

BOROUGH OF NEW FLORENCE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

President, Jim Moore, called the regular meeting of the New Florence Borough Council to order on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the School Building.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Jim Moore
Jeff Rager
Chuck O'Shell
Gwen Dellett
Kay Mayer
Jeff Miller, Solicitor

Absent:

Ron Gyure
Kristen Teeter
Neva Gindlesperger, Mayor
Mary Strucaly, Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Watt presented a letter from the Westmoreland County Federated Library System offering extended WiFi to the New Florence Library. The extended range would be enough to cover the Borough Building. As a result, the borough may be able to save some costs on internet service.

POLICE REPORT

No Police Report

Jeff Rager reported on the recent interview of Mr. David Ling for the position of Ordinance Officer. Following discussions, Mr. Rager made a motion to hire Mr. Ling on a probationary basis for three months at \$15.00 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours weekly plus mileage. The motion was seconded by Chuck O'Shell. All in favor. The motion passed. Jeff Miller will prepare an employment contract.

Jim Moore reported that St. Clair Township has asked the Borough if they would be interested in joining them and Seward Borough to discuss the possibility of contracting police services from St. Clair Township.

Mike Koch, St. Clair Township Supervisor addressed council. He said all options will be on the table. Jim Moore and others discussed the unsuccessful attempt by the borough in 2015 to contract services from St. Clair Township. Jim Moore polled the council members present on their willingness to join the talks.

Jeff Rager – No
Chuck O'Shell – No
Kay Mayer – Yes
Gwen Dellett – Yes (with reservations)

Jim Moore – Yes (with reservations)

Jim Moore agreed to attend the first joint meeting.

Jim Moore will run new ads for police officer in Johnstown, Indiana ad Greensburg papers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chuck O'Shell made a motion to accept the regular August meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Gwen Dellett. All in favor. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Moore reviewed the Treasurer's Reports.

Jeff Rager made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for July 2020 and August 2020. The motion was seconded by Chuck O'Shell. All in favor. The motion passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT - Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller reported that he has sent letters to the Tombs (Furnace Lane) and Robsons (Sassafras Street) as the condition of their properties violates borough ordinances.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, & EQUIPMENT – Ron Gyure, Chair; Kristen Teeter, Second

Mark Watt is contacting fence repair contractors for costs to repair the damaged fence at the school.

Jim Moore reported that he asked Robson Architectural Services to revamp the plans for the ADA compliant entrance on the east side of the school building to include a wheelchair ramp. This is because the lift at the front of the school is no longer operational.

STREETS & DRAINS – Chuck O'Shell, Chair; Jeff Rager, Second

Jeff Rager reported on a second site survey conducted with EADS Engineering regarding the 9th Street Stormwater project. The scope of the project was revised. The work will now begin at Mulberry Street and drain west to Ligonier Street. Jim Moore reviewed the CDBG grant application for project as prepared by Alyssa Rouser of EADS. The project will include approximately 500 linear feet of new 18" pipe and 9 new precast concrete catch basins. The total estimated cost of the

project is \$191,000.00 plus engineering fees of \$29,500.00. The Borough will be responsible to provide 15% of the total project costs.

Jim Moore made a motion that council approve the \$29,500.00 borough matching funds for the project. Gwen Dellett seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

Jeff Rager reported that he walked the borough's storm drain system with EADS to identify the catch basins that are in the most need of cleaning and repair. Eighty-five catch basins were identified. EADS Engineering prepared a request for proposal for the cleaning work.

Jim Moore made a motion to have EADS send out the proposal and collect bids for the work. Jeff Rager seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

SESQUICENTENNIAL – Ron Gyure, Chair

No Report

GRANTS & FUNDING- Gwen Dellett, Chair

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Moore reported that Officer Chilcote contacted him to arrange for return of borough equipment later this month.

Jim Moore reported that he contacted the District Attorney's office regarding disposition of items in the police evidence locker and is awaiting a return call.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Moore reported that he received a call regarding the fire escrow check previously received for the house that burned on 7th Street last year. He was informed that the house may soon be sold, and the money will need to be returned. The borough has been holding the funds since April 2019. The borough will coordinate with St. Clair Township on proper disposition of these funds as the property lies just outside the borough line.

Chuck O'Shell reported that Compass Excavating has camera scoped the stormwater line on 13th Street between Vine and Sassafras Streets. The line was clear. The total cost was \$450.00.

Chuck O'Shell also presented a quote from Compass Excavation to replace the storm line under the roadway at the west end of 15th Street as well as clean out approximately 300' of the associated drainage ditch. The quoted cost is \$5,256.00. Mark Watt said he will solicit additional quotes for this work.

Chuck O'Shell reported that he was approached by Mr. Dean Smuro about paving a portion of his property for a parking lot. The area in question is approximately 4500 square feet immediately northwest of the intersection of 12th and Penn Streets. The borough will contact the Westmoreland County Conservation District as well as the Middle Department Inspection Agency regarding this request. Mark Watt will also inspect the proposed site to determine the borough right of way and make sure it will not be adversely affected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURN

Jeff Rager made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gwen Dellett. All in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.