

COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218

April 9, 2024 7:00pm

Executive Session: 6:30pm

Call to Order 7:07pm

Meeting was called to order by Council President Claire Remington followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Solicitor Robert Yurchak, Council President Claire Remington, Vice President Yvonne Stoffey, Mayor Eric Ramirez, Jacob Adamitis, Kim Gavornik, Francis Hutta, Wayne Figner, and Treasurer Katherine Papesh **Absent** Angela Krapf

Audience Attendance: 9 members of the public were in attendance.

Sanitation Bids- Sanitation bid was received from Tamaqua Transfer (only Bid provided) contracts on the table 2-year contract NO bid, 3 year contract \$1,190,267.00, 4 year contract \$1,690,057.00.

Motion made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to accept the 4-year bid, **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Participation:

- Daniel Weiksner, 1 West High St. Coaldale, Would like to ask if the Coaldale Borough would be able to assist Lansford Borough in any capacity in the attempt to purchase a street sweeper. **Response:** Claire Remington, we have helped the Lansford borough in the past with purchase of replacement brushes, We are in connection with Tamaqua Borough, Since they use our crack sealer they will be helping Coaldale with street cleaning, We do help Lansford and do other shared services.
- Robert Demyanovich, 225 West Phillips St, Coaldale, I would like to talk again about the bleachers. What is going on with them? I did speak to the Superintendent, and he was unaware of the bleachers issue. I did give out a handout at the last meeting with the cost of what it would be to replace them. Bob Specifically asked Angela Krapf if she thought that the exchange of toilet paper and paper towels was a fair trade.
- **Response:** Claire Remington, we are not going to let it go, We did have a meeting scheduled with the school board. The meeting did need to be rescheduled due to Frank not being able to attend. Claire asked what Bob would like to see happen to the bleachers. Bob's

Response “I would like to get them back”. Angela Stated that she would look for the receipt herself over the summer when she was off, and that they did cost \$250 and that “we got a good deal”.

- Anne Girard, 228 West High St. Coaldale, I feel that if the people of coaldale would like to have chickens then we should change the ordinance to allow chickens. Another Question: I am an alternate for the zoning board, I was not notified of the hearing or of any meetings. What is going on and why wasn't I notified. **Response:** Claire Remington answered the zoning question and stated that she would contact Cindy in the morning, to see what the proper procedure would be.
- Angela Krapf, 29 Bull run St. Coaldale, Angela read through previous meeting minutes and a newspaper clipping from the meeting stating that Coaldale Borough did not ask C.H.O.S.E. for the cameras back, that Coaldale asked for just access to the cameras . **Response:** Claire Remington asked again that were you not asked for the cameras back? Angela Responded by reading the letter again. Claire replied by stating that she, as the president of Coaldale Borough, is asking for the cameras to be returned. Angela stated that she will not take them down, she does not want to be liable for anything. Claire asked the attorney if he had spoken to Angela about cameras. Response From Attorney Yurcak was that he did mention it to her but he did not send a letter. Claire continued by asking the financial status of the organization. Angela replied with “were great”. Claire asked for a quarterly report, and an activity report and for this to be put in writing. Yvonne Stoffey stated that she would sit with Angela and go over the C.H.O.S.E.

Approval of previous minutes: Motion made by Jacob Adamitis Seconded by Yvonne Stoffey to approve the March minutes with the correction Christina Waidell. **Motion carried Unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills: (Kathy Papesh)

- **Motion** made by Francis Hutta Seconded by Jacob Adamitis to approve the bills and **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Francis Hutta Seconded by Kim Gavornik, to accept the Treasurer's Report. and motion carried **unanimously.**
- **Motion** Made by Frank Hutta Second by Jacob Adamitis to rescind the 2016-1 Ordinance due to a prior audit finding and adjustment to this must be made **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- **Motion** Made by Frank Hutta Second by Jacob Adamitis, for Attorney Yurchak to redo the 2016-1 Resolution as an ordinance for 2024.
- Catherin Papesh has contacted Berkhimer for the Borough to collect the per capita taxes with no response.

Mayor's Report: (Eric Ramirez)

NONE .

