

**Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop/Business Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2020
6:30 pm**

**Meeting called to order – President Dona Galia
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Roll Call:

John Bova
Kevin Dick
Debra Freeman
Dona Galia
Lisa Petrosky
Jim Rullo
Michael Tobias
Mayor Margaret Stevick
All present.

Mrs. Galia announced Council held an Executive Session at 6:00 pm to discuss a legal item.

Mrs. Galia motioned to approve Minutes for Council Regular Meeting, November 9, 2020 and Council Agenda Workshop Meeting, November 23, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Bova, motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comment on Agenda Items

Resident Mr. Adams submitted a request for No Trucks Permitted signs at both ends of School Street. GPS units direct tall box trucks to the narrow lane and internet and telephone service recently took days to restore. Brief discussion took place. Mr. Dick motioned to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Pitcairn Police worked 207 complaints in November.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mrs. Galia announced Borough Offices will be closed ½ day on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. She wished everyone a safe and pleasant holiday. Mr. Bova referenced the ½ day on Christmas Eve as set by the CBA. He felt employees should have the whole day off considering they have reported to work each day during the pandemic when others have worked remotely from home. Mrs. Galia and the rest of Council agreed to the entire day.

Mrs. Galia announced there are two seats open on the Planning Commission for 2021. The term is five years. She asked interested candidates to let Council members or the Borough Manager know.

Mrs. Galia motioned to appoint Greg Evashavik as Zoning Attorney beginning January 1, 2021, at a rate of \$140 an hour. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Streets – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick announced bids for the stabilization of Hillside Avenue grant funded project were opened on November 18th. After review, the apparent low bidder is GeoBuild, LLC. Mr. Dick asked Engineer Don Black for input. Mr. Black: the bid for \$466,000 is very good and below the estimate. In his opinion the Borough should attempt to take advantage of it and do the entire stabilization. The grant is for \$300,000. Discussion took place whether to do the whole road or do half staying under the grant amount, and apply for another grant, to do the second half a year or more from now. Mr. Dick asked Mr. Black if the deteriorating retaining wall is the Borough's responsibility. Mr. Black believed it was Borough property and would protect the roadway and nearby structure. Mr. Dick asked him to speak with the geotechnical engineer whether it was better to buy the house and not fix the wall. Mrs. Petrosky asked if Council did

one half, would the road remain closed. Mr. Black said it would be reduced to one lane or one way. Pulling out the guardrail and paving to do separately would reduce the cost. The repair would be a soil nails repair approved by the geotechnical engineer and includes a warranty if it fails. Mayor Stevick: how long? Mr. Black promised to investigate that. Mr. Rullo: would we be eligible for more grants if we only repair part of it? Mr. Black: we could pursue funding; an additional grant was applied for but not awarded. Ms. Dietz pointed out awards are not decided until November next year. Mrs. Petrosky: when will the project start. Mr. Black: certain aspects could begin now, paving wouldn't start till Spring. He recommended removing the paving and guardrail to save about \$11,740 and do the wall for an estimate of \$50,000. Bid the paving in Spring. Ms. Dietz is in communication with the County and will appear virtually before the AIM Board tomorrow morning if Council approves borrowing. After discussion, Council agreed it would be best to complete the project. **Mr. Dick motioned to adopt Resolution 49-2020, application for an AIM Loan in the amount of \$150,000 for Hillside Avenue stabilization project. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dick motioned to authorize the Commonwealth Financing Authority to approve payment request for invoices totaling \$409,037.40 to JG Contracting for Center Avenue Stabilization Project. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dick asked Solicitor Mike Witherel the status of the proposed reimbursement agreement between the Borough and Pearce Funeral Home for the repair of their retaining wall. Mr. Witherel, who negotiated with Mr. Charles Bruna, responded when he signs and submits the initial payment, the Borough can begin the repair.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Mrs. Freeman thanked everyone for working together in rearranging the Christmas events in light of the pandemic. She felt it was a good idea to do as other boroughs are doing, have Santa driven around town. Mrs. Freeman is asking for volunteers to assist the Fire Company with the event.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to adopt the proposed \$3,753,041.22 General Fund Budget for 2021 as advertised. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to adopt Ordinance 1039 amending Ordinance 917, fixing the salaries and rates of compensation for the appointive officers, and monthly and hourly employees for 2021 as advertised. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Petrosky motioned to adopt Ordinance 1040 fixing and levying the real estate tax rate for the year 2021 at 9.25 mills as advertised. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Petrosky wished everyone a happy, safe and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias announced that bids for trash collection and hazardous household waste collection were opened on December 8th. The only bidder was Waste Management. Mr. Tobias requested Council decide between the one and three-year options. After discussion, Mr. Dick recommended the three year. **Mr. Tobias motioned to award the three-year contract for trash collection and hazardous household**

waste collection to Waste Management and to authorize the billing office to adjust the customer charge accordingly. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Tobias motioned to authorize the Engineer to submit the 2020 Wasteload Management Report to ALCOSAN. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Electric – Jack Bova

Mr. Bova reported that Jim Comunale is asking Council to approve a new decorative streetlight design for three lights that need to be replaced. The current design is no longer available and Mr. Comunale has submitted two models for Council consideration. One light will cost approximately \$900. After discussion, Council chose the design which was less expensive, easier to clean.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Chief Farally introduced Officer Eric Williams. He was in the Army National Guard, has worked as an Officer for Frazer Township and Pittsburgh. has a criminal justice degree. Council members welcomed him. **Mr. Rullo motioned to hire part time Police Officer Eric Williams. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.** Mayor Stevick performed the swearing in.

Mr. Rullo wished everyone a merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Witherel reported nothing in addition to Agenda items and Executive Session matter.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Black reported that A. Folino as low bidder for Brinton, took their time to start the project and the concern became cooler than expected temperatures. It most likely would not have been good to pave. EADS and Ms. Dietz have successfully requested from the grant funding agency permission to begin the project first thing in the Spring and they will stay on Folino to make that happen.

Borough Manager's Report

Ms. Dietz read the following fund balances with end of the year comments.

Capital Improvement Account - \$378,381 This is allocated for 2021 projects.

Electric System Capital Improvement Account - \$163,511 Mr. Comunale is relaying to Council that the large bucket truck is rusting and may need to be replaced soon. He is investigating the availability of affordable used models.

Local Grant Dirty Camp Fund - \$68,146

EIT Tax Revenue Account - \$232,358 As in the last several years, this remaining employment tax revenue will be used next Spring instead of a TAN loan. In recent years, this amount was higher, this year lower due to pandemic.

Sewer Capital Improvement Fund - \$451,094

Liquid Fuels - \$84,607 Approximately \$40 to \$50,000 might be used for salt this season; the remainder is allocated in the 2021 budget.

Public Safety Fund - \$79,660 Approximately \$40,000 is reserve from prior years.

Real Estate Tax Collected in November - \$1,898.27

There is an uncollected balance of \$129,393 which is higher than previous years. The Tax Collector attributes this to the waiver of late penalty fees in response to the pandemic.

Ms. Dietz requested a motion to perform an end of the year transfer of \$200,000 from the Sewer Revenue Fund to the Sewer Revenue Capital Fund. Mr. Bova provided the motion. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia thanked the Borough employees, Council, Mayor, residents and Borough Manager for working hard to keep everyone safe during this difficult year.

Mr. Tobias motioned to Adjourn at 7:05 pm. Seconded by Mrs. Galia; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Dietz