

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

March 2, 2021

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 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 Semelsberger, John Schettini, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, and Rhonda Churella. Absent was Sam Patterson and Jeff Zearfoss.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, 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: Gladys Shutty, Kathy O'Rourke, and Rob Pierce from Hastings Public Library.

Rob Pierce stated he was here to get permission to get power out of our electric box at his expense with Jeff Burkey doing the work. Rob said, "I will take full responsibility." Tom Kinney has already talked to Jeff Burkey about this. Rob Pierce stated he needs four heaters in the new library building to do the drywall. Jeff Semelsberger said, "My concerns were the liability and Penelec not setting this up. You're not taking anything out of our box but just using our power." Rob Pierce replied, "There is only 200 amp in the old library building and it's located on the Beaver Street Café side. There is no way to get it."

- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by John Schettini, to allow Rob Pierce to use electricity from Hastings Borough power box.

Motion Carried.

Kathy O'Rourke stated they received our agreement after the meeting in January 2021. It was in regards to needing a Highway Occupancy permit. Kathy O'Rourke said, "July 2018, our architect told us we didn't need a Highway Occupancy permit." Rob Pierce stated the state waived the permit. Kathy O'Rourke said, "Our attorney asked if everyone on Beaver Street had to sign this agreement. I told him I don't think so, but I really don't know for sure." Rob Pierce said there is a difference between a county permit and a state permit. Gladys Shutty asked,

“Did every business on Beaver Street get this agreement to sign?” Patrick Fanelli replied, “No, because it is not a requirement. A message came from your engineer that you were doing something on the Beaver Street sidewalk. The borough would apply for the Highway Occupancy permit and you would do all the work. If there is no work being done to the sidewalk on Beaver Street, then no permit is needed.” Kathy O’Rourke replied, “My understanding is we won’t need it.” Rob Pierce talked about a copy of a borough ordinance from 2018 that says the owner is liable for sidewalk and curbing. I am sure the borough planted the trees many years ago and the roots have lifted the sidewalk up in places. Jeff Semelsberger said the trees are on PennDOT right of way. Kathy O’Rourke stated that’s been there for twenty years. People have fallen on it. Jeff Semelsberger said, “I remember when Commons store was there, those trees were there then. There is some liability.” Patrick Fanelli replied, “It depends. The borough ordinance states you must maintain the sidewalk.” Kathy O’Rourke said that the library board had done a letter acknowledging our letter. We were going to bring it to last month’s Council meeting but didn’t because of the weather. So here it is. She passed the letter up.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Rhonda Churella reported road complaints. On 2/16/21, Lisa Savage of Coleman Street off of Bridge Street stated the road was not plowed. On 2/16/21, Mike Thomas at the corner of Beaver Street and Second Avenue complained the guys are worthless. We need to hire Kevin Galinis to show them how to plow snow. I had six inches of frozen ice and bolders. They only went by one time at 2:30am. There are no parking signs up from 3am to 6am so the guys can plow during this time. One guy didn’t start plowing until 7:00am or 7:15am. Mike called the office on 2/17/21, to apologize. He said they only go one full swipe and only one block at a time. He said at 5:30am this morning the spreader is set too fast because it was hitting his shed with salt. Jeff Semelsberger stated Mike Thomas has reflectors along his property and they can’t push the snow back. An online complaint form was completed from Edith Hannigan of 1165 Spangler Street stating “I have a car port of the alley behind my residence. Now you paved it up to my neighbor’s house 2 years ago and stopped. You continue to just plow to my neighbor’s house and stop. I have 2 vehicles out under the carport which cannot be moved because your employees blocked the alley at the neighbor’s house. I move my vehicles from out front to the carport to

remove snow out front not to be blocked in by your employees every time it snows. I have had to call the office 4 times so far this year. You can clearly see the car port coming up the alley. I want the alley plowed and paved to my car port. It's not fair to me that I cannot access my property like my neighbors are able to. I have had to complain every year for the past 10 years about plowing up past my car port. But it's ok to charge me taxes on the car port." Mayor Donald C Drass stated that this area is not on the PennDOT map for liquid fuels money nor is it on the Cambria County GIS map. The alley stops where the blacktop ends which is before her car port. This is her property and she must take care of it. On 2/22/21 pictures were taken of complaints on First Avenue by the horse barn and Laurel Drive. On 2/23/21, Melanie got a complaint through Facebook from Brent Ball of 157 Railroad Street being a sheet of ice. This is an alley. Melanie told him to fill out a complaint form on the borough website or come to the Council meeting. He then contacted Tommy Sankey's Clearfield office to report the borough because he pays taxes. Amy from the Hastings office called the borough office about this complaint. Upon Rhonda pulling up Cambria County GIS map and looking through the real estate book for taxes, it was noticed that he rents and does not own this property. He has not been paying a per capita tax either.

- Jeff Zearfoss got a quote from Groff in Ebensburg, PA by Hoss' for \$2,150.00 for a vibrating plate machine 1550 model. Jeff Semelsberger said he got the same quote. Let's hold off on this since we still have time. We may want to purchase a wheel kit with it for safety reasons.
- Jeff Semelsberger said we need to come up with an emergency list of people to call when we get a lot of snow. Not everyone can get done first.
- Thomas Kinney asked if we can add Troy Feighner and one of his employees as a driver on the borough insurance. Rhonda Churella wasn't sure if you needed to be a borough employee or not but she would contact our insurance company and ask. Jeff Semelsberger said to ask them about this emergency list of people also. Check to see if we will get charged to add additional drivers to our policy.
- Jeff Semelsberger talked about the borough truck motor. The timing chain broke and ruined the motor. He got a price quote of over \$8,100.00 for the part only. Pellas Garage quote with labor was around \$8,000.00.

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Each Council member received a copy of 2020 Statistics from Cambria County Magisterial District 47-3-05. Hastings Borough collected \$8,180.52.
- Rhonda Churella contacted a few financial institutions for commercial loan rates to use our 2021 Ford Explorer police cruiser as collateral. First National Bank’s commercial loan rate was 3.89% with fees totaling between \$180.00 - \$200.00 plus a recumbence fee of \$83.00. Somerset Trust Company commercial loan rate was 2.49% with the same fee amounts as First National Bank. Rhonda Churella spoke with Kyle Shaffer from Somerset Trust Company to start the loan application. He needs a solicitor opinion letter from the borough solicitor. Patrick Fanelli requested a commitment letter from Somerset Trust Company. Patrick Fanelli would recommend Attorney Cox to take care of this since he handles financing issues. You and the bank likely want to be very sure that the interest does not later become taxed if the intent is that it is not. Kyle Shaffer emailed a commitment letter late today stating: \$23,500.00 to purchase 2021 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle with a fixed rate of 2.495% for 48 months with approximate principal and interest payments of \$515.25, \$200.00 document fee and \$81.00 PennDOT lien fee.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to borrow \$23,500.00 from Somerset Trust Company to purchase 2021 Ford Explorer Police Vehicle with fixed rate of 2.495% for term of 48 months including \$200.00 document fee and \$81.00 PennDOT lien fee. Alison Link, Council President and Jeffrey Zearfoss, Council Vice-President will sign all loan documents.

Motion Carried.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from January 1, 2021 to March 1, 2021.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$0.00
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$0.00
Total Collected.....	\$0.00

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from February 4, 2021 to March 1, 2021.

Gross Tax Collected.....	\$14,889.15
Delinquent Per Capita.....	\$22.00

- Motion was made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, 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 Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the Financial Report as of February 1, 2021. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- A copy of minutes from the last meeting on 2/11/2021 was given to each member.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- A copy of minutes from the last meeting on 2/10/2021 was given to each member.
- Melanie Zearfoss reported Fox's Pizza is replacing the sewer line at the old bank building on Beaver Street. Thomas Kinney said the grate in the alley behind the building could be a good area.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent the permit report for February 2021.
- Rhonda Churella stated on February 8, 2021, she sent a letter and pictures to Waste Management about damage to our road on Seventh Avenue. Rhonda let them know that she will be invoicing them in the spring to have the road fixed.
- Melanie Zearfoss talked about the Selestok property being donated to the borough. Melanie said, "I spoke to Attorney J Dennis Previte about this and he said John Selestok needs to start the process since we don't own the property." Melanie Zearfoss stated the title search is done and there are no liens against the property.

- Melanie Zearfoss said Mark from the Cambria County Conservation District met with Tom Kinney, Sam Patterson and herself on Monday, March 1, 2021. They are planning on fixing the creek bank along Coleman Street by the trailers across from TopShop. On March 31, 2021, they will do a site visit with the contractors. They will start the project on May 4th or 5th. When the project is completed, they will repair the grass and shell on the walking trail. All of that will done in one day.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Jeff Semelsberger said, “We need to entertain hiring a full-time borough crew. If we want to have shifts, then we need to start looking now and not jump into the process. I would like to see a lot of applications come in. We need to start thinking about this. We got a good start with the crew we currently have.”
- Jeff Semelsberger asked Patrick Fanelli about changing the language in the current employee handbook on how vacation time is earned. Melanie Zearfoss told Patrick Fanelli she had emailed him about this after last months meeting. Patrick Fanelli apologized for not getting back to her.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

- None.

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

Motion Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Nothing to report.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager