

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 16, 2018**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Chief Trotter	Mike Strause
Elaine Holley	Charlie Zimmerman
Debbie Felty	Sharon Zimmerman
Natalie Zimmerman	Joan Schwer
Jason Stump	David Kimmel
Deb Kintzel	Dennis Schnoke
Larry Stevens	Tricia Betz
John Ziegler	Phyllis Hesser
Larry Stevens	Dave Kavitski
Denise Felty	Daryl Smith
Jim Felty	Emilynelle Marsh
Dale Leghart	Christopher Wessner
Robert Geier	Skip Butler
Rich Schach	Amanda Yocum
Brenda Strause	

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Fickinger, Vice-President  
Leroy Bates  
Leonard Clark  
Terry Noll  
Willard Shiffer, Mayor  
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor  
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer

**ABSENT:**

Scott Zimmerman, Council President  
Michael Allison  
Anthony Gurski, Pro-Tem

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Vice-President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present with the exception of President Zimmerman, Anthony Gurski and Michael Allison. A quorum was established.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):**

1. **Tom Fickinger:** T. Fickinger discussed the recent flooding and what council is currently working on. T. Fickinger stated they are working with the National Guard, DEP and Army Corps to complete silt removal of Swatara Creek. T. Fickinger stated they are waiting for the water to recede and DEP will issue an emergency permit to complete the silt removal. Council further discussed flooding issues in the borough.
2. **Elaine Holley:** E. Holley discussed her flooding concerns for N. Tulpehocken Street. E. Holley stated they never experienced flooding like this before.
3. **Denise Felty:** D. Felty discussed her concerns with the flooding on N. Tulpehocken Street. D. Felty stated the drains aren't doing a thing.
4. **Rich Schach:** R. Schach discussed his concerns with the flooding on S. Tulpehocken Street. R. Schach stated he lived there for 50 years and never seen flooding. R. Schach stated the storm drains aren't working.
5. **Jason Stump:** J. Stump discussed his concerns with the silt removal. J. Stump stated that council did not step up during the flood.
6. **Amanda Yocum:** A. Yocum stated that during the flood that Emergency Services didn't come to help them. She stated her neighbors got a boat and helped them to get out. A. Yocum stated their house smells like diesel fuel.
7. **Phyllis Hesser:** P. Hesser discussed her concerns about the flooding. P. Hesser stated the borough is like the middle of a pot. P. Hesser stated there is 50' wide creek in the middle of town.
8. **Mike Strause:** M. Strause discussed his concerns about the flooding along Snyder Avenue and Spruce Street. M. Strause stated the creek wasn't the issue. M. Strause stated the storm drains are the issue.
9. **Dave Kavitski:** D. Kavitski is the engineer through BCM Engineering. D. Kavitski stated the storm drains were installed back in 1925. He stated that runoff water is the problem. D. Kavitski stated the current storm drains are for a 10 year storm and Pine Grove has been getting 50-100 year storms. D. Kavitski stated they are doing a storm drain study and looking to design storm drains for 50-100 year storms.
10. **Dale Leghart:** D. Leghart wanted to thank the borough workers for everything they are doing. D. Leghart discussed his concerns of the water runoff from the development. T. Fickinger stated that we are not dredging Swatara Creek we are doing silt removal.
11. **Chuck Kauffman:** C. Kauffman discussed flooding and emergency services.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Hobbs stated a municipal lien was paid in full.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **HH&L:** None.
2. **NEFD:** None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Chief Trotter read over the monthly police report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a handicapped parking request came in for Carbon Street. Leroy Bates motioned to approve the handicapped parking request for Carbon Street, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- Mayor Shiffer stated the MOU will need to be signed. Mayor Shiffer stated the school district will be reimbursing the borough for the school resource officer.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- **Executive Session:** Leonard Clark motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:54pm to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by council. At 8:15pm, council returned and Vice-President Fickinger stated they discussed a personnel matter and no action was taken at this time. Wayne Lehman talked with residents regarding flooding during the executive session.

**2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- **PMRS- Vested Years:** Secretary Dyer stated currently the police pension vested years of services is 12 years when the non-uniformed is 8 years. Secretary Dyer stated the police would like to change their vested years. Council discussed and tabled until next month.

**3. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN)**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Terry Noll made a motion to accept the Minutes of the July 19, 2018 Regular Meeting, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Leroy Bates made a motion to accept the Minutes of the August 1, 2018 Special Meeting, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Terry Noll made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** Terry Noll made a motion to approve the Bills Approval List, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

**4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Streets/ Water Report:** Tom Fickinger stated the Streets/Water report is in everyone's file.
- **Ordinance 450:** Leroy Bates motioned to adopt Ordinance 450 seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
- **Water Project:** Dave Kavitski stated the bids came in for the water project. They are as follows:

**George J Hayden, Inc.**

Corrosion Control Modifications-Electrical \$69,750.00

**JEV Construction, LLC**

New Water Storage Tank \$1,283,000.00

**DN Tanks, Inc.**

Existing Water Tank Rehabilitation \$229,705.00

**Bognet, Inc.**

Corrosion Control Modifications Existing Building \$383,000.00

- Leroy Bates motioned to approve the bids consistent with the engineer recommendation, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.

**5. PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (TONY GURSKI):**

- **Pulpwood Sale:** Len Clark motioned to move forward with the pulpwood sale and delay timber bid for Swopes Valley property seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

**6. FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):** T. Fickinger discussed flooding at the beginning meeting.

**7. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TERRY NOLL):** Secretary Dyer stated it was suggested we advertise for a new EMA Coordinator for the borough. Terry Noll motioned to advertise for new EMA Coordinator, seconded by Leonard Clark.

**8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- **Armory Building:** Vice-President Fickinger stated the Armory Building was flooded and Berks Fire & Water start the clean-up.

○ **NEW BUSINESS: None.**

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (2):**

- **Sharon Zimmerman:** S. Zimmerman stated a resident is having a problem with backing out his property because of how people are parking on Wideawake Street.
- **Larry Stevens:** L. Stevens would like to know who is responsible for the drainage pipes that run through his property. L. Stevens stated he has heard it is the borough's responsibility then he heard it was PennDOT's responsibility. Solicitor Hobbs stated that the general law states that it is the property owner's responsibility but he doesn't know Larry Steven's situation. Solicitor Hobbs stated that he would have to look into it further.
- **Debbie Felty:** D. Felty discussed her concerns with the creek that runs alongs Wideawake Street. D. Felty stated the creek is grown shut. Wayne Lehman stated that you have to be careful with removing things along the creek because the roots of plants hold the banks together. D. Felty stated the course of the stream has changed. D. Felty stated the protective railing over the creek is falling apart.
- **Jason Stump:** J. Stump discussed some of his concerns regarding the community pool.

○ PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

Leroy Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.



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Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer