

A meeting of Portage Borough Council Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, April 16th, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

Sharon McCarthy
Todd Learn

David Hayes
Jerome Yetsko

George Wozniak

Also present were: Robert Koban, Borough Manager and Michelle Claar-Secretary. Absent were councilmen John Morgan and James Kissell, and Jr. Councilor; Ms. Canavan and Ms. Wozniak.

Visitors:

Visitors present were Marian Slebodnick and Jean Kinley.

Mrs. Slebodnick presented pictures to Council for their review. The pictures showed property damages from trucks trying to turn onto South Railroad into Leman's Machine. Mrs. Slebodnick also advised that the trucks have done damages to another neighbor's property as well. Truck tire ruts and damage to a sewer line were also reported. The truck traffic and damages are occurring on a regular basis. Storm water drainage issues were also reported. Mrs. Slebodnick inquired if a one-way sign could be installed on South Railroad. Mr. Koban explained that the Borough just can't install a sign without the process of an engineering study. A lengthy discussion took place on a resolution for trucks entering Leman's Machine including jersey barriers on her property, notifying Leman's of the problem, one-way street, engineering study, utilization of the driveway behind Leman's, and contacting Google Maps for a different route.

Ms. Jean Kinley commented on the 12-hour power outage on April 5th and questioned why the fire dept was not properly manned. She also questioned if there is an emergency operation plan in effect for any power outages and that the administration building did not have an operating generator. Mr. Wozniak advised that he contacted Cambria County Emergency Management regarding the power outage. Ms. Kinley also commented that there should have been a presence at the building since it is a shelter. The police were doing their job. With no electric, Ms. Kinley commented that elderly residents could have been without heat and if anyone required oxygen. Mr. Koban commented that fire dept personnel were dispatched to several downed trees and lines. Mr. Koban also advised that the small generator would not provide enough power for an emergency shelter. Mr. Wozniak commented that grant funding for a generator was not successful in the past but suggested seeking other grant applications.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Update on Recreation Director/Manager

Mr. Koban commented that he has not received a letter of support from the Portage Area School District.

B. Borough Building Roof litigation

Mr. Koban informed Council that American Roofing will be sending out a specialist to check out the roof.

C. Update on Trout Run Flood Protection Grant-there was no update.

D. Update on PennDot Project on SR 164 and Main Street

Mr. Koban advised Council that a meeting took place with PennDot officials and four (4) property owners concerning the project. Mr. Ruffing's main concern was the traffic flow at Main Street and Caldwell Avenue. Mr. Hill's only concern was the loss of two parking spaces at the side of his building. Rob Miller had no issues with the project scope. Mr. Decort's main

concern was the loss of parking space and property if the road was widened. Mr. Decort requested additional time to consult with his attorney and to further review the plans.

- E. Update on PennDot MTF Grant for the Main Street Phase II Improvements
There was no update but moving forward.
- F. Update on restroom project at Crichton McCormick Park
Mr. Wisor will be contacting Mr. Koban some time next week to review the site and plans.
- G. Update on Sewer Testing
Mr. Koban advised that he still has not received an estimate from Mr. Raptosh. Mr. Koban also informed Council that a section of the concrete wall along the creek on Johnson Avenue is falling apart and will need repaired. Mr. Koban commented that Mr. Raptosh was also approached to provide an estimate.
- H. Update on Sonman Avenue Bridge
Mr. Koban informed Council that the PennDot Outreach meeting will be held next month and will investigate if the bridge is on the 12- year plan.
- I. Update on Mainline Trail Feasibility Study-9/11 trail
Mr. Koban advised that Mr. Stager provided the prior study and then Ms. Claar scanned the documents if any other member of Council would like to review it. Mr. Koban commented that after he reviewed some of the study, the project hasn't changed much and there is no guarantee for awarding a grant. Ms. McCarthy advised that she spoke with Randy and he has been attending several meetings concerning the trail. A group of 4 individuals will be scouting the bike trails (approximately 1,300 miles) that connect the three 9/11 locations; Washington DC, Shanksville, and New York City. The riders will be stopping in the Portage area during that time. Mr. Koban also suggested that a pledge could be made for support of the study.
- J. Update on Main Street (Phase III) grant funding
The grant was submitted.

Buildings:

- A. 1309/1315 Jefferson Avenue (Kissell)
There will be a public hearing for both properties at the May 7th, 2018 regular meeting.
- B. 616 Dulancey Drive (Adams)
Mr. Emerick is researching for a representative.
- C. 907 Jefferson Avenue (Crums)
The property is not completely cleaned up.
- D. 933 Sonman Avenue-(Greenawalt)
The Findings of Fact were sent out to Mr. Greenawalt and Ms. Windsor.
- E. Shoenfeld property at Orange and Grove
Mr. Koban informed Council that Chief Miller will be investigating the property in the spring.
- F. Update on 828 North Railroad (Gaunts)
Ms. McCarthy commented that the specific repairs were not made to the building and the deadline is April 17th. The Gaunts were not present at the meeting to provide any update or plans for completion. Mrs. Slebodnick commented that several individuals were on the roof over the weekend removing shingles but some areas were not covered. Mrs. Slebodnick

commented that some home owners are letting their properties deteriorate and an example should be made of the owners. Ms. McCarthy commented that we have an obligation to do what is right for the people of the community and those residents are taking advantage of the Borough. Mr. Koban advised Council that based on the agreement, no further action is required by Council and legal proceedings will be initiated by Mr. Emerick.

G. Update on 730 Sherman Street (Plummer)

Mr. Koban informed Council that there was been no progress on the property repairs and the Plummer's have not contacted the borough regarding a timeline for granting an extension.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion on tennis court repairs at Crichton McCormick Park

Mr. Koban informed Council that he spoke with Mr. Burkett regarding the poor workmanship of Laurel Asphalt from last year and is also seeking legal assistance. Laurel Asphalt had applied acrylic resurfacer and line-striped the court. Donations were received from the Bunny Dash, Portage township, Rotary, PAJRC, and the Borough for the project. The funds were deposited into the Borough's General Fund account to pay for the expenses of the project. Laurel Asphalt has not yet been paid in the amount of \$8,370.00. Mr. Koban commented that the group is seeking legal assistance from the Borough.

B. Approval to advertise the 2017 Financial Audit prepared by Kotzan & Associates

ON MOTION OF MR. YETSKO, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED TO ADVERTISE THE 2017 FINANCIAL AUDIT AS PREPARED BY KOTZAN & ASSOCIATES. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Paying of the Bills

Ms. Claar presented a copy of the bills and additional bills to be paid in written form.

ON MOTION OF MR. WOZNIAK, SECONDED BY MR. HAYES, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO PAY THE BILLS AS PRESENTED IN WRITTEN FORM; IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,841.57. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

GOOD OF THE BOROUGH

Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Koban informed Council they attended the Portage Area Regional Planning Commission meeting at the Township Building on Monday, April 9th, 2018.

Ms. McCarthy advised Mr. Koban that she was approached by Sharon Kestermont regarding a sign that was removed from the sidewalk during the Mountain Avenue project. She is requesting that the sign be replaced.

The Cambria County Conservation District sent notice of the 2018 Appliance and Tire Collection program. Croyle Township on April 28th; Cambria Township on May 12th, and Patton Borough on May 19th, 2018.

Cambria County Commissioners sent notice that Concurrent Technologies will be accepting household chemical collections on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 from 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.

Mrs. Slebodnick inquired on a streetlight that was on South Railroad several years ago and questioned if one could be re-installed. Mr. Koban commented that the streetlight charges were paid by a previous property owner. Mr. Learn suggested to contact Penelec. Mr. Koban cautioned Council on setting a precedence for installing streetlights.

Ms. McCarthy commended the efforts of Mr. Brent Kinley on the Sewer Authority Board.

Mr. Hayes commented on the letters from the second-grade students seeking new sidewalks.

Cambria County Commissioners sent notice that the second annual Cambria County Hero Hike will be held on Saturday, May 19th, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon along the Ghost Town Trail beginning in Nanty Glo and ending in Ebensburg.

Reminder that Earth Week Clean-up efforts will be held on Friday, April 20th, 2018.

Reminder that the Portage Area Planning Commission and various organizations will be meeting on Saturday, April 21st, 2018 at the Portage Area High School cafeteria.

There being no further business;

ON MOTION OF MR. HAYES, SECONDED BY MR. WOZNIAK, COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED. VOTING AFFIRMATIVELY INCLUDED MR. LEARN, MR. YETSKO, MR. HAYES, MR. WOZNIAK, AND MS. MCCARTHY, MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

The meeting concluded at 7:58 p.m.