

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

June 18, 2019

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 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, Kristen Bollinger, Jeff Semelsberger, Mayor Donald C Drass, and Rhonda Churella. Jack Thompson from the Star Courier was present too. Absent were Melanie Zearfoss, Jeff Zearfoss, and Thomas Kinney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, 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: Joe Rogal Jr, Bob Nagle, and Jody Link of VFW Post 1586.

Jody Link stated they had a special meeting to discuss giving the property to the borough. If the borough wants it, then they need to take the railroad tracks down to Ray Uhron's. I think they are deeded separately. Mayor Donald C Drass asked, "What price are you asking? A dollar or what price do you want?" Jody Link replied, "A dollar would be good." Alison Link stated the Youth was willing to maintain the ballfields. Jody Link said, "We want to keep the monument though. We only want the land used for the youth." Eugene Huber replied, "That's all its been used for in years." Mayor Drass stated, "We will keep it for the youth and recreation." Kristen Bollinger told them we could give you \$2.00. Jeff Semelsberger stated, "It will be protected with us." Alison Link said we can put that in the agreement to never sell and keep it for the youth. Our solicitor is currently sorting the deeds that you had given Melanie Zearfoss. Jody Link said when they had a need for an attorney, we got one. Bob Nagle asked if there would be any fees. Council stated if you give us a gift, why would we impose a fee onto you. Alison Link said our solicitor will do up the agreement at our expense.

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- A meeting is scheduled with PennDOT representative Mike Bowser, Eugene Huber, Thomas Kinney, and Rhonda Churella on July 16, 2019 at 9:30am. He will complete the paperwork for us to get reimbursed \$5,300.00 we get from Cambria County. Since we didn't have a road project this year because of the sewer project, we can use our Penelec bills for streetlights.
- There was "No Findings" in our Liquid Fuels audit from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2018. The audit was for two days, June 10 and 11, 2019.
- Borough office received an estimate from Susan Rematt for \$1,212.69 from Cambria Collision. Our insurance deductible is \$500.00. Mayor Drass said the difference is around \$700.00. Jeff Semelsberger wants to know if we have forgiveness on this policy. Rhonda will call and inquire.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Eugene Huber, to pay Cambria Collision \$1,212.69 out of pocket.

Motion Carried.

- Eugene Huber talked to Troy Feighner about the storm drain on Harvey Street by Bill Thomas. Troy gave an estimate of \$1,800.00 to \$2,500.00. They have small and large ones. Troy said the larger is PennDOT approved.
- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Kristen Bollinger, to have Troy Feighner fix the storm drain on Harvey Street.

Motion Carried.

- Rhonda Churella read the Hastings Borough Operations Manager Report to Council. Michelle Baker would like to get safety training for all our employees. She has a call into PA Rural Water to see what they have to offer. Kristen Bollinger said this is a good idea since we have a lot of new employees. Alison Link said to get training information and send it to Council. We can maybe split the cost three ways.

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Police Chief Jason Owens revised the SOP's. They are available back in his office. He will put them on a disk for the borough office to keep in the vault. Chief Owens has put that you cannot have a shift somewhere else and then come here to work.
- Police Chief Jason Owens talked about enforcement grants like the Buckle Up or Patrol grants. The borough gets reimbursed for the wages. Most departments have one flat per hour for example we pay \$25.00 per hour. It makes the paperwork easier when everyone is at the same rate whether full or part time.

- Police Chief Jason Owens said his taser instructor recert is up this year. It was \$225.00 but that changed in February. You must attend a two-day class. Everyone now needs to go to a two-day class which costs \$495.00. The cost per officer is \$175.00. Chief Owens would like to do a class at the Memorial building and charge \$50.00 per person to help defer the cost of training. He would like to invite the northern and southern areas.
- Police Chief Jason Owens has been working on our livestock ordinance which includes chickens. This ordinance is in Chapter 3 and has three sections. The ordinance is old, and I redid it. Four people have chickens in the borough. I would like to state it that you must ask for permission. They would need to complete a form, which will get approved or denied by Council. Kristen Bollinger asked if this ordinance will help you enforce.
- Police Chief Jason Owens said he would like to get new case files and parking tickets since ours are so old. His goal with getting new forms is to try and save money, be faster and more efficient. He can hang a ticket on your door for example for high grass or junk vehicles, etc. Chief Owens said he won't have to send out as many certified letters at \$6.85. Jeff Semelsberger said, "It will be a lot less work on you too." Chief Owens said currently he has to do a report, take pictures, make a file, etc. Kristen Bollinger asked, "Do we have to send out certified letters?" Chief Owens said that District Magistrates will honor the ticket because it shows the date when it was issued. Chief Owens will only put these on doors of residents that own and live in the house. He will have to send certified letters to those who own the property but do not live here. Chief Owens said the price is \$60.00 for 250.
- Police Chief Jason Owens said the 2015 Police Cruiser was taken to Burley's Auto to be looked at. Josh drove it and said it was making a metal popping sound. Burley said it needs a coil spring which will cost \$622.64. Burley also said since the cruiser has 134,000 miles, we should replace the struts. Jeff Semelsberger said quick struts are easy. He will have to disassemble the struts to get to the coil spring. We should fix it right. I recommend getting the quick struts. Chief Owens said it takes about three days to get parts. Jeff Semelsberger said to avoid driving it.
- Police Chief Jason Owens talked about drug testing for employees. BEM Enterprises wants \$75.00 up front to do a drug policy, \$125.00 for supervisor training which should be someone on Council, \$85.00 per person when they come. Maybe we could do quarterly and have four employees

tested this month. They will charge for mileage. The total is approximately \$1,645.00.

- Police Chief Jason Owens stated Joshua Dignan put his two-week resignation in today. Patton hired him full time. Chief Owens said he knows someone from Tyrone who is interested in a full-time police job. He's fully interested. Can we bring him in part time? Alison Link said to bring him in part time, advertise for full time and see what we get in applications. Jeff Semelsberger said, "We need to have a full-time police officer." Alison Link said we are amending the FOP contract. We need to add a probationary time for one year. Chief Owens wants to advertise in the Johnstown Academy. Jeff Semelsberger said this new guy must step up and prove himself. Alison Link stated we paid Josh \$28,000.00 annually. If they don't accept benefits, we will pay them \$29,000.00 annually.
- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Eugene Huber, to approve purchasing door hangers and case files for the cheapest price; taser certification training; SOP edits; \$25.00 per hour for grants; advertise livestock ordinance; fix struts on 2015 police cruiser at Burley's; post full-time police position; and hire Brian Diehl as a part time police officer.

Motion Carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from May 12, 2019 to June 15, 2019.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$5,693.90
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$65.00
Total Collected.....	\$5,758.90

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer's from May 22, 2019 to June 4, 2019.

Gross Tax Collected.....\$7,195.61

- Motion was made by Eugene Huber, second by Jeff Semelsberger, 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 Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the Financial Report as of May 1, 2019. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Borough Office Secretary reported about the sewer project meeting on June 11, 2019. Ernie said mainline sewer will be done today. 3-4 days of laterals left. 2 days in French Hill, 1 day on Miller & 1 day at the plant. Paving crew is still paving. Redoing ramps on 3rd & Beaver. Should be done on Friday. Todd said one overlay needs to get approved. There're two different overlays. Ernie will lay overlays out on Monday for the pavement that is skinny. Got the guys doing testing. Ernie is still working on trench repairs. About a month of paving left to complete. Roger said it will take about two days for the mapping of the overlays to get milled. Ernie said man pans will be here tomorrow. Will do an underground walk through. Ernie has Blaze McCombie's check. He just needs to meet up with him. Todd got the ADA ramps finished. About two more to go then they will be done. Patrick said they didn't get the sewer line in yet for Dollar General. They still need to do three tests yet. The meeting is scheduled June 25, 2019 at 10:00a.m.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Jeff Semelsberger met with Spory's Locksmith at the Memorial building to get an estimate to rekey the doors. They gave an estimate of \$359.00 which includes twelve keys. Alison Link said we need twenty keys. Jeff said they charge \$20.00 to rekey a door. An option could be the police department have one key for a specific door and everyone else gets into all other doors.

- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Kristen Bollinger, to have Spory's Locksmith in Johnstown rekey the doors and purchase twenty keys.
Motion Carried.
- Alison Link reported the pool passed the electrical inspection on Monday, June 17, 2019.
- Saint Bernard Church sent a letter requesting road closure to traffic on Miller Street from Sunday, August 11, 2019 to Tuesday, August 20, 2019 for their Annual Homecoming Picnic.
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the closing of Miller Street for the Saint Bernard Church Annual Homecoming Picnic.

Motion Carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Alison Link said since Roger was off, Brandan Terry stepped up to the plate. She would like to make him full time or do some sort of recognition.
- An employment application was handed in the office on June 11, 2019, from Bradford C Frey. Chief Owens said to just file it away.
- On June 12, 2019, Walter G Thomas voluntarily retired from his position at Hastings Borough. He was the Street Commissioner.
- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to accept Walter G Thomas retirement effective June 12, 2019.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to accept the resignation of Joshua S Dignan. His last day of work will be June 30, 2019.

Motion Carried.

- Kristen Bollinger stated the employees can only go to Cambria Pit Stop for gas in the wintertime. They must always go to Sheetz. Rhonda told Council that our gas cards are not working at their pumps because Cambria Pit Stop needs to update their pumps and system.

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

END OF EXECUTIVE SESSION: The session ended.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Kristen Bollinger, 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:

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Eugene Huber, to make Brandan Terry and James Warner full time effective June 29, 2019.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to name Eugene Huber as Street Commissioner.

Motion Carried.

- Rhonda Churella explained to Council her frustrations with her emails on this new computer. I have called Paul Shutack several times. He has told me my memory is almost full, it's Comcast issues, etc. Several times a week I cannot receive or open my emails through Outlook as well as logging into Comcast. Julia has no problems and we are both connected to same file server. Alison Link said she will look at my computer and possibly call Paul Shutack.

ADJOURN: Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger, this meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager