

**Renovo Borough Council**  
**128 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Renovo, PA 17764**  
**April 13, 2022**

The monthly meeting of the Renovo Borough Council was held on this date starting at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 128 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Renovo, PA. The meeting was called to order by Council President Ann Tarantella with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. The following Council Members were present; Rhonda Balchun, William Fornwalt III, David Knauff, Patricia Rauch, Kristy Serafini-Brooks and John Simon. Also in attendance were Mayor Gene Bruno, Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Sheri Whipp and Grant Advisor Kari Kepler.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to accept the minutes as written for the March 9, 2022 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**BILLS**

Administration-\$20,748.67/Building-\$1820.76/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$560.13/Police-\$1290.46/  
Streets-\$4087.91.

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by R. Balchun to pay the bills presented if the money is available. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**GALLERY**

Alex Rauch representing the Renovo Youth Baseball Association spoke to Council about a request from the Clinton County Little League Girls Softball to use the Little League field. They requested to use the field when not in use by the Association. There was a miscommunication with this request and confusion over the schedule and the girls' softball team thought they were told they couldn't use the field. Mr. Rauch stated that they lease the field and take care of it. He has worked with coaches from other teams for years and has had no problems with sharing the field when not in use by the Association.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Deborah Pedokus, Renovo Borough Tax Collector provided Council with the tax report for March 2022.

Denise Maris, a candidate for State Representative for the 76<sup>th</sup> District, sent Council a letter of thanks for allowing her to introduce herself and her campaign objectives at the February 9, 2022 Council meeting.

Lecce Electric provided Council with a quote of \$1550 for the 2022 annual traffic signal maintenance. They will provide a cost estimate if any additional repairs are needed.

The Clinton County Conservation District approved the request of Renovo Energy Center for the permit renewal of coverage under the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Oil and Gas Activities. This permit is effective March 11, 2022 and will expire March 11, 2027.

Dan Lee, Project Manager for Renovo Energy Center provided written notice to Council on March 11, 2022 of their intent to submit a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a permit renewal.

Keystone Central School District's board passed a resolution in support of Pennsylvania's school funding lawsuit. They are asking local community leaders to also pass a resolution in support of school funding litigation for fair funding.

Robert Getz, Adult and Community Education Supervisor for Keystone Central School District, thanked Council for their past support of the summer recreation program. This year's program is tentatively set to run from June 13<sup>th</sup> until August 6, 2022. Mr. Getz is hopeful that Council will participate in this year's program.

The Sandy Run Property Owners Association will hold their annual meeting on May 7, 2022 at the Sportsman's restaurant in Renovo with dinner at noon and the meeting beginning promptly at 12:30 pm.

Ronald Bittner, CPA from Girard provided Council with the 2021 Valuation and Certificates for the uniform pension plan for their review and discussion.

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The Clinton County Department of Emergency Services is updating the mutual aid agreements with all county emergency services and the municipalities they serve. They ask municipal leaders to read and sign the proposed agreement by May 31, 2022.

Pine Creek Township is asking local municipalities if there is any interest in a Seminar for "Effective Fire Department Relationship with Township and Borough Officials." If enough interest is generated, they will host this seminar to be presented by the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services.

The Renovo Residents for a Healthy Environment sent a letter to Council opposing the Renovo Energy Center's proposed power plant. However, they ask if the project moves forward that Renovo Energy Center reopen its community benefit agreement with Renovo Borough for a more thorough participation process with Renovo residents.

Hoy Inspection Service LLC provide Council with a list of activities March 2022.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.

The WCCMA sent Council the minutes from the March 2 and March 16, 2022 meetings.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Bruno read a Proclamation recognizing the month of April 2022 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month".

The Mayor informed Council that he is still working on the Senior project for Erie Avenue and hopes to have finalization next month.

Mayor Bruno spoke to Council about a possible neighborhood crime watch. This watch is associated with the Sheriff's Department. While talking with the department he found out that in Pennsylvania the Sheriff's Department cannot help out local police. In other states they can perform services for them. He put in a call to Representative Stephanie Borowicz's office and spoke to her about getting this changed.

The Mayor stated he has been able to get some junk cars off the street. He received permission from the owners to move these cars to the empty parking lot at the former Yesterday's property. Council went into a lengthy discussion about how this was just moving the problem to another location.

Mayor Bruno talked to a couple cadets about an interest in full-time employment with Renovo Borough. He feels that a community watch and one full-time officer would work for the borough.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration-R. Balchun read a quick report of account balances.

General Fund Checking- **\$80,662.33** (after payment of bills)

General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$200.45** (.01 int)

Highway Aid Checking- **\$5823.77**

Highway Aid Savings- **\$81,887.69** (\$2.78 int)

Retirement Fund- **\$15.13**

PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.39**

ARPA Covid Relief Grant-**\$63,070.94** (\$1.07 int)

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March Real Estate Tax-**\$32,172.01**

March Earned Income Tax-**\$10,284.94**

March LST Tax-**\$0**

Police/Fire Committee-Nothing to report.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-Nothing to report.

Streets/Park Committee- Nothing to report.

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Ordinance Committee- P. Rauch reported that the committee met with the Mayor and Ordinance Officer Dave Walker about the Quality-of-Life ticket process. She stated it is in our Ordinance that a continuous grievance can go right to citation. She would like the committee and Ordinance Officer Dave Walker to speak with the magistrate about being sterner with violators.

Grants Committee-K. Kepler announced that the Multimodal grant applications are now open and Council should decide what to apply for. She suggested to go after funds to fix the drainage and repair Delaware Avenue. Council will need a thirty percent match for this project.

Seda-Cog is on the second level review for the South Renovo water lines. If approved the merge of the South Renovo and Renovo water authorities can begin.

Chapman Township submitted an application for the historic walking trail. If approved Renovo committed a \$2760 match.

Seda-Cog missed the Covid Economic Development grant deadline for the St. Clair project. They will be submitting a regular Economic Development grant for this project.

Bids are now available for the Bucktail Medical Center door replacement and the Recreational Center roof replacement.

K. Kepler informed Council that the Commissioners were looking at forming a county wide Redevelopment Authority to fix up blighted homes and then take the money from the sales to purchase more homes to fix up. She encouraged participation from the borough if this plan takes shape.

K. Kepler received notice from Senator Bob Casey's office about appropriation requests. She asked Council if they would like her to add a request for \$150,000 match money to repair Delaware Avenue.

The 911 tower upgrades benefitting Western Clinton County will begin soon.

#### **WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS**

The authority has begun the process of shutting residences and businesses off that are behind on their water bills.

Cory Bennett has resigned from the water authority due to moving out of the area. There are no plans to replace him at this time.

President Tarantella reported that Nick Gentzel has passed all but one of his water operators licenses. He will be able to retake this part of the test in the Fall of this year.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

K. Serafini-Brooks asked about updating the five-year plan for the Renovo Borough. A meeting will be held in the future to begin work on the plan.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to approve the quote of \$1550 from Lecce Electric for the 2022 annual traffic signal maintenance. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by D. Knauff to sign and approve the updated Mutual Aid Agreement with the Clinton County Department of Emergency Services. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by J. Simon to accept the resignation of Chief Richard Simpson as of March 20, 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by P. Rauch to accept the resignation of Officer Gage Fischer as of March 20, 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

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Solicitor Stuart Hall saw an article in the Renovo Record discussing the delay to the Renovo Energy Center power plant project due to an appeal from out-of-the-area groups. He is aware that members of Borough Council want the project to occur. The members understand the benefits such a plant would bring to our community. Solicitor Hall drafted a proposed resolution in support of the Renovo Energy Center power plant project for consideration of Borough Council.

**A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to adopt Resolution 9-2022 in support of the proposed Renovo Energy Center Project. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to adopt Resolution 10-2022 in support of Pennsylvania School Funding Litigation. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council discussed increasing Ordinance Officer Dave Walkers hours due to him trying to catch up with numerous Ordinance violations.

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to increase Ordinance Officer Dave Walkers hours up to 15 hours a week at \$12.50 an hour. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council discussed keeping on Yorick Smith under the borough's payroll until the end of the school year. His funding with Career-Link has ended and he will no longer be on their payroll.

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to keep Yorick Smith on the Streets and Parks Department until the end of the school year at \$7.25 an hour. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council discussed advertising for a police officer under the Pennsylvania Chief website at a cost of \$200 for ninety days.

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by J. Simon to advertise for a police officer on the Pennsylvania Chief website at a cost of \$200 for ninety days. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council discussed the town wide clean-up to be held on April 29 from 10 am to 2 pm. This event will be sponsored by Renovo Disposal and will only include outside litter on the borough streets.

Council received a request from the Renovo Fire Department to use the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Park for a flashlight egg hunt on April 15 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to allow Renovo Fire Department to hold a flashlight egg hunt on April 15 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council received a last-minute quote from Bucktail Enterprises, Inc. to run gas line piping from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the municipal building at a cost of \$605.00.

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by J. Simon to add the quote from Bucktail Enterprises, Inc. to the Agenda. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to approve the quote from Bucktail Enterprises, Inc. to run gas line piping from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the municipal building at a cost of \$605.00. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to add the Senator Bob Casey appropriation request for \$150,000 for Delaware Avenue repairs to the Agenda. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to make an appropriation request through Senator Bob Casey's office for \$150,000 for Delaware Avenue repairs. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

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**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to add PennCore Consulting permission to begin grant applications for the repair of Delaware Avenue to the Agenda. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to have PennCore Consulting begin grant applications for the repair of Delaware Avenue. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**Council went into Executive Session at 8:12 pm for personnel issues.**

**Executive Session ended at 8:41 pm.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to make Leon Tarr a seasonal part-time employee with hours of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays at eight (8) hours per day beginning May 2, 2022 through October 28, 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to make Charles Goodling a year-round seasonal employee beginning May 2, 2022 through December 30, 2022 at forty hours a week beginning May 2, 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Renovo Borough Council**