

**Port Carbon Borough Council
General Meeting
January 19, 2021**

COUNCIL MEMBERS

zoom
P
Scott Krater, Vice President, p
Ron Zimmerman, p
Denise Krater p
James McBreen p
Cathy Manning a
Tiffany Sullivan, p
Mary Jo Ferraro, p

ANCILLARY MEMBERS

Harold Herndon, Mayor,
William Burke, Solicitor p
Peggy Lubinsky, Treasurer
Luanne Mengle, Secretary p

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ron Zimmerman with the Pledge of Allegiance. D. Krater/Ferraro motioned to approve the minutes from December meetings. Motion approved.

Citizen's - Mike Walsh - Walsh talked about the garbage fee going up. Walsh asked if anything is being done with the delinquent sanitation. Walsh suggested sending to collection agency. Burke stated we did that before and it didn't do that well. Burke stated the water would not turn off water because of garbage bills. Burke stated the Borough had sent the sheriff out and picked up \$4,000 doing that. Burke stated the Borough used to take it to the Magistrate and that used to keep the number of delinquents down.

Zimmerman stated the liens help sometimes but not all the times. Zimmerman reported the Sanitation committee will be discussing this issue.

McBreen reported the delinquent bills were included in the price of sanitation and those that pay early get a break. McBreen stated the committee will look into different options to deal with delinquent residents.

Walsh asked about the abandoned vehicles and if we could fine the owners instead of just putting red tags on them. McBreen asked for a list of the vehicles that Walsh mentioned and he would look into it.

Walsh also asked about the property at 206 Market Street and the stove pipe on the side of the house.

Mayor Herndon asked about the fine and if it would have to be another ordinance. Burke suggested looking at the Quality of Life ordinance first. Burke stated we do have an abandoned ordinance also.

Finance - No Report

Public Works - D. Krater reported electric taken care of at the Borough. The gazebo area is done. Krater reported we got \$400 from insurance for the corner of gazebo lot and would like to get the corner fixed up.

Krater/McBreen motioned to hire Ben Schuettler as per Diem snow plow driver pending background check. Motion approved.

Krater stated we are changing the electric company to PPL instead of going through another party. McBreen/Sullivan motioned to accept report. Report accepted.

Property - No report.

Safety - No Report.

Recreation - Sullivan reported she contacted the person that wanted to do a dog show at Lubinsky Park and let him know we decline to allow it right now due to Covid restrictions. Krater/McBreen motioned to accept report. Report accepted.

Zoning - McBreen reported no complaints for Quality of Life. Lehigh Engineering we did have an issue with 206 Market which was referred to Bill Murphy. Murphy checked the code and it would go back to Lehigh.

McBreen reported 21 Pike Street there was a notice of violation with siding on the side of the building. Also, Zoning checked into a trailer going onto a property on Oak Street and that is allowed. Ed Wengert from Lehigh will be giving out a report each month.

Krater/Ferraro motioned to accept report. Report accepted.

Sanitation - Ferraro reported neighbors complained about 215/217 Coal Street about garbage that was piling up. Ferraro reported to Angie from Tamaqua and they came and cleaned it up.

Tamaqua contacted Ferraro about construction material at 118 North Street and they did not pick it up. McBreen will send a letter to the homeowners.

McBreen/Sullivan motioned to approve report. Report approved.

Special - Zimmerman reported talking with Susan Smith about the Zoning going to County. Smith reported it should be done by June.

Sullivan/D. Krater motioned to approve. Report approved.

Treasurer's - General fund as of December 1st, the balance was 159,771.98, checks for \$83,311.54, deposits for \$84,554.52 for a balance of \$161,014.96. Uncleared transactions \$25,496.71 for a new balance as of January 9th of \$126,531.11.

