

**COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218  
January 14, 2025, 7:06 pm**

**Call to Order**

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, Mayor Eric Ramirez, Councilman Michael Radocha, Councilman Jacob Adamitis, Councilwoman Kim Gavornik, Councilman Wayne Figner, and Treasurer Catherine Papesh. Councilwoman Angela Krapf and Councilman Francis Hutta were absent.

**Guest Speaker:** Justine Trucksess, Special Projects Coordinator, from Blueprint Community presented along with Abby Guardiani and John Dowling, Chairperson, about who and what Blueprint Community is, their importance, and how they have helped other areas across the state revitalize their community to become prosperous, including Tamaqua. They are setting plans for the Panther Valley area to address aging housing stock, low home ownership rate, high code violations, limited availability of affordable housing, imminent displacement, recreational of quality-of-life opportunity, and public infrastructure safe sidewalk needs. After creating projects for the area, they will go out and apply for grants to fund these projects.

**Audience Attendance: 22 members of the public were in attendance.**

**Sanitation:**

- Tamaqua Transfer offered the following bids: 2-year no bid, 3-year \$1,190,267.00, and 4-year \$1,609,057.00. **Motion** made by Francis Hutta to accept the 4-year contract. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Public Participation:**

- Bob Demyanovich, 225 W. Phillips St., Coaldale property owner, inquired about the current issue of no police protection. He was under the impression that tonight's meeting was to be held at the Complex, but President Remington advised she and her family were threatened with bodily harm and the Complex has no cameras whereas the Borough does.
- Ted Bortnick, 55 W. Ridge St., Coaldale property owner, inquired about the blighted properties in town and if there was any progress. President Remington advised that crews were at the 6th Street address today and are starting to tear them down. Ted mentioned it's been over 9 years that the back of his property is overseeing an eyesore and has a multitude of animals. Mayor Remington also advised that to tear it down, Coaldale needs to apply for a grant for that property, but the current priority is tearing down properties attached to houses with people occupying them.

**Approval of previous minutes:** **Motion** made by Jacob Adamitis to accept the November minutes. Seconded by Michael Radocha and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills:** Given by Katherine Papesh.

- **Motion** made by Jacob Adamitisto to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion carried **unanimously**.
- **Motion** made Michael Radocha pay the bills. Seconded by Jacob Adamitis and motion carried **unanimously**.

**Mayor's Report: Given by Eric Ramirez, Mayor.**

- Mayor introduced Paul Castline, an elected Constable, in regard to what services he and his company, East Donegal Constable LLC, could provide for the town since there is no Police Department. Paul advised that he and his team can enforce ordinances, are law enforcement, police officers, and are also peace officers. Moreover, they are elected, appointed and deputized and serve a 6-year term with statewide jurisdiction. If Coaldale were to go into contract with East Donegal Constable, they would only pay for their rate, not their insurance, training, equipment, etc. The main difference between a municipal police officer and constables is that constables do not have access to the 911 system and cannot file charges the same way other police officers do.

**President's Report: Given by Claire Remington, President.**

- Council received two letters of resignation: Police Officer Matthew Jungbaer and Secretary Beth Martinico.
  - Matthew Jungbaer formally resigned on January 6, 2025. **Motion** made by Wayne Figner to accept the resignation. Seconded by Jacob Adamitis and motion **carried unanimously**.
  - Beth Martinico formally resigned. Roll Call of Votes:
    - Yes: Kim Gavornik, Jacob Adamitis, Michael Radocha, and Claire Remington.
    - No: Wayne Figner.
- **Motion** passed.
- Council needs to appoint Alex Lakitsky until someone is hired as Secretary, at \$20.00 per hour. **Motion** made by Wayne Figner to appoint Alex as Secretary until someone is hired. Seconded by Kim Gavornik, and motion **carried unanimously**.
- Notice from Teamsters about 2025 contract expiring at end of year and arbitrator has been appointed.
- **Motion** made by Michael Radocha to accept fee scale for System Designs for 2025. Seconded by Jacob Adamitis and motion **carried unanimously**.
- Council received Portnoff collection of bills for two properties in Coaldale. **Motion** made by Jacob Adamitis to allow the collection of bills. Seconded by Kim Gavornik and motion **carried unanimously**.

**Secretary's Report: None.**

**Police Report: None.**

**Solicitor Report: None.**

**Fire Report: Given by Jacob Adamitis.**

- December 2024: 1 fire out of the borough, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 mutual aid call, 3 automatic aid calls, 1 false alarm, 8 public service calls, 1 EMS assist, 2 wires down, 3 fire police assist, 1 CO detector activation, 1 landing zone, resulting in 24 calls in December. Year to date 219 calls. **Motion** made by Michael Radocha to accept the Fire Report. Seconded by Kim Gavornik and motion **carried unanimously**.

**Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: Given by Claire Remington.**

- Rental inspections to start and 1 condemnation of a property happened today on Phillips Street. Phillips Street and High Street have issues with demolitions as these properties need a Structural Engineer to approve it is structurally sound to take down the condemned properties attached to homes that are being occupied.

**Jr. Council Report: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration:** Given by Kim Gavornik.

- The Secretary job position was posted in Times News three times. She suggested posting on Indeed for \$30/day. **Motion** made by Michael Radocha to post the Secretary position on Indeed for \$30/day. Seconded by Wayne Figner and motion **carried unanimously**.
- There is no access to the server as it's located in the Police Department, but they are not allowed in without Police present. Solicitor Yurchak will speak with District Attorney Michael O'Pake regarding the issue.
- Council was approved, no fee to the Council, did agree to have Barb Fairchild work in the office for 30 hours. **Motion** made by Jacob Adamitis to approve of Barb Fairchild to work in the office for 30 hours at no fee to the Council. Seconded by Kim Gavornik and motion **carried unanimously**.

**Building:** Given by Michael Radocha.

- Responsibility of shoveling at the Complex and Borough Hall was taken care of.

**Complex:** Given by Wayne Figner.

- Twice there were no-shows for people scheduled basketball practices without notice. For next month, everyone will come up with ideas on what to do for the future no-shows.

**Demolitions/Grants:** Given by Kim Gavornik.

- Demolitions have started.

**Financing/Utilities:** None.

**Handicap:** None.

**Memorial:** None.

**Police:** Given by Kim Gavornik.

- There are two options: rebuilding the police department or partnering with another municipality. Next month they should have something more concrete.

**Police Pension:** Given by Claire Remington.

- This is in the works but also involves the current no police department issue since two officers left before their time.

**Recreation:** Given by Wayne Figner.

- CHOSE confirmed with Michael Radocha that they will be paying for the approval for broken equipment: two brand new pipes, backboard, and whole ball of wax.
- Move benches from Seek baseball field to the Complex field in Spring.

**Streets:** Given by Michael Radocha.

- John Davis will show Michael Radocha how they do end, out close out.

**Old Business:**

- There is a need for an ad to be placed for an EMA Director. **Motion** made by Jacob Adamitis to place an ad for an EMA Director. Seconded by Michael Radocha and motion **carried unanimously**.
- There is one seasonal worker and Claire suggested placing an ad for a second seasonal worker.
- Mayor Ramirez questioned the status of the completion of the audit. 2017 is almost done.
- Mayor Ramirez questioned if purchase orders to track expenditures. President Claire advised anything over \$200 is done with a purchase order but everything is tracked.

**New Business:** None.

**Executive Session: 6:30pm to 7:06pm** Personnel Issues were discussed.

**Motion** made at 9:09 pm to adjourn by Jacob Adamitis and seconded by Wayne Figner. Motion passed **unanimously**.

SUBMITTED BY:

  

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Submitted for approval on January 18, 2025

January 14, 2025