

**Renovo Borough Council**  
**128 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Renovo, PA 17764**  
**September 8, 2021**

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, John Simon and Mayor Thomas Tarantella. Also in attendance were Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Davis, Solicitor Stuart Hall, Grants Advisor Kari Kepler and Police Chief Richard Simpson.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the minutes as written for the August 11, 2021 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**BILLS**

Administration-\$2334.06/Building-\$596.72/Fire-\$0/Parks-\$5285.75/Police-\$2354.93/  
Streets-\$3255.57.

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

**GALLERY**

Maureen Ruhl asked if she could speak later on the agenda. President Tarantella stated she preferred any comments to be made at this time. Solicitor Stuart Hall informed her that the president has indicated that she prefers to have all comments made in this section of the agenda so as not to disrupt the flow of the meeting. She has an opportunity to speak now. Ms. Ruhl wanted it on the record that her comments were restricted to the Gallery section of the agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Code Inspections, Inc. provided Council with the monthly report for July, 2021 along with a check for \$27.60 in municipal fees.

Victor Foley submitted his resignation as Ordinance Officer effective October 1, 2021.

Jared Hurlbert notified Council he is resigning from his position on the IPMC/UCC Board of Appeals for personal reasons.

Solicitor Hall sent Council a copy of Judge Salisbury's August 24, 2021 Order approving the proposed distribution of the proceeds from the recent repository sale.

USDA notified Council they received payment in full for the 2014 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$3650.01 on December 9, 2020. The title has been signed and dated to remove USDA as a lien holder. The grant will still remain in effect until the vehicle's value falls below \$5000.

Wayne Township Landfill notified Council with a minimal charge they can now provide hauling services to the borough to assist with Fall leaf waste clean-up. There is no charge to use your own hauler and dump leaves at the wood recycling center.

The Renovo Borough Water Authority sent Council the minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting.

The WCCMA sent Council the minutes from the August 4, 2021 meeting.

**MAYORS REPORT**

Mayor Tarantella reported that all of Michael Jeffries personal items have been returned to him.

The mayor has concerns with the resignation of Victor Foley as Ordinance Officer. He asks Council to think about whether they will hire another Ordinance Officer or rely on the police officers to enforce the Ordinances. He feels that we are lightly staffed and that we need more officers. Until then he stated that Ordinance

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enforcement is going to suffer. He stressed that the borough really needs to accelerate the process of getting more officers on staff.

The mayor reported that the 2011 Crown Victoria has recently undergone repairs but then had to be towed to Murray Motors to install new gas straps. Mayor Tarantella would like to send a "Thank You" to Martin Motors for their courtesy towing of the police car.

The mayor stated that K9 Jordan has been retired from police service. K9 Jordan is still licensed under Renovo Borough's name. Mayor Tarantella asked the secretary to inform Michael Jeffries that he needs to go to the treasurer's office and switch the license to his name.

Mayor Tarantella praised Chief Simpson for doing a fabulous job of getting the police department in order in such a short time. He also is pleased with the level of communication with the Chief and the Chief's community involvement.

The mayor proceeded to praise Council for all they have accomplished since 2014 and how well they all work together. Mayor Tarantella stated they inherited a bunch of debt but they have been successful at balancing the budget and securing grants. He stated it has been a privilege working with everyone.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration-R. Balchun read the current bank balances in the borough's accounts and asked Council to start thinking about the 2022 budget. She would like to set up a budget meeting soon.

General Fund Checking- **\$71,594.77** (after payment of the bills)

General Fund Street Maintenance Saving- **\$6057.41** (.15 int)

Highway Aid Checking- **\$3129.74**

Highway Aid Savings- **\$64,872.20** (\$2.89 int)

Retirement Fund- **\$15.23**

PennDOT Projects Account-**\$50.38**

DCNR Peer Grant-**\$2549.16** (\$.07 int)

Clinton County Community Foundation Grant-**\$0**

ARPA Covid Relief Grant-**\$63,063.61** (.41 int)

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August Real Estate Tax-**\$10,865.77**

August Earned Income Tax-**\$2330.64**

August Delinquent Tax-**\$14,662.40**

Police/Fire Committee-Council made Chief Simpson aware of the dates of Flaming Foliage.

Building Committee/Health & Sanitation- President Tarantella plans on meeting with Victor Marquardt about a couple of the repository properties.

K. Serafini-Brooks stated there was a new law passed recently for anyone that bids at an upset or judicial sale. They now have to file for an application for the sale and must present it in person. Their names then go throughout the state to every municipality. If they owe taxes or liens on a property, they will not be able to bid on any property at the sale.

Streets/Park Committee- Chairman D. Knauff stated that the Streets Department needs more help. He recommends that Council hire Charles Goodling Jr. to fill the vacated temporary worker position.

The wires have been installed for the security cameras at 9<sup>th</sup> Street and near the recycling bins. The electrical boxes will have to be inspected and then PPL will be contacted to install the service at these locations.

Ordinance Committee- R. Balchun provided Council with more information for a potential Firework's Ordinance. Solicitor Stuart Hall will review this information for a potential proposed Ordinance that can coincide with the state law.

Grants Committee- Grants Advisor K. Kepler met with PennDOT Municipal Engineer Daren Stover to discuss the paving of 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Stover will prepare the bid packet to try to get the project complete this year.

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K. Kepler spoke about several other grants that are still open or will be opening soon. She stressed that the Emergency Rental Assistance grant still has lots of funding available. She suggested that Renovo Borough work with Chapman Township in applying for funding through USDA to complete a feasibility study for a historic walking trail. She is still working on a CDBG and Seda-Cog Grant to replace water lines and repave St. Clair Avenue.

K. Kepler attended an ATV Task Force meeting of which she is a member. They are attending to some issues such as dust control and misuse of trails but otherwise all is going well. They are now evaluating the impact on residences and businesses on the new connective trail.

Mayor Tarantella wanted to take this time to thank Grant Advisor Kari Kepler for her exceptional service to the Renovo Borough in helping to secure grant funding. With her expertise and clear focus on the infrastructure needs of the borough she has been a much-valued advisor to Council.

#### **WATER AUTHORITY BUSINESS**

The water line replacements on 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street are almost complete.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The WCCMA funding request of \$90,000 for raw sewage pumps was tabled from last month's meeting. The WCCMA has recently been awarded grants to cover the cost of the pumps so the funding request from the borough is no longer needed.

The proposed Firework Ordinance information has been forwarded to Solicitor Stuart Hall for review.

#### **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 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to approve the MMO of \$10,700 for the non-uniformed pension plan for 2022. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to advertise Ordinance 809 opening a portion of Industrial Park Road for adoption at the October 13, 2021 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by P. Rauch to advertise Ordinance 810 vacating a portion of Industrial Park Road for adoption at the October 13, 2021 regular meeting. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by P. Rauch and seconded by J. Simon to add up to \$2000 to Dremel's Oil quote of \$10,000 for the demolition of 149 4<sup>th</sup> Street for demolition liability insurance. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by J. Simon and seconded by P. Rauch to bid out the 9<sup>th</sup> Street CDBG paving project with bids to be opened at a special meeting to be held on September 29, 2021 at 6:00 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by J. Simon to send the FFF PennDOT road closing application for PennDOT's approval to close Huron Avenue on October 9, 2021 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm for the annual Flaming Foliage parade. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously with P. Rauch abstaining.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by W. Fornwalt III to accept the resignation of Victor Foley as Renovo Borough Ordinance Officer effective October 1, 2021. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to accept the resignation of Jared Hurlbert from the IPMC/UCC Board of Appeals. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

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**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by D. Knauff to pass Resolution 7-2021 appointing Alternate Member, Eric Fletcher to fill Jared Hurlbert's remaining three-year term expiring 12/31/22 and appointing Devin Demarte as an Alternate to fill Jared Hurlbert's remaining two-year term expiring 12/31/21 to the IPMC/UCC Board of Appeals. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council discussed hiring another Ordinance Officer. According to Chief Simpson an Ordinance Officer would be easier to hire than a Police Officer. He will check on any specific training needed to be an Ordinance Officer. Council of Government (COG) representative, P. Rauch will check at the next COG meeting to see if municipalities would like to join together to hire an Ordinance Officer.

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to hire Charles Goodling Jr. for the Streets Department temporary position beginning Monday, September 13 to October 29, 2021 at \$10.35 an hour with hours to be set by the Street Committee. A voice vote was taken motion passed unanimously.**

Council was presented with an estimate from K&L to fix the 2004 Chevy truck at a cost of \$3237.17. The secretary suggested they use the money from the Streets Maintenance savings since the truck is needed to help maintain the streets.

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by R. Balchun to accept the estimate of \$3237.17 from K&L to fix the 2004 Chevy Truck fuel pump and to use the Street Maintenance savings to fund the repair. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council discussed sending a letter of intent to the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant to apply for assistance with flood areas in the borough.

**A motion was made by W. Fornwalt III and seconded by K. Serafini-Brooks to send a letter of intent to apply for funding to FEMA. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by K. Serafini-Brooks and seconded by P. Rauch to apply to USDA for a Historic Walking Trail Feasibility Study. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

Council went into a lengthy discussion about how to get more police officers to apply to Renovo Borough.

**Council went into Executive at 7:58 pm to speak with the solicitor about pursuing possible litigation against a former engineer and to discuss matters concerning a former employee.**

**Executive ended at 8:46 pm.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to allow Solicitor Stuart Hall to speak with the municipal engineer and the LTAP engineer regarding the Ontario Avenue project. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

**A motion was made by R. Balchun and seconded by D. Knauff to allow Mayor Tarantella talk to the firm of Eckert-Seamans Attorneys at Law regarding a former employee. 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 8:49 pm. A voice vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.**

ATTEST: Marsha Davis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Renovo Borough Council