

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2017**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Angela Frank	Mike Stalnecker
Judy Fickinger	Chief Trotter
Christa Hartman	Greg Warg
Joan Schwer	Charlie Zimmerman
Cliff Snuffer	Sharon Zimmerman

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

**ABSENT:**

Scott Zimmerman, Council President  
Thomas Fickinger, Vice-President  
Anthony Gurski, Pro-Tem  
Leroy Bates  
Leonard Clark  
Ronald Hepler, Jr.  
Terry Noll  
Willard Shiffer, Mayor  
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor  
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer

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Council President Scott Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present. A quorum was established.

**○ AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

1. **Judy Fickinger:** J. Fickinger asked when the water would be turned back on at the Armory Building. President Zimmerman asked why the water needed to be turned back on. J. Fickinger stated she would like to clean the armory building. L. Clark stated some work needs to be done before the water can be turned back on.

2. **Cliff Snuffer:** C. Snuffer is with Cub Pack 611 and they are looking to do a Conservatorship project. C. Snuffer asked council for permission to plant two butterfly bushes by the canal. Tom Fickinger motioned to allow Cub Pack 611 plant two butterfly bushes at the canal, seconded by Anthony Gurski, carried by Council.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

1. **PGYASA:** Solicitor Hobbs stated the PGYASA has a request for a signage and safety barrier around the soccer fields to be submitted to FEMA for authorization. Tom Fickinger motioned to authorize Melissa Dyer to submit the request for signage and safety barriers for the soccer fields on the FEMA lots, seconded by Ron Hepler, Jr., carried by Council.

Solicitor Hobbs stated he will need to be leaving early tonight.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Hose Hook & Ladder:** Copy of report to council. Council discussed false alarms at commercial buildings.
2. **North End Fire Company:** Report in everyone's file.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Chief Trotter read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated that there are two requests for handicapped parking spaces that need council's approval. Tom Fickinger motioned to add a handicapped parking sign at 14 Laurel Street and to move handicapped parking sign from 34 Spruce Street to 32 Spruce Street, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
- Mayor Shiffer stated Tom Fickinger and himself attended the Penn DOT Meeting. Mayor Shiffer stated it was informative. He stated the conditions of S.R. 443 during the snow storm were discussed. Council further discussed.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- **Bank of American Credit Card:** President Zimmerman stated a motion is needed to close the Borough's Bank of American Credit Card. Tom Fickinger motioned to close the Borough's Bank of America Credit Card; seconded by Tony Gurski, carried by Council.
- **On Demand Energy Agreement:** Tom Fickinger motioned to allow On Demand Energy Solutions to review our electric bills for better rates, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.  
T. Fickinger mentioned that the Street Lights have been changed over to LED.
- **Spring Bird Count- Black Creek:** Leroy Bates motioned to allow Dave Krueel to access Black Creek for his annual Spring Bird Count on Saturday, May 13th, seconded by Anthony Gurski, carried by Council.
- **Executive Session:** : Thomas Fickinger motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:16pm to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by council. At 7:30pm, council returned and stated they discussed personnel matters.

2. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**
  - **Acceptance of Resignation:** Tom Fickinger motioned to accept the resignation of Christopher Taylor from full-time status to part-time status, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council. President Zimmerman thanked Sgt. Taylor for his service for Pine Grove Borough.
  - **Police position:** Tom Fickinger motioned to hire Candidate A for the full-time police officer position, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
3. **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN)**
  - **Approval of Minutes:** Tom Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the March 16, 2017 Regular Meeting, seconded by Ron Hepler, Jr., carried by Council.
  - **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Passing the gavel, Council President Zimmerman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
  - **Approval of Bills:** Council President Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Bills Approval List, seconded by Anthony Gurski, carried by Council.
4. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
  - **Streets/ Water Report:** Tom Fickinger stated the Streets/Water report is in everyone's file.
  - **2017 Road Paving Project:** Tom Fickinger motioned to advertise for bids for the 2017 Road Paving Project, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council. Council further discussed.
  - **Chlorine Booster Motor:** Tom Fickinger motioned to purchase a new chlorine booster pump out of the water fund, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council. Council further discussed.
  - **Water Project:** L. Clark stated he spoke with someone from PPL regarding the history of the old power plant. He stated they have no records or any spills or contamination. L. Clark stated they are offering to pay for the flow test and quality test. L. Clark stated they are allowing our water engineer and Moody to do the testing, etc.
  - **Water Tank:** L. Clark stated BCM provided a breakdown of costs for the three possible locations for the new water tank. L. Clark stated the location for Woodland Vista cost the least amount of money. Council further discussed. Tom Fickinger motioned to contact Ron Aungst regarding lot purchases at Woodland Vista for the new water storage tank, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council. Solicitor Hobbs exited the meeting at 7:41pm.
  - **2005 Truck Repair:** L. Clark stated the 2005 GMC Dump Truck broke down during the snow storm. L. Clark stated all of the fuel injectors need to be replaced. Tom Fickinger motioned to allow the fuel injectors to be replaced on the 2005 Dump Truck using Liquid Fuels, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.

- **Speed Radar Sign:** President Zimmerman stated the electronic speed sign was stolen and recovered but damaged. President Zimmerman would like to offer a \$500.00 reward for information to find out who stole the electronic sign. Tom Fickinger motioned to offer a \$500 reward for anyone that provides tips on who or whom may have stolen the electronic speed sign, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council. Mayor Shiffer stated the trash is horrible again along Long Stretch Road on the borough property. Mayor Shiffer will be having the JROTC doing a road clean-up. Mayor Shiffer stated a citizen has been caught dumping garbage along Long Stretch Road. Council further discussed.
- 5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (TONY GURSKI):**
  - **Tulpehocken Rifle Range:** T. Gurski stated the timbering is completed on Bergers Road and the rifle range has reopened. Council further discussed.
- 6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
  - **FEMA:** T. Fickinger stated that FEMA hosted at the GAP a 4 day seminar on the flooding in 2011. T. Fickinger stated they went over how they do their daily exercises, etc. Secretary Dyer stated that we did have a resident come in today about a tree down in the Swatara Creek by Hlavaty's.
- 7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TERRY NOLL):**
  - **Fire Company Contribution:** Terry Noll motioned to authorize \$13,500.00 to North End Fire Company and Hose Hook & Ladder Company #1 for the yearly borough contribution, seconded by Tony Gurski, carried by Council.
  - **Rental Inspection Ordinance:** Council went over the Rental Inspection Ordinance and made corrections to the current draft. Council will discuss new draft ordinance at next month's meeting.
  - **County Burn Ban:** T. Noll stated a county burn ban will be in effect starting April 21, 2017 and will end on May 21, 2017.
- 8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**
  - **Pool:** President Zimmerman stated the pool ordered a handicapped lift for the pool. He stated the pool will be repainted and the roofs will be replaced at the pool buildings. President Zimmerman stated they are looking to open Memorial Day Weekend.

A. Gurski asked Secretary Dyer to send the sample ordinances for False Fire Alarms to Chief Stalneckner and Chief Sattizahn for review.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Len Clark:** L. Clark read a statement to council and public regarding the concerns about him being a borough employee plus holds a council seat.

○ AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- Sharon Zimmerman: S. Zimmerman asked council if there is anything that can be done about furniture on the porches, etc. Mayor Shiffer suggested she fill out a complaint form.

○ PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

*Can I have a copy of the HHL's Monthly Report?* A copy was provided.

*What are streets for the Road Paving Project?* Paving project is: High Street from Franklin Street to Borough Line, Carbon Street from Morris Street to Union Street, Fairview Street from Grandview Street to Grandview Alley and Grandview Alley from Grandview Street to Fairview Street.

*What is the price for the Woodland Vista Lot?* A price hasn't been determined yet.


*What is the price for the chlorine booster pump?* \$1,700.00

*What type of truck is getting repaired and where are the repairs being made?* GMC Dump Truck and Geoff Penske in Reading.

*How many rental properties in the Borough?* About the 1/3 of the Borough are rentals.

Chief Stalnecker wanted to say the fire company really appreciates the yearly contribution.

Tom Fickinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm, seconded by Ronald Hepler, Jr., carried by Council.

  
Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer