

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

**July 2, 2019**

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 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 – Eugene Huber, Alison Link, Jeff Semelsberger, Mayor Donald C Drass, Solicitor Patrick Fanelli, Kristen Bollinger, Thomas Kinney, and Rhonda Churella. Absent were Jeff Zearfoss and Melanie Zearfoss.

**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:** Richard Elder

Rich lives at 175 Spruce Street. Rich said he wants to talk about Cardinal Road. Rich said, "Twenty plus years ago I approached Council about a driveway and a garage. I was told I could do a garage but nothing permanent. I am going to sell the home located at 102 Fourth Avenue. Attorney Previte is working on re-deeding everything but cannot because of the garage. He can't get a clear deed. Can you declare the road vacant on Baker Street and Spruce Street?" Jeff Semelsberger asked, "What kind of garage did you put up?" Rich replied, "I purchased it from AZ Structure in Indiana." Jeff Semelsberger said, "The building is on skids." Rich stated, "I understand you will need your solicitor to do research. Please let me know the outcome." Mayor Donald C Drass asked, "Isn't that planted in grass?" Rich replied, "It is planted in trees."

**STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:**

- Eugene Huber said Mara Taranto contacted him about an alley/road on Village Street. This alley ends on her front porch. This property is no value to us. There is no liquid fuels money. Mara will own the other house. Mayor Drass said, "No right of way." Kristen Bollinger asked, "What is she asking for?" Eugene Huber replied, "To buy it or turn it over." Alison Link stated, "We need to put this in writing for the future. We need to put a reason with a guideline in." Jeff Semelsberger asked, "Is Mara pressing for time?" Eugene Huber replied, "No." Patrick Fanelli said, "At a legal standpoint you have no legal obligation. It can be as arbitrary as you want. Guidelines will be helpful. Abandoning or vacating roads that are called "paper street", which are laid out when the borough came into play. After twenty-one years abandoned, you can vacate. There are two types of rights: Public rights-anyone can drive on it and Private rights-always exist. The Rich Elder property there is nothing you can do or say to do. This is not a role for the borough. I can volunteer to call his attorney on behalf of the borough. You have no obligation or ability." Eugene Huber talked about the Mara Taranto road. He said, "Why does the road end at the first house and not go back to the second house? The surveyor stake is at the end of her porch." Patrick Fanelli replied, "If there is no record by Ordinance maybe this is a private street. You should have some sort of an agreement." Eugene Huber asked, "What answer do I give her?" Jeff Semelsberger said Rhonda needs to contact Mike Bowser of PennDOT and ask him what "Other Road" on the map in the meeting room means. Patrick Fanelli asked, "Are you okay with it being abandoned? Both things don't need to be done."
- Alison Link talked about the flower boxes on Beaver Street. Michelle Baker wants the borough crew to do this project.
- Mowing grass at the Boring's house on Kirkpatrick Street and the house on Spangler Street by Dolly's Frontino's was discussed. Police Chief Jason Owens stated Attorney Denny Previte said there is no owner to the Boring house. There was no will and they are both dead. How can you put a lien against the property? Patrick Fanelli asked, "Whose paying for the taxes?" Chief Owens replied, "Darlene Gillette." Patrick Fanelli stated you can put that against an heir.

- Eugene Huber talked about a right of way on Spangler Street where two trees were planted on the alley. The sewer project crew removed the trees, but new ones were planted after they left. Patrick Fanelli said you can remove it. It could be a private street. You need to check with the engineers who did the sewer project.
- Alison Link talked about the problem with the bridge on Seventh Avenue. PennDOT bridge inspection crew was performing an inspection, which was thought to be a 20 ft span, but the bridge is only 17'-6". As a result of the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge being under 20 ft, PennDOT is not required to inspect this bridge but while on site they did notice a beam deterioration issue that could compromise the structural integrity of the bridge. Alison wants the Fourth Avenue bridge looked at too.
- Susan Rematt dropped off a new estimate from Cambria Collision for \$1,582.00 on June 27, 2019. The first estimate was for \$1,212.69. The difference is \$369.31 which is molding w/o parktronic add for clear coat \$224.00 plus additional labor. Jeff Semelsberger looked at the new estimate and compared it to the first one. He said it is legit and this can happen.
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to pay Cambria Collision \$1,582.00 out of pocket.

**Motion Carried.**

- Borough office received a few brochures in the mail for borough trucks. Jeff Semelsberger stated we will talk about this at the next meeting.
- Rhonda Churella read the General Labor Management report dated 7/2/2019 to Council.

**POLICE REPORT/COMMITTEE:**

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly police report for June 2019.
- Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger, to approve the monthly police report.

**Motion Carried.**

- Eugene Huber reported a speeding problem on Spangler Street. Eugene said, "It is like drag racing. This goes on all day. It is bad." Chief Owens said he can watch for speeding, but the drag racers were caught.
- Kathy Semelsberger dropped off the Susquehanna Township Police contract.
- Alison Link talked about a GPS on cruisers. There is a onetime fee of \$60.46 for the software. If you get two for the police department, they will run \$37.90 per month. If you get it for four vehicles (2 police & 2 borough trucks) the cost is \$75.00 per month. The GPS is through Verizon. Chief Owens said it tells you when you need to change the oil, mileage, etc. Chief Owens explained it can tell him when the cruiser starts, stops, and you can set the speed too. For example, if you set the speed at 60 miles per hour and the cruiser goes 61 miles per hour, he will get an alert stating this. Kristen Bollinger said, "I am okay with the police department having this but not the borough garage." Jeff Semelsberger said, "I agree with you."
- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Kristen Bollinger, to purchase the GPS for the Police Department.

**Motion Carried.**

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

- Rhonda Churella told Council our accountant, Mara Taranto, said we should upgrade quickbooks to 2019 or wait as soon as 2020 version comes out in the fall. Council said to get a price on the cost of the 2020 version in the fall.

### **WATER COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

### **SEWER COMMITTEE:**

- Borough Office Secretary reported about the sewer project meeting on June 25, 2019. Todd said all sewer manholes are completed. About nine manholes left to be raised. Ernie needs three more manholes left to do by Haida. Four laterals left to finish. Steve said the fence by the ballfield needs to be finished from all the water to be drained. Todd said two

concrete driveways left. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Haida Ave., Beaver St., and Mitchell St. still needs to be paved. Ernie said the last ADA ramp to be completed. Todd said Dollar General contractor is up there. He is disappointed where the Food Pantry is. All laid out by H.A.I.D.A. HAIDA does have utility corridor to Huber St. Jim said he supplied the manhole connection on Huber Street. Ernie said more than 50% of yards completed. Pat talked about the sub-pump for Mitchell St. Steve said it needs cleaned out over by the apartments. Ernie got a hold of Blaze McCombie and left a message. Blaze texted back said he's in Pittsburgh and won't be back until Friday. Jim stated the grass that had been planted over by the residents was dying. They are going to check it out. Todd said 90% of the time is the water. Ernie turned everything over to the office for Edgewood Drive for electricity. Ernie will be paving on Beaver St. by 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., on that end, and will do the other end of Beaver St. About a month left of paving to do. Steve said about a week or two of testing left to be done. The next meeting is scheduled July 9, 2019 at 10:00am.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for June 2019.
- Alison Link reported the prisoners will be back the first week of September 2019. They will demo the pool house and build a pavilion.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Nothing to report.

### **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:**

- Motion made by Eugene Huber, second by Thomas Kinney, to approve Ordinance No. 2019-4 Amending Chapter 3 on Animals.

**Motion Carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Nothing to report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 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.

Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Thomas Kinney, to authorize police to continue operation under the existing agreement pending a new agreement with Susquehanna Township.

**Motion Carried.**

**ADJOURN:** Motion made by Kristen Bollinger, second by Jeff Semelsberger. This meeting adjourned approximately 8:30 p.m. All present voted yes.

**Motion Carried.**

Rhonda Churella  
Borough Office Manager