

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

GENERAL ATTENDANCE

Marcia Burke
Lee Strubhar
Marty Sowers

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:

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): None.**

☐ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT: None.**

1. **Snyder Avenue Apartments:** Solicitor Hobbs discussed the FEMA violation at the Snyder Avenue Apartments. Marty Sowers went over the violation and what needs to be done with the property. Solicitor Hobbs stated FEMA said it could jeopardize the flood insurance for the borough residents if the property doesn't get in compliance. Solicitor Hobbs stated the property was sold in November 2022. Marty Sower will reach out the new property owner to try to get the property in compliance.

☐ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

1. **Marcia Burke:** M. Burke addressed her concerns regarding the pool for last season. She stated she might have someone interested in the Pool Manager position.

Council further discussed. Leroy Bates motioned to reimburse lifeguards for their certification with them signing a two-year commitment, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.

2. **HH&L:** Report in everyone's file.
3. **NEFD:** Lee Strubhar read over their monthly report.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Mayor Shiffer read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer stated a resident was complaining about the smoke from a neighbor's pellet stove going into their house. Council further discussed.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed complaints in the Borough.
- Mayor Shiffer stated the outdoor blue mailboxes at the Post Office have been broken into. Council further discussed.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):** None.
- **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
 - **Executive Session:** Leroy Bates motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:01pm to discuss personnel matters, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:07pm 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 February 9, 2023 Regular Meeting, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
 - **Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for February, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
 - **Approval of Bills:** President Fickinger motioned to approve the Bill Approval List, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER):**
 - **Streets/ Water Report:** Report is in everyone's folder.
 - **Earl Kreiser Vacation:** President Fickinger stated Jake Dinger will be the Employee in Charge while Earl is on vacation.
- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
 - **Echo Valley Timber:** Secretary Dyer stated Matt Frederick stated Aungst Bros. is looking for an extension due to the wet weather to ensure they have enough time to finish and repair any roads. Leroy Bates motioned to approve Aungst Bros. a three-month extension to finish the Echo Valley Timber, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
 - **Carbon Credits/ Easement:** Council discussed The Nature Conservancy request to access our property for appraisal for carbon credits/ easements. Leroy Bates motioned to allow The Nature Conservancy to access borough property for appraisal of possible carbon credits/ easement, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.

- **PPL:** Secretary Dyer stated PPL would like to add herbicide units around their power lines to help with small brush growth underneath their power lines. Secretary Dyer stated PP&L stated it is a DEP approved herbicide. Leroy Bates motioned to allow PP&L to place the herbicide units around their power lines, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
- **Echo Valley Parcel:** Leroy Bates asked to table until April's meeting.
- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):** None.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):** None.
 - **False Alarms:** Skip Butler stated the Public Safety Committee met with the fire companies and discussed ordinance. Skip Butler stated they made some changes and forwarded the changes to Solicitor Hobbs for review.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):**
 - **2023 Pool Season:** None.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - **Notary:** Secretary Dyer stated that Amanda in the office would like to become a notary. Secretary Dyer stated there are times when she has to sign documents and legally cannot notarize her own document. Wade Gettle motioned to approve Amanda Lutz to begin the process to become a notary, seconded by Skip Butler, carried by Council.
 - **Copier Lease:** Secretary Dyer stated our lease for the current copier is up in April and provided council with the cost of the new lease for the copier. Elaine Holley motioned to approve the new lease for the copier totaling \$271.00 a month with Stratix Systems, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** None.

Elaine Holley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m., seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.



 Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer