

GEISTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 8, 2022

6:00

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Scott with the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

ROLL CALL:

President Don Scott, Vice President Bill Schrader, Eric Lindrose, Alice Hummel, Mike Oliver, Denny Munko, Lou Ann Gray, Mayor Mock and Attorney were present. Five Visitors were present.

AGENDA:

Motion by Bill Schrader, seconded by Denny Munko, to approve the agenda with the addition of an executive session for personnel and legal issues following the Visitors. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

Motion by Denny Munko, seconded by Eric Lindrose, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Motion by Denny Munko to approve, seconded by Alice Hummel. Motion carried.

INVOICES AND PAY BILLS:

Motion by Denny Munko, Alice Hummel seconded, to approve. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

Bonnie Emigh and Ted Smay, Penndot, were present to discuss the agility program. A 2 year plan was submitted which involves mowing and snow plowing and they will do crack sealing to streets. Denny Munko added that it requires more discussion, Council agreed. Don Scott added that Council will hopefully have an answer a month or two.

Tom Morisi, Keller Engineers was present to discuss the Walters Avenue project. The bids came in after the May meeting. Submitted information on the grant amounts and the ARPA money that was reviewed. There was a cost savings of \$70,000 in the design. The contract was awarded to Liberoni Construction for \$867,356.97. Attorney Carbonara asked if the agreements were reviewed by Keller Engineers. The resolution Penndot requested is due to the cost coming in lower and the reimbursement agreement will be amended.

Motion by Alice Hummel to award the Walters Avenue Project, ECMS 111449, to A. Liberoni Inc. in the amount of \$867,356.97: issue Notice to Proceed upon contract execution: and allow the Borough Secretary to execute all necessary documents in PennDot’s ECMS system, pending the Solicitor’s review. Bill Schrader seconded and motion unanimously carried.

Matt Sernell was present and thanked everyone who works at the Borough. Sernell went on to comment that, since certain Board Members of the Highland Sewer and Water Authority (“HSWA”) Board, who he identified as “riffraff”, were no longer on the HSWA Board, he wanted the Borough to again to pursue having HSWA handle the Borough’s and Richland Township’s storm water system. President Scott sought

clarification from Sernell on who the ruffraff was and Sernell identified Ray Porche and Ron Samuels as the past HSWA Board members he considered "ruffraff". President Scott took offense to Sernell calling these individuals names when these people served the community for over 30 years. Sernell claimed that President Scott was biased for various reasons that were denied by President Scott and, thereafter, President Scott and Sernell got into a heated discussion. Council Members of the Borough interjected and directed Sernell to use his time to raise issues for the Borough to consider without making personal insults towards Members of Borough Council or other Board members in the community. Council Members commented that Sernell did not need to call people names or make demeaning comments about people to ask the Borough to review a matter of interest.

President Scott called for an executive session at 6:34 for Personnel and Legal matters.

President Scott called the meeting back to order at 7:16 stating Personnel and Legal matters were discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Eric Lindrose, Business Operations

Checked on the grants and still under review. Looked at the budget which has 68% coming in and \$26% going out.

Bill Schrader, Public Works/Streets

Resident on Walters Avenue asked that a 3 way stop be put at Walters Avenue and Barbera Drive. It was decided to look into after the construction. A discussion on the speeding signs that tell you how fast you are going. Richland has one and it seems to slow traffic down.

Civil Service Commission met yesterday. There are two testing agency's available for the newly hired Police. Thinks an ad should be put in newspaper saying the Borough will be hiring. Hiring full time Officer was approved at May's meeting.

Motion by Alice Hummel to add hiring part time Officers to the add, Denny Munko seconded and Motion unanimously carried.

Alice Hummel, Technology

Has been looking further into GovCard. Asked for a motion to have both Karen and Lenny have same software on them and have own passwords. Karen added that they have the same software and Lenny has his own passwords.

Mike Oliver, Personnel, Negotiating No Report

Denny Munko, Ordinances No Report

Lou Ann Gray, Public Safety

Has residents saying that the speeding is down. Sent Chief information on training on Council Members working with Police Officers. Don Scott asked if there is a fee to have it on next month's agenda.

Mayor Mock's Report

Will be receiving a bill for \$1,004.00 for repair to the engine. Was asked to officiate two weddings, Karen has been getting information from PSAB. Has received compliments on the sidewalks.

MANAGERS REPORTS:

Chief Zakucia reported the audit is completed and department is full compliance. The 2009 Crown Vic will not pass inspection. Suggested to put it out for bid. Don Scott added that there should be a vehicle for use by Rick and the office. Asked for permission to strip the Crown Vic.

Karen Giebfried, Secretary/Treasurer

Stated in the packets there is a letter withdrawing her retirement

Motion by Denny Munko to not accept the retirement letter, Alice Hummel seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Gary Paul, Lead Road Worker

Paving has been completed. Going to ask Highland Sewer & Water to pave Melvin and Brandle Streets.

Rick Truscello, Borough Administrator

A complaint at 304 Boise Street, the gutter is in the right of way. His driveway has a lip on it and asked that it be removed and would sign an agreement not to hold the Borough liable if there is water damage to his property. It was agreed to let it as is.

Reviewed his report. A hearing was held on Mr. Knipple and a judgement of \$2,000.00 plus court costs against him. He has asked the Borough to accept payments.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Attorney Carbonara reported he is handling Officer Martin's request for Heart and Lung.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Thanked Council for their responses to his email.

OLD BUSINESS:

Penndot Agility Work Plan

Denny Munkio asked when it will be discussed. President Scott asked that Council review the plan and wants Rick, Gary and Chief to look into it.

Tax Assessment Appeal Appraisal – 645 Lamberd Avenue

Motion by Denny Munko to approve the settlement by stipulation at Cambria County docket #2021-2924 reducing the fair market value of the property to \$120,000.00, Bill Schrader seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the sale of equipment and 1999 ford dump truck

Rick reported on the items and the bids received:

Air Compressor - \$51.00, Electric tire machine - \$51.00, Pressure washer - \$21.00, Street sign maker - \$10.00, Tires - \$100.00, 1999 Ford F450 Dump Truck - \$11,262.00.

Motion by Alice Hummel to approve, Bill Schrader and motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #2022-06, amendment to Penndot's reimbursement agreement for Walters Avenue

Motion by Alice Hummel to approve contingent on Attorney Carbonara's additional review with Tom Morisi and Penndot, Bill Schrader seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Stanley Drive Drain Pipe

Motion to ratify the installation for \$11,500.00 not to exceed \$18,000.00 by Bill Schrader,

seconded by Eric Lindrose and motion carried unanimously.

Salary adjustment for Secretary/Treasurer

Don Scott stated it was agreed via email to increase to \$30.00 retroactive to May 1, 2022.

Motion by Denny Munko to ratify, Lou Ann Gray seconded.

ROLL CALL:

Eric Lindose – yes

Alice Hummel – no

Mike Oliver – yes

Denny Munko – yes

Lou Ann Gray – yes

Don Scott – yes

Everest Proposal, cell tower lease

Attorney Carbonara stated that the Committee met and discussed and feels further consideration. Rick will look into it further.

Highland Sewer & Water letter on the Road cutting Ordinance

Attorney Carbonara received the letter asking to re-evaluate and had a discussion in the Executive Session.

Kiwanis Club of Johnstown East Hills – Flags Over East Hills

Motion by Alice Hummel to approve 5 flags at \$100.00, Denny Munko seconded and motion carried with Bill Schrader abstaining.

Motion to adjourn at 8:06, seconded by Bill Schrader and motion unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Giebfried
Borough Secretary