

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Judy Finch  
Wade Gettle  
Jennifer Modesto  
David Shiffer  
Lee Strubhar

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Fickinger, Council President  
Leroy Bates, Vice-President  
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem  
Skip Butler  
Elaine Holley  
Wade Gettle  
Devin Lymaster  
Willard Shiffer, Mayor  
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/ Treasurer  
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

**ABSENT:**

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Council President Fickinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present. A quorum was established.

**○ PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):**

- **David Shiffer:** D. Shiffer stated he is one of the Guidance Counselors at the Pine Grove Area High School and would like approval from council for 10-15 graduating students to obtain their community service hours. D. Shiffer stated they are looking to complete around late March early April before graduation. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to allow the graduating students to pick up trash in Pine Grove Borough for community service hours for graduation, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

- **Judy Finch:** J. Finch is the owner of the Echo Valley Campground and leases property from the borough. J. Finch wants to buy the parcel from the Borough. J. Finch also stated she had a paper that stated the parcel would be deeded to her in 2016 but couldn't find it. President Fickinger stated the Borough must advertise for bids for selling property they own. Council further discussed and asked Solicitor Hobbs to look into it for the March council meeting.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.**

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Charlie Zimmerman:** Secretary Dyer stated he was going to try to attend but the Lion's Den was having their meeting at 6:30pm. Secretary Dyer stated the Christmas Light Committee would like to install lights down at the canal and wanted council's approval. Secretary Dyer wasn't sure if he reached out to anyone on council to discuss.

Secretary Dyer stated we also had the roof looked at the Lion's Den and couldn't find where it was leaking from and was going to check back when it was raining.

2. **Jennifer Modesto:** J. Modesto requested Veteran's Memorial Drive to be closed on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00am to 4:00pm for Cub Scout 611 Scouting for Deals. Skip Butler motioned to approve the road closure of Veteran's Memorial Drive on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00am to 4:00pm for Cub Scout 611 Scouting for Deals, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

3. **HH&L:** 2022 Year End Report in everyone's file.

4. **NEFD:** Lee Strubhar read over their monthly report.

L. Strubhar asked the status about the False Alarm Ordinance. Council provided him with a copy and asked for the fire companies and council to review and get back with any changes for the March meeting.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Shiffer read over the monthly Police Report.
- Handicapped Parking Request: Mayor Shiffer stated we received a request for a Handicapped Parking Sign for Locust Street. Leroy Bates motioned to add the Handicapped Parking Sign near 23 Locust Street, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- Sidewalk and Trees: Mayor Shiffer stated he received an invite from Leah Zerbe to do a walking tour with her and Penn State Extension to discuss trees and sidewalks. Mayor Shiffer stated the walk-thru will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Mayor Shiffer stated they will be meeting at the Borough Building.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a letter was received for request for fire police for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Girardville. Council further discussed. Secretary Dyer will send a letter to Girardville Borough stating we have no fire police available for their St. Patrick's Day Parade.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

● **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**

- **Council Member Seat:** President Fickinger stated we received one Letter of Interest for the vacant council seat. Council further discussed. Leroy

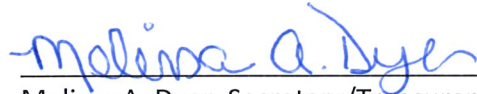
Bates motioned to appoint Wade Gettle to the vacant council seat that was once held by Rodney Hiester, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.

- **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
    - **Executive Session:** Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:27pm to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 6:57pm with no action taken at this time.
  - **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)**
    - **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the January 12, 2023 Regular Meeting, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
    - **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
    - **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
  - **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
    - **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder.
  - **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
    - **PPL:** Secretary Dyer stated PPL would like to access borough property to trim vegetation around their power lines. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to allow PPL to access borough property to trim vegetation around their power lines, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
  - **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):** None.
  - **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):** None.
    - **Sidewalks:** Solicitor Hobbs stated he needs to work on the sidewalk ordinance and send it out for review.
  - **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
    - **2023 Pool Season:** Council discussed the 2023 Pool Season. Leroy Bates motioned to advertise for pool manager, lifeguards and concession stand workers, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
- **Compost Site:** President Fickinger stated Earl had obtain quotes for the removal of the compost site and we are going to hold off until 2024.
  - **Committee Assignments:** Secretary Dyer brought up the vacancy in the Committee Assignments with Rodney Hiester resigning. President Fickinger added Wade Gettle to Public Safety and Public Works Committee.
  - **Carbon Credits:** Secretary Dyer stated they would like to present to council about carbon credits. Council further discussed and would like for them to present at the April Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.

PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: None.

Devin Lymaster made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m., seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.



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Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer