

DECEMBER 21, 2023

PENN LAKE PARK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

The Penn Lake Park Borough December Council meeting was held at the Penn Lake Park Community House. Council President Paul Rogan called the meeting to order at approximately 7:22 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a statement that the meeting is streamed through the conferencing app., Gotomeeting, and is being recorded.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Tom Carter, Council President Paul Rogan, Council Members: Shaun Kuter John Burden, Dave Longmore, and Dan Eustice are present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

Minutes from the November Council Meeting and the Special November Council Meeting were distributed to council members via email and posted on the Penn Lake Borough website. The copies will be recorded as the official minutes. A **Motion** to accept the November Council Meeting Minutes was made by Longmore, 2nd by Kuter with a correction to be made to the Zoning Report listing the name of Joe Lokuta rather than Dan Eustice.

Roll Call: Longmore, Kuter, Burden, Eustice, and Rogan, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

A **Motion** was made by Longmore, 2nd by Eustice to accept the Special November Council Meeting Minutes.

Roll Call: Longmore, Eustice, Burden, Kuter, and Rogan, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was presented. A **Motion** was made by Kuter, 2nd by Burden to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Roll Call: Kuter, Burden, Longmore, Eustice, and Rogan, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

RECEIPTS/BILLS:

A **Motion** was made by Eustice, 2nd by Kuter to pay the bills of \$85,801.80 and to accept the receipts of \$42,955.94.

Roll Call: Eustice, Kuter, Longmore, Burden, and Rogan, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion carried.

PETITIONS OR COMPLAINTS:

Residents complained that there were large fuel spots on Hollenback, Terrace, and Lakeview Drives after both times the plow truck had treated the roads.

CORRESPONDENCE:

White Haven Borough invited Penn Lake Council Members to the Greater White Haven 200th Anniversary. Events include a 200th Birthday Winterfest on January 13th at Linesville Park featuring music, a bonfire, food trucks, and fireworks, the Memorial Day Parade and Family Fun Day in

Lehigh Park on Sunday, May 26th, and finally a Summer Festival running from July 26 through July 27th with music, vendors, contests, birthday cake, and historical displays. Barry Jacob asked to continue in his position as Zoning Officer for 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MAYOR – Carter – Thanked Council Members Shaun Kuter and Dave Longmore for their many years of service on Council.

SOLICITOR – Kristyn Jeckell – Reported that Christine Stoner did not appear at the hearing nor contest the charge of operating a Short-Term Rental without a permit. Penn Lake Homes LLC did not appeal their Short-Term Rental judgment. Jeckell noted that the next violation of either of the parties will result in a \$1000.00 fine per day.

ZONING – The Zoning Hearing Board met on November 30 and granted a dimensional variance and special exception to Lois Glass for a carport, and granted a dimensional variance and special exception to Daniel Eustice for a first-floor addition, porch, attached garage, and a second story.

RECREATION– Kuter – Nothing to Report.

LAKE MANAGEMENT - Eustice – No Report

GOOSE ABATEMENT – Kuter – Stated the goose population is under control and asked residents to stop feeding the wildlife. Kuter thanked the Members of Council who served with him during his years on Council.

RTK/RECORDS –Burden – Nothing to Report.

ROADS –Longmore – Nothing to Report.

SEWERS – Rogan – Attorney Jeckell will send letters to residents with delinquent accounts. If delinquent accounts are not satisfied, the Borough will file liens against the properties.

SHORT TERM RENTALS- Burden – Will research all Short-Term Rental platforms on the web.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Vote to Adopt 2024 Budget – A **Motion** was made by Rogan, 2nd by Kuter to adopt the 2024 Budget as amended.

Roll Call: Rogan, Kuter, Longmore, Eustice, and Burden, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

Code Enforcement – Will continue as Unfinished Business.

ARPA Funds – The Stormwater project at 54 Williams Dr. has been completed. The drainage project at Horseshoe and Hollenback Dr. was awarded to Kislun for \$9873.00

Speed Bumps/Humps – Will continue as Unfinished Business.

Dam –November/December

- 11/16/2023 Borton Lawson completed our annual dam inspection report.
- 11/30/2023 Permit filed with the DEP.
- *It's been more than 3-1/2 years since the borough was put on notice by the DEP. The filing of the permit application is a milestone event. Special thanks to the dam advisory group (DAG) for making it happen. The DAG will meet sometime in January/February to discuss scheduling, bid preparation, bid evaluation, and awards of construction contracts. We can expect to have some public information meetings as summer approaches and will have better clarity on construction. An optimistic forecast has construction starting as early as autumn, 2024.*

- 12/21/23 GRANT STATUS-Jim Brozeena continues to work on obtaining funds from our 2020 FEMA/FMA grant of \$301,000, and the 2021 FEMA *BRIC Grant of \$410,000.00*.
- *Status of our Luzerne County grant application of \$2.6m will be known in the spring, the State LSA \$1m s/b known in the autumn.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 10 of 2023 – A **Motion** was made by Rogan, 2nd by Burden to adopt Resolution 10 of 2023 to set the tax rate at 4.6mils of which 4.2mils will be segregated to fund expenses and debt services for the dam, spillway, and related appurtenances only, and to set the garbage fee at \$343.00 for 2024.

Roll Call: Rogan, Burden, Kuter, Eustice, and Longmore, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

ASTRA January Renewal Policy– A **Motion** was made by Longmore, 2nd by Kuter to accept the Astra Renewal Insurance Policy for \$3592.00 subject to clarification.

Roll Call: Longmore, Kuter, Eustice, Burden, and Rogan, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

Short-Term Rental Ordinance - A **Motion** was made by Rogan, 2nd by Burden to adopt the revised Short-Term Rental Ordinance of 2024.

Roll Call: Rogan, Burden, Kuter, Eustice, and Longmore, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

Solicitor Fee for Sewage Letters – A **Motion** was made by Rogan, 2nd by Kuter to spend not more than \$500.00 to have the Borough Solicitor send 16 sewage arrears letters.

Roll Call: Rogan, Kuter, Longmore, Eustice, and Burden, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT – Keith Lukens spoke of the trash issues that he is experiencing from the residence at 1175 Lakeview Dr. that is operating a Short-Term Rental without a permit. Lukens explained that over a period of now months, trash from the rental residence is being dragged across the road onto his property by bears and many piles of trash have accumulated. The owners of the property are unresponsive. Attorney Jeckell stated that the Borough can cite the owners.

A **Motion** was made by Kuter, 2nd by Rogan to adjourn.

Roll Call: Kuter, Rogan, Burden, Longmore, and Eustice, all in favor, none opposed.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

The Reorganization Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, at 6:30 PM, followed by the January Council Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Burden, Secretary