

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

March 20, 2018

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hastings Borough Office.

CALL TO ORDER: Christopher Gibbons, Council President

ROLL CALL: Members of the Council present – Thomas Kinney, Christopher Gibbons, Alison Link, Kristen Bollinger, Melanie Zearfoss, Mayor Donald C Drass, Eugene Huber, Jeff Zearfoss, and Rhonda Churella. All were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Tom Kinney, second by Alison Link, 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: **Allen Kline, Bob Pellas, Larry Kline from Hastings Volunteer Fire Company-** Allen Kline gave Council 2017 statistics on the Fire Company. They had 134 alarms with 31 of them being in Hastings Borough. In their fund drive letter they had 5,759 staff hours of training. They presented a financial report to Council. Christopher Gibbons asked about their equipment like bunker gear, etc. Allen stated Bob does grant writing for them. The purchase of clothing is approximately \$2,600.00 with breathing apparatus costing between \$7,000.00 and \$8,000.00. Allen stated the fund drive is asking for \$50.00. We do well in Hastings Borough. The residents really support the Fire Co. Year to date the fund drive has collected \$14,800.00 within Hastings Borough, and two townships. We do a lot of cross training with EMS to cover the calls. The Fire Company have a five to ten year plan to add on to the current building since we are running out of room. The current building was built in 1962 and an addition was added on in 1973. We also would like to purchase a new truck which will cost approximately \$600,000.00 to \$650,000.00. We thank Hastings Borough for paying our insurance, electrical bills, and for the 1 ½ mills. Allen asked, “Why is the State Police responding to a lot of vehicle accidents?” Mayor Drass responded, “We just hired another police officer and now have a full staff.” Chief Owens stated, “I have worked by myself since December 12, 2017 to about the middle of February 2018.” Larry Kline asked, “Will Council consider adopting the state passed

ordinance?” Christopher Gibbons stated, “We discussed it in length but can re-evaluate it again. This money comes off of your property tax.” Larry Kline said they want to start at their home base and then will go to the two townships. This may help with getting more volunteers at the Fire Company. Allen Kline stated, “They are getting more pairs joining such as husband & wife or father & son.” Christopher Gibbons said he has talked to Larry Kline about this before. Melanie Zearfoss stated, “We want to see where we are at by the fall budget. We are not sure where we will end up.” Kristen Bollinger stated, “We will talk about this.” Larry Kline stated, “Thank you for the youth that is on Council.” Allen Kline said, “We have a lot of certified certification which looks good on a grant.” Larry Kline asked Council about natural gas. Christopher Gibbons said it’s been a few years since this was last looked at but it did not go through. Larry Kline said it definitely will make heating bills go down for businesses as well as personal property owners. It’s a matter of time when it goes everywhere. Christopher Gibbons said, “We would welcome if someone would bring it to the table so we can discuss it again.” Jeff Zearfoss stated, “Nanty Glo signed a petition. Once they got enough names, they brought someone in.” Larry Kline said he will definitely get someone to come & discuss natural gas with Council.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Eugene Huber stated we have bad pot holes on Third Avenue & Harvey Street. He didn’t know what we could do since the sewer project will be starting and the town will be torn up. Christopher Gibbons said they could put cold patch in for a temporary fix. Thomas Kinney said they used all the cold patch at the water break on Bridge Street. We cannot get any more until the plant opens in the middle of April.
- Kristen Bollinger needs Walter Thomas to turn the water on in the bathrooms for the Easter Egg Hunt. Borough Office Manager will let him know to do this.

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Mayor Drass asked Police Chief Owens to show Council the body camera. Police Chief Owens said it can be downloaded to a computer and put on a flash drive. The picture will be bigger on the screen once it is downloaded. Christopher Gibbons asked if the policy has been written up. Chief Owens stated he will have it ready for the next meeting. We are not using it until the policy is in play. We will only use it when on a call. Chief Owens stated

he will train and review with all our police officers and have them sign they received the training.

- Mayor Drass stated we have a garbage problem at 211 Fourth Avenue at Apt 2 by the Moose. Brittany & I went over to talk to the resident. Mayor Drass gave them two weeks to get it cleaned up or a certified letter will go out. They are throwing garbage in the back yard. Chief Owens said the resident had lived in New York.
- Borough Office Manager asked Council about hours for part-time employees and read what is in the employee handbook. Chief Owens stated he will keep track of his department and make sure no one goes over the allotted hours.
- Borough Office Manager asked Council how much clothing allowance do part-time police officers get. Council approved \$150.00 annually.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected for the month of March 2018.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$34,850.09
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$736.20
Total Collected.....	\$35,586.29

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from February 21, 2018 to March 16, 2018.

Gross Tax Collected.....\$6,035.11

- Motion was made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Alison Link, to approve the Tax Collector’s Report as read. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Council looked through the Financial Report. Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the Financial Report as of February 1, 2018. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Borough Office Manager explained to Council that \$2,705.00 was put on principal only on the First National Bank loan #44132575. Today a check

was mailed in for \$90.65 to pay this loan off in full. This consists of \$1.43 on principal; \$84.00 UCC termination fee; and \$5.22 to interest. Now that this loan will be paid off, do we want to make a principal only payment on the Marion Center Bank line of credit for the remaining 9 payments of \$984.59=\$8,861.31 when more tax money comes in. Council approved doing this once the tax money comes in.

