

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Brandon Yesenosky
Rick Yesenosky

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice-President
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem
Skip Butler
Elaine Holley
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/ Treasurer
Willard Shiffer, Mayor
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

ABSENT:

Rodney Hiester

Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. A quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1): None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. **Dumpster Ordinance:** Solicitor Hobbs provided a draft to amend the current Dumpster Ordinance 465. Council further discussed and decided to change the fees to the following:
 - a. Permit fee of \$50.00 and once the dumpster is removed the resident will receive \$25.00 back.
 - b. A permit will be required for a dumpster on private property but no fee will be charged.
 - c. No fees for dumpsters in metered spaces and private properties.
Elaine Holley motioned to table until next meeting and have Solicitor Hobbs draft the amended ordinance for council's review, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

○ SCHEDULED VISITORS:

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

○ MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Shiffer read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a request was received for fire police for Girardville's St. Patrick's Day Parade. Council further discussed and it was determined we don't have fire police to help assist. President Fickinger asked Secretary Dyer to send a letter to Girardville Borough letting them know.

○ COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Garbage/ Recycling Bids:** Council discussed the current bids for the Garbage/ Recycling Services for residents of Pine Grove Borough. Leroy Bates motioned to reject all bids for Garbage/ Recycling Services for Pine Grove Borough, leaving it up to the residents to pick their trash services, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **COVID Policy:** Secretary Dyer stated Attorney Eric Brown provided us with a COVID Policy for Borough Employees. Council further discussed. Secretary Dyer stated that all employees will receive a copy of the COVID Policy and will have to sign an acknowledgment form. Leonard Clark motioned to adopt the COVID Policy for Borough employees, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

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

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the January 3, 2022 Re-Organization Meeting, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the January 13, 2022 Regular Meeting, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

4. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder.

L. Clark stated they cleaned out the drain again near Locust Street.

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

- **Timber:** L. Bates provided an update on timber and stated we have started to receive monies for timbering.
- 6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):**
 - **Peach Street:** L. Clark stated Peach Street project is completed.
- 7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):**
 - **Sidewalks:** Skip Butler brought concerns regarding sidewalks in the Borough. Council further discussed getting a committee together to work on the sidewalk concerns.
- 8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
 - **Canal:** Devin Lymaster stated he had a resident inquire about if anyone cleans up goose feces at the playground area of the canal. Council further discussed with no action taken at this time.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Washington Township Fire Company Donations:** Secretary Dyer stated Washington Township had given North End Fire Company a larger donation last year compared to what is in the intermunicipal agreement. Secretary Dyer stated North End Fire Company would only receive \$536.00 and they wanted approval from council of the donation decrease for 2022 only. Council further discussed. Elaine Holley motioned to support Washington Township with the lower donation amount of \$536.00 for 2022 only for North End Fire Company, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Auditor Change:** Secretary Dyer stated Lettich and Zipay will no longer be doing yearly audits and we will need to find a new auditor. Leroy Bates motioned to look for a new auditor, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Security Upgrades:** Secretary Dyer stated the security cameras were installed at the Borough Building. American Computer will be working on the wiring project next and they stated the job could be done in a day if the Borough Building was closed. Council has no issues with the borough building being closed for the day for the wiring project. Secretary Dyer will let council know the date once the project is scheduled.

Council also reviewed quotes for the new secured doors for the Borough Building along with installing security cameras at the Borough Garage. Chief Trotter is still waiting for remaining quotes. Council further discussed and will table until next month.

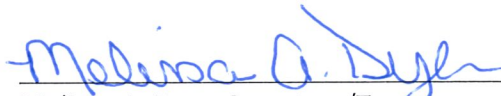
- **Vacancy Board Position:** Courtney Puglia was not present for Council Meeting but she had submitted a Letter of Interest for the Vacancy Board. Leroy Bates motioned to appoint Courtney Puglia to the seat on the Vacancy Board, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

- **Jamie Crowe:** J. Crowe asked the status of the Forino concern. L. Clark stated the Schuylkill County Conservation District approved their E/S Plan so they are allowed to proceed with their building. President Fickinger stated if another issue arises, residents need to let council know so they can forward it along to the Conservation District.
- **Brandon Yesenosky:** B. Yesenosky stated he emailed the borough his Letter of Interest for the Vacancy Board on January 28th. Secretary Dyer stated she didn't receive his Letter of Interest by email but would double check. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to rescind their original message of appointing Courtney Puglia on the vacancy board and table the appointment to the March Council Meeting, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Richard Yesenosky:** R. Yesenosky asked about the stormwater project that the Borough was working on across from Church Street. L. Clark stated the Peach Street Project was completed.

○ **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:** None.

Leonard Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Delmas "Skip" Butler, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer