

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
May 12, 2021

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; R. Balchun, Kristy Serafini-Brooks, William Fornwalt III, David Knauff, Patricia Rauch, John Simon and Mayor Thomas Tarantella. Also in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis, Solicitor Stuart Hall, Grants Advisor, Kari Kepler, Police Chief Richard Simpson and G. Edward Schweikert, IV from Eckert Seamans law firm (Teleconference).

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to accept the minutes as written for the April 14, 2021 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to accept the minutes as written for the April 28, 2021 special meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$2708.25/Building-\$1640.24/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$254.62/Police-\$11,613.30/
Streets-\$2903.03.

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

GALLERY-Brian Pagnotto brought some concerns before Council. He first questioned why there was no lights at the Little League fields at Memorial Park. Council informed him these fields are leased by the Little League. They suggested he contact the President of Little League to talk about getting lights put in.

Mr. Pagnotto informed Council that he lives next to the 5th Street Boat Launch. He stated that nearly every day there is broken glass and trash strewn around the parking lot and pavilion. He has also witnessed teenagers bullying younger children and selling drugs. There have been kids trespassing on his property as well as people letting their dogs go to the bathroom on his property. Mr. Pagnotto was visibly upset as he implored Council to do something about this situation that he feels is way out of control.

Council went into Executive Session at 6:50 pm to consult with their attorney and G. Edward Schweikert, IV from Eckert Seamans law firm and to discuss personnel issues of a borough employee.

Executive Session ended at 8:40 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

Code Inspections, Inc. sent the permit activity report for March, 2021 along with a check for municipal fees of \$35.00.

Deborah Pedokus, Tax Collector provided a monthly report for the receipt of taxes for March 2021 and April 2021.

The Renovo Area Public Library sent a letter of request for a monetary donation to help support their annual expenses and services and programs they provide to residents of Western Clinton County.

Girard Pension Services, LLC provided Council with the statement of account for the Uniform Pension Plan for January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 and a copy of the quarterly fee invoice of \$2642.46 paid out of plan assets.

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The Clinton County Commissioners sent Council an application for 2021 county liquid fuel allocations along with their funding policy. Applications are due by May 13, 2021.

The Department of Auditor General sent Council notification via certified mail that the Renovo Firemen's Relief Association will not receive future state aid based on findings of their January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019 audit. The Renovo Firemen's Relief Association did not comply with certain finding(s) and/or recommendation(s) within the specified time frame.

The Department of Environmental Protection informed the Renovo Borough that the 2020 Annual Wasteload Management of the Western Clinton County Municipal Authority report is considered acceptable. The Authority has met the Chapter 94 reporting requirements.

Greg Cunningham, Loss Control Specialist for H. A. Thomson informed Council that he has no new recommendations based on his recent visit to Renovo Borough to review procedures as they relate to Liability/Property loss controls.

Solicitor Stuart Hall sent Council notification that a hearing on the Petition of the Clinton County Tax Claim Bureau concerning the sale of properties at the February 23, 2021 Judicial Sale will be held on June 15, 2021. The only property in Renovo that was sold was for \$1551.24 of which Renovo Borough will receive \$35.10.

St. Joseph Church is requesting permission from Council to block off Larch Street from Monday, June 21 through Saturday, June 26, 2021 for the annual Parish Festival. They are also requesting to borrow the Renovo Borough's barricades for this event.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting.

The Western Clinton County Municipal Authority sent the minutes from the April 7 and April 21, 2021 meetings.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor reported that the Renovo Area Public Library recently received a grant through PA Skills for a security camera system.

Mayor Tarantella informed Council that Officer Foley is now fully on board and has all his certifications.

The Mayor reported that President Tarantella and himself met with Rick Franzese and William Bousquet from Renovo Energy Center last week. They were in town for some soil test digs that were taking place in the Industrial Park for future excavation and construction. The demolition of the existing buildings on the site could take place towards the end of this year if all goes well.

Mayor Tarantella reported that TC Energy who has a corporate partnership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs is hosting a meeting at the Renovo Fire Department on May 19, 2021. All public officials are invited to attend.

Mayor Thomas Tarantella, Jr. has designated the week of May 16-22, 2021 as Emergency Medical Services Week. He read the proclamation before Council. This year's theme is, **THIS IS EMS: CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES**, and he encourages the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration-R. Balchun read the current bank balances in the borough's accounts.

General Fund Checking- **\$163,677.43** (after payment of the bills)

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General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$6056.80** (.15 int)
Highway Aid Checking- **\$4858.18**
Highway Aid Savings- **\$74,859.87** (\$3.07 int)
Retirement Fund- **\$15.23**
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.38**
DCNR Peer Grant-**\$2548.90** (\$.06 int)
Clinton County Community Foundation Grant-**\$1937.50 (\$10,800 less \$8862.50, 75% down)**

April Real Estate Tax-**\$48,081.51**
April Delinquent RE Tax-**\$12,122.22**
April Earned Income Tax-**\$3422.51**
April LST Tax-**\$1635.19**

She also asked Council to consider hiring a seasonal summer employee for the Streets and Parks Department since the SLIP program through Career-Link the borough usually participates in does not have any funding this year.

Councilwoman Balchun provided figures to Council from the budget to support hiring summer help for forty hours a week @ \$10 an hour for twelve (12) weeks.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by J. Simon to hire seasonal summer help for forty (40) hours a week @ \$10 an hour for twelve (12) weeks. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council would like the applicant to be at least eighteen (18) years of age and have a current driver's license. It was decided to ask for the applications to be submitted by May 26, 2021 so they can start in the early part of June.

Police/Fire Committee-Councilwoman K. Serafini stated Chief Simpson is doing a great job.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-Nothing to report.

Streets/Park Committee- Nothing to report.

Ordinance Committee-Nothing to report.

Grants Committee- Grants Advisor Kari Kepler provided Council members with a list of grants that are available at this time. The 2021 CDBG is coming out soon and she asked Council to decide what they would like to apply for. She also reviewed the Covid related funding that is still available.

K. Kepler asked Council to send a letter of support and financial commitment of up to \$5000 as a match for the Greenway Trail Grant Feasibility Study that Chapman Township is in the process of applying for. This proposed trail will run through the Renovo Borough as well.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to send Chapman Township a support letter for the Greenway Trail Grant committing up to \$5000 as a match for the feasibility study. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

K. Kepler asked Council if they could commit some funding to buy paint for the tennis courts at the 9th Street Park. Once the paint is bought Chief Simpson will contact probation to have them send workers to apply it.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to purchase paint for the 9th Street tennis courts at a cost of not more than \$2000. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

K. Kepler reported that the replacement of water lines for 4th and 9th Street were put out to bid a second time due to them coming in too high the first time. The second set of bids were opened at the May 5 special meeting and awarded to Wolyniec Construction for \$216,053 contingent on the engineer and solicitor's review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to allow St. Joseph's church to block off Larch Street from Monday, June 21 through Saturday, June 26, 2021 and to borrow the Renovo Borough's barricades for the annual Parish Festival. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to have Solicitor Stuart Hall purchase the repository properties at 149 Fourth Street and 215 Champlain Avenue for the Renovo Borough. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff contingent on the purchase of the properties to accept the quotes from James Dremel to demolish 149 Fourth Street for \$10,000 and 215 Champlain Avenue for \$17,500. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed two estimates they received to fix the garage roof on 5th and St. Clair Avenue. One from Boyer's Roofing for \$9570 and one from Devin Demarte for \$5200 for metal roofing.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to accept the estimate from Devin Demarte of \$5200 to repair the roof. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman R. Balchun wanted to go on the record to state that she is upset that someone would publish in the paper that there is a lack of transparency with this Council. When Council goes into Executive Sessions to discuss possible litigation and personnel issues that are not able to reveal the content of those conversations. She is frustrated that this person didn't come to any meetings to discuss this with Council instead of going to the newspaper.

Solicitor Stuart Hall informed Council that Alice Trowbridge who is the Peer Grant Advisor for the Riverwalk on Ontario Avenue had contacted him about riverfront property issues. Some property owners are agreeable to quit claim deeds for sections of the riverfront. He would like Council's permission to talk to these property owners concerning these issues.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun authorizing Solicitor Stuart Hall to talk to the property owners concerning the riverfront property issues on the proposed Riverwalk. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Chief Simpson informed Council that all of the police cars, the computers and the printers are fully functional. He also stated the camera system is complete at the borough building.

The Chief will be going to the schools on May 27 with the District Attorney to do a presentation on cyber bullying and being responsible on social media with the 6th and 8th graders.

Chief Simpson asked Council for a more secure internet for the Police Department. There have also been issues with the Wi-Fi and losing connections at Zoom meetings in the Council room. The secretary will call Comcast to see about upgrading the system.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
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