

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Hastings Borough Council**

**January 5, 2021**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial Building.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Alison Link, Council President

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the Council present – Alison Link, Melanie Zearfoss, Mayor Donald C Drass, Thomas Kinney, Jeff Zearfoss, Jeff Semelsberger, Sam Patterson, John Schettini, and Rhonda Churella. All were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and to dispense with their reading, since all were provided with a copy. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**VISITORS:** None.

**NOMINATIONS:**

**President:** Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, for Alison Link. All in favor. Secretary cast the lone ballot for the single nominee.

**Vice-President:** Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, for Jeff Zearfoss. All in favor. Secretary cast the lone ballot for the single nominee.

**President Pro Tem:** Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, for Thomas Kinney. All in favor. Secretary cast the lone ballot for the single nominee.

Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, for Rhonda Churella as **Secretary**; Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by John Schettini, for Thomas Kinney as **Street Commissioner**; Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, for Patrick Fanelli as **Solicitor**; Link & Associates, P.C. (Paul Link) as **Auditor**; Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, for John Mertens to **Water Authority** for 5 year term to expire 12/31/2025; Melanie Zearfoss to **Water Authority** to replace Bruce Strittmatter with term expiring 12/31/2022; and Sam Patterson to **Water Authority** to replace James Rodgers with term expiring 12/31/2024; Jeff Zearfoss to **Sewer Authority** for 5 year term to expire 12/31/2025.

### **Motion Carried.**

Council members to be on the ballot this year will be John Schettini for 2-year term expiring 12/31/2023; Alison Link, Jeffrey J Zearfoss, Jeff Semelsberger, Melanie Zearfoss for 4-year term expiring 12/31/2025. Mayor Donald C Drass and Tax Collector Toni Zalisnock will need to be on the ballot this year for 4-year term expiring 12/31/2025.

### **STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- Michael Bowser of PennDOT sent the 2021 bidding thresholds effective January 1, 2021. Purchases/Contracted work below \$11,500.00 require no phone quotes or bidding. Purchases/Contracted work between \$11,500.00 and \$21,300.00 require 3 Written or telephonic quotes. Purchases/Contracted work more than \$21,300.00 require public bidding.
- Rhonda Churella brought twelve phone call complaints received at the office pertaining to roads/alleys at the last big snow storm on December 16 & 17, 2020. Mayor Donald C Drass stated, "I went with Joe Wentz and took care of a lot of these complaints. We were at Coleman Street, near the Ambulance Station, Laurel Drive, and Edgewood Drive. I feel they did a good job." Melanie Zearfoss stated, "I went out with Brian at 1:00pm the next day. They did a good job. Alleys need to be the last priority." Mayor Drass said businesses near alleys need to be first too. Melanie Zearfoss asked, "What business are you referring to?" Mayor Drass replied, "Hastings Bottling Works." Melanie Zearfoss said that is located on Miller Street and is a first priority. I was looking for an ordinance on snow emergencies. I like this one that has signs up. For example, on Fourth Avenue we could post a sign up stating odd & even days you can only park on that side of the street.

### **POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:**

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for December 2020.
- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to approve the monthly police report.

### **Motion Carried.**

- Police Chief Jason Owens talked about the Jarrod "Jerry" Shank interview for full time police officer position. He was all gung-ho about it. He wanted to see the agreement. He reviewed it and doesn't want to commit for two years. He is a nice kid. The third police officer's salary was for

\$28,000.00. The only other thing I can come up with is what Patton does. They give an extra ten hours in overtime per week. Dylan and I can do this between both of us. Sam Patterson said, "The cost will be cheaper." Chief Owens stated this is just an option that takes the heat off. Jeff Semelsberger said, "It's something we need to consider." Chief Owens stated, "Dylan is all for it. I talked to him yesterday." Jeff Semelsberger said it will give us time to shop around.

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Melanie Zearfoss, to approve giving Jason Owens and Dylan DiSabato an extra ten hours in overtime per week.

**Motion Carried.**

- Melanie Zearfoss stated, "Jason got his money from the Lowmaster case."

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from November 22, 2020 to December 26, 2020.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$1,342.63
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$66.00
Total Collected.....	\$1,408.63

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer's from December 11, 2020 to January 5, 2021.

Gross Tax Collected.....	\$4,468.20
Delinquent Per Capita.....	\$5.50

- Motion was made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Sam Patterson, to approve the Tax Collector's Report as read. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Council looked through the Financial Reports. Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the Financial Report as of December 1, 2020. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

- The Commercial Insurance Package from Pallone Insurance didn't add a Claims-Made Policy for Pesticide & Herbicide Applicator for the swimming pool. The cost is \$235.00.

### **WATER COMMITTEE:**

- A copy of minutes from the last meeting on 12/10/2020 was given to each member.

### **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- A copy of minutes from the last meeting on 12/9/2020 was given to each member.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Dave Kuntz from Kelli Oil had given a quote of \$900.00 for a 275-gallon oil tank to be put inside the borough garage. The quote was from November 3, 2020. Rhonda Churella asked, "Did you still want this done? Dave had asked about it in the office last month." John Schettini said he looked and found one for \$800.00. I didn't realize the price has gone up on. Jeff Zearfoss stated he is glad he replaced his when he did because of the price of a new one. Jeff Semelsberger said it would be a good idea to purchase this and have Dave install it since he knows what he is doing.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, to purchase a 275-gallon oil tank to be installed inside the borough garage for \$900.00 from Kelli Oil.

#### **Motion Carried.**

- Thomas Kinney stated John "Header" Selestok approached him about donating a triangle piece of property with a garage on Harvey Street & Baker Street to the borough. Jeff Semelsberger stated, "It can be used for seasonal storage if not for the police cruiser." Mayor Drass suggested contacting the borough solicitor and seeing what we need to do to get it donated to the borough. It may cost a few hundred dollars to get it transferred.
- Thomas Kinney stated a dumpster has been sitting along the road for 1 ½ years on Second Street. The owner is Chris Conner. He has two properties there. The dumpster is in front of Rachel's house. Mayor Drass said he will talk to Chris Conner about this.
- Sam Patterson said he talked to Joe Wentz about the new tools with batteries recently purchased for the borough crew. He could use a grinder. John Schettini stated the angle grinder doesn't come with it. They cost

approximately \$90.00. Melanie Zearfoss stated, "We need to get Joe a credit card and keep it in the vault. When he needs it, he can stop in for it." Rhonda Churella said, "The minimum credit card amount is \$2,500.00 at Marion Center Bank."

- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by John Schettini, to approve getting a business credit card for Joe Wentz at Marion Center Bank for the amount of \$2,500.00.

#### **Motion Carried.**

- A letter from Cambria County Planning Commission came in the mail yesterday in regards to 2023 Transportation Program Update. They are informing you that Cambria County Planning Commission (CCPC), in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), will be initiating in 2021 its biennial update of the Twelve-Year Highway and Bridge Program for Cambria County. The Planning Commission is responsible for the coordination of local input and for making recommendations from a county-wide point of view, and it is in regard that we request your assistance. If your municipality/organization has a highway and/or bridge project that you wish to be considered for programming as part of the Twelve-Year Program update, we request that you contact the Planning Commission by January 29, 2021. There is a six-page application. Jeff Semelsberger said the sides are caving in at the Third Avenue bridge. I believe it's the creek banks that created this problem. Mayor Drass said this could be something the Cambria County Conservation District may do. I have been working with them on the creek banks, then COVID-19 hit and it halted.
- Melanie Zearfoss stated, "We didn't receive the grant through Cambria County Conservation District."

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Melanie Zearfoss said, "The new employee handbook is done. I added the holidays to get paid double time." Jeff Semelsberger gave an example of the holiday Christmas. They got paid double time but on the next day which was Saturday, if they got called out it would be straight time. Jeff Zearfoss said, "We need to come up with a form that each employee signs stating they ready and understand it."
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Sam Patterson, to accept the new Employee Handbook.

**Motion Carried.**

**RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

- Melanie Zearfoss stated since we have been red tagging homes, I came across an ordinance that Northern Cambria borough has on mobile homes. Trailers must have a foundation under them.
- Alison Link stated we need to amend our Nuisance Ordinance about fireworks. Chief Owens said you could do that or just do a new ordinance on noise. This would cover all noises after a certain time in the evenings. If someone wanted to let off fireworks on a special day such as a wedding, they would need to apply for a special permit at the office. This is just an idea. Mayor Drass stated, "I like the Noise Ordinance better."

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Semelsberger, that an Order is drawn, and the bills be paid, as funds become available. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A "Thank You" card was received from Denny & Debbie Fowler.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Thomas Kinney asked what the letter to the library was all about. Alison Link said it's an occupancy permit and they need to sign it. Patrick Fanelli is going to send the library a letter explaining the importance of them signing this agreement. Rhonda sent the library a letter about the sidewalk ordinance which is a completely different scenario.

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Zearfoss, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager