

**COALDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
221/223 Third St., Coaldale, PA 18218  
November 12, 2024 7:00pm

**Call to Order 7:06pm**

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

**Roll Call:** Council President Claire Remington, Mayor Eric Ramirez, Councilwoman Angela Krapf, Councilman Jacob Adamitis, Councilman Michael Radocha, Councilwoman Kim Gavornik, Councilman Frank Hutta, Councilman Wayne Figner, Solicitor Robert Yurchak and Treasurer Catherine Papesh.

**Audience Attendance:** Approximately 10 members of the public in attendance (from video recording).

**Public Participation:**

- Robert Demyanovich, 225 W Phillip St, Coaldale. Wanted to know if anything came about regarding request for CHOSE audits, quarterly reports, financials, and activities. Council president responded that she has seen nothing. Angela Krapf said they don't have to turn anything over to anybody. Mr. Demyanovich then asked about the basketball court. Secretary Beth Martinico responded that it's in the hands of the attorneys.
- Jeffrey A Gangaware, 226 W Howard Ave, Coaldale. Stated he was here speaking as a taxpayer and resident of Coaldale for over 30 years. Listed his many contributions as a volunteer to organizations in town. Asked for borough president to resign after her conduct towards him at last council meeting.
- Francis Hutta III, 120 W Lehigh St, Coaldale. Representing the Hutta Boys. Mentioned he sent and received receipt of certified letter to borough. Asked if borough came up with a resolution regarding accusations. Was told that they haven't seen the letter yet since it was just received. Claire asked Mr. Hutta to read letter. In part, he read he was going to suspend all current and future work by Hutta Boys (Joe Hutta Plumbing & Heating and Experts Roofing) on borough property until borough addresses and resolves accusations of illegal dumping as accusations misrepresent their companies and damage their reputations. Atty. Yurchak advised council not to respond as it is pending investigation. Mr. Hutta asked to be kept up to date.

**Approval of previous minutes:** Angela Krapf asked for change of typographical error and disagrees with having a person's name become part of the official minutes. **Motion to accept the minutes after corrections are made** by Jake Adamitis, second by Kim Gavornik. **Motion passed.**

**Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills:**

- **Motion to approve bills to be paid** made by Jake Adamit, second by Wayne Figner. **Motion passed.**
- Borough Treasurer stated that based on recommendations from STMP program to consolidate some checking accounts, the general, payroll, complex, project, business, and clearinghouse accounts would remain but recommended closing the memorial, recreation and animal accounts because they have hardly any balances and can be used as a line item in the budget. Further recommends transferring some money from sewer maintenance and sanitation from JTNB to PLIGT for higher interest rate. Angela Krapf asked about the interest rates. They are 4.5% at PLIGT and less than 1% at JTNB.
- **Motion to close accounts and transfer money per Treasurer's recommendations** made by Frank Hutta, second by Jake Adamitis. **Motion passed.**
- Treasurer discussed ARPA allocation. There is some going to salary, some to complex for windows, police got some new tech equipment, Kenesky bill, only \$3,000 left.

**Mayor's Report: (Rameriz)**

Nothing currently.

**President's Report: (Remington)**

- Based on recommendations of the STMP committee who said we have too many committees, new committee appointments were handed out. Asked members if they were in agreement with new assignments. No disagreements noted.
- Need to fill vacancy of vice president of council. Opened discussion for nominations resulting in two nominations: Jake Adamitis nominated himself. Seconded by Wayne Figner. Angela Krapf nominated Kim Gavornik. Seconded by Claire Remington.
- **ROLL CALL Vote for Jake Adamitis:** Wayne Figner YES, Frank Hutta NO, Kim Gavornik YES, Jacob Adamitis YES, Michael Radocha NO, Angela Krapf NO, Claire Remington NO.
- **ROLL CALL Vote for Kim Gavornik:** Wayne Figner NO, Frank Hutta YES, Kim Gavornik NO, Jacob Adamitis NO, Michael Radocha YES, Angela Krapf YES, Claire Remington YES. Kim Gavornik is Vice President of Council

**Secretary's Report: (Martinico)**

- Kline's Hill Project. We find inspector, we hire inspector, we advertise project to start. Sent out eight letters for statements of interest. The letter was read aloud. One company (RK&K) responded to date. They have til November 26 to respond.
- **Motion to ratify letter** made by Frank Hutta, second by Jake Adamitis. Motion passed unanimously. Michael Radocha questioned if inspector's fees are included in the grant. They are.
- Lori Rutch, Blueprint Community found grant for Holiday Lights. In process of getting quotes, and letters of support from Lansford, Nesquehoning, Summit Hill, Rep. Barton and Sen. Argall.
- **Motion to ratify letter** made by Frank Hutta, second by Kim Gavornik. **Motion passed.**
- Discussion of replacing banners as well as holiday lights.
- SIENA Law (labor attorney) 4% increase for next year.
- Discussion of dates to be advertised for 2025 – committee meetings, council meetings, information nights. Discussion of meetings at complex. Correction noted that address of Complex is 150 W Phillip St.
- **Motion to accept dates for 2025 meetings** made by Frank Hutta, second by Wayne Figner. **Motion passed.**

**Police Report: (Gavornik)**

- District justice fines \$224.25, Parking tickets \$200, Moving permits \$60, Yard sale permits \$5, Accident Reports None. Total revenue \$489.25. Total miles patrolled 2,871 miles, Calls for service 91. Traffic enforcement: 23 parking tickets, 7 traffic citations, 6 criminal arrests involving misdemeanors, felony and/or summary.
- **Motion to approve the police report** by Frank Hutta, second by Jake Adamitis. **Motion passed.**

**Solicitor Report: (Atty. Yurchak)**

- Nuisance Act – demolition of properties. Atty Yurchak gave two addresses to sheriff's dept to serve notices, the W Howard Ave first and then W Phillip St
- Advertisement on property maintenance. Luis indicated everything is good and we have the go ahead to advertise. **Motion to advertise** made by Angela Krapf, second by Michael Radocha. **Motion passed.**
- Need for resolution for winter parking fine fees for violations, nothing currently in ordinance. Council has to establish fines. Discussion on contacting other towns for their fee schedule. Atty Yurchak will make those contacts. Discussion on towing company. No decision.
- Council was advised that 3 weeks ago Gov Shapiro signed Act 131 allowing council to raise pay for council members and mayor. Would not affect anyone currently seated, only new members. Act 131 sets the cap for boroughs under 5,000 residents from current of \$1,875 to new \$3,145 for council members, and current of \$2,500 to new \$4,190 for mayor. No action taken.

**Fire Report: (Adamitis)**

- 1 building fire in borough, 1 building fire outside borough, 1 vehicle accident, 1 mutual aid call, 3 automated aid calls, 2 public service calls, 1 false alarm, 1 wire down, 1 fire police, 1 CO2 call. 13 total calls for October 2024, 185 YTD. **Motion to accept fire report** made by Frank Hutta, second by Wayne Figner. **Motion passed.**

**Code Enforcement/Zoning Report: (Luis Negron)**

- Luis was present and had no official report. Stated that when the 2021 code is approved at December meeting he can go after 25 properties that need to be addressed. Copy needs to be sent to magistrate.
- Asked for additional day in borough to take care of property maintenance issues.

**Jr. Council Report: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration: (Gavornik)**

Nothing currently.

**Building/Complex: (Remington)**

- Complex lighting. The Phillip St side is dark. Robert Kenesky Electrical Contractor , provided a quote of \$485 to install lighting there. **Motion to accept quote** made by Angela Krapf, second by Michael Radocha. **Motion passed.**
- Discussion by Michael Radocha about deteriorating condition of steps on Phillip St side and back wall and need for improvement.
- Discussion to add light on 6<sup>th</sup> St side, not to exceed \$1,000. **Motion made to add light not to exceed \$1,000** made by Angela Krapf, second by Michael Radocha. **Motion passed.**
- Locks for borough garage and gate. To address issue of too many keys to the borough garage and to the gate to property across the highway, Kim Gavornik contacted locksmith regarding keys that cannot be duplicated. She suggests purchasing 4 new locks, keyed alike (one for each of 3 garage doors and one for gate for property across the highway) with a set of 6 Do Not Duplicate keys at a cost of \$1,062,17. **Motion to purchase locks** made by Kim Gavornik, second by Michael Radocha. **Motion passed.**

**Demolition/Grants: (Remington)**

- Update of demolition of 261 High St. 257 High is fully remodeled. 259 High not touched yet. Was told he needed an engineer to come in say it was safe to tear down 261. Owner disagrees that it is his responsibility to pay for the engineer. Then said we needed to have structural engineer, now just need a plan to renovate 259 before tearing down building. Would borough take on expense of engineer? Could we put a lien on 259 to pay for it? County said 1) they didn't know it was attached 2) get an engineer 3) as long as he is fixing 259 and has a plan we are ok. Michael Radocha if we have money to do it, proceed. Sec'y says we have to have it done by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. **Motion to hire engineer NTE \$5,000** made by Wayne Figner, second by Michael Radocha. **Motion passed.**
- Further discussion about putting lien on house

**Financing/Utilities: (Gavornik)**

- 2025 Budget. Kim Gavornik asked if members got a copy and they were in agreement with it. Positive responses. Asked if it can be advertised. Yes. Budget is balanced at \$1,721,006.62 **Motion to advertise budget** made by Jake Adamitis, second by Frank Hutta. **Motion passed.**
- Reached out to magistrate and will be taking those who have enormous trash bills to magistrate starting in December. Trying to collect in house instead of going to Portnoff to avoid additional fees (other than court costs) to the customer.
- Claire emphasized no new taxes this year. Angela questioned how to handle increased costs if not raising taxes. Claire answered how things would get paid and said to brace yourself with what would happen in 2026 with the assessment.

Airing of grievances ensued and secretary left the meeting at this point.

#### **Handicap: (Figner)**

- Wayne Figner stated no new applications this month and the last one was denied. Discussion on particulars of last application that was denied. Suggestion to re-do the application to be clearer. Suggestion to table it for now and review the application. **Motion to table action** made by Jake Adamitis, second by Frank Hutta. **Motion passed.**

#### **Police (Gavornik)**

- Kim discussed hiring of a Chief. She wants to wait until we are in a better position including: being more financially stable, have policies and procedures in place, updated ordinances, and resolve communication issues before we move in that direction. Also, next time we hire a chief we should have PACHIEFs do the interview.  
Kim spoke about hiring an Officer in Charge (OIC). She is not in favor of doing that right now and asked for discussion. There was none. Mike Sniscak is handling the duties of Officer in Charge.  
Discussion about opening the police contract for Officer in Charge with fee scale. Also, have an officer stay on past the age of 62 until the contract is up next year with contingencies.  
Atty Yurchak said he prefers a Memorandum of Understanding to add OIC to contract rather than opening the contract which could lead to discussions of other areas we are not prepared to discuss now.  
**Motion to do a Memorandum of Understanding to add OIC with fee scale and job duties** made by Frank Hutta, second by Jake Adamitis. **Motion passed.**  
**Motion to do a Memorandum of Understanding to allow officer to stay past age 62 with contingencies** made by Frank Hutta, second by Wayne Figner. **Motion passed.**
- Council received a letter from the Fire Company regarding their interest in the sale of the police truck and Kim read the letter. At present, council is looking to sell truck to Tamaqua. Discussion of keeping the police truck in town to help fire company vs selling to Tamaqua. Several members pointed out the help Tamaqua provides to town in the form of lending us their sewer truck and street sweeper at no charge to town. Jake suggests council sit down with Fire Company to discuss. Angela suggested talking to Fire Company as well. Atty Yurchak concurred with that suggestion.  
**Motion to table action to next meeting** made by Frank Hutta, second by Jake Adamitis. **Motion passed.**
- Kim mentioned there is an officer that wants to take training to become a detective.

#### **Police Pension (Remington)**

Claire said there is nothing new to report. Problems with PMRS continue. Council wants to get everything in to one pension company.

#### **Memorial (Krapf)**

- Claire said there is nothing to be done with the memorial for now as we do not have enough money for the lights. Action delayed.

#### **Recreation (Krapf)**

- Angela talked about taking the remaining backboard down. Attorney involved in lawsuit advised against it.

#### **Streets: (Hutta)**

- Banners – are we storing them or giving them back? Some are in very bad shape. Contact Sherry. Suggestion of having banners hung on poles down main street instead of in front of relative's house. No decision as to what to do next year. If it's decided not to hang them next year, they will be returned to the person who purchased it.
- 2025 season repairs. Will go over with Michael Radocha for action in the spring. Michael pointed out that one of the streets listed is already paved.

Kim had Brian make a list of what streets should be done. Frank pointed out that Kim is not on the committee and why would she ask Brian to make a list.  
Kim objected to her name being brought up regarding specific events at last meeting.

Airing of grievances resumed.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**Adjournment approx. 8:30pm**

**Motion to adjourn** made by Frank Hutta and seconded by Wayne Figner. **Motion passed.**

SUBMITTED BY:

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Marcia Teeno  
Borough Clerk

Submitted for approval on January 14, 2025