

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

**April 23, 2019**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 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, Eugene Huber, Thomas Kinney, Kristen Bollinger, Jeff Semelsberger, Mayor Donald C Drass, Melanie Zearfoss, and Rhonda Churella. Absent was 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 and Kathy O'Rourke of the Hastings Public Library. Gladys Shutty spoke about coming to a prior Council meeting and stating they wanted to apply for the Keystone Grant in which Borough Council said they would support us. Why did you change your mind? Melanie Zearfoss started to read information on the grant application. Melanie said, "If we sign for this grant, the building is ours. We don't want the liability. Our solicitor and auditor both said no." Mayor Donald Drass stated, "We cannot put funding to this." Jeff Semelsberger said, "We agreed we will not be responsible, but the check is going to be payable to Hastings Borough. If you disband, we are responsible for the \$300,000.00 to pay it back. The liability comes to the borough." Kathy O'Rourke said, "We left here feeling good and worked on this for three months. We paid for things specifically for this grant." Kathy O'Rourke passed out a letter to each Council member. Kristen Bollinger said, "Our solicitor informed us of a similar incident from another municipality. If your association disbanded, this letter no longer existed. We are all about the community. Because of the stipulations of this grant, we cannot be responsible." Kathy O'Rourke said, "We already have \$400,000.00 for this project." Melanie Zearfoss stated, "If you have \$400,000.00, you can make a nice library with that." Kathy O'Rourke stated, "We must follow the guidelines of the plan specs that Joe Mangarella had made prior to his passing. We have already spent \$60,000.00 for the architect. We wish we knew

this in January. Why are you not supporting us? I gave you copies of this grant.” Kristen Bollinger replied, “I don’t recall this at all. Even the solicitor who was at that meeting doesn’t remember this either.” Jeff Semelsberger said, “Pat Fanelli felt it was misrepresented to us. We are liable.” Melanie Zearfoss stated, “This is not how the grant works. You can’t ask us to take on this liability. We gave you the land and have supported you for this with a support letter. We cannot support you with tax payer money.” Jeff Semelsberger again said that the information was not given to us at that time. Kathy O’Rourke said, “We are all disappointed, but we will have a new library in three years.” Kristen Bollinger stated, “We are disappointed that we can’t help you financially. We want it to flourish for our children, our grandchildren, etc.” Melanie Zearfoss stated, “We would have to raise taxes.” Kathy O’Rourke told Council, “This will not fall through. We do have another source to go to.” Kristen Bollinger replied, “We hope not.” Kathy O’Rourke replied, “We’ll have to rescind that letter. We thank you for your time.”

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

- Roger Hollen said the roads are bad.
- Roger Hollen said the storm drain boxes need replaced on Coleman Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue on both sides. Troy Feightner said they may cost \$450.00 each. Eugene Huber said Troy was worried about it collapsing. Rhonda asked if we need to order these. Thomas Kinney said to wait and see what Troy wants to do first.
- Roger Hollen noticed the door was opened at the Memorial building. Kristen Bollinger said Taylor needs to be checking the doors after each rental.
- Roger Hollen stated we had two water breaks. I even got a call from the 911 Center.
- Roger Hollen stated, “I got another load of shell for the walking trail.”
- Roger Hollen reported they are cutting the creek. Brandan and I work well together. We talk about what we are going to do for the day.
- Roger Hollen asked if there was any way we can get Brandan more time or comp time. We communicate well together. Alison Link said this will be discussed later on.

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

- Police Chief Jason Owens asked Council if he could get a borough credit card for certified mail needed with ordinances.
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Kristen Bollinger, for Jason Owens to have a borough credit card with a \$500.00 limit or the minimum balance required.

**Motion Carried.**

- Rhonda reminded Council about the Susquehanna Township police contract meeting at 6:00pm here tomorrow night.

**TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT:** Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from March 17, 2019 to April 13, 2019.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$27,257.44
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$690.90
Total Collected.....	\$27,948.34

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from March 20, 2019 to April 19, 2019.

Gross Tax Collected.....\$15,769.97

- Motion was made by Eugene Huber, second by Melanie Zearfoss, 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 Thomas Kinney, second by Eugene Huber, to approve the Financial Report as of March 1, 2019. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

**FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Alison Link asked about the insurance we carry on the Memorial building. If renters fall, are we covered? I know alcohol was brought into the building this weekend. The person who signed the agreement did not bring it in, but alcohol was brought in by others. Rhonda needs to contact our insurance company and find out if we are covered by all the rentals we get in that building. What coverage do we have?

## **WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Thomas Kinney reported having leaks, that's it.

## **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- Borough Office Manger reported about the sewer project meeting on April 16, 2019. Ernie said the laterals in Slickport are done. Jim Burkey asked about William Lipps issue with a sewer project from 1996. Patrick stated Slickport was misinformed but everyone is okay once they were talked to and explained what is going on. Ernie talked about the paving crew starting on Miller Street & sides streets, Spangler, Church, Harvey and Beaver Streets. They will do base & top paving. Jim Burkey asked if the roads will be smoother. Todd Bank replied, "A lot smoother than it is now." Ernie said, "They will mill & make it as smooth as we can." Patrick said they have three full replacements in the French Hill area. Then they will move to Edgewood & Laurel for back lines. Jim Burkey asked, "How much time?" Ernie replied, "One in a half to two weeks." Ernie said they will do restoration as weather permits. Jim Burkey said on Sunday night they had approximately 2 inches of rain. The influent went up at the sewer plant. Between 11:00pm to 1:00am it started coming back down. Was this from the Coleman Street area? Ernie said on Maple Street by Cole an area failed. This could be the problem. Jim Burkey said it went down in two hours. Ernie invoiced for the pool by-pass for \$8,898.08. Jim Burkey approved the invoice to be paid to Glenn Johnston, Inc. Ernie said they have an issue with the new sidewalks. Asphalt & concrete or all asphalt. How do we do this? Beaver Street Café is one of many. Do we put up speed bumps? I know we can't do that. Todd Banks said to ask to do asphalt only. If not, put concrete down 1-1 ½ inches and put asphalt on top. Ernie talked about the tree guy complaint. He needs to have a letter mailed since he never answers his phone and has no answering machine. The neighbors don't have any damage. The neighbors said they will take the tree out. Patrick talked about a house owned by Habitat for Humanities (Mulraney residence). His name is on the deed. Todd Banks said the research was done in 2015. It could have been transferred. Patrick said it goes across two properties into Coleman Street. Todd Banks asked about Kendell Rogal property having a smell. He hasn't had the smell since he dumped bleach down all the drains. Todd Banks asked, "How far are we with testing?" Steve answered, "Approximately 50%." Ernie said he will get it updated.

Todd asked about up to the Food Pantry area. Ernie said it could be three weeks to a month or so, maybe six weeks. Steve talked about Type 4 ADA ramps. Ernie said PennDOT approves these. Patrick stated 2's are more expensive than 4's. Jim Burkey asked about the foundation guy complaint. Ernie said it is not our issue. Steve Fletcher said, "We never exposed that wall." Ernie said, "I am not buying it." Todd Banks said, "The Hertzog property has deferential settlement." Ernie said, "The outside of the wall is perfect." Ernie said they delivered three loads of stone yesterday from the pool project. They replaced what they had taken. Todd Banks said the next meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 10:00am.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Thomas Kinney said to send Glenn Johnston \$85.00 for grass seed for the pool area.
- Alison Link reported Rich Rogal from Hastings Area Youth Association got a quote for \$3,000.00 to purchase youth fencing. We should donate to the youth from the Commons Trust. This fence will be put in the field across from Jan Brown's dentist office. Should we give them \$2,000.00? Jeff Semelsberger said to donate \$1,000.00. Alison Link said, "Should we give the youth a bone since we use a lot of money on the pool and Memorial building?" Jeff Semelsberger responded, "We need to see the quote and go halves with them."
- Alison Link met with Link Computer at the Memorial building today. She is getting a quote for a fob system. The fobs will be put on the front door and basement door with twenty-five key fobs. A monitor will be placed on the other front door. It will send alerts to whomever we want. The doors up there have become mysteriously opened. Kristen Bollinger said, "We need to make sure Taylor is checking the doors." Thomas Kinney reported for two nights the lights were on in the girl's locker room down stairs.
- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for March 2019.
- On April 5, 2019, Roger Anderson of "If Its Water" called the office wanting to know about our swimming pool project. He was told to attend tonight's Council meeting.
- Joe Woods, Northern Cambria Borough Street Commissioner, contacted Rhonda to see if Hastings Borough is still interested in a swimming pool slide and a diving board. He said Northern Cambria will donate them to us. Northern Cambria borough crew and our borough crew brought everything

over today. Council was very pleased and thankful to Northern Cambria Borough for donating all this equipment to Hastings Borough.

- Thomas Kinney reported M&M Concrete got the pool bid to cement the sidewalk. They will start tomorrow. Melanie Zearfoss wants the pool slide taken down and put where we want it. Can we purchase more cement for this? Thomas Kinney replied, "No, since it is already in construction. We can add that on later ourselves."
- A verbal discussion was had with Dustin Pellas in December 2018 regarding parking in the Memorial Building parking lot and signing a lease agreement. This was the reason he was permitted to use the Memorial Building lot for parking from December 2018 to April 2019. Council was under the impression he was still following through with the lease agreement when it was ready. Pellas Automotive, LLC, owner Dustin Pellas, dropped off the courtesy letter and the lease agreement with Hastings Borough unsigned at the office today. Dustin isn't going to need to park at the Memorial building since he is purchasing property.
- Council discussed the meeting with Elder Township, Hastings Area Industrial Development Association, and Southern Alleghenies. This was in regard to H.A.I.D.A. wanting to put a road in Elder Township but needs someone to take over the road and do the maintenance. Melanie Zearfoss stated Jeff Zearfoss brought this up at the sewer meeting when John Clabaugh was there. John was very upset because we have our water source within so many miles of this area. They cannot put a road in. John said Stiffler McGraw had equipment stuck in that area when they worked on our water project a few years ago. John said he would have this stopped because of our water source.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Kirk Basista dropped off an employment application to the office on April 5, 2019, for a general maintenance laborer position. Council said to keep it on file.
- Rich Banik wants to thank Council for the Hastings Borough shirts. Rich made a suggestion that they need larger safety vests to go over their winter coats. Rich said obviously order them in the fall before winter starts again. Kristen Bollinger was happy for this suggestion. Kristen said, "We will order them now for the next season." Roger Hollen asked Council to maybe get the fluorescent striped winter coats for them to wear.

- Roger Hollen asked Council about giving Brandan more hours or comp time. He lives in Dysart and if he gets called in over the weekend for a water break he has to leave early a day to keep his hours down to thirty-four. Jeff Semelsberger stated the average is forty hours per week. We definitely need him to come out. Melanie Zearfoss asked, "Can we make them both full time?" Council discussed it and can do this after they are both done with their probationary period. We can re-evaluate this at that time.

### **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney, to adopt Ordinance # 2019-3 Amendment to Chapter 1 Section 3-Tax Collector's Commission.

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:** Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger, 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 Eugene Huber, this meeting adjourned at approximately 8:53 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager