

REGULAR MEETING
Hastings Borough Council

September 7, 2021

The Hastings Borough Council held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 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, Melanie Zearfoss, Thomas Kinney, Jeff Semelsberger, John Schettini, Sam Patterson, Jeff Zearfoss, Mayor Donald C Drass, and Rhonda Churella. All were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Thomas Kinney, second by John Schettini, 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: Emily McConnell-Moore, Joe Lattero, Dan Jones, Michelle McGlynn, Wendell Routch, Jeff Nagle, Craig Zanoni, and Regis Shutty.

Alison Link said, "I am sure you are all here because of the rain and storm drains. We brought in someone from Stiffler McGraw to talk to everyone about a storm draining system." Cory Garrett, Stiffler McGraw-Land Development & Transportation Department, said, "I have heard that you have been having flooding issues. The first thing we would do is start where all the inlets are with a camera, measure the size of the pipe, alleviate the capacity of the pipes, the cost to replace, and basins costs. We can then look for funding. Funding can be through Pennvest, Liquid Fuels, etc. An assessment of a storm water fee if an authority is created. Legislation has changed that and joined water and sewer authorities." Melanie Zearfoss asked, "Who pays for the storm water fees?" Cory Garrett replied, "The residents do. It will depend on a lot of factors." Jeff Semelsberger stated, "The taxpayer will absorb the cost." Melanie Zearfoss stated, "DEP is forcing communities to do this." Cory Garrett replied, "I am not aware of this." Melanie Zearfoss said, "Our concern is we don't know where the storm drains are and they haven't been cleaned in years." Jeff Zearfoss said, "Water, Sewer and Storm Sewer projects have fallen onto the current Council members. We have had to deal with this. We need to pave alley ways also." Mayor Donald C Drass stated, "Rain had fallen two and half inches withing thirty

minutes. The pipes can't absorb this. It doesn't matter what you have, the creeks can't handle it." **Regis Shutt** stated, "Two culverts get no water because of the angle of the road and the water lays in front of my house. Something can be done with that. The road is covered with $\frac{3}{4}$ of water." **Craig Zanoni** said, "The road was to be paved five years ago and wasn't. I stopped at the borough garage and told the borough crew to bring the backhoe up and dig an alley. They said no, it has to go to a Council meeting first." **Michelle McGlynn** said, "I have been asking for two years now for you to do something. The sewer project messed this up and now I have water constantly. We had to put a shell and a French drain into my basement because of the water. I put in a sump pump too. I had Mr. Kinney and Sam Patterson up there. We also put a trench in my basement." Thomas Kinney stated, "The company that did the sewer project, Glenn Johnson, backfield everywhere will shell." Michelle McGlynn asked, "Is it possible to put a drain in front of my house?" Jeff Semelsberger replied, "We will call Troy Feighner and ask him." Thomas Kinney stated he would get a hold of Troy Feighner. Craig Zanoni said, "The drain at the alley way by Boring's never worked since the sewer project. Water comes up the basement drain. I snaked it for twenty feet. Becker replaced that pipe years ago." Jeff Semelsberger stated, "The pipes could be crushed, broken, etc. We don't want the taxpayers to pay a lot of money. Getting money is an issue."

Dan Jones said, "I want to thank everyone on Council. Is it possible to get the stream dredged? In 1996 Galinis did this. The Village was the Y-dam and my property was a small creek." Melanie Zearfoss stated, "We cannot do this. We can call Mark from the Conservation. DEP looks at creeks that are close to structures and can fix the creek." Dan Jones stated, "There were seven vacant cars parked across the road from my house. Six cars were moved but one has been there for eight months."

Wendell Rutch stated he was here about the hockey court. Wendell Rutch asked, "What can we do to help? We built it for you for nothing." Alison Link said, "We have to follow the rules under the insurance. The insurance inspector appraised it. We must get two engineer designs before we rebuild it. We can't start it until the spring." Wendell Rutch replied, "Engineers have never built one before." Alison Link replied, "I totally understand what you are saying." Jeff Semelsberger explained that codes have to be involved, they will inspect it." Wendell Rutch stated, "I built the basketball court, tennis court, and pavilion at no cost to the borough. We want to be a part of the process, please keep me in the loop. We need to remove the sign "No Roller Blading"." Jeff Semelsberger

replied, "We can cover it up. It is a challenge to keep the children from destruction. Everything has changed. People are suing and will get an attorney for anything. It's not as easy as it used to be." Wendell Rutch said, "My future dream is for a pickle ball court." Jeff Semelsberger replied, "Everyone is after the same goal." Mayor Drass said, "I will report to you and keep you updated." **Jeff Nagle** asked, "Can I paint the bleachers? It is not around the tape that is up." Jeff Semelsberger replied, "Yes." Wendell Rutch reported the poles are gone. **Emily McConnell-Moore** stated she was touching base and making progress. Melanie Zearfoss asked, "Did you get your inspection yet at LMIA?" Emily McConnell-Moore replied, "No one has called me." Melanie Zearfoss said, "They have talked to you. You cancelled on them twice and have an appointment this Thursday." Emily McConnell-Moore said, "They never talked to me." Rhonda Churella replied, "I spoke to Melissa from LMIA today and she talked to you or a female." Emily McConnell-Moore said, "She has not talked to me. Maybe she talked to Audia Glassboyles." Cory Garrett stated John Clabaugh talked to the borough solicitor, Patrick Fanelli, to see if COVID Relief Funds were available to use for storm drains. He felt they are available."

STREET/EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

- An online complaint form was received from David Thomas of 246 Church Street stating "I live on Church Street and the street has brush growing out over the street, would be great if the borough would come up and cut all of it away from the road, its over hanging onto road and you can't drive up street with out hitting the branches. When you turn onto Church Street from 5th Avenue, you'll see it. Also, would be nice if the borough would also fix the street in front of my house, 6th Avenue needs repaired so we can get in our drive way. We are raising kids and youngest is disabled and this makes it hard for the ambulance and our nurses to get in our driveway. Can someone come look at this and help us get this fixed?"
- A letter was sent to Hastings Borough Council from William A Holtz in regards to the late William J Holtz. William A Holtz would like his father to be remembered for all the civil service work he did for Hastings. Could you name a road, a building, a plaque, something that could be displayed to show that this man made his mark, a difference in the lives of the people who lived there. Alison Link said to reply to William A Holtz that we are looking into options and will get back to him.

- On August 23, 2021, Emergency Management Coordinator, Dan Warner, reported to the office major flooding by the car wash. He showed pictures of how much water laid over the road. One of the pictures showed the water going up to the bumper of a car. He stated this issued needs to be fixed. Mayor Drass reported that Dan should have reported this information onto him as Mayor and not came into the office to report it.
- Dan Warner stated he would like the Street Commissioner to stop up at the shop (Warner's Small Engine Repair) on Fourth Avenue. There is a problem with pipe in the middle of the road on Fourth Avenue & Spruce Street.
- Dan Warner said he would pay for the pipe but the borough has to purchase it first because of the specs, etc. that are needed on the roads. The pipe is for Spruce Street. You turn left and go through the alley. Once the borough gets the pipe, call him and he will refund us the cost. The borough needs to install the pipe.
- Barry Cavallo reported to the office on August 23, 2021, the alley needs fixed on Wren Road from Spangler Street to Church Street. It needs redone with the backhoe.
- Craig Zanoni was in the office on August 23, 2021, to complain about the alley down from the Boring's on Kirkpatrick Street down Fifth Avenue. The water washed down the hill causing water to come into his basement. He also reported the road is caving in about 1-1 ½ feet near Regis Shuttly's house. Craig Zanoni said the snow plow will get ripped up this winter when plowing.
- A complaint form was received from Bill Henico of 261 Fifth Avenue stating, "Water running from High Street down Fifth Avenue across Kirkpatrick Street at lease 8" deep, pushed retaining wall over washing out driveway and breaking up Fifth Avenue pavement. Solution try to catch some of the water before crossing Kirkpatrick Street culvert."

POLICE COMMITTEE/REPORT:

- Mayor Donald C Drass read the monthly report for August 2021.
- Motion made by Jeff Zearfoss, second by Sam Patterson, to approve August 2021 Police Report.

Motion Carried.

- Mayor Drass said he got approval from four Council members to hire Joseph R Moser as a part time police officer so that he can ride along with

another police officer in our department. Mayor Drass swore him in, but we need to make an official motion to hire him.

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by Thomas Kinney, to hire Joseph R Moser as a part time police officer.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, to advertise in the Star Courier to sell the 2015 Ford Interceptor Sedan Police Cruiser. Bids will be due in the office by 3:00pm on October 5, 2021.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by John Schettini, second by Sam Patterson, to add Police Agreement/Contract to the agenda.

Motion Carried.

- Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, to accept Police Agreement/Contract dated January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026.

Motion Carried.

TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT: Real Estate & Per Capita Tax collected from August 1, 2021 to August 31, 2021.

Real Estate Tax Collected.....	\$481.45
Per Capita Tax Collected.....	\$49.50
Total Collected.....	\$530.95

Earned Income Tax collected from Berkheimer’s from August 5, 2021 to September 2, 2021.

Gross Tax Collected.....	\$13,895.98
Delinquent Per Capita.....	\$0.00

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

Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Council looked through the Financial Reports. Motion made by Jeff Semelsberger, second by John Schettini, to approve the Financial Report as of August 1, 2021. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- On August 24, 2021, we received a letter from PSAB Unemployment Compensation Plan about 2022 UC Rate is 0.0285. There is no rate change from 2021.

WATER COMMITTEE:

- Meeting minutes on August 12, 2021 were given to each Council member.
- Stiffler McGraw sent a letter on August 5, 2021, to provide written notification that the Hastings Municipal Authority is making application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a Water Allocation Permit for Mine Spring Well #1, Project No. 04-0010.157.

SEWER COMMITTEE:

- Meeting minutes on August 11, 2021 were given to each Council member.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

- Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency sent a permit report for July 2021 & August 2021.
- Diane Waksmunski needs a vacuum cleaner for the borough office.
- Mary Patterson needs a vacuum cleaner for the Memorial building. The light switch doesn't work going down to the basement.
- On August 18, 2021, Rhonda Churella spoke to Attorney J Dennis Previte, about a property transfer donated to Hastings Borough from the Selestok family. Michele Sczucs was in the office inquiring about this. Attorney Previte stated the property may not be valuable for tax purposes. The borough could spend thousands of dollars. He advised talking to our borough solicitor. This would raise an estate for parents since there was no will. The borough would pay for a fee agreement, etc. They would need an Estate Administration. The borough would need a title insurance carrier and this process will involve a lot and will cost an hourly rate of work. This can be an involved process and be very expensive. Attorney Previte stated he could prepare an estimate of a fee agreement, etc. to do this if the borough wants to proceed. Council talked about it and decided to not proceed with this. Jeff Zearfoss took a vote and majority voted to not proceed. Council told Rhonda Churella to contact Michele Sczucs and let her know that the borough appreciated the offer, but the potential legal

fees may cost more than the borough is willing to pay. Jeff Semelsberger talked about legal fees on heirs.

- Act 152 and Tax Sales Seminar on 9/29/21 at Duman Lake County Park at pavilion 2 from 5:00pm to 6:15pm. Jeff Zearfoss said he gives permission for anyone from the office to go to this training and they would get comp. time for attending since it is after hours.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

- Motion made by Sam Patterson, second by John Schettini, to accept Ordinance #2021-2 Amended to Add: Chapter 12. Section 22. Prohibited Parking at All Times in Certain Locations.

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS: Motion made by Thomas Kinney, 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:

- A letter was received on August 23, 2021 to Council from Cambria County Department of Emergency Services. The Cambria County Commissioners are currently beginning an update to the 2016 Cambria County Hazard Mitigation Plan which was adopted by the Cambria County Commissioners in October, 2016. Each county and municipality are required under the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to have a current and adopted hazard mitigation plan. The Commissioners have secured a grant to complete the 2022 mitigation plan update. Stakeholders will be requested to participate in approximately 5 to 6 meetings and complete surveys and worksheets over the next 6 months. Initial local planning team meeting will be held on August 31, 2021 at 1:00pm.

ADJOURN: Motion made by John Schettini, second by Thomas Kinney, this meeting adjourned at approximately 9:03 p.m. All present voted yes.

Motion Carried.

Rhonda Churella
Borough Office Manager