

JANUARY 12, 2023

PENN LAKE PARK BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

The Penn Lake Park Borough January Council meeting was held at the Penn Lake Park Community House. Council President Paul Rogan called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 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 members Shaun Kuter, John Burden, and Dave Longmore were present. Council President Paul Rogan, and Dan Eustice were remote, all present.

Council President Rogan mentioned the passing of Rob Johnson, a longtime resident, friend, and former Council Member. It was noted Johnson played an important role in bringing the sewer system to Penn Lake. Rogan offered condolences to the family.

MINUTES:

Minutes from the December Council Meeting were distributed to council via email and posted on the Penn Lake Borough website. The copies will be recorded as the official minutes and will be posted on the Borough's website. A **Motion** to accept the December Council Meeting Minutes was made by Kuter, 2nd by Longmore.

Roll Call: Kuter, Longmore, Burden, Eustice, 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 December 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 Kuter, 2nd by Burden to pay the bills of \$35,411.01 and to accept the receipts of \$40,341.76.

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

Longmore noted the money from the GoFundMe account for the pickleball court was received; however, renovation for the court will need a new Motion before work can be completed.

PETITIONS OR COMPLAINTS:

Walter Parry was concerned for the safety of Borough residents, the conditions of the Borough's roads, and private property as a result of the work done by the plow company after the last snow and ice storm. Parry observed the plow truck driver exceeding the speed limit several times, driving on the wrong side of the road, and not having the required flashing light to increase visibility. Mr. Parry is wondering whether the Borough will repair or reimburse property owners like himself who had significant damage to their property from the plow truck.

He feels that carelessness and reckless situations are occurring more frequently with the absence of the White Haven Police patrolling the Borough. Parry then stated that a trailer hitch was stolen from his truck while it was parked at his residence. Council member Longmore forwarded the complaint to the plow company and plans to discuss the concerns with them. Council President Rogan reminded residents that Borough roads are 40 feet wide and, in the past, complaints resulted from residents unaware of this actuality. It was noted that plowing damage near the beach area was already repaired.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Luzerne County Recycling Department is offering up to a \$3,000.00 reimbursement for advertisements to educate residents on recycling. Also, the Recycling Department will reimburse communities up to 50% of their costs or \$10,000.00, whichever is less, for electronic recycling events. Paper shredding events are reimbursed up to \$2,000.00 per event with a limit of 2 events. Council member Longmore will reach out to the County and the past electronics recycling company if Council agrees to host an electronic recycling event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MAYOR – Carter -Nothing to Report.

POLICE – Carter – Nothing to Report.

SOLICITOR – Kristyn Giarrantano Jeckell – Continues to review Borough ordinances.

ZONING – 2 permits were issued for a shed and tree removal. The Zoning Hearing Board met on December 6th and granted a variance to Thomas Riddle for a porch.

RECREATION– Kuter – Nothing to Report.

LAKE MANAGEMENT - Eustice – Nothing to Report.

GOOSE ABATEMENT – Kuter – Stated the geese are under control but we have a growing duck population. Kuter is waiting on word for the depredation permit.

RTK/RECORDS –Burden – Nothing to Report.

ROADS –Longmore – Is working on getting an assessment for state compliance with the retroreflectivity signage requirements.

SEWERS – Rogan – Nothing to Report.

SHORT TERM RENTALS- Burden – One application did not meet the residency requirements and was denied.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Code Enforcement – Rogan spoke with Zoning Officer, Barry Jacob. Secretary Burden reached out to the Code Enforcement Officer from Laurel Run Borough.

ARPA Funds – Rogan announced the Borough has \$32,000.00 from ARPA. Rogan cited the area around the Campbell residence at 54 Williams Dr experiences significant storm-water runoff and suggests the money be used to repair the area. Rogan added that the project would involve surveys, easements, and assistance from Borton Lawson for drainage issues. Council member Longmore suggested regular maintenance on the Borough’s storm-water drains. A **Motion** was made by Rogan, 2nd by Kuter to use ARPA funds to fund work on the drainage issues in the area around 45 Williams Dr.

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

Motion Carried.

Speed Bumps – Will continue as Unfinished Business.

Dam –

- 12/16/2022 Council forwarded the "Designation of Agent" resolution passed at the 12/15/22 meeting to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) at their request. This is a necessary step to gain access to the grant money awarded to the borough by FEMA in July of 2021.
- 12/23/2022 The borough received a Christmas present in the form of an email from PEMA requesting a signature on the formal "Penn Lake Park Grant Agreement". This agreement is nearly the last step in the process of obtaining actual FEMA grant money. The last remaining step is to have the "period of performance window" on the agreement modified from 4/30/22 to an earlier date so that the money expended on engineering can be included in the 25% borough match.
- 12/23/2022 Borough grant writer Jim Brozena continues working with PEMA to obtain an earlier "period of performance" window.
- 12/31/2022 Councilman Rogan obtained a copy of the Borough's Quicken files. Expectation is that all dam related transactions will be identified and categorized for the purpose of including them in our 25% match.
- 01/11/23 Our Borough secretary, Karen Burden, learned of a dam funding program through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the "Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP)". The information was forwarded to the Borough dam grant writer, Jim Brozena, to see if there was any potential. His response was there was probably not a good fit, as the minimum project size was \$20 million.
- 01/12/23 The DAG will start to work on survey, easement, legal, and activities related to design and permitting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance Renewal –

A **Motion** was made by Kuter, 2nd by Longmore for the Borough to accept the insurance renewal contract from Astra including terrorism coverage.

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

Motion Carried.

Risk Management – The Borough will explore and consider the risk management topics including retroreflectivity and playground inspections as suggested in a letter from Patrick Hickey and recommended by Jim Davis from DGK Insurance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

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

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

The next Council Meeting will be held on February 10, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Burden, Secretary