

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2021**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Joan Schwer
Leah Zerbe
Nick Modesto
Dave Sattizahn

Mike Potts
Commissioner Barron "Boots" Heatherington

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice-President
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem
Skip Butler
Elaine Holley
Michael Allison
Mandy Miller, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Willard Shiffer, Mayor
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor

ABSENT:

Rodney Hiester

Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present, with the exception of Rodney Hiester who was absent. A quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1): None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- Delinquent Water Bills:** Liens have been filed for a few delinquent water accounts.

SCHEDULED VISITORS:

1. **Commissioner Barron "Boots" Heatherington:** Solicitor Hobbs introduced Commissioner Heatherington to Council. Commissioner Heatherington spoke to council and public.

2. **Cub Scout Pack 6-1-1:** Nick Modesto stated that Cub Scout Pack 6-1-1 would be hosting a "Scouting for Deals" fundraiser for the community on Saturday, May 8th from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Mr. Modesto asked for council's approval to host the event along Veteran's Memorial Drive and to close the road from 6:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on May 8th for the event. N. Modesto was advised by Solicitor Hobbs to obtain all necessary permits for the event. Leroy Bates motioned to approve closing the Veteran's Memorial Drive for the event from 6:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 8th, seconded by Len Clark, carried by Council.
3. **Leah Zerbe:** Leah Zerbe presented a brief Bee City USA Town presentation to council and requested council's approval for Pine Grove Borough to be recognized as an official Bee City USA Town which requires a \$100 application fee and \$100 yearly fee. Solicitor Hobbs will draft a resolution to be adopted pending approval of the resolution. Len Clark motioned to approve Pine Grove Borough to be recognized as a Bee City USA town pending approval of the resolution by Solicitor Hobbs, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
4. **Mike Potts:** Mike Potts discussed a trash/recycling program for residents. He stated since Schuylkill County stopped their recycling center, trash haulers are now mandated to offer trash and recycling pick up. Prices were increased due to the mandate which has caused garbage to be dumped in wooded areas and in dumpsters belonging to businesses. M. Potts stated that having one service for the Borough would help lower cost for trash/recycling and also lessen the amount of illegal dumping of garbage, council further discussed. Council agreed to table the discussion until May meeting to allow Solicitor Hobbs to draft an ordinance. Leroy Bates motioned to authorize Solicitor Hobbs to draft a garbage/recycling ordinance, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by council.
5. **HHL: None.**
6. **NEFD: None.**

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Dissinger read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated that Mark and Dave Frew purchased protective vests for the Pine Grove Police Department and thanked them for their generous donation in the amount of \$2,875.06.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Executive Session:** Tom Fickinger motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:16 pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:32pm. No action will be taken at this time.
- **PGJTA Vacant Board Seat:** No letters of interest were received to fill vacant seat. Council tabled matter until May council meeting.

- **HVAC Unit – Main Office Area:** The following bids were received for replacing the HVAC Unit:
 - **Drumheller Plumbing, Heating & Cooling** - \$8,178.12
 - **Miller Mechanical Enterprises, Inc.** - \$8,305.43
 - **Integrity HVAC** - \$10,439.00

Council discussed each bid. Leroy Bates motioned to accept the bid of Miller Mechanical Enterprises, Inc. for the replacement of the HVAC unit in the amount of \$8,305.43, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER): None.

3. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the March 11, 2021 Regular Meeting, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer’s Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for March, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone’s folder.
- **North End Water Leak:** L. Clark stated there were a few leaks last week and one major one by North End Fire Company. Tom Fickinger asked Dave Sattizahn for fire police help when there are large leaks in the Borough to help with traffic. Mr. Sattizahn stated that 911 com center can help get the information on the interstate to keep large trucks and cars from coming through town.

5. PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):

- **Chesapeake Bay Grant Program/ Planting Program:** Leah Zerbe gave a brief presentation to council on reforestation of FEMA lots in the Borough to help lessen flooding in problem areas. L. Zerbe stated that trees would be maintained for three years and after that, volunteers could take over the maintenance of the trees and plants. Council further discussed. Solicitor Hobbs stated to table the matter until the May council meeting. Michael Allison motioned to proceed to see drawings and list of breakdown of types of trees being planted with a walk through to be done prior to approving the planting on FEMA properties, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by council.

6. FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):

- **Peach Street Project:** L. Clark stated that a meeting is being held within the next two weeks to discuss the peach street project.

- **2021 Road Paving Project:** L. Clark stated that the roads being paved will be Laurel Street, Locust Street and Old Cherry Street. Len Clark motioned to advertise for bids for the paving project, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):

- **Fire Company Contribution:** Michael Allison motioned to approve the annual fire company contributions to HH & L and NEFD in amount of \$13,500.00 for each company, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):

- **Pool:** L. Clark stated that the pool passed inspection and interviews will be held for pool applicants.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Open Door Project 5k banner:** Open Door Project requested permission to hang a banner across 443 by Werner Lumber before the red light to advertise their 5k run. Dave Sattizahn stated they were in contact with him and HH&L will assist with hanging the banner once state approval is received. Michael Allison motioned to allow the banner to be hung on 443 to advertise the 5k, seconded by Len Clark, carried by Council.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** None

○ **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

- **Joan Schwer:**
 - What is the amount of the contribution to the fire companies?
 - What is the banner advertising?

Leonard Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m., seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.


Mandy L. Miller, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer