

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

**GENERAL ATTENDANCE**

Kurt Emerich  
Debra Thompson-Knepper  
Lee Strubhar

**COUNCIL ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:**

Thomas Fickinger, Council President  
Leroy Bates, Vice President  
Wade Gettle  
Elaine Holley  
Devin Lymaster  
Willard Shiffer, Mayor  
Melissa Dyer, Secretary/ Treasurer  
Shane Hobbs, Solicitor

**ABSENT:**

Leonard Clark, Pro-Tem  
Skip Butler

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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 except Leonard Clark and Skip Butler. A quorum was established.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (1):**

- **Kurt Emerich:** K. Emerich stated his property keeps getting damaged due to the truck drivers leaving Guilford Mills. Council further discussed options to help with the traffic issue. Leroy Bates motioned to draft an ordinance restricting truck traffic on Wideawake Street, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **NEFD-Lee Strubhar:** L. Strubhar read over NEFD's monthly report. L. Strubhar reminded council of the Merry Jeepy Christmas Event on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

○ **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

- **Guilford Mills:** Solicitor Hobbs stated Pine Grove Borough is losing about 30% tax revenue due to the tax appeals for Guilford Mills. Secretary Dyer is going to pull the 2023 Tax Collector report to see how much they paid this year and figure out how much revenue the borough will be losing.
- **66 E. Pottsville Street:** Solicitor Hobbs stated there will be a private auction for 66 E. Pottsville Street on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.
- **Resolution #05-23, Incompatible Offices:** Wade Gettle motioned to approve Resolution # 05-23, Incompatible Offices, seconded by Leroy Bates, carried by Council.

○ **SCHEDULED VISITORS:**

- **Debra Thompson-Knepper:** D. Thompson-Knepper discussed suicide awareness in Schuylkill County. Debra Thompson-Knepper stated they would like to have 5K run in Pine Grove Borough in September 2024 since September is suicide prevention month. Wade Gettle motioned to approve the 5K Event in September 2024, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **HH&L:** None.

○ **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- Corporal Vandermartin read over the monthly Police Report.
- Mayor Shiffer discussed Quality of Life concerns and Rental Inspections
- Mayor Shiffer stated David Frew had offered to put a roof on the borough building as donation. Council further discussed. Solicitor Hobbs stated the roof project would have to be bid out due to the cost and will look into further.

○ **COUNCIL MEMBER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- **Christmas Bird Count:** Leroy Bates motioned to allow Dave Krue to host the annual Christmas Bird Count on December 17<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Elaine Holley, carried by Council.
- **Ruth Steinert's SPCA-Rubber Ducky Race:** Leroy Bates motioned to approve Ruth Steinart's Rubber Duck Race for Saturday, October 19, 2024, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **Cohen Law Group:** Council tabled until next month.
- **Tax Collector:** Secretary Dyer stated a Letter of Interest was received for the Tax Collector seat. Council further discussed and President Fickinger requested Katie Burke to take the necessary training and classes needed. Solicitor Hobbs stated council will need to appoint her at the December meeting.
- **2024 Council Meeting Dates:** Elaine Holley motioned to advertise the 2024 Meeting Dates, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.

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

- **Cleaning person:** Secretary Dyer stated our cleaning person will be retiring on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> after cleaning for us for 15+ years. Secretary Dyer stated we did receive an application for a possible cleaning person. Secretary Dyer will setup a meeting with the potential cleaning person.

○ **ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (TOM FICKINGER)**

- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 12, 2023 Regular Meeting, seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Passing the gavel, President Fickinger made a motion to accept the Minutes of the October 23, 2023 Budget 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 October, 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:** Reports are in everyone's file.
  - **Emergency Snow Removal Bid:** Elaine Holley motioned to advertise for the 2024 Emergency Snow Removal Bid, seconded by Wade Gettle, carried by Council.
- **PROPERTY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE (LEROY BATES):**
  - **Conservation Easement:** Council discussed the Conservation Easement and the matter was tabled until the November meeting.
- **FLOOD MITIGATION COMMITTEE (LEONARD CLARK):** None.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (SKIP BUTLER):** None.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PARKS & RECREATION (LEONARD CLARK):** None.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - **Bergers Road:** President Fickinger wanted to make council aware of an incident on borough property on Bergers Road. President Fickinger stated several people were hunting on borough property but too close the Tulpehocken Rifle Club Range. Council further discussed.

○ **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** None.

Wade Gettle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Devin Lymaster, carried by Council.

  
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 Melissa A. Dyer, Secretary/Treasurer