Liquid Fuels - Beginning balance of \$40,684.48, checks for \$8,962.42, ending balance of \$31,722.38

D. Krater/Ferraro motioned to accept report. Report approved.

Engineer -

Category C - 4th Street Repairs - Benesch submitted a Quarterly Report to PEMA. Benesch will assist the Borough by contacting Penn Dot to receive permissions needed to receive ePermitting access required for Highway Occupancy Permit and finalize the bid package. Meetings need to be scheduled with Fees and Richter to execute the easement agreements.

Category D - Mill Creek Channel Wall Repairs. -Benesch has finalized the plans and specification book which are being reviewed internally. The Quarterly Report has been submitted to PEMA. Meetings need to be set up with affected property owners, Spiess, Foley and Winstian to execute the easement agreements. A DAP-9 Reimbursement request has been submitted to PEMA. The Borough should receive \$24,255.00 within a month. This reimbursement is for engineering expenses. Winter/Spring construction is anticipated.

Growing Greener - Benesch anticipates the preliminary survey for the By-Pass Pipe option will begin in the 2 to 3 weeks. Once this is scheduled the Borough and affected property owners will be contacted. It is anticipated that the preparation will begin of the Borough's Tree Removal project for the trees within the Creek Channel or affecting the wall structure. We anticipate holding an update meeting with the Borough's Special Committee before next months Council Meeting.

CDBG Curb Ramp Application - Benesch has received a request from DCED to provide additional photos for the State Historic Preservation Office which is required for Environmental Clearance. Tohill is not aware if the CDBG Grant announcement were made this year, however this request is a good sign that the Borough may receive grant funds.

D. Krater/Sullivan motioned to accept report. Report accepted.

EMA - Walsh reported 6 Fire calls and 28 EMS. Walsh Port Carbon did get some recognition for the Seltzer fire. Sullivan/Ferraro motioned to accept report. Report accepted.

Mayor - Mayor reported the Pottsville car registration, license and insurance is up to date. The car will be going over to Guldins for the final inspection.

Mayor reported Bob and Larry finished the floor and new counter in the Police station. Mayor thanked Bob and Larry for their work.

Mayor reported the mailbox at Kaitlyn's house will be removed by Bob and placed at the Borough Hall.

Mayor thanked Chris and Joe M for the work they did at the Police Station.

McBreen/Sullivan motioned to accept report. Report accepted.

Solicitor- Burke nothing to report. Burke will prepare the resolution for the garbage increase. Lubinsky asked if we need a resolution for the budget. Burke will also prepare the resolution for the budget.

Unfinished business - No report.

New Business - McBreen spoke with S. Krater about going forward with the online meetings due to Covid and going forward to hear and record meetings. McBreen has some prices for the equipment. One is \$299.00, one is \$199.00 and one is \$237.50. McBreen prefers the \$237.50 because he has had experience with this model. It would be for Borough business. Sullivan feels we should wait until next meeting.

Zimmerman stated Lubinsky and Mengle suggested getting a safe to put sanitation money in.

Zimmerman suggested getting one that someone could not carry out.

Zimmerman also suggested a program called Dragon Professional to help with minutes that Mengle had mentioned. The program can be put on the laptop and would help with taking the minutes.

Executive Session - 7:53 to 8:34

Personnel matters and employee

As if today, January 19th, Lubinsky and Mengle rescinded their resignation that was effective for January 22nd. S. Krater/Ferraro approved the rescinding of the resignation. Motion approved.

S. Krater/McBreen motioned to set the rate of pay at \$11.00 an hour. Motion approved.

McBreen/Sullivan motioned to authorize the Solicitor to draft an agreement on Police discipline for approval of the Safety Committee and presentation onto the Police officer. Ferraro abstained. Motion approved.

Citizen - Walsh asked about tire chains for the truck. S. Krater stated Bob had called right after the storm to let us know that new chains were needed. Walsh asked about chains for the other dump truck. S. Krater will talk with Faust about the chains.

D. Krater/Sullivan motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Mengle, Borough Secretary