

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
January 6, 2020
Minutes of Meeting

Attendance

Council members: Todd Bartlow, Joshua Bennett, Art Cicero, Linda Echard, Scott Sistik, Ray Strosko, Tom Theis, and Mayor Ronald Echard. Also: Borough Solicitor John Campfield, Borough Engineer Emil Bove and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin.

Welcome

Mayor Ronald Echard welcomed everyone to the borough's 2020 reorganization meeting at 5:30 PM.

Oath of Office Administered to Volunteer Fire Dept. Officers

Ron administered the oath of office to the new elected New Stanton Fire Department officers: Chief Robert S. Cammarata, Jr., Chaplain Barry D. Smith, President David R. Hauger, Vice President Samantha H. Lipp and Recording Secretary Harry R. Leasure.

Oath of Office Administered to Newly Elected/Re-Elected Council Members

Ron administered the oath of office to the new elected Council Members: Todd Bartlow, Arthur Cicero and Thomas Theis.

Nominations for / Election of President of Council

Tom made a motion seconded by Todd nominating Ray Strosko as President of Council. Motion passed unanimously.

Nominations for / Election of Vice President of Council

Tom made a motion seconded by Todd nominating Linda Echard as Vice President of Council. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Linda who abstained.

Nominations for / Election of President Pro-Tem

Tom made a motion seconded by Todd nominating Todd Bartlow as President Pro-Tem. Motion passed unanimously.

Call to Order

President Raymond Strosko called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

Invocation

Linda asked for a Moment of Silence for the victims of recent crashes on the PA Turnpike and I-70.

She then recited a prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

Bills

Josh made a motion seconded by Scott approving the bills in the amount of \$39,676.09. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Art who abstained.

Approval of Minutes

Scott pointed out that the date of the meeting listed in the minutes was wrong.

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 with the correction of the date. Motion passed with Tom, Todd, Linda and Ray voting yes and Josh, Scott, and Art abstaining.

Opportunity for Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda

Former Councilmember Tom Smith turned in his borough office key to Ray.

Council Additions to Agenda

Tom asked that *Discussion Regarding Animal Control* be added as agenda item number 1.

Opportunity for Public Comment -- on Agenda Items Only

There were no comments on the agenda items.

Agenda

1. Discussion Regarding Animal Control

Council invited Ivan Kesler, from Sable Kennel Animal Control to present regarding his firm's interest in serving as the borough's animal control officer.

After Mr. Kesler's presentation and discussion, Jeff was asked to check with other municipalities to determine their experience with Sable.

Todd made a motion seconded by Linda approving the hiring of Sable Animal Control through January 21, 2020 on which date council would consider them for the rest of the year, based on receipt of a revised contract presented by Sable Animal Control removing the language about dogs being humanely destroyed. for the remainder of the year. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Scott who voted no.

Chief's Report

Ray invited Fire Chief Rob Cammarata to present his monthly report that was provided to council. He also stated that the fish fries will start at the end of February and the gun bash will be March. He stated that some of volunteers have been receiving a stipend of \$5 per call if they make more than 50% of the calls. The funds are coming through the grant that Hempfield is administering. They are also using grant funds to recruit more volunteers. The FD with the help of Henninger Accounting has submitted their 501(c)3 application. Rob invited council members to their annual dinner on January 18th. He stated that they visited the factory about the fire truck and did some fine-tuning about the specifications.

2. M/V on Appointment of Solicitor

Linda made a motion seconded by Todd to appoint John Campfield of Campfield and Ferraro as Borough Solicitor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. M/V on Appointment of Engineer

Art made a motion seconded by Josh to appoint Bove Engineering as Borough Engineer. Motion passed unanimously.

4. M/V on Appointment of Sewage Enforcement Officer

Tom made a motion seconded by Josh to appoint Bove Engineering as Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion passed unanimously.

5. M/V on Resolution 2020-929 -- Appointment of the Chair of the Vacancy Board

Linda made a motion seconded by Josh to pass Resolution 2020-929 appointing Donna Bailey as Chair of the Vacancy Board. Motion passed unanimously.

6. M/V on Animal Control Officer

Discussed earlier.

7. M/V to Pay \$850.50 WCTA Local Share Assessment of 2019-2020

Scott made a motion seconded by Linda to pay the Westmoreland County Transit Authority (WCTA) Local Share Assessment in the amount of \$850.50. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Art who abstained.

8. M/V to Renew 2020 Workmen's Compensation Insurance

Jeff stated that the cost went down \$2,734 compared to last year.

Tom made a motion seconded by Josh to renew the Workmen's Compensation insurance through agent Simpson-McCraday at a cost of \$14,032. Motion passed unanimously.

9. M/V to Renew 2020 Property & Liability Insurance with Century Insurance Consultants

Jeff stated that the cost went up \$341 compared to last year.

Tom made a motion seconded by Josh to renew the Property and Liability Insurance through agent Century Insurance at a cost of \$21,105. Motion passed unanimously.

- 10. M/V on Resolution 2020-930 Appointing James Evans to Planning Commission**
Jeff stated that James Evans reapplied to serve a 4-year term on the Planning Commission.

Scott made a motion seconded by Tom adopting Resolution 2020-930 appointing James Evans to the Planning Commission for another 4-year term. Motion passed unanimously.

- 11. M/V on Resolution 2020 Appointment to Planning Commission**
Jeff stated that there is another opening on the Planning Commission and asked if there were any nominations. There were none.

- 12. M/V on Resolution 2020 Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board**
Jeff stated that Melvin Steele reapplied to serve a 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Scott made a