

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

**October 6, 2020**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

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

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

**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:** Richard Bender & Brad Frey

**Richard Bender** said, "I received a letter in regards to my house on Beaver Street being Red-Tagged." Mayor Donald C Drass stated the borough office received a rat complaint. If I had your phone number, I would have called you." Melanie Zearfoss stated it needs a sewer pressure test. Richard Bender stated he has contacted Courturiaux in Patton, John Thomas and John Mertens. Melanie Zearfoss stated the lateral is not connected to the new sewer system. It may have terracotta pipes that will not pass and will need replaced. Richard Bender said, "I changed those pipes eight or nine years ago." Melanie Zearfoss stated it needs to be pressure tested and then you will need to pay the water and sewer bill. Brad Frey said, "I can put \$400.00 down on the bill." Melanie Zearfoss stated the bill has not been payed since last May 2019. Richard Bender said, "I signed the easement and gave it to my niece to bring down when she was to pay on the bill." Mayor Drass suggested having a pest control company to inspect the house for rats. Bring a paper into the borough office from someone stating there is no pests in house. If someone comes into the office to complain, we can show them it's okay. Jeff Semelsberger said if the neighbors are happy and the bill is paid everyone will be happy. Richard Bender asked, "Could you freeze my bill and then start fresh for Brad Frey? I will make payments until it is paid." Jeff Semelsberger stated, "You will need to go the next water and sewer meetings.

Joe Quist is another plumber you can try for the pressure test. Bob Westrick can do something with the rat problem.” John Schettini looked up a cell number for Bob Westrick and gave it to Richard Bender. Mayor Drass looked through pictures of the house after the niece had moved out and stated how bad they were. No wonder you had a rat problem. Jeff Semelsberger looked at pictures of how the house is coming from Brad Frey’s cell phone. Brad Frey has been working on it. Mayor Drass told Richard Bender to do those couple of things. Bob Westrick would be cheaper. Richard Bender said, “My son and I hauled six or seven loads of garbage. They took the ashes out of the furnace in the basement and just put them on the floor.”

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

- Thomas Kinney, Jeff Semelsberger, Sam Patterson and Rhonda Churella met with Patrick Wright of LTAP on September 14, 2020. PennDOT put “Your Speed Is” signs up the week of September 21, 2020 on Beaver Street and Kirkpatrick Street. We need to get each street compliant with street signs. Each time we do a paving project we can get that street updated. We have faded signs, trees blocking stop signs, and we need updated poles, etc. Sam Patterson stated he spoke to a lot of residents and no one said yes to putting up speed humps. We need an officer that does just traffic. Alison Link stated if they get ten per week it would equal \$49,000.00. Police Chief Jason Owens said, “It depends on what you write it up as.” Alison Link said there is speed complaints and dirt bike in Swedetown. It would be nice to have two guys. Chief Owens said we would need another full-time officer. We may not get a part timer. They would need to do a civil service test. Alison Link asked, “Do we want to go through the process?” Jeff Semelsberger suggested sending Mayor Drass and Chief Owens to the next Elder Township and Susquehanna Township meetings to see if they will increase fees for a third officer. Jeff Zearfoss stated there are 2,007 residents in Susquehanna Township per the 2010 Census.
- Sam Patterson had talked to Richard Farabaugh of 215 Kirkpatrick Street about water gathering in front of his house and not being able to go into the grate since the roads were paved. Jeff Semelsberger suggested having Joe Wentz go up and look at it. If need be, we will have to call Grannas Brothers since they did the road project.

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

- Nothing to report.

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT:** Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$444.69
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$38.50
Total Collected.....	\$483.19

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from July 1, 2020 to September 28, 2020.

Gross Tax Collected.....	\$35,629.35
Delinquent Per Capita.....	\$88.00

- Motion was made by Jeff Zearfoss, 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 Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, to approve the Financial Reports as of July 1, 2020, August 1, 2020, and September 1, 2020. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

**WATER COMMITTEE:**

- The Water Authority minutes of their last meeting was given to each Council member.
- A letter from Hastings Municipal Authority about filing an application (SRBC Pending No. 2020-181) with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for a water withdrawal. They have proposed to withdraw up to 260,000 gallons per day (gpd) from Mine Pool #1 on property owned in Elder Township. The water will be used as a public water supply source. Melanie Zearfoss stated the cost for the application was approximately \$13,000.00. It will need to have a pump to pull the water from and will need to be metered.

Mayor Drass asked if there will be any restrictions. Melanie Zearfoss replied, "We will discuss this on Thursday. The mine spring is trickling."

### **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- The Sewer Authority minutes of their last meeting was given to each Council member.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent permit reports for August and September 2020.
- Mayor Drass said people are complaining about dogs at Kidskins practice. Melanie Zearfoss stated they had dogs at the Craft Show and it was okay. Mayor Drass stated the parking is bad. Alison Link said Kidskins is just for a few more weeks. Next year hopefully everything will be back to normal for them to practice at Cambria Heights.
- Sam Patterson would like to put in a gate at the park near the Hastings Park sign.
- Alison Link stated the Wine Fest is Saturday.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Melanie Zearfoss stated that we are holding back a week on the October 16, 2020 payroll on all full-time employees but Jason Owens since he is salaried. Everyone will have an hourly rate and it is divided between all three entities to get how many hours you work for each entity.
- Alison Link said at budget time we need to talk about making people salaried like Michelle Baker and Richard Banik because of comp. time. Jeff Zearfoss suggested bumping them up with the difference of paid out comp. time. Jeff Semelsberger said maybe a flat rate that stays the same. Percentages get bigger each year. Jeff Zearfoss said other municipalities do between 4% and 6%. If you did a 2.5% yearly raise, in three years you will need to add \$19,000.00 to payroll. If we did a flat rate or \$0.25 or \$1.00 in three years it would only be an increase of \$10,920.00. Alison Link suggested other compensation could be more vacation time or better healthcare. Jeff Semelsberger said one more week vacation is nice. If you make it so sweet, why would they leave. John Schettini said at an old job he had after three weeks' vacation, for every year after that you got

another day. We could do something like this. Alison Link talked about carrying comp. time.

## **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

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

### **Motion Carried.**

- Melanie Zearfoss stated that we cancelled the water at the garage since it is stagnant. Can we pick up water for them at Sam's Club?

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Melanie Zearfoss stated Muni Link had webinar's for water and sewer. They now offer Web Presence. With this they can put things on our website. The borough, police, water, and sewer can all benefit from this. Water and sewer can have people sign up for ACH. We can upload forms for pavilion rentals and Memorial building rentals. You can view videos on how to check your water tank or water softner, etc. People can sign up using their email address for notifications. Jeff Semelsberger said it is more alive and animated than what we currently have. Melanie Zearfoss said the cost is \$400.00 to set up completely and \$180.00 per month, which would be \$720.00 each year per entity if water and sewer get on board with it. This will need to be brought up at their next meetings. We can put emergency "Boil water" messages on it too.
- Motion made by Sam Patterson, second by John Schettini, to purchase Web Presence through Muni Link.

### **Motion Carried.**

- Geistown Borough sent an email stating the Executive Committee members have determined that the Fall Meeting/Dinner of Cambria County Borough's Association will be cancelled. Hopefully things will get back on track for the Spring 2021 meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Semelsberger, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager