

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 13, 2023**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Rita Anczarski  
Earl Kreiser  
Cheyenne Lehman  
Ann Weaver

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Fickinger, Council President  
Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem  
Leroy Bates, Vice-President  
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):**

- **Rita Anczarski:** R. Anczarski introduced herself to council. She is running for Schuylkill County Commissioner. R. Anczarski has been doing listening tours of the municipalities of Schuylkill County.

**○ SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- **Tax Claim Bureau:** Solicitor Hobbs provided an update on the Tax Claim Bureau. Council further discussed.
- **65 Moyer Street:** Solicitor Hobbs verified this sold at Tax Upset Sale and we should see payment from County for the liens that we placed.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

- **Open Door-Ann Weaver:** A. Weaver stated the Open Door Project would like to host a Community wide clean up day in August. A. Weaver stated the cleanup day is Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm. A. Weaver requested assistance from the Borough regarding safety. Mayor Shiffer will discuss with police to make sure there is police presence during the cleanup.
- **HH&L: None.**
- **NEFD: None. Report in everyone's folder.**

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Sgt. Mozurkevich read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a Rave Message was sent out to residents regarding high weeds and grass. Council further discussed.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- **GoJoe Event:** Wade Gettle motioned to close down Veteran's Memorial Drive on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> for the GoJOE Event, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **9/11 Service:** Skip Butler motioned to allow the Council of Churches to host a 9/11 service down at the canal on Monday, September 11th, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Autumn Stroll/ Halloween Parade:** Devin Lymaster motioned to close Veteran's Memorial Drive along with borough roads for the Autumn Stroll and Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 21, 2023, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Christmas in the Park:** Wade Gettle motioned to close Veteran's Memorial Drive down for the Christmas in the Park at the canal on Saturday, November 25, 2023, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

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

Elaine Holley motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:22pm to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 6:38pm with no further 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 June 8, 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 June, seconded by Devin Lymaster, 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.

- **Wideawake Street:** E. Kreiser stated they might have to shut the water off on Wideawake Street for the demolition of the building owned by Guilford Mills.
- **Fire Hydrant:** E. Kreiser stated we might need to replace a fire hydrant out on American Legion Blvd. E. Kreiser stated a contractor will be looking at the hydrant to see if it can be repaired and/or rebuilt.
- **LED for 2020 Snow Plow:** E. Kreiser is looking to order new light kit for the 2020 Snow Plow and provided a price. Council discussed what account should be used for the purchase.
- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
  - **Timber Update:** L. Bates asked if an update was provided for the timber in Echo Valley. Secretary Dyer stated the timber was completed last week and the contractor handed in the extension check and keys for the gate.  
Secretary Dyer stated the advertisement for bid will be submitted for the well road repair project and council will open bids at the August meeting.
  - **Meeting with Stehr/ Argall:** President Fickinger met with Joanne Stehr and Senator Argall about a list of items that are needed in the Borough.
- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK): None.**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):**
  - **Sidewalk:** E. Holley stated the tree is down and old sidewalk area is leveled on North Tulpehocken Street. Council further discussed. D. Lymaster will obtain a price from a contractor to see how much it would cost to replace the sidewalk.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
  - **Pool:** Secretary Dyer discussed the pool with council and how it is not making a profit and it is short funds to pay bills. Secretary Dyer spoke with the Borough auditor for suggestions. Secretary Dyer stated the auditor suggested the borough takes over the expenses for the pool and having a resolution approved for this. Council further discussed.  
*Skip Butler motioned to for the Borough to take over the expenses of the pool with the exception of the payroll, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.*
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - **Tax Collector:** Secretary Dyer stated our Tax Collector, Sally Burke will be selling her house and moving out the Borough limits. Secretary Dyer stated she doesn't have a date yet but I told her once she does to submit a resignation letter to us so we can advertise.
  - **Comcast Franchise Agreement:** Secretary Dyer stated the Comcast Franchise Agreement is set to expire in July 2024. Secretary Dyer stated council will need to review and decide what they would like added to the new agreement.
  - **PennDOT TASA Program:** Secretary Dyer stated the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program is accepting applications until September 15, 2023. President

Fickinger wanted me to share with everyone. Secretary Dyer stated Mandy Fitzpatrick will be coming to our September meeting to help out with sidewalks, etc.

- **Roof-Borough Building:** Secretary Dyer stated the roof in the Conference Room is leaking. D. Lymaster stated he reviewed the roof and noted the skylight trim needed to be redone and patch one hole on the roof. D. Lymaster discussed possibly doing a coating over the rubber roof to seal and help it to last longer. D. Lymaster stated the shingles have a good five years left on them.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

- **Rita Anczarski:** R. Anczarski stated we are the 7<sup>th</sup> municipality that have discussed barking dogs and loud music. R. Anczarski also briefly discussed our concerns with the Tax Assessment Office.

Skip Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m., seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

  
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Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer