

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

March 3, 2020

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 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, Jeff Semelsberger, Mayor Donald C Drass, Thomas Kinney, Melanie Zearfoss, Jeff Zearfoss, Sam Patterson, John Schettini, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, and Rhonda Churella. All were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by Jeff Zearfoss, 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: Hastings Area Youth Association-Richard Rogal, Matthew Thomas, Chance Cann, and Jessica Painter.

Melanie Zearfoss asked about the batting cage at the VFW field. Richard Rogal replied, "It can be taken down." Melanie Zearfoss asked, "What happened to the fence along the road?" Richard Rogal replied, "The Fire Company took it down at the last Fire Convention. It may not have been in good shape." Jeff Semelsberger asked, "Does anyone use the field?" Richard Rogal replied, "The Pony League and another team will be on it this year." Sam Patterson asked, "Who is responsible for cleaning bathrooms and the garbage?" Jessica Painter said it was rotated. One-time HAYA did it, then the borough, etc. During the week the Youth Association cleaned the bathrooms and the Pool Manager cleaned them on Friday for the weekend pavilion rentals. The borough emptied the garbage. Richard Rogal stated who the members on HAYA are: Ken Duman, President; Matthew Thomas, Vice-President; Jessica Painter, Secretary; and Chance Cann, Treasurer. Sam Patterson said last year the grass was high. Mayor Donald C Drass stated at

times it was high. It was swampy because of all the rain we had. Jeff Zearfoss asked if HAYA had any special days when games are played. Jessica Painter replied, "Mondays and Fridays." Chance Cann asked for a phone number to keep in contact with. Melanie Zearfoss said to call the borough office. Mayor Drass said he is at the fields a lot during the summer months. Richard Rogal asked if the blow off pipe that was put in for the sewer project by the one pavilion in the park could have a six-foot extension put in because the kids are putting stones down it and clogging it. Jeff Zearfoss said he will bring that up at the next sewer meeting. Alison Link asked how the parking was last year during the Joey Bearer tournament. Jessica Painter said it went okay. Richard Rogal stated you would ask someone to move their vehicle and someone else would pull in and park at the same place. Jessica Painter asked when the water is shut off and turned on at the park. They are having a clean up day scheduled March 28, 2020. Can the water be turned on before then? The office will tell the borough crew to have this done. Richard Rogal stated they had 102 kids sign up for ball this coming season. This is down from last year. Matthew Thomas said the fence on the back field by Jan Brown's office is bad. Richard Rogal stated the pipes are broke off. The fence in the softball field needs replaced too. It's about forty to fifty years old. That field needs a new back stop too. Jeff Semelsberger asked if they got a price on a smaller back stop. Chance Cann said a new fence would be \$3,000.00 including installation and \$16,000.00 for back stop. Melanie Zearfoss asked if we need to have a big one. Richard Rogal said, "No, a smaller one should work." Jeff Semelsberger said we can start to replace the fence from worst to least with urgency. Someone else needs the liability, not us as far to install. Is the batting cage safe? Richard Rogal replied, "Yes, it just wasn't put together correct." Jessica Painter asked if they could put up horses near the pavilion and baseball field. People fell there a lot last year of all ages. The ground is so saturated with water. It looks like grass and then they slide and fall. Mayor Drass suggested putting in wood chips and building it up higher. Melanie Zearfoss said to put shell in over mulch. Kids will just throw it. Alison Link stated the bathrooms will be cleaned by the borough on Monday's and the Youth Assn. will do the other days. The garbage is picked up Monday's during the summertime. Melanie Zearfoss stated, "We have discussed this in the past and decided there is no hitting baseball or softballs in the Memorial Building at all. We have had a lot of damage done in that building." Richard Rogal said they use nets. Alison Link said they hit

into the net. Richard Rogal asked, "How about playing catch from bleacher to bleacher?" Alison Link said to tell all coaches to be careful with it. That building means a lot to them. Melanie Zearfoss stated it is our money maker. Alison Link stated we will be taking over the VFW fields and parking lot. Jeff Semelsberger suggested putting slate and then shell on the wet area by the pavilion and ballfield. I will donate the slate. John Schettini suggested road mills would work well. Jeff Semelsberger said Susquehanna Township had some that they may be able to give us. Matthew Thomas said he could possibly get some from work. Matthew said he hauled it in for the Fire Company for the property on Third Avenue and Coleman Street.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- Thomas Kinney, Street Commissioner, stated he will meet with Mike Bowser, PennDOT Representative, on March 23, 2020 to go over roads for a road project this year. Rhonda Churella said Mike Bowser will get the paperwork ready for approval at our first meeting in April for the Cambria County aid of \$5,300.00.
- An estimate was brought into the borough office from Centre Communications, Inc. on a radio system that everyone including the office can communicate together out in the field. The estimate is \$4,220.00. Jeff Zearfoss stated we will need a repeater to be put in at the sewer plant. Mayor Drass suggested getting a quote from Rich Rogal at Com Pros.
- Mara Taranto dropped off four maps to be approved and signed by Council. The Fire Company is merging three parcels of real estate along Third Avenue. The parcels are indexed as 33-012.-500.00, 33-012.-501.00, and 33-012.-502.00. It is their intent to merge these three 7500.00 square foot parcels into a single parcel totaling 22,500.00 square feet (0.516 acres). Parcel 33-012.-500.00 is currently served by public sewer and water. The other two parcels are currently vacant. Patrick Fanelli wants to know if this went through the Cambria County Planning Commission office first. They would need to approve the zoning since Hastings Borough has no zoning. Patrick Fanelli informed Council do not get approved or sign the maps before we check this out further. We need to know what the County

subdivision ordinance is. You are not obligated at this time to approve and sign these. Jeff Zearfoss said that Stiffler McGraw is a good company that did the maps for Fire Company but is unsure if they checked this out before hand or not. Melanie Zearfoss is meeting with Brian Shura of Stiffler McGraw tomorrow and will ask him to investigate this matter. We need to know what process they followed.

- Mayor Donald C Drass said Hastings Area Industrial Development Association wants to know if we can put a “Dead End” sign on Legacy Drive.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger, if H.A.I.D.A. wants to buy the sign, we will put it up.

Motion Carried.

POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for February 2020.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve the monthly police report.

Motion Carried.

- Mayor Donald C Drass stated the Police Department is doing an excellent job.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Rhonda Churella stated Evergreen Insurance Company is coming on Friday, March 6, 2020, and Pallone Insurance Company is coming on Monday, March 9, 2020. They are both wanting to come out and look at our properties throughout the borough. Then we should get insurance quotes from both. I know Pallone Insurance Company said the Fire Company can get their own Worker’s Compensation policy on the Fire Club.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Alison Link stated Hastings Area Youth Association said a new fence is \$3,000.00. We own all the fields. John Schettini said we need to get more than one quote. Jeff Zearfoss said we should take charge. It's for the community. Melanie Zearfoss asked who uses them? They are only used two to three months out of the year. Jeff Zearfoss said people will say that about the pool. Sam Patterson stated other towns have fields that need taken care of. It's our field. Mayor Drass stated, "It's our responsibility." We could see if the borough pays \$4,000.00 toward a new fence maybe HAYA would put \$2,000.00 toward the cost. Alison Link asked if someone wants to work on this project. Sam Patterson said he will deal with them.
- Rhonda Churella brought an email with a picture from Michelle Baker about five birthday balloons up in the gym ceiling. Michelle is concerned when the ceiling fans are on it could create a problem.
- Rhonda Churella found three lease agreements when going through files. They are with Hastings Municipal Authority for Park/Pool area which comes due May 16, 2021; Hastings Area Sewer Authority for Walking Trail which comes due November 8, 2025; and the Fire Company lease for 99 years dated May 7, 1996.
- Dave Kuntz of Kelli Oil stated the garage oil tank should be moved inside the building. It is sitting on old rotted wood. The price would be cheaper too since it wouldn't need to have the winter mix. Dave said someone could steal oil out of it. Dave said the old Agway store in Ebensburg sells new ones at wholesale price. Dave said he could install that for us too. Jeff Semelsberger said if he doesn't charge us for it, then let him. If he does, between Jeff Semelsberger, John Schettini, and Tom Kinney, they could do it.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council President called an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and matters of possible litigation.

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: The session ended.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Rhonda took count of who was attending Cambria County Borough's Association 2020 Spring Dinner on April 21, 2020.
- Motion made by Melanie Zearfoss, second by Jeff Zearfoss, to accept the deed from the VFW.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Jeff Semelsberger. This meeting adjourned approximately 8:55 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager