COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218
August 14, 2018  7:00pm

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Council President Angela Krapf followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Solicitor Robert Yurchak, Council President Angela Krapf, Councilwoman Anne Girard, Councilwoman Claire Remington, Councilwoman Yvonne Stoffey, Councilman Francis Hutta and Mayor Herb Whildin were present. Councilman Thomas Keerans and Councilman Michael Doerr were absent.

Executive Session: 7:01pm-7:07pm Personnel issues were discussed.

Attorney Kevin Buraks, Portnoff Law Associates (PLA), spoke before regular public participation to provide information on additional services that PLA provides which could benefit the borough, specifically the collection of delinquent taxes. He explained the benefits of PLA collecting the delinquent versus the Tax Claim Bureau and provided a folder to each council member with the information. Currently, the borough only gets 95% of the tax bill monies that are collected because the county takes 5% commission. An option with PLA collecting is the borough can collect the full 100% of the delinquent tax bill monies by adding the 5% county commission to the delinquent bill. Other benefits are payment plans, hardship plans, and the ability to pay online. Motion made by Anne Girard to accept the PLA proposal to collect delinquent taxes; seconded by Claire Remington. After questions and a discussion, Attorney Yurchak recommended passing it contingent upon approval of the contract, which will be sent to him. Anne Girard amended her motion to accept the proposal pending approval of the contract. Seconded by Claire Remington and motion carried unanimously. Once the contract is signed, an ordinance must be passed stating PLA will collect delinquent taxes and a resolution informing the county a third party will be collecting the delinquent taxes.

Public Participation:
• Albert Caltagirone and Emily Seiger, 73 First St., inquired if the vacant lot at 223 E. Ridge St. would be put up for sale and if the minimum bid of $5,000 is negotiable. Claire Remington explained that the minimum bid was previously voted on and is not negotiable. Advertising the lot for sale is on tonight’s agenda.
• Anthony Heffelfinger, 138 E. High St., had questions about why his motorcycle was ticketed and towed. He was told to contact the police as that is a police matter.

Approval of previous minutes: Motion made by Frank Hutta to approve the previous minutes. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report/Approval of Bills: Given by Anissa Nunemacher, Borough Treasurer
• Submitted USDA grant paperwork for the new police vehicle. The state level of funding has run out so the application will go to national level of funding for review. If nothing happens with this round, the application is automatically in for the next round. Motion made by Anne Girard to pay the fire company the second installment of $10,000.00. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried unanimously.
• Motion made by Anne Girard to pay Tamaqua Animal Rescue $300.00 for services rendered and will continue to render in 2018. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried unanimously.
• MMO Obligation for police pension is $32,263.00. Motion made by Frank Hutta to approve the MMO payment. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried unanimously.
• Claire Remington asked the status of the fire escrow account. The home owner did not respond to the letter sent by Attorney Yurchak. The fire company will be contacted to get the name of the insurance company and Anissa Nunemacher will reach out to them.
• Motion made by Anne Girard to pay the bills. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried unanimously.
• **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to accept the treasurer’s report. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**.

- Greg Guldin, McGriff Insurance, dropped off the insurance renewal. The police mobile equipment, such as the radios, laptops, guns, etc., is not covered. Chief Krapf will get an inventory of the equipment to submit to the insurance.

**Police Report:** Given by Yvonne Stoffey, Police Committee Chairperson
- Chief Krapf’s report for July 2018 was read by Yvonne Stoffey.
- **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept the report. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Mayors Report:** Given by Mayor Whildin
- Was asked by the VFW to speak at their September 11th services and that is the date of the September council meeting. **Motion** made by Anne Girard to move the September meeting to September 18th at 7pm. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Presidents Report:** Given by Angela Krapf, Council President
- $2,866.17 collected in July from Portnoff Law Associates and to date collected is $37,670.05 for delinquent sanitation. Interest collected is $314.33 and the fees recovered are $3,983.84 through July 2018.
- Angela Krapf wanted to get insurance on the CHOSE building at the park and could not. She spoke to Greg Guldin at McGriff and he said as long as an agreement is in place, the building could be insured under the borough’s policy. Attorney Yurchak prepared a License Agreement draft between CHOSE and Coaldale Borough in order for CHOSE to get insurance on their building. CHOSE would pay the additional cost on the policy for their insurance. Council will review the draft and make any changes.

**Secretary’s Report:** Given by Suzanne Whildin, Borough Secretary
- Fall clean up date is October 20, 2018.
- Provided the 2018 budget meeting dates.
- Provided a comprehensive status report from Portnoff Law Associates on the sanitation collection.
- PIRMA luncheon invitation for September 13th, 2018 was included.

**Solicitor Report:** Given by Attorney Robert Yurchak
- Attorney Yurchak was asked last month to look into the new state fireworks law. The borough does not need to do an ordinance for the regular consumer as that is covered by the state fireworks law. An ordinance can be done for commercial displays.
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to deny the repository sales of 228 W. Earley Ave. and 115 7th St. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**. The borough’s intentions are to apply for demolition grants for both of the properties.

**Fire/Ambulance Report:** Anne Girard read the report from the fire company.
- Anne Girard read a letter from Fire Chief Steven Polischak requesting the 100 block of W. High St. and 200 block of 6th St. be closed during Rock the Block on Saturday, September 8, 2018 for fire apparatus parking after the parade. There will be a ceremony after the parade to celebrate the dedication of their 2002 Spartan/Aerialscope 75 ft Tower. He also provided the parade route. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to shut down the streets. Seconded by Yvonne Stoffey and motion carried **unanimously**.
- There was no ambulance report.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning Report:** None
- Angela Krapf will reach out to Carl Faust to get an update of the issues with the oil tank as well as the old ambulance garage operating as a towing business and repairing cars without permits.
- Claire Remington asked what could be done about properties that are health hazards with contagious communicable diseases. A resident notified her about bed bug infested furniture that was thrown out into the back yard. Angela Krapf will contact Mark Richards to discuss with him what could be done.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Buildings/Complex:** Given by Claire Remington
- Received a quote to scrub, buff and wax the hallways of the complex for $650.00 from Bob Demyanovich. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to accept the proposal. Seconded by Anne
Girard and motion carried **unanimously**. The gym floor will be cleaned once the complex repairs are completed.

- Robert Kenesky installed an electrical pole at the complex. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to ratify paying this bill. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**. When the power is turned on to the pole for Rock the Block, CHOSE and the fire company will pay the electricity bill.

- Robert Kenesky installed 200 amp service with extra outlets and dusk to dawn light for $2,288.00. **Motion** to ratify paying this bill by Claire Remington. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

- Senator Argall’s office asked to use the complex on October 4, 2018 from 10am until noon. The office will email Angela Krapf the details.

Demolition/Grants: Given by Claire Remington

- Claire Remington asked what could be done with the property at 2nd and Phillips St. with the side porch falling off. Angela Krapf will reach out to Systems Design Engineering to discuss having John Wascavage, who is doing the rental inspections, do the structural part of code enforcement. The fees could be put back on the homeowner for the services.

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to advertise the sale of the lot at 223 E. Ridge St. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**.

Finance/Utilities: None

Handicap: None

Police:

- Given by Yvonne Stoffey, Police Committee Chairperson

  - Thanked everyone who participated or helped with National Night Out.
  - Brian Erbe worked on Unit 58 to correct suspension issues.

Police Pension: None

Recreation/Memorial: Given by Yvonne Stoffey, Recreation Committee Chairperson

- Jim Weremedic gave a report on the condition of the Memorial Garden.

  - There has been interest in the Engraved Brick Program in the Memorial Garden. Jean Huffman offered to take charge of this program. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to allow Jean Huffman to take orders and be responsible for the bricks. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**. The cost will be $50 per brick. Walters Monuments in Summit Hill will engrave the bricks for $30 with the extra money paying for the upkeep of the area.

  - 27 poles have been approved to use to hang the Hometown Heroes Banners. Claire Remington sent Nesquehoning Borough a letter asking to use their bucket truck and a copy of liability insurance. She will set up the date to use the truck.

  - **CHOSE events include:**

    - Movie in the Park on Friday August 17th and is sponsored by the police department.
    - Rock the Block meeting August 26th and still looking for volunteers.
    - Fire company still selling cash raffle tickets.

  - Fall Community Yard Sale will be October 6th and 7th, 2018.

  - Angela Krapf asked to have High St. in front of the fire company closed Sunday September 9th for the Touch a Truck event. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to approve the request. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**.

Streets: Given by Claire Remington, Streets Chairperson

- Received proposal from Schuylkill Paving to mill and prep Ruddle St. between 3rd and 4th Sts. for $10,416.00. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept the proposal. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

- Received 2 estimates from Peter J. Radocha & Sons Inc. Estimate #27-new inlet at 6th and Moser Ave. for $2050.00 and Estimate #28-new inlet at 2nd and Moser Ave. for $2450.00. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept both the estimates. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

  - The backhoe needs an additional $2000 in repairs. Radocha’s is selling their 2007 New Holland backhoe for $32,000.00, which has about 2200 hours on it and will include 4 new tires and a 4 month warranty. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept that price and purchase it. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**.

- 2 residents of First St. asked Anne Girard if the direction of parking on the west side of First St. between High and Phillips Sts. could be changed to facing down the hill due to gravity pulling the car door closed when exiting the vehicle. Attorney Yurchak said the vehicle code requires parking the way it is now. Attorney Yurchak will look into seeing if it could be changed.
Old Business: None

New Business:
• On Moser Ave. between 5th and 6th Sts., there is a tractor trailer parked and the borough trucks can barely get through. Attorney Yurchak will look into designating areas for tractor trailer parking for the next meeting.
• Dunn’s Tree Service quoted Claire Remington $1,000.00 to cut the trees on Avenue A. **Motion** made by Claire Remington to accept the quote. Seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.
• Attorney Yurchak will send a letter to the owner of the factory at 155 E. Phillips St. for Quality of Life Violations.
• Angela Krapf and Claire Remington met with JTNB for a presentation on a check reader for deposits. JTNB will set up the check reader and install the software. The monthly fee will be $40.00 with no additional charges, which Angela Krapf confirmed with JTNB. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta to get the check reader. Seconded by Anne Girard and motion carried **unanimously**. Anissa Nunemacher will meet with JTNB at the main office to learn how to use it.

Adjournment: **Motion** made by Anne Girard at 8:43pm, seconded by Frank Hutta and motion carried **unanimously**.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Suzanne Whildin, Borough Secretary
Submitted for approval on September 18, 2018