

**PINE GROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
March 16, 2017**

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Lisa Dutton	Becky Hoppes
Wade Gettle	Joan Schwer
Mike Stalneckner	Sgt. Taylor
Haley Weaver	Robin Werner
Sarah Zerbe	Sharon Zimmerman

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Scott Zimmerman, Council President  
Thomas Fickinger, Vice-President  
Leroy Bates  
Leonard Clark  
Ronald Hepler, Jr.  
Terry Noll  
Willard Shiffer, Mayor  
Christopher Hobbs, Solicitor  
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer

**ABSENT:**

Anthony Gurski, Pro-Tem

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Council President Scott Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with all members of Council being present with the exception of Tony Gurski. A quorum was established.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

1. **Sarah Zerbe:** S. Zerbe wanted to thank council for the new stop sign on Mill/Locust Street.

Mayor Shiffer asked the resident on Mill Street if she noticed anyone getting stuck on the hill. S. Zerbe stated no one has gotten stuck on Bird's Hill Road.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** None.

**SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Lisa Dutton:** Not present.

2. **Robin Werner (Hugs & Kisses):** R. Werner of Hugs & Kisses presented a summary and plan for the proposed community park project on E. Pottsville Street. President Zimmerman stated the borough will submit your plans to PEMA for review.  
R. Werner stated Hugs & Kisses Auction will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2017.
3. **Hose Hook & Ladder:** None.
4. **North End Fire Company:** Report in everyone's file.
  - o Chief Stalnecker stated North End Fire Company utilized the borough's transmitter station for the fire company's portable radio system. M. Stalnecker stated North End Fire Company would take over the electric bill payments for the transmitter station. Tom Fickinger motioned to allow North End Fire Company to continue to use the transmitter station on High Street along with taking over the electric bill for the station, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- o Sergeant Taylor read over the monthly police report.
- o Mayor Shiffer stated that he will give residents until Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> to remove snow from their sidewalks. If they aren't cleared till then the police will issue a warning through the Quality of Life.  
Mayor Shiffer asked about W. Pottsville Street being on for Snow Emergency Routes. Secretary Dyer stated that W. Pottsville Street isn't on the list for Snow Emergency Routes.
- o Mayor Shiffer asked what the status of the generator is for the borough building. Council further discussed. Tom Fickinger motioned to purchase a generator for the Borough Building costing a total of \$18,900.00 including tank and installation using General and Water funds, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
- o Mayor Shiffer stated Netflix will be doing a documentary and will be filming in the Pine Grove Area. Mayor Shiffer asked if they need any type of permits for this. Solicitor Hobbs wasn't aware of any. They will be here on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- o Mayor Shiffer asked for an update on the crosswalk out at Legion Acres. Secretary Dyer submitted a request to PennDOT requesting a speed study. Secretary Dyer stated a letter of support was received from the school as well.
- o Mayor Shiffer asked if we were on schedule for the paving project with PennDOT. Mayor Shiffer asked what could be done to repair the potholes at the red light. Council further discussed.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- o **8 Carbon Street:** President Zimmerman stated that 8 Carbon Street was sold at Judicial Sale for \$1,933.00. Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to accept the sale for 8 Carbon Street for \$1,933.00 through the Schuylkill County Claim Bureau, seconded by Leonard Clark, carried by Council.

