

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2020**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Robert Deitrich
Cassie Kershner
Joan Schwer
Stacy Smith
Sharon Zimmerman

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

Thomas Fickinger, Council President
Leroy Bates, Vice-President
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem
Michael Allison
Skip Butler
Rodney Hiester
Elaine Holley
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. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):

1. **Sharon Zimmerman:** S. Zimmerman discussed properties with QOL issues. S. Zimmerman stated Council is doing a good job.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.

SCHEDULED VISITORS:

1. **HHL:** Reports were sent to council.
2. **NEFD:** Report is in Everyone's file.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Shiffer stated the monthly police report in everyone's file.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed Quality of Life and certain properties.
- Mayor Shiffer stated 9 Cherry Street is overgrown and owned by a bank with no success. Rodney Hiester motioned to hire someone to clean up 9 Cherry Street, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- Mayor Shiffer brought up about two requests for Handicapped Parking Spaces on Cherry Street. Leroy Bates motioned to add two Handicapped parking spots on Cherry Street, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Disaster Declaration:** President Fickinger stated another Declaration of Disaster was signed for an additional 30 days due to COVID-19.
- **Resolution #06-20:** Leonard Clark motioned to adopt Resolution #06-20 for the new police truck lease through Fulton Bank, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

4. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Ordinance 459:** Leroy Bates motioned to advertise Ordinance 459 changing the police retirement plan from 12 years of service vested to 8 years of service vested, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Compost Permit Worker:** Leonard Clark motioned to advertise for Compost Worker, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
- **COVID Work Policy:** Council discussed possible COVID Work Policy based on the recommendations from CDC. No action taken at this time.

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

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for May, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

6. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Streets/ Water Report:** T. Fickinger stated Len's report is in everyone's file.
- **Existing Water Tank:** L. Clark provided an update on existing water tank.
- **Kubota Tractor:** L. Clark stated the Kubota Tractor is no longer working. L. Clark stated he received two quotes for a new mowing tractor:

Wengers-- Kubota \$11,200.00
Zimmerman's Farm Service-- International \$ 11,100.00

Council further discussed. Michael Allison motioned to purchase the International through Zimmerman Farm Service with trading in the Kubota for \$11,100 contingent on Solicitor Hobbs review seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.

President Fickinger discussed a property at the South end of town stating with heavy rain they have been getting water in the basement. President Fickinger wasn't sure if the pipe behind the property located by the Compost Site isn't blocked. Council further discussed. L. Clark was going to check the pipe.

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

- **Echo Valley:** President Fickinger stated Judy Finch currently leases the land from the Borough for the two cabins and she is interested in purchasing the land in the Echo Valley area. Council further discussed with no action taken at this time.
- **Armory Building Bid Opening:** Secretary Dyer opened the two bids for the sale of the Armory Building:

Fox & Wolfe Farm, LLC \$35,000.00
Vebendo Property Mgmt. \$25,800.00

Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to reject all bids for the sale of the Armory Building, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

8. FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):

- **Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration Project:** L. Clark stated they are still working on the Swatara Creek Floodplain Restoration Project located at the North end of town.
- **Post Office.** L. Clark stated our Engineer is helping out the Post Office with their drainage issues they are having by the loading dock area.
- **Wideawake Street Creek:** President Fickinger stated with the last rain storm this area was really flooded. L. Clark stated the flow of the water may have been already high. This storm produced 2" of rain in 30 minutes and our drains cannot keep up with these types of storms.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER): None.

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

- **Pool:** Council discussed the opening of the Community Pool this summer due to COVID-19. Michael Allison motioned to open the Community Pool contingent on receiving all items per the recommendation

of CDC and American Red Cross, seconded Leroy Bates, motioned carried, Leonard Clark opposed.

Leroy Bates motioned for Snack Shack employees to serve as front desk attendants and sanitizing/ cleaning staff, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.

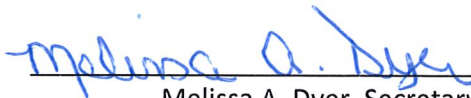
L. Clark brought up the need for new flood lights for the pool for security. The cost is around 700.00. Rodney Hiester, motioned to have new flood lights installed at the pool, seconded by Leonard Clark.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Tree Removal:** L. Clark stated we have a lot of dead trees on Borough Property in the borough and asking council to advertise for bids for tree removal. Leonard Clark motioned to advertise for bids to remove dead trees from Borough Property, seconded by Rodney Hiester, carried by Council.
- **Existing Water Tank/ Trees:** L. Clark stated when DN Tanks were here to make the repairs to the existing tanks they suggested we get the trees cut back by the water tank. L. Clark stated he received a quote from Arthur "Pat" Aungst for \$11,159.00. Council further discussed. Leonard Clark motioned to allow Arthur "Pat" Aungst to cut back the trees at the existing water tank for \$11,159.00, seconded by Michael Allison, motioned carried with Rodney Hiester abstaining.

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

Leonard Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Leroy Bates Butler, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer