently for each season, so he included the full amount of what was needed. If Council decides not to go with a banner on every pole, then we would remove the brackets on the poles that did not have a banner. Mr. Maul indicated that we may not want a banner on every pole as well. Mr. Koban commented that perhaps we want to keep the total number of banners needed on the quote so that the total number includes the other banners that Council discussed in the past for the veterans and then just do seasonal banners on the other poles. He had provided in the cost proposal the worst-case scenario of having a banner on every pole. Mr. Kinley commented that he believes Council should move forward. Mrs. Kissell interjected that, if you would not put a banner on every other pole, it would reduce the cost. Mr. Learn questioned if there is banner hardware on every pole, to which Mr. Maul replied that there is with the exception of the pole near Kreutzberger's.

Mr. Learn asked that this matter remain on the agenda for the next meeting. He stated that Mr. Maul determine the exact number of banners that will be needed.

- Request from Historical Society for Copier

Mr. Koban reminded Council that, when preparing the budget for this year, Irene Huschak from the Historical Society sent a letter requesting consideration in the budget for two items; i.e., proposal from Mark Petryshak for some repairs, and a new copier. Mr. Koban tried to locate the original letter sent and was unable to do so but believes it was sent with the budget information to the auditors. He contacted Mrs. Huschak and requested another copy of the letter. Mrs. Huschak reached out and asked if Council had made any decisions on her request; and he indicated to Mrs. Huschak that Council received COVID funding through the Federal government and were awaiting the second round of funding before making a decision on the use of this funding and that he would bring Mrs. Huschak's request before Council again. Mr. Koban commented that, when Mrs. Huschak submitted the new letter, it included the two original requests of the repairs by Mark Petryshak, the copier, plus an additional request for the cost of some shingles for the building. He stated that he was questioning Council if they wanted to address Mrs. Huschak's request in the interim of receiving a response on the second round of funding or that he convey to Mrs. Huschak that we are still awaiting the additional funding.

Mrs. Kissell stated that the request of the three items from Mrs. Huschak would be \$1,929; and if we have the funds, why not approve the request. Mr. Koban noted that the donation would be coming out of the COVID funding. Mr. Learn noted that Council would not be able to take formal action on the request tonight but could include it on the agenda for the next meeting and take action at that time. Mr. Koban noted that he would include this matter on the agenda for the next meeting with a specific total dollar amount of the request.

- Future Meeting at Station Museum Building

Mr. Koban commented that, when Mrs. Huschak was present at the last meeting, she invited Council to hold a future meeting at the Station Museum Building. If Council is interested, he can talk further with Mrs. Huschak about this. He noted that he would prefer this to be a Committee meeting rather than a regular meeting. Mr. Wozniak noted that this would require an advertisement in the paper for a change in the meeting location. Attorney Emerick indicated that Council could consider this for next year, which then would not require the advertisement of the change in meeting location. Mr. Learn noted that he would not be opposed to this, to which Mr. Wozniak agreed. Mr. Learn requested that Mr. Koban place this on the agenda for a vote by Council at the next meeting.

- Resolution 3-2022

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MRS. KISSELL, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION 3-2022 REQUESTING SHARED GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCING AUTHORITY BETWEEN PORTAGE BOROUGH AND PORTAGE TOWNSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$289,237. VIA ROLL CALL VOTE, COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION OF MR. KINLEY, SECONDED BY MRS. KISSELL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:32 P.M. COUNCIL MEMBERS VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. WOZNIAK, MR. KINLEY, MRS. KISSELL, MR. LEARN AND MR. HAYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Squillario  
Recording Secretary