President's Report: (Claire Remington, President)

- Carbon engineering firm along with Lansford and summit hill, They would like to submit for two more grants totaling \$3 million dollars they would like to apply for through Susan Whild. In order to line everything that needs to be done will cost \$20 million dollars. The cost of the grant would be split between the three towns. Currently we are looking at a total of \$1,000 for each of the million dollar grants that are being proposed. **Motion** made by Frank Hutta second by Jacob Adamitis to apply for the grants. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Clarification on Occupancy permits, by attorney Yurchak, this is only needed for rental properties and businesses.
- With the summer coming the swimming pool requirements will be posted on the website and a copy in the office. Attorney Yurchak stated that this could be grandfathered in for existing pools.
- **Motion** by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner, to not reappoint the Board of Health officer Mark Richards , instead business will be responsible contact the Department of Agriculture for the inspections. **motion was carried unanimously.**

Secretary's Report: (Beth Martinico)

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner., to send letter of support to senate for HB1210 bill to protect animals in domestic violence cases. 2016-1 Resolution as an ordinance for 2024. Motion was carried unanimously
- Rental licenses applications have been sent and have been returned incomplete. Landlords have been contacted and checks will be held until forms have been completed. Cut off dates are May 31,2024 \$20 late fee every month after.

Police Report: Given by Yvonne Stoffey.

- Financial report \$1,147.49 money collected from District Justice Fines (\$706.49), Parking Tickets (\$350.00), Moving Permits (\$75.00), and Accident Reports (\$15.00). Total miles patrolled in month of March were 2,757 miles. There were 108 calls for service, 21 parking tickets, 18 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations, 2 criminal arrests. **Motion made by Francis Hutta second by Jacob Adamitis to accept the police report Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Solicitor Report: (Attorney Robert Yurchak)

- **Motion** by Frank Hutta Second by Kim Gavornik to approve the applications/ agreements made for off street parking. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to approve the **forbearance agreement**. This will provide the community a chance to catch up on late Sanitation

payments instead of it being sent directly to Portnoff. This would be for homeowners only, not landlords. **ROLL CALL VOTE Wayne Figner YES, Frank Hutten YES, Kim Gavornik YES, Yvonne Stoffey YES, Jacob Adamitis YES, Angela Krapf NO, Motion Carried**

- The 6 Demo properties have been contacted, 1 has already signed the deed, 1 is in the process of signing the deed, 1 playing phone tag the other 2 properties have not reached out but attorney Yurchak will continue to try and contact them so we can move forward with the demolition.
- Redcliff lawsuit regarding the police department has been settled in the regards of the police department with no cost to the Borough. This will be brought up at a future meeting to approve once the paperwork is completed.

Fire Report: (Jacob Adamitis)

- 1 brush fire, 7 automatic aids, 3 public service, 9 QRS, 2 Wires down, 1 tree down 1 CO2 detector activation, 2 owner investigations and 2 landing zone 28 calls for the month of Marchand 80 for the year. Tamaqua Ambulance has responded to 90 calls this year and 26 of those were QRS calls **Motion** made by Francis Hutta Seconded by Wayne Figner to accept the Fire Report. **Motion carried unanimously**
- Jacob is going to set up a meeting with the fire chiefs to help aid in enforcing the new burn ordinance that was adopted.

Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: (Luis Negrón)

- 35 properties are waiting for the property maintenance code to be put in place so that Luis can proceed with the next steps in the violations. System Design will have the new property maintenance code for 2021 ready to be approved at the next meeting.
- **Motion** Made by Frank Hutta Second by Jacob Adamitis to accept the resignation letter of current Zoning officer Carl Faust as of April 30, 2024. **Motion Carried unanimously.**
- Table any action on appointing a new zoning officer at this time.

Jr. Council Report:(Yvonne Stoffey)

- Letter will be sent to the school advisors to try and promote the Jr council and get more kids involved, Also will be posting to the Facebook page and the website to try and get more involvement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration:(Kim Gavornik)

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to make Cathy Papesh the Chief Administrative Officer to help aid in getting information for the audits this was another finding that needed to be corrected. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Building/Complex: (Francis Hutta)

- Postponement of a meeting that was scheduled with the school board to go over new contract and additional room usage for the UI. This meeting will be rescheduled before the next council meeting. Council Members attending this meeting with the school will be Frank Hutta, Kim Gavornik, and Claire Remington. The meeting will take place at the school, so everyone is aware of the room usage.
- Angela Krapf stated that she would paint the stars on the street again for the Memorial, and possibly the fence next to borough hall.
- Frank Hutta stated that he would have Joe Hutta look at the lights in the memorial, these lights may need to be replaced and Frank Hutta stated that he would donate the lights for the memorial.
- Looking into solar lights for the memorial in Seek, Lighting needs to be solar due to the electric poles being across the street.
- Wayne Figner stated that he had wood 8 ft, ¾ inch thick to replace the wooden slates in the benches in seek and he would donate this.