- Borough Office Manager told Council there was no allowance in the 2018 budget for the Cruiser Reserve. Prior years we put \$3,500.00 in. We could take this from the increasing tax mileage for 2018. Council approved transferring \$3,500.00 into the Cruiser Reserve with tax money.
- Borough Office Manager stated Toni Zalisnock, Tax Collector, had asked if Council wants her to turn in delinquent Per Capita taxes for 2017 or just start fresh in 2018 going forward. Council approved starting in 2018 and going forward.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Alison Link asked if Walt is working on the skimmer at the pool. John Clabaugh wants to run a camera down to see if the pipe is broken. Can we use Commons Trust money to replace the pipe if it is broken? Council said if it is broken it can be replaced with Commons Trust money.
- Chief Owens stated the inmates are coming in May 2018.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Jeff Zearfoss stated the financial closing is on April 11, 2018 for the sewer project. Money then gets disbursed. Digging may start in the beginning of May 2018.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Thomas Kinney stated Kid Skins wants to use a place to store stuff. The room upstairs at the Memorial building would be better than a storage closet. Kristen Bollinger stated the borough will be charging them a yearly rate.
- Mayor Drass let Council know he checked out the Butch Urban complaint. There is a driveway on Spangler Street and a sidewalk on Fourth Avenue. Do you want me to talk to Dustin Pellas? Christopher Gibbons said, "Let it go."

- Mayor Drass stated a guy asked him about the old school building. He wants Walter Thomas or Chief Owens to go into the building with him to look at the structure of the building. Chris Marcuzzo wants to put in a bowling alley. Eugene Huber said the structure is good and solid but it needs a lot of work.
- Kristen Bollinger said we have a heating problem again at the Memorial building. A renter was there on Sunday and it was cold. Brady turned the heat up but it didn't kick on. Kristen said it was 56 degrees inside the building when she got there. John Thomas Heating & Plumbing needs to look at the furnace. Borough Office Manager will contact them tomorrow.
- Kristen also said there is no longer a chair dolly for the chairs at the Memorial building. Christopher Gibbons asked what happened to the one that was up there. Kristen Bollinger said it belonged to Coca Cola and Sam Patterson took it back when he stopped working at the Memorial building. There are 270 chairs in the building.
- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Zearfoss, to purchase four chair dollies for \$179.20 each. Each dolly will hold 60 chairs.

Motion Carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Jeff Zearfoss stated Jonah Thomas is compiling a little record of bad things. He had an accident with the truck. He's not on time with work and calling Jerry from G-Force without letting the Sewer Authority know. We've given him several chances. We've talked to him. Christopher Gibbons said he has not passed his certification but will take the test in May 2018. Jim Burkey wants to see if he passes this test since it will be his third try.
- Jeff Zearfoss asked Council, "Can we get part-time help for Michelle Baker? She is constantly getting interrupted. We could utilize her in getting more plant time at both locations." Christopher Gibbons told him that this is up to both the Water & Sewer Authorities. Jeff explained that the authorities are thinking about not taking cash payments. If this happens we will post a sign at the window letting customers know as of date we are not taking cash payments.
- Jeff Zearfoss stated a monthly schedule will be posted in the office when the sewer project starts.
- Christopher Gibbons asked Kristen Bollinger, head of the Personnel Committee, to create a form for performance reviews. Kristen said reviews

will be done annually before budget time for pay raises. There will be one for probationary employees too.

- Eugene Huber stated a door was open on Saturday at 5:45pm at the Memorial building. Council discussed the idea of getting alarms on the gym doors. Christopher Gibbons believes the alarms will be a pain in the butt. Kristen Bollinger said she doesn't want to hear them from her house. Who will disarm them? Council took a vote on who wants the alarms. It was tied, three want them and three don't want them. Council President, Christopher Gibbons broke the tie by voting he doesn't want them. With that said, no alarms will be put on the doors. Police Chief Owens stated the police can check the Memorial building by getting out of the car and walking around the building. Council discussed talking to Brady about the issue of the doors not being checked each night to see if they are closed. Alison Link said he has been told three different times about this.
- Motion made by Alison Link, second by Jeff Zearfoss, to hire Joshua Dignan as a part-time police officer.

Motion Carried.

- Borough Office Manager gave each Council person a brochure from PSAB on DOT/Non DOT Drug & Alcohol Testing Program. It costs \$75.00 annually with other costs. Jeff Zearfoss asked where we currently go now and the cost. Borough Office Manager reported we currently use Corporate Care through Conemaugh Health System in Ebensburg, PA. The cost for blood work is \$47.00 per person. Miners Medical Center in Hastings no longer does this type of testing for businesses. Council decided to continue doing ours through Corporate Care.
- Borough Office Manager gave Council all the applications received for the part-time borough crew position. Council reviewed but asked if the applications could be emailed to the Personnel Committee to review.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES: None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Melanie Zearfoss, 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:

- Borough Office Manager gave Council a reminder to complete the FEMA/NIMS tests. If possible hand in your certificates before the end of April 2018 because Allen Kline is retiring May 2018.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Thomas Kinney, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager