

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2020**

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Joan Schwer

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Rodney Hiester

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 except Rodney Hiester. A quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1): None.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.

SCHEDULED VISITORS:

1. **Judy Finch:** Council President Fickinger will call her and discuss. J. Finch attempted to join the virtual meeting.
2. **HHL:** Reports were sent to council.
3. **NEFD:** Report is in Everyone's file.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Shiffer read over the monthly police report.

- Mayor Shiffer stated once the Armory Building is sold the police will need storage for their items. Council further discussed. Michael Allison motioned to allow the police department to obtain a storage unit, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- Mayor Shiffer stated 76 High Street hasn't responded to the citations for QOL. Mayor Shiffer would like to hire someone to clean up the property then bill the owner or place lien on the property. Council further discussed. Leonard Clark motioned to hire someone to clean up 76 High Street, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Disaster Declaration:** Leonard Clark motioned to adopt Declaration of Disaster for 30 days, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

4. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Police Vested Years of Service:** L. Bates stated currently the police must work 12 years in order to be vested with retirement and would like to change the police retirement plan to 8 years of service. Leroy Bates motioned to change the police retirement plan from 12 years of service vested to 8 years of service vested, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Resignation of Part-Time Officer:** Leroy Bates motioned to accept the resignation of part-time officer, Cody Mullins effective April 5, 2020, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

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

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the March 26, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.
- **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for March and April, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

6. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):

- **Streets/ Water Report:** T. Fickinger stated everyone should have copies of the Streets/Water reports.
- **Existing Water Tank:** L. Clark stated they are working on repairing the existing water tank.

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

- **Armory Building:** Leroy Bates motioned to change the open house date contingent on the state allowing Real Estate Agents to work, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Timbering:** Leroy Bates motioned to extend the timber contract to August 31, 2022 with King's Sawmill per the USDA requirements due to COVID-19, seconded by Michael Allison, carried by Council.

8. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):**

- **FEMA:** L. Clark stated the North End Flood Mitigation Project is moving along good.

7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):**

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

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

- **Pool:** L. Clark discussed the new filter being installed at the pool. L. Clark stated our county would have to be at the Green Phase in order to open the pool. Council further discussed and decided no decision was made to close the pool for the season.
Michael Allison motioned to approve the annual contribution to Recreation Account of \$15,000.00, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

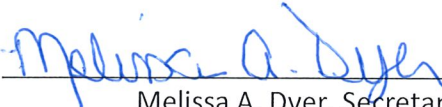
Council discussed items need to re-open, etc.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Dumpsters:** Council discussed the option to have a dumpster ordinance along with dumpsters permit. L. Clark stated the dumpsters that Potts & Monger use standard size dumpsters. Council further discussed and will have an ordinance drafted for next meeting.
- **Swiftreach:** Secretary Dyer stated to council that we currently under the County umbrella to use Swiftreach. Secretary Dyer stated that County will be going under the Federal Government. Leroy Bates motioned to approve us to work with Swiftreach again for our public notification system, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.
- **Compost Permits:** Secretary Dyer stated we have been receiving requests to sell Compost Permits. Council further discussed and decided to sell Compost Permits to residents by mail.
- **Water Payments/Phone:** Secretary Dyer stated we received some request to take credit card payments over the phone for water bills. Secretary Dyer stated residents are able to go online and pay their water bills on our website and discussed liability concerns of having residents credit card information. Council further discussed and keep payment plans as is with not taking credit card payments over the phone.

○ PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

Leroy Bates made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.



Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer