

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

**March 16, 2021**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 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, Jeff Semelsberger, Thomas Kinney, Jeff Zearfoss, Sam Patterson, Mayor Donald C Drass, and Rhonda Churella. Absent were Melanie Zearfoss and John Schettini.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, 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.

**STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- Rhonda Churella reported on March 8, 2021, the office received the 2021 County Aid Grant application (MS-339). We need to start thinking about a Road Project. When do you want me to schedule a meeting with Mike Bowser of PennDOT? Thomas Kinney said we do have a few roads that are bad. He will get together with Jeff Semelsberger to drive around and see which roads are the worst. Thomas Kinney stated he will get back to Rhonda when to schedule a time to meet with Mike Bowser. Mayor Donald C Drass stated the road back by the park needs done.
- Rhonda Churella talked about street sweeping. Joe Wentz mentioned Penn Sweeping from Pittsburgh is doing Carrolltown Borough streets sometime in April. Rhonda called Dave at Penn Sweeping and he said they could come the week of April 12, 2021, for two eight-hour days for \$2,700.00. This is \$1,000.00 more than we paid Robindale in 2019. Ken Bearer of

Robindale said they cannot help us out this year. They have too many irons in the fire and not enough help. Thomas Kinney said he wants to talk to them because his son who works there said the street sweeper is in Nanty-Glo. Jeff Semelsberger said, "Susquehanna Township has a small street sweeper. I will talk to them and see if maybe we can use it."

- Three employment applications came in the office thus far for a full-time borough crew worker. Mayor Drass said he is 100% in favor of Bryan Link. I know him and his electrical work is great. He is energetic. Jeff Semelsberger said, "We can set up interviews before the next meeting." Mayor Drass said, "He can do anything." Jeff Zearfoss asked, "Why are we hiring another guy?" Jeff Semelsberger said, "We need someone full-time. Brian is part-time." Sam Patterson said, "He's missed a lot of work." Jeff Semelsberger replied, "He's not catching on. He needs to work with someone and cannot go out on his own." Jeff Zearfoss stated, "We can't give full wages to current employees but we can hire another full-time guy. We have Jerry, Jim, Ed, etc." Alison Link said, "We can do interviews on March 24, 2021 starting at 6:00pm at the borough office." Jeff Zearfoss stated, "Some of these applicants list \$20.00 & \$18.50 per hour. Do we have a figure to start with?" Jeff Semelsberger replied, "He's not going to earn as much as Joe." Sam Patterson said, "Now is the best time to start looking." Jeff Semelsberger stated, "We can interview and if we don't want to hire any of them, we can always keep searching until we find the right one." Alison Link stated that Nick and Quinn, lifeguard and concession stand workers, are going to help with the park getting things done before we open for the season.

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

- Alison Link stated, "They ran a lot of traffic last week." Sam Patterson stated a lot of people are driving fast past his house on Beaver Street.
- Mayor Drass talked about a golf cart driving on the road down by the park. Alison Link stated she saw it too.

### **FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Attorney Jonathan Cox sent documents required to be filed with the State and closing documents for settlement of Borough's General Obligation Note, Series of 2021, to purchase a police vehicle.

- Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the General Obligation Note of \$23,500.00, Series of 2021, Application for filing under provisions of Section 8109 of the Pennsylvania Local Government Unit Debt Act.

**Motion Carried.**

- Loren Martello of Cambria Regional Chamber Energy Program found us a fixed rate of 5.14 cents a KWH that is effective December 2022 thru December 2025 on our electric bills. We should pay about \$2,100.00 less a year on electric.
- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, to approve electricity supply agreement with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. at 5.14 cents a KWH effective December 2022 thru December 2025.

**Motion Carried.**

**WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Thomas Kinney stated Rich said we have a leak in town somewhere. He is losing 40,000 to 50,000 gallons per day. Rich wants to check the fire hydrants.
- The Water Authority minutes of their last meeting on March 11, 2021, was given to each Council member.

**SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- The Sewer Authority minutes of their last meeting on March 10, 2021, was given to each Council member.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Mayor Donald C Drass stated someone is turning the lights on the scoreboard near the dugout at the park. He has had to turn them off twice now. Melanie Zearfoss gave him a lock. Don said, "Only the borough office and I have a key." Alison Link stated kids are sitting on those dugouts. This is a liability. Jeff Semelsberger suggested putting up signs. Mayor Drass said, "The borough would still be held liable." Jeff Zearfoss said, "Nets would work." Mayor Drass stated, "Mesh netting would be less expensive."

- Mayor Drass stated the basketball lights at the park have been on. He noticed this around 12:15am or 12:30am. Have Joe fix the timer to shut off at 10:00pm.
- Michelle Baker stated there is a water leak at the park. Have Joe talk to me first before he does anything.
- Thomas Kinney asked if there was LED lights at the park. Thomas Kinney said to have Joe talk to him first about this.
- Rhonda Churella stated Attorney Denny Previte spoke to her about a phone call he received from John Selestok about donation of property to Hastings Borough. Attorney Previte could not give an itemization for a transfer since this property is owned by his parents who are both deceased. This raises estate costs because of decedent estate, keeping Act 49 compliance with Public Welfare assistance to a facility such as a nursing home. There is probate of will. This is an involved process. It will cost a lot more than \$200.00. Attorney Previte suggested talking to the borough solicitor about this. Rhonda explained that Melanie Zearfoss went to the courthouse to research if there were any liens against this property and she found none. Attorney Previte said anything processed through the DPW (Department of Public Welfare) office is not filed in the prothonotary office at the courthouse. Attorney's need to fax or email them for this information. Rhonda was instructed to call our solicitor, Patrick Fanelli about this.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Comp Time Payout sheet was passed around to each of the Council members. Melanie wants to payout on April 2, 2021 payroll date. The total will be \$2,440.74. Council discussed this and knows this is not working either. They are not sure what to do to rectify this problem. All the entities cannot afford to pay this out every quarter. Alison Link said they need to talk to the borough solicitor about possibly changing job titles to make two of these people salary. Alison Link suggested having the three employees try to use this time if they extend it past the three months. The borough office is to keep reminding them to use this time off and check on them that they do.

### **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve Resolution #2021-2 of the Borough of Hastings authorizing and securing the issuance of a general obligation note, in the principal amount of \$23,500.00, pursuant to section 8109 of the Pennsylvania local government unit debt act, to finance the costs of a 2021 Ford Explorer police vehicle; accepting a bank loan proposal to purchase the note; setting forth the terms and substantial form of the note; pledging the full faith, credit and taxing power of this borough to secure the note; creating a sinking fund and appointing a sinking fund depository for the note; and containing related provisions. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Nothing to report.

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger. This meeting adjourned approximately 8:49 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager