

Renovo Borough Council
128 5th Street, Renovo, PA 17764
September 9, 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, William Fornwalt III, David Knauff, Kristy Serafini-Brooks (left 9:15), Patricia Rauch (arrived 6:10), 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 D. Knauff and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the minutes as written for the August 12, 2020 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

Administration-\$3117.88/Building-\$489.33/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$675.15/Police-\$12,273.08/
Streets-\$2759.91.

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

Stephen Murgas, CIO of Murgas, LLC spoke to Council on various camera options for the borough parks. He explained the pros and cons of each option. He felt the best option for the borough would be a wireless system with higher grade cameras that would last five (5) to seven (7) years. This system would be able to be viewed from a phone or computer and could also provide wireless internet for any type of events being held in the parks. The complete system for all four (4) parks would cost the borough \$10,000. There would also be an annual maintenance cost of \$365.

P. Rauch arrived at this time.

Council discussed the possibility of looking into a grant to cover the cost of the camera system.

Tom Emero, Director of Innovative Power Solutions, LLC spoke to Council via teleconference. Mr. Emero provided Council an update on the Renovo Energy Center. He informed Council that they have a lead investor and many more investors interested in the project. Mr. Emero stated if all goes as planned they are looking to close in the first quarter of next year with construction beginning in the second quarter of next year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council was notified that the Clinton County Borough's Association Meeting for October has been cancelled due to Covid-19. The meeting to be hosted by Beech Creek is postponed until April 2021.

Council was provided information from APPI to lock in electricity pricing while the markets are at an all-time low. They recommended to contract with Constellation for 48 months at \$0.04798/kWh once the contract between Renovo Borough and Next Era expires.

Council was provided information about a Crimewatch Network Deployment Program through the Clinton County District Attorney's Office. The annual cost to the Renovo Borough would be \$250.05.

Girard sent Council the financial statements for the Renovo Borough Police Pension Plan for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Solicitor Stuart Hall provided Council with a copy of the Petition of the Clinton County Tax Claim bureau for a Rule to Sell Property at Judicial Sale on November 20, 2020.

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The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the July 25 and August 18, 2020 meetings.

The Western Clinton County Municipal Authority sent the minutes from the August 5 and August 19, 2020 meetings.

MAYORS REPORT

The Mayor and the Police Committee met with Corporal Jeffries, President of the Renovo Police Department Association to negotiate the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mayor Tarantella would like to request an executive session to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement and personnel matters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

R. Balchun read the account balances as of September 9, 2020 and the taxes received in August.

General Fund Checking- **\$51,161.57** (after payment of the bills)
General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$5805.61** (.19 int. & \$750 S/O fees)
Highway Aid Checking- **\$131.59**
Highway Aid Savings- **\$60,842.08** (\$3.21 int)
Retirement Fund- **\$14.57**
PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.36**
DCNR Peer Grant-**\$9148.21** (\$.33 int.)
TC Police Car Grant-**\$10,000**
Family Dollar Building Sale-**\$74,329.37**

August Real Estate Tax \$ 12,432.01
August Earned Income \$ 2,652.34

R. Balchun stated that the Administration Committee will soon start meeting to work on next year's budget.

Police/Fire Committee-Nothing to report.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation-Nothing to report.

Streets/Park Committee- D. Knauff stated that the streets department is in need of a tamper for patching the borough roadways. Street Supervisor, V. Tarantella provided three (3) quotes with the lowest being \$1600 from Bradco. D. Knauff suggested having the water authority split the cost since they could also use it when they have to patch the roadways after fixing a water break.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by D. Knauff to purchase a tamper from Bradco at a cost of \$1600 if the Renovo Borough Water Authority agrees to split the purchase. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

The secretary will send a letter to the water authority asking if they are willing to split the purchase of the tamper at a cost of \$800 apiece. If they are in agreement she will order the tamper and invoice the water authority for their share.

D. Knauff informed Council that the streets department has been busy cleaning up the borough parks. Council discussed edging the sidewalks at the 16th Street Park and removing the damaged slide at the 9th Street Park. D. Knauff will mark where he feels additional lighting is needed at 16th Street Park and then have PPL install more lights.

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Ordinance Committee-Council will be considering Ordinance amendments and the adoption of a Solicitation and Panhandling Ordinance at tonight's meeting. These Ordinances have been advertised for consideration of adoption.

Grants Committee-K. Kepler announced that the PennDOT Multimodal grant is now open and accepting applications until November. This grant requires a 30% match.

K. Kepler reported that the 2020 CDBG grants will be announced on September 17 at 9:30 am by the Clinton County Commissioners. Renovo Borough will be awarded funds to pave 9th Street.

The CDBG Coronavirus grant for small businesses will open in two (2) weeks.

WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS

The H2O grant for the merge of Renovo, South Renovo and Chapman Township Water Authorities was denied. The water authority will be meeting with Seda-Cog to try for a CDBG competitive grant to merge the water authorities. K. Kepler would also like to see the paving of St. Clair, after the water lines are replaced, added into the grant.

The water authority hired another water operator to help with water operations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to approve the MMO of \$0 for the uniformed pension plan for 2021. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by D. Knauff to approve the MMO of \$10,300 for the non-uniformed pension plan for 2021. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to adopt Ordinance 804 making amendments to the Open Fire Ordinance. The amendments will establish that open fires may be set by individuals fourteen (14) or older and shall be attended at all times until extinguished. The amendments will also define a firepit to include a height of at least six (6) inches. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to adopt Ordinance 805 to make amendments to the Quality of Life Ordinance. The amendments will shorten the time between tickets and citations and will shorten the time for hearings and appeals. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by D. Knauff to adopt Ordinance 806 making amendments to the Junked Vehicle Ordinance. The amendments regulate the storage of motor vehicle nuisances. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to adopt Ordinance 807, a Panhandling and Solicitation Ordinance. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by P. Rauch to approve Resolution 12-2020 guaranteeing a USDA loan application on behalf of the Renovo Borough Water Authority for a 2020 F-250 4x4 with plow and Turbidity Equipment in the amount of \$33,000. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to hire Joshua Knauff as a SLIP intern through the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation for an eight (8) week internship with the Streets & Parks Department beginning September 2, 2020 through October 30, 2020. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously with D. Knauff abstaining due to familial relations.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to lock in electricity rates with Constellation for forty-eight (48) months at \$0.04856/kWh based on APPI's recommendations once the current agreement with NextEra ends. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to commit funding on an annual basis of \$250.05 to join the county wide Crimewatch program through the Clinton County District Attorney's Office. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed moving forward with getting estimates for demolitions of 215 Champlain Avenue and 149 Fourth Street in Renovo.

A motion was by D. Knauff and seconded by P. Rauch to get estimates for the cost of demolition for 215 Champlain Avenue and 149 Fourth Street in Renovo. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to purchase the properties at 215 Champlain Avenue and 149 Fourth Street at the Repository sale on October 1, 2020 for no more than \$500 apiece. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Officer Foley presented the Mayor a letter informing him that he will be resigning from the position of full-time Renovo Borough Police Officer to taken another position of employment. He stated it was a tough decision and he has enjoyed working with Council. He may be able to stay on as Ordinance Officer and as a part-time Police Officer if his new schedule and employer allows him. Officer Foley will inform the Mayor and Council of his resignation date as soon as he finds out when his new position will begin.

Solicitor Stuart Hall presented to Council a letter from Attorney Larry Coploff concerning Loise Street in the Borough of Renovo. The letter states there was a Deed error in 1996 that conveyed Loise Street to the Borough. The intention was to convey to the Borough all unopened streets lying to the East of Ponda Street in the vicinity of Memorial Park. The language in the Deed accomplished the opposite conveying the streets on the western end of the Drocton Subdivision to the Borough. Attorney Coploff and Terry O'Laughlin are proposing a corrective Deed which would convey the streets in the vicinity of Memorial Park to the Borough and except Loise Street as intended.

A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to table any decision on a corrective Deed concerning Loise Street until Council has time to further research the situation. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:05 pm for matters involving employment and the negotiation of the police Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Executive Session ended at 9:40 pm. (K. Serafini-Brooks left the meeting at 9:15 pm.)

Council went into further discussion concerning the Repository properties and demolition estimates provided by the Renovo Borough's engineer, PennCore Consulting.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to rescind the previous motion to purchase the properties at 215 Champlain Avenue and 149 Fourth Street at the Repository sale on October 1, 2020 for no more than \$500 apiece. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to purchase the property at 149 Fourth Street in Renovo at the Repository sale on October 1, 2020 for no more than \$500 if the quote for the demolition comes in at \$9000 or less. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to purchase the property at 215 Champlain Avenue in Renovo at the Repository sale on October 1, 2020 for no more than \$500 if the quote for the demolition comes in at \$10,500 or less. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff that after discussion and review by Council that revisions will be made by Mayor Tarantella to the police Collective Bargaining Agreement and presented to Corporal Jeffries, President of the Renovo Borough Police Association for acceptance. If the Association accepts the Collective Bargaining Agreement then Council will sign and approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement as revised. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to send Corporal Jeffries to Leadership Skills Training. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to advertise for a Chief of Police. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by R. Balchun to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

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