Demolition/Grants: (Wayne Figner)

- Coaldale Borough received 10 shaded trees from the Bareroots. 3trees will be planted in seek, 7 at the complex to provide shaded areas. Will be planting on Thursday April 11th at 8:30 rain or shine. Any volunteers are welcome.
- Demolition Grants approved for the following 6 properties: 261 E. High St, 38 W. Water St, 224 W. Water St, 226 W. Phillips St, 138/140 Sixth St. Attorney Yurchak Stated that he has been in contact with 3 owners, 1 deed has been signed, Yurchak will continue to contact the additional property

Financing/Utilities: (Kim Gavornik)

- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik Second by Frank Hutta to get EZ Pass for the police vehicles to help aid in costs. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Kim Gavornik Second by Frank Hutta to adopt a resolution that would negate late bills being submitted for payment. Cap of 60 days from date of service. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Handicap (Wayne Figner)

- 2 applications for handicap parking submitted for colonial square. Colonial Square does provide off street parking in the rear of the building and has there own handicap spaces. Applications were denied due to that being the responsibility of the property owner.

Memorial:

Police: (Yvonne Stoffey)

- Officers have blue badges they will be wearing for the month of April to support Autism Awareness.
- Applied for a grant awaiting to total of the grant could be anywhere from \$3,000 to \$100,000, officers are hoping to put this towards a new recording system.
- **Motion** Made by Frank Hutta Second by Jacob Adamitis.in the event that the Interim Chief can join the PA Association of Chiefs borough council will cover the cost of \$250.00 for entry fee . **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to implementation of a program called **Targeted Law Enforcement Operations** right now is on a trial period that would cost \$120 per month for a yearly contract. This is an investigative system that would allow the officers more in depth information., **Motion carried unanimously.**

Police Pension:

- Currently we are using PMRS for our non- uniform pension plan Motion made by Frank Hutta to Combine non uniform and uniform Pension plans with Thomas J Anderson after the audits are complete. Second by Wayne Figner Motion carried unanimously.

Recreation: (Yvonne Stoffey)

- April 20, 2024 Flea market and Food truck Festival 10 am -3pm, Crime watch cleanup day April 20, 2024 Legion breakfast April 28, 2024 Fire company basket raffle April 25, 2024, May 18 & 19th town yard sale * May 24, 2024 town cleanup
- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey Second by Wayne Figner to purchase mulch for the trees from the Bare Root Grant. Mulch will cost \$848.33 **motioned Carried unanimously**
- Looking into pricing for Jersey Barriers for the basketball court. Will provide more information at the next meeting.
- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey Second by Kim Gavornik to purchase playground mulch at a cost of \$1,500. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey. Second by Kim Gavornik to purchase new chains for the swings, spending up to \$300 **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Yvonne Stoffey Second by Kim Gavornik to allow VFW to use the Memorial Garden for the Memorial service this year May 26, 2024 **motion carried unanimously.**

Streets:(Francis Hutta)

- Projected road projects for the borough, we will be trying to complete as many projects as possible with the money that we receive.
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to accept the estimate of \$7600 plus materials to complete a drainage ditch on 209 and Greenwood Street. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to complete approved projects in 2023. Pricing has changed since the original estimate. Projects consist of inlets for following streets: 4th street and Lehigh Street \$2000, High Street and 4th street \$2350, East Street middle block \$1950, South East Phillips Street \$1800. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Discussed the water issue on Bull run Street. Overflow water coming from Foster Ave and avenue B Discussion needs to be had with Joe Hatisty and the Mine to see what can be done about putting in some kind of inlet in on that road. We have been dealing with this problem since 2016.
- Meeting with John Davis for the liquid fuels, all the paperwork has been completed and we should be getting liquid fuel money by the end of April. This should have been completed and received money by March. The delay in this is due to a lack of timely communication and payments of past office staff.

Old Business:

- Clarification to landlords they must live within 20 miles of the rental property if they do not they must have a rental property manager that is within 20 miles of the rented property. This is in the ordinance 2009-4 and is on the new application that was be sent out to all landlords for the renewal.

New Business:

- **Motion** made by Frank Hutta Second by Wayne Figner to accept employee fee scale **Motion carried unanimously.**

Clair Remington adjourned the meeting at 8:32pm

SUBMITTED BY: Beth Martinico