

**Borough of Pitcairn Council
Combined Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2022
6:00 pm**

**Meeting called to order – President Jim Rullo
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Roll Call:

Thomas Dick, Jr.
Megan Law
Lisa Petrosky
Domenic Roberta
James Rullo
Richard Tartaglione
George Toth
Mayor Margaret Stevick
All present

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to approve Minutes for Council Meetings on December 13, 2021 and January 3, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Tartaglione; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rullo announced Council held an Executive Session this evening at 5:30 pm to discuss a legal matter.

Citizen Comment

Fire Chief, Tom Dick, asked Council to approve the Fire Company's formal written request for money from the Public Safety Fund for the new fire engine they ordered. Discussion took place between Mr. Dick and Council members. Highlights included Mr. Dick explaining the Fire Company's financial commitment, efforts to raise funds and apply for grants. The Fire Company will commit their yearly State Fire Relief allotment. Mr. Dick said the Fire Company is hoping the Borough will match their \$50,000 down payment from the Public Safety Fund as well as commit \$45,000 yearly towards the loan. That amount may be less depending on the payment plan. Council members said they would consider the request but did not make a decision.

Khristie Dennis-Kimbrough approached Council to request an amendment to Pitcairn's Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of Pitcairn to permit Group Home in the B-1 Zone. The request was heard by the Planning Commission on December 14, 2021. Ms. Kimbrough summarized her professional background and vision for the proposed for-profit Group Home which would be located at her property on Broadway. Discussion took place between Council members and Ms. Kimbrough. She described the specific features of the Group Home and the residents it would serve. Mr. Rullo asked her if she had inquired of the Zoning when she purchased the building. Ms. Kimbrough explained it was the former location of her child day care school and she had not planned to use it at that time for a Group Home.

Solicitor Mike Witherel read from the current Zoning Ordinance the three zones where Group Home is permitted. The B-1 Zone, where Broadway is located, was not listed. He asked for the Planning Commission's recommendation. Mrs. Petrosky read their recommendation was to deny the request. Mr. Rullo asked her if she wanted to make a motion. Mr. Witherel recommended she abstain as a member of the Planning Commission. **Mr. Dick motioned that Council agree with the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny the request to amend the Zoning Ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Toth. Roll call vote resulted in the motion carrying with Mrs. Petrosky abstaining and Mr. Roberta voted no.** Ms. Kimbrough expressed disappointment and the desire to appeal the decision. Mr. Witherel encouraged her to consult with her attorney as to an appeal.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Pitcairn Police worked 177 complaints in the month of December. In November and December the Borough collected \$125 in Mayor's fines, \$651.29 in State fines, \$3,246.26 in Magistrate's fines, \$735.44 from the County and \$100 in Quality of Life fines.

Personnel / General –Megan Law

Mrs. Law announced there is an opening on the Zoning Hearing Board for an Alternate. She encouraged interested residents to apply.

Streets – George Toth

Mr. Toth motioned to approve payment request from Liberoni, Inc. in the amount of \$15,165.60 for work completed to date, to be paid from the Capital Projects Fund. Seconded by Mr. Roberta; motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place between Engineer Don Black of EADS and members of Council and the Mayor regarding items on the Engineer's Report. Taylor Avenue Bridge – Penn DOT recommended underpinning the far upstream abutment/wing to keep the bridge open. The GP-11 permit has been approved by DEP. Mr. Rullo asked Don Black to explain. The bridge is related to the flood project, the bridge is being undermined by the stream, PennDOT inspects the bridge every year. We have made the case that when the flood project comes through it will be replaced. However, the land acquisition process for the flood project has taken some time. The proposed temporary solution would cost about \$80,000. Council could authorize the Engineer to bid that out. Discussion took place regarding the flood project. It was decided to contact the DEP as to its timeline to bid out the project and the DGS for an estimate when all land acquisition will be approved. Mr. Black called attention to the DCED Flood Mitigation Grant – the CFA awarded Pitcairn \$279,433.00 to be used towards what are referred to as sponsor adjustments for the Dirty Camp project. Another time extension is required by June 30, 2022 and the grant can only be extended to December 20, 2022. The DEP has contacted the Borough that their funding for the Project may be revoked if action related to the project doesn't move forward this year. Mr. Black explained the DEP funds the channel portion of the project, \$11.5M. They don't pay for the bridges, moving utilities, and other items which are sponsor adjustments. The total for those could be \$1.1M. The CFA grant will help. It was decided that Ms. Dietz would arrange a meeting for Council with the DEP project manager as soon as possible. Council agreed.

Parks and Recreation – Domenic Roberta

Nothing this evening.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Toth; motion carried unanimously.

Health and Welfare –Richard Tartaglione

Mr. Turner has submitted his reports to Council. He added that he is working on a demo project on Kay Street with the engineer. Mr. Tartaglione added he is planning to drive around with Mr. Turner each week.

Electric – Tom Dick, Jr.

Nothing this evening.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Nothing this evening.

Solicitor’s Report

Solicitor Mike Witherel requested Council convene to Executive Session after the meeting to discuss a legal matter, not to return for further business. Council agreed.

Engineer’s Report

Mr. Black had nothing to add to previous motions.

Borough Manager’s Report

Ms. Dietz read the bank fund balances and summarized the Real Estate Tax Collector’s report.

Police Chief Report

Mr. Rullo thanked everyone for attending the Meeting. Mr. Toth motioned to adjourn at 6:59 pm. Seconded by Mr. Tartaglione; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Annette Dietz