

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
March 11, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Renovo Borough Council was held on this date starting at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, 128 5th 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, Kristy Serafini-Brooks, William Fornwalt III, David Knauff, Patricia Rauch, John Simon and Mayor Thomas Tarantella Jr. Also in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis and Solicitor Stuart Hall.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to accept the minutes for the February 12, 2020 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$14,561.48/Building-\$693.10/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$127.98/Police-\$4518.68/
Streets-\$2363.18.

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

GALLERY

Tom Emero, Director of Innovative Power Solutions, LLC updated Council via teleconference on the Renovo Energy Center. He informed Council that there is currently a lot of investors interested in the proposed gas fired power generation plant. He anticipates financing to be wrapped up by the end of the year with demolition of the current structures either in the Fall of this year or Spring of next year. After a discussion with Council he agreed to call in every three (3) months to the Council meetings to update board members on the progress of the Renovo Energy Center.

CORRESPONDENCE

Code Inspections, Inc. sent the January 2020 permit activity report with \$17 collected in municipal fees.

The Clinton County Solid Waste Authority notified the borough that they will be holding a Residential Tire Collection Event on May 15 and May 16 at the Recycling Center in Wayne Township. Each municipality will be allowed to bring in tires for their residents along with a manifest listing the number of tires collected at each residence.

Dominion Energy Services, Inc. sent Council the annual downstream notification for the Dominion Energy Leidy Station.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation sent Council notice that the annual Liquid Fuels Tax Fund payment of \$45,784.84 was paid to Renovo Borough on March 2, 2020.

The PRR notified Council they are having a Spring clean-up on April 25, 2020 with a rain date of May 2, 2020. They would like someone from each borough to attend a meeting on March 12, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Sportsman's restaurant.

PPL sent Council information on the Community Roots tree program. Municipalities can receive trees at no cost through this program. Ordering opens on April 22, 2020 for Spring and Fall delivery in 2021.

The Clinton County Borough's Association Dinner Meeting is to held on April 14, 2020 starting at 6:30 pm at The Friendship Community Center in Beech Creek. Spouses are invited with RSVP before April 1, 2020.

First Commonwealth Bank invites Council and their families to a Ribbon Cutting party on March 19, 2020 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Please RSVP to Christina Mader, Manager if you plan to attend.

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Solicitor Stuart Hall sent Council a copy of the Notice of Appeal by the residents of 14th Street. The court will most likely schedule a conference in this matter.

The Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) has been awarded State Local Internship Program (SLIP) funding for 2020. The Renovo Borough will be provided a contract for a SLIP internship for any eight (8) week period with a three (3) week additional period for the borough's 35% match.

Council received the meeting minutes from the Renovo Borough Water Authority for January 21, February 18, February 27 and March 4, 2020 via email.

Council received the meeting minutes from the Western Clinton County Municipal Authority for February 5, 2020 via email.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor informed Council that Corporal Jeffries asked if he could set up a Go Fund Me page for equipment and supplies for K9 Jordan. Council didn't feel comfortable with this idea and weren't sure if the borough was legally able to set up this account. After discussion with Solicitor Hall Council decided to not pursue a Go Fund Me page for K9 Jordan.

Mayor Tarantella stated that the Crown Victoria had a front alignment done but due to the rear axles on the vehicle being fixed that Steve Shannon couldn't align the rear end of the vehicle. This will cause the tires to wear more quickly in the rear of the vehicle.

The Mayor informed Council that there is a county wide "Police National Night Out" planned for August 8, 2020 at the Piper Building in Lock Haven. They have invited Corporal Jeffries and K9 Jordan to do a demonstration at this event.

Mayor Tarantella asked for an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss Personnel matters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee- R. Balchun read the current balances in the Renovo Borough bank accounts as of March 11, 2020 and taxes received in February 2020:

General Fund Checking- **\$22,699.16** (after payment of the bills)
General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$4553.99** (.72 int.)
Highway Aid Checking- **\$8932.52** (\$45,754.84 dep - \$35,000 to saving)
Highway Aid Savings- **\$70,813.72** (\$5.80 int + \$35,000 from checking)
Retirement Fund- **\$14.57**
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.32** (\$.01 int.)
DCNR Peer Grant-**\$9145.15** (\$1.45 int.)
TC Police Car Grant-**\$10,000**

February Real Estate Tax-\$3858.94

Police/Fire Committee-Nothing to report.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-Nothing to report.

Streets/Park Committee- P. Rauch asked Wayne Township Landfill if they would provide the borough with a cement pad for the recycling bins in East Renovo. The Landfill stated that the borough should wait until the end of the year to see if the recycling bins will work out at this location and they would provide the cement pad after this trial period.

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D. Knauff stated he will be marking off spots for extra lighting at 16th Street Park and Memorial Park.

Grants Committee-K. Kepler stated that if someone needs help with rent or housing they can dial “211” and they can get assistance from this program.

There is also loan and grant money available from USDA for residents to fix up their homes if they fall within the income and age guidelines.

K. Kepler stated she has an upcoming meeting with Wes from DCNR about a walking trail. If anyone has any other ideas and would like to meet with him please let her know.

K. Kepler has been in discussions with STV engineering about applying for the Multimodal Grant for sidewalks and curbs in conjunction with the PennDOT TA engineering grant.

K. Kepler and others met with the borough engineer concerning on going and upcoming grants.

K. Kepler stated that she has more information on a tourism grant if anyone is interested.

Ordinance Committee-Officer Foley stated that the committee didn’t meet this month. They need to meet again to discuss blighted properties and wording changes to a couple of the borough Ordinances. The committee will get these changes to Solicitor Stuart Hall for review.

Officer Foley questioned Solicitor Stuart Hall on what he can legally do with abandoned vehicles. He has contacted Martin Motors on several occasions but they wouldn’t come up due to the price of scrap being down. Solicitor Hall will send Officer Foley more information on the abandoned vehicles law.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

Williams Energy is coming to the next Renovo Borough Water Authority meeting to discuss locations they would like for water withdrawal.

President Tarantella explained to Council that Renovo Borough has been supplying water to South Renovo Borough for free while South Renovo works on problems with their system. It is a consensus of the water authority board members that they start charging them for this service since the authority is needing to replace filters and sand more often.

The water authority is in talks to give the Drury’s Run reservoir over to DCNR.

The authority will be looking for a new board member from Noyes Township due to the recent passing of a board member.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

The Mayor read a PA One-Call 811 Proclamation for the month of April.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to sign the PA-811 Proclamation for the month of April. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by D. Knauff to sign the SLIP contract with Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation for an eleven (11) week internship with eight (8) weeks being reimbursed at \$10.35 per hour and three (3) weeks cash match at \$10.35 per hour. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by D. Knauff to advertise for a summer intern position at 40 hours a week for 11 weeks at \$10.35 an hour for individual between the ages of 18-24 years old. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

President Tarantella stated that Heritage Park will be holding "Heritage Days" on June 20th and possible June 19th. They would like the Mayor to issue a proclamation for this event at the new boat launch on 5th Street and are planning other events for this celebration.

D. Knauff informed Council that the Bucktail Medical Center started a lock down today due to the Coronavirus. There will be limited visitation and no children under twelve (12) will be admitted. The only point of entry will be the front door from 8 am to 8 pm and the Emergency room door from 8 pm to 8 am. Everyone will have their temperature taken at the door. If they have a fever they will not be allowed admittance.

Solicitor Stuart Hall informed Council that the residents of 14th Street appealed the decision of the Board of Appeals hearing regarding the condemnation of the 14th Street row homes. The Board of Appeals ruled in favor of Code Inspections, Inc. posting the 14th Street row homes as uninhabitable. The appellants are appealing to the Court of Common Pleas. Solicitor Hall stated a conference has been set up for April 14, 2020 at 1:30 pm just for the attorneys and that parties on both sides be available by telephone and may be present. President Tarantella plans to attend this conference.

Mayor Tarantella spoke to Council and Solicitor Hall about the police collective bargaining process. He stated that Corporal Jeffries provided the Mayor and police committee a copy of a bargaining agreement to review. After talks with Corporal Jeffries about some of the requests in the agreement the committee had come to a stalemate in negotiating. Corporal Jeffries stated it would need to go to arbitration at that time since no negotiation was being made. Most recently Corporal Jeffries stated he would like to try and negotiate this agreement. If there is no negotiation reached by August then he is going to file for arbitration.

Solicitor Stuart Hall advised Council to act on this collective bargaining agreement pretty quickly. He stated the borough has an obligation to negotiate and if it comes to arbitration it will be binding on the borough. Solicitor Hall stated that the proposed agreement doesn't mention anything about a K9 which also should be in this agreement since it is unique to the borough's situation.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Council and Solicitor Hall concerning the police collective bargaining agreement process. Solicitor Hall stressed to Council that they had an obligation to bargain and they needed to do so in a timely manner.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:10 pm to discuss personnel issues concerning terms of employment and evaluation and performance of employees.

Executive Session ended at 8:30 pm.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
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