

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
November 10, 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; Rhonda Balchun, William Fornwalt III, Patricia Rauch, Kristy Serafini-Brooks, John Simon and Mayor Thomas Tarantella. Also in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis and Grants Advisor Kari Kepler.

Absent: David Knauff

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the minutes as written for the October 13, 2021 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$22,746.49/Building-\$485.09/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$200.24/Police-\$12,381.74/
Streets-\$6767.75.

A motion was made by R. Balchun 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

Ron Stevens had some questions about grants that were submitted by the borough for curbs and sidewalks. He was concerned that the curbs and sidewalks would be completed after the recent paving and if that would be problematic. Council assured him that it wouldn't be a problem.

Mr. Stevens had some questions about past expenses concerning Officer Jeffries and the K9. He was also concerned about police coverage. Mr. Stevens feel that we need more police coverage. Council responded that they only have two part-time officers at this time. They have been soliciting for applicants for the past few months but have had no response until recently. They hope to have a full-time officer by the beginning of the new year.

Mr. Stevens questions if the Grant Advisor, Kari Kepler received any commission off of any grants that Council receives. Council and the secretary verified that no one receives any commission or monies for any grants that the Renovo Borough receives. The types of grant funding the borough receives does not have any administration funding written into the grants. All grant funding expenses and receipts are provided to the grantee and also audited by Baker-Tilly annually.

Ron Stevens and Maureen Ruhl also had some questions about the recent quote that was amended by Council for the demolition of a property on 4th Street. Council responded that the contractor's original quote changed due to the project downsizing from two properties to one property. Since he couldn't spread his expenses out over two properties he had to amend his quote for an additional \$2000. This quote was still much lower than the other two quotes received.

Deborah Pedokus, tax collector for the Renovo Borough, asked Council if she could use the Council room to collect taxes beginning next year. She feels this will be easier since there is a handicap access and they wouldn't have to walk up steps. Council suggested that they put something in the newspaper when the 2022 taxes come out to inform residents of this change.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Wayne Township Landfill sent Council a copy of the updated 2021 Clinton County Municipal Waste Management Plan for review.

The WCCMA informed Council that the basic financial statements for its year ending December 31, 2020 are now available for review in the Authority office.

The Renovo Area Public Library asked Council for consideration of the library in their 2022 budget.

The Department of the Auditor General sent Council the Audit report for the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund for the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

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Girard Pension Services sent Council the statement of account for the uniformed pension plan for the period of July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the September 21, 2021 meeting.

The WCCMA sent Council the minutes from the October 6 and October 20, 2021 meetings.

MAYORS REPORT

Mayor Tarantella informed all in attendance that this would be his last report as Mayor. He wanted to thank his family for all their support over the years especially when he had to sacrifice time with them to perform his duties as Mayor.

The Mayor stated that he wanted to be a working Mayor when he was first elected and he wanted to work closely with Council to move the town forward. He is proud to say that he accomplished this goal and listed the many accomplishments he was part of over the past few years. Mayor Tarantella feels like he gave the town his all and he is sure things will continue to move forward with this Council because they are a hard-working Council.

Mayor Tarantella is looking forward to spending more time with his family and doing the things he loves. The Mayor wished Council and the new Mayor, Gene Bruno, the best of luck in their future endeavors and to keep up the good fight.

The Mayor thanked all veterans for their service and provided Council with a short history concerning the establishment of Veteran's Day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

General Fund Checking- **\$64,070.51** (after payment of the bills)
General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$6307.72** (.16 int)
Highway Aid Checking- **\$5812.03** (+ \$10,000 from saving less bills)
Highway Aid Savings- **\$54,877.62** (\$2.75 int less \$10,000 to ckg for bills)
Retirement Fund- **\$4721.19**
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.39**
DCNR Peer Grant-**\$0** (\$.07 int less \$2549.29 to GF for Final Peer Grant Invoice)
ARPA Covid Relief Grant-**\$63,065.72** (\$1.07 int)

October Real Estate Tax-**\$4765.56**
October Delinquent RE Tax-**\$23,144.64**
October Earned Income Tax-**\$10,885.42**

Police/Fire Committee-K. Serafini-Brooks noted that they have a full-time applicant and a part-time applicant for the Renovo Police Department. The committee will be setting up interviews in the near future. Councilwoman Serafini-Brooks asked for an Executive session for personnel issues.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-W. Fornwalt noted that Council is still trying to resolve the Ontario Avenue drainage issues.

Streets/Park Committee- Nothing to report.

Ordinance Committee- P. Rauch reported that the committee met concerning establishing a Sidewalk Ordinance to address unsafe sidewalk conditions. They are just in the initial stages and welcome any feedback from the community. Councilwoman Rauch stated that they are still going to be working on a Firework Ordinance too. The committee received one applicant for Ordinance Officer. It was confirmed that the police committee will be in charge of handling interviews for this position.

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Grants Committee- Grants Advisor, Kari Kepler announced that the county will be reviewing the American Rescue Plan grant applications for water, sewer and recreation funding next week. These applications were due by November 1, 2021.

K. Kepler reminded Council that the Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance grants are still open.

K. Kepler informed Council that the 9th Street paving and handicap ramps funded by CDBG were completed today. The contractor also had a small extra load of asphalt that she directed them to use on the Birch Street alley since there were no other streets ready and it was just a small amount.

K. Kepler had a zoom meeting with Seda-Cog about a CDBG Competitive grant that is due on February 1st, 2022. Seda-Cog is also going to be pursuing Economic Development Administration grant money to be able to complete the water merge and the water line replacement project all at one time.

K. Kepler had a zoom meeting with another Seda-Cog department about the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program concerning flood mitigation projects.

K. Kepler announced that a million-dollar project with grant funding and matching money from the Department of Emergency Services will provide upgrades to the 911 Communication Center to communicate with Western Clinton County. This will include upgrades at the towers.

K. Kepler received a call from an organization that wants to invest in the community. The Environmental Club at school would also like to plant trees or some other project. If Council has any suggestions please let her know as soon as possible.

K. Kepler reviewed the final draft of the Conceptual Riverfront Plan for Ontario Avenue.

K. Kepler asked that in the beginning of next year that a committee set down and review the accomplishments of the past ten years and start a new five-year plan so she can look for grant opportunities.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

The Water Authority engineer put in an ARP grant for the 12th Street water line replacement. The authority also hired two additional workers to train as water operators.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to adopt the 2022 proposed budget. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to adopt Resolution 8-2021 fixing the tax rate for Real Estate Assessment Tax at 11.01 mills for 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to adopt Resolution 9-2021 adopting the Conceptual Riverfront Plan for the Ontario Avenue Riverfront and closing out the DCNR grant project. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt and seconded by R. Balchun to pay Jim Dremel for the 4th Street demolition when complete. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed selling the lots on 4th Street and Erie Avenue. These lots will have to be appraised before any bids can be solicited. It was the consensus of Council to table this to the next meeting.

Council discussed additional repairs to the 2004 Chevy truck. President Tarantella will call K&L to see how much is in the vehicle at this time and how much further repairs will cost. It may be in the best interest of the borough to see if they can trade it in for a newer vehicle. It was the consensus of Council to wait until they have further information to make any decisions.

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Council discussed purchasing a new ice-skating liner for the 16th Street Park. V. Tarantella found a liner at a cost of \$450. It was the consensus of Council to table any decision until the next meeting.

Council discussed quotes received from PennCore for engineering fees for the stream bank revitalization and culvert crossing at Brewery Run. It was the consensus of Council to wait until they see if they are awarded the Dirt & Gravel grant before any action is taken.

Council went into Executive Session at 7:53 for personnel issues and ongoing litigation.

Executive Session ended at 8:55.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to have Seda-Cog apply to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program on behalf of Renovo Borough. 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 9:01 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
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