

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
VIA Zoom
FEBRUARY 11, 2021**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Ryan Davis
Christina Hale
Dave Kavitski
Amanda Lutz
Joan Schwer
Leah Zerbe

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice-President
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem
Skip Butler
Rodney Hiestler
Elaine Holley
Michael Allison
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor, by telephone
Willard Shiffer, Mayor

ABSENT:

Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. VIA Zoom. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence for past council member Harold "Bill" Zimmerman and borough resident Sharon Zimmerman. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present. A quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1): None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Leah Zerbe:** L Zerbe presented a project to plant trees and flowers that help with flooding on FEMA properties, etc. Council further discussed. President Fickinger stated we will table it until March's Council Meeting.
2. **Christina Hale:** Solicitor Hobbs introduced Judge Christina Hale. Solicitor Hobbs stated she is running for judge with Solicitor Hobbs for the two seats for Schuylkill County.
3. **HHL: None.**
4. **NEFD: None.**

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Shiffer stated everyone received a copy of the police report.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the circumstances pertaining to the tragedy of Sharon Zimmerman. Mayor Shiffer stated our police department did a great job handling things.
- Mayor Shiffer stated that himself and Elaine Holley attended the Upper Swatara Meeting. Council discussed flood mitigation projects.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed the recycling concerns for the county and the borough. Council further discussed. Solicitor Hobbs stated he has helped other municipalities with recycling programs.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
 - **Verizon Survey-Well Antennas:** Dave Kavitski stated that Verizon will need to do a survey of the wells communication lines to ensure the correct antennas are used. D. Kavitski stated our current communication lines are out dated and we are unable to use one of the wells due to the communications being down. Leonard Clark motioned to approve the Verizon Survey with a total cost of \$3,000.00, 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 January 14, 2021 Regular Meeting, seconded by Elaine Holley, 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 Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
4. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
 - **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder.

5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
- o **Phyllis Hesser:** President Fickinger stated we received a request from Phyllis Hesser's daughter about having an event in honor of her mother at the canal in June. President Fickinger asked Leroy Bates to oversee and be the point of contact.
6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):**
- o **Peach Street:** L. Clark provided an update on the Project. Solicitor Hobbs submitted a search for an easement at the courthouse since PennDOT installed the storm drains back in the 1930-1940's. Solicitor Hobbs stated it could take a few weeks.
 - o **Flood Mitigation:** President Fickinger thanked Len and Arthur "Pat" Aungst for working on repairs at Locust Street Stream area. President Fickinger stated that Wayne Lehman and Bill Reichert discussed possibly putting a retention pond up in Pine Grove Township to help with runoff into the Borough.
7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):** None.
8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
- o **Pool:** L. Clark provided an update on the pool. Secretary Dyer stated the office has been contacting past employees to see how many staff members are returning for the 2021 Summer Season.


NEW BUSINESS:

- o **Snow Removal:** Mayor Shiffer stated Len's Crew is doing a great job with snow removal during these snowstorms. Mayor Shiffer stated the police department have been handing out warnings and tickets for sidewalks not being shoveled.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

Leroy Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Rodney Hiestler, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer