

**Renovo Borough Council**  
**128 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Renovo, PA 17764**  
**March 9, 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 and Grant Advisor Kari Kepler.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**BILLS**

Administration-\$9298.49/Building-\$1440.51/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$192.98/Police-\$5829.83/  
Streets-\$3356.83.

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

**GALLERY**

Denise Maris, a 76<sup>th</sup> District State Representative candidate introduced herself to Council. Ms. Maris spoke to Council about her background and her vision as a State Representative. She is in attendance to learn what issues local governments face and how she can help. Ms. Maris believes in service and that building relationships is important.

Michelle Whitney from the Clinton County Watchdogs expressed concerns to Council about recent charges against Chief Risley and the Renovo Fire Department. She feels this leaves a bad bruise on Renovo Borough and leaves them vulnerable for a liability lawsuit. Ms. Whitney questioned whether he is still driving, if he is on desk duty or if he has stepped down from his role at the fire department until his charges have been determined.

Council explained that the Renovo Fire Department is a separate entity and they have their own board that handles disciplinary actions. Mayor Bruno informed Ms. Whitney that if Mr. Risley did make a mistake that he will be disciplined for it. He also stated that Mr. Risley does a tremendous amount of volunteer work for the community and that the community can't afford to lose him.

Ms. Whitney says it is Council's job to protect the taxpayer's money as she feels this situation is putting the borough at risk for a lawsuit. Council President A. Tarantella informed Ms. Whitney that Solicitor Stuart Hall was consulted and advised that there was nothing Council needed to do.

K. Kepler stated that the borough does not govern the Renovo Fire Department but they do choose what department responds to calls within the borough. The municipality then trusts that the department is making decisions in the best interest of the borough.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The law offices of Voelcker and Wagner notified Council that Articles of Dissolution were filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State on October 10, 2021 for the First Presbyterian Church of Renovo.

PennCore Consulting notified Council of the intent of the Clinton County Commissioners to submit permit applications with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the Brewery Run ATV Trail project. Comments on the land use aspects of this project must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the notification.

Wayne Township Landfill notified Council that the 2022 Residential Tire Collection Event will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> at the recycling center in Wayne Township. Municipalities will be able to bring twelve (12) tires free of charge for each resident with a completed manifest.

Wayne Township Landfill notified Council that due to rising costs they will be implementing a Consumer Price Index (CPI) surcharge of 5% to all landfill and recycling products and services. This percentage will vary each month with any change in the CPI.

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The Central Mountain ATV Association, Inc. is requesting a support letter and the use of borough roads for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruise for a Cure fundraiser to be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

PennDOT notified Council that they will be contracting with The Traffic Group to collect data on municipally owned roads to help make decisions on safety, design and operation of roadways. PennDOT provided a list of the count locations to be set between March 2022 and November 2022.

Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company provided the Renovo Borough with an annual downstream notification providing a detailed inventory of the type and quantity of material in storage at their facility as per their Spill Prevention Response plan.

Hoy Inspection Service LLC provide Council with a list of activities for January and February 2022.

The Clinton County Planning Department notified Council that an open meeting will be held on March 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the 9-1-1 center to discuss updates to the Clinton County Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. This Ordinance covers fifteen (15) municipalities including Renovo Borough.

PennDOT Connects invites elected officials to a municipal outreach workshop to discuss how PennDOT Connects can enhance their communities. The workshop will be held on March 31, 2022 at the District 2-0 office in Clearfield from 9 am to 11 am. Participants can also attend virtually.

The Clinton County Commissioners notified Council that the Clinton County Liquid Fuels Grant is open for highway and bridge repair, replacement or maintenance. The county will fund no more than 50% of the project cost.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation notified Council that a Liquid Fuels Tax Fund payment of \$39,324.28 will be paid on March 1, 2022. This amount includes the borough's share of the Act 655 and Act 44 allocations.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting.

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

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Bruno talked to Dan Lee and Rick Franzese about fire and ambulance service when the Renovo Energy Center begins construction. He asked them to consider local services first.

The Mayor contacted Greg Beam at pachief.org to consider placing a police officer ad on their website. The cost is \$200 for ninety (90) days to advertise for a police officer.

Mayor Bruno informed Council that he has asked for police coverage for the Chapman Township hearing to be held on March 15 at 5:00 pm. This hearing will be concerning opening certain roads in Chapman Township to ATV's.

The Mayor stated that he has helped get a couple of trailers off the street. He also wants to give a shout out to Devin Demarte, Greg Scere, Mike McCool, Donald Hockenberry and Howard Conway for helping to get streets cleaned up after snow storms.

Mayor Bruno handed out flyers concerning a town wide clean-up to be held by Renovo Disposal Service. Council asked the Mayor to ask Shannon Bruno to pick a date or dates and that Council and the streets department will be available to help.

The Mayor stated that Greg Scere would like to have an area where residents could haul scrap. President Tarantella stated there is no area in the borough that is zoned for a scrap yard. Council discussed maybe someone else close to the borough would have property they would sell or donate for this purpose. A local scrap yard would keep scrap off of the streets.

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#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

General Fund Checking- **\$58,467.79** (after payment of bills)  
General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$200.44** (.02 int)  
Highway Aid Checking- **\$7796.79** (+39,324.88 -bills, -30,000 to savings)  
Highway Aid Savings- **\$81,884.91** (\$1.62 int plus \$30,000 from checking)  
Retirement Fund- **\$15.13 (less \$2379 excess state aid)**  
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.39**  
ARPA Covid Relief Grant-**\$63,069.87** (\$.97 int)

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February Real Estate Tax-**\$0**  
February Earned Income Tax-**\$4658.96**  
February LST Tax-**\$0**

Police/Fire Committee-R. Balchun asked Council to think about eventually having to abolish the police department. She stated with costs going up and not being able to find officers that the borough may have to have a future conversation concerning this. The borough may eventually have to rely on State Police coverage.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-Council stated that they feel Hoy Inspections is doing a great job with property maintenance issues.

Streets/Park Committee- Nothing to report.

Ordinance Committee-Nothing to report.

Grants Committee-K. Kepler stated that the county will be redoing the Hazard Mitigation Plan soon and Council needs to start thinking about anything they want to add to this plan.

K. Kepler noted that the Emergency Rental Assistance Program is still open. Phase one is closed but phase two is still open. She also noted that the Homeowners Program is open.

K. Kepler was asked if the borough would like to participate in the Heart and Soul program. This program identifies what is important about your community and how to attract people to your community. Alice Trowbridge will be doing a presentation in the Spring to see if Council is interested.

K. Kepler asked if anyone has reviewed the sample five-year plan she sent out. The borough needs to sit down and come up with a vision and plan to know how to proceed with grants.

#### **WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS**

K. Kepler reported that the Authority reviewed the Chapman Township Agreement at the last meeting to go over what the water operator's duties entail.

The Authority is working with Seda-Cog for the St. Clair water line replacement project. The project is close to two million dollars and the grant application is due by the end of the month.

The Department of Economic Development is in the process of evaluating the South Renovo Water project and if this is awarded the borough can move forward with the merge of water authorities.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to send a letter of support and to permit temporary closing of a small section of borough roads for the Cruise for a Cure Fundraiser to be held on June 11, 2022 as well as provide police coverage. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

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**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by J. Simon to adopt Resolution 7-2022 requesting a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$130,019.20 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for final design and engineering for a 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk and Curb Enhancement project from Erie Avenue to Huron Avenue.**

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by J. Simon to have Hoy Inspections proceed with magisterial charges for the property at 215 Champlain Avenue. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

The mayor talked to Council about Senior project ideas for replacing dead trees and installing new landscaping along Erie Avenue. Mayor Bruno would cover the costs of any materials. Council was supportive and told the Mayor to check with the school concerning getting any interested Seniors involved.

The position of assistant secretary/treasurer is still open due to Elizabeth Whitty turning down the job offer to take another job position.

R. Balchun checked the references on the second applicant and she comes highly recommended. She also stated that the applicant was very upbeat during her interview and seemed very interested in the job. The secretary noted that a webinar will begin on March 14 every Monday for the next five weeks for municipal secretary training.

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to hire Sheri Whipp as assistant secretary/treasurer at \$15 an hour up to 10 hours a week with a start date of March 14, 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**Council went into Executive Session at 7:20 pm for personnel issues.**

**Executive Session ended at 7:57 pm.**

P. Rauch left at this time.

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to hire David Walker as Ordinance Officer on a six-month trial temporary basis at \$500 per month. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Renovo Borough Council