- **Resolution #02-17:** Tom Fickinger motioned to approve Resolution #02-17 Vehicle Lease with Ally Bank for the new truck, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.  
T. Fickinger would like to commend the North End Fire Company for covering a Harrisburg Fire Company so they could attend a fellow firefighter's funeral in Harrisburg.
2. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**
- **Executive Session:** Thomas Fickinger motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:26pm to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Ron Hepler, Jr., carried by council. At 7:30pm, council returned and stated they discussed personnel matters.
  - **Part-Time Employee:** Tom Fickinger motioned to hire Candidate A for the part-time Streets & Water employee starting on Monday, March 20th, seconded by Ronald Hepler, Jr., seconded by Council.
3. **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN)**
- **Approval of Minutes:** Tom Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
  - **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Passing the gavel, Council President Zimmerman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Terry Noll, carried by Council.
  - **Approval of Bills:** Council President Zimmerman made a motion to approve the Bills Approval List, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
4. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
- **Streets/ Water Report:** Tom Fickinger stated the Streets/Water report is in everyone's file.
  - **Snow Storm:** L. Clark thanked Tom Fickinger and Terry Noll with helping during the snow storm, etc.
  - **Water Bill Format:** Secretary Dyer stated we have been receiving complaints from residents not receiving their bills or their bills are destroyed. Council further discussed options of the water bill formats. Council tabled until next month to see if more complaints are received.
5. **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (TONY GURSKI):**
- **PPL R-O-W:** President Zimmerman stated a drawing has been received by PP&L. President Zimmerman stated we haven't received all of the dimensions that we asked for. President Zimmerman stated once the snow melts they will do a walk-thru of the property.
6. **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER): None.**
7. **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (TERRY NOLL):**
- **Rental Inspection Ordinance:** Council was provided a copy of the Rental Inspection Ordinance that mirrors the Girardville Borough Ordinance. Council further discussed.

- **Health Officer Food Safety Conference:** Terry Noll motioned to reimburse Lew Moyer \$75.00 for the Health Officer Food Safety Conference, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.
- **Fire Chief Position:** R. Hepler asked what it would take to bring back the Fire Chief position. Council further discussed. Secretary Dyer to check into an ordinance for this.  
R. Hepler discussed automatic fire alarms and the possibility of developing an ordinance for repeat offenders. Council further discussed.

**8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (SCOTT ZIMMERMAN):**

- **Pool:** President Zimmerman stated the pool managers are both coming back this year. President Zimmerman stated he is waiting for quotes for the roof project. L. Clark stated volunteers are needed for the pool clean-up.
- **Armory:** T. Fickinger stated he is obtaining quotes from Josh Beuchler for the handicapped restrooms and ramp for the Armory Building. Council further discussed.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Council position:** L. Bates had numerous questions from residents asking if Len was allowed on council plus being an employee. L. Bates stated he understands that legally because of population that a borough employee may serve on council. L. Bates asked it to be discussed what is prudent. L. Bates stated Len is a great asset for council and as an employee. President Zimmerman stated Len was here at every council meeting and budget meeting without being paid for prior to being on council. T. Fickinger stated we exclude him during the Union Contract discussions. Council further discussed. Solicitor Hobbs stated council can't adopt policies that would infringe on council members. Solicitor Hobbs stated the Borough Code does state that any council member that may have any financial gain to abstain from the vote. Secretary Dyer stated that L. Clark checked into it legally before submitting his letter of interest for the vacant council position.

○ **AUDIENCE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

- **Sarah Zerbe:** S. Zerbe stated the Emergency Snow Route sign is missing on Mill Street. Council further discussed.
- **Sharon Zimmerman:** S. Zimmerman asked council if they are going to snow removal in the alleys. L. Clark stated they clean the roads yesterday.
- **Lisa Dutton:** L. Dutton stated she lives at 306 Cherry Street and the borough keeps dumping the snow onto her property and receives tickets for not clearing her snow. L. Dutton feels she shouldn't receive these tickets because the borough puts the snow there. Council further discussed.

S. Zimmerman asked is it the responsibility of the property owners to remove the snow around the fire hydrants on their property. L. Clark stated it is suggested for residents to help the fire departments by keeping the hydrants clear of snow.

○ **PRESS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:**

***Would the part-time position be for the Road crew? How much is the hourly rate? Is this a seasonal position?*** Yes, the hourly rate is \$15.00 per hour and this is an on-going position.

*Ronald Hepler, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm, seconded by Tom Fickinger, carried by Council.*

  
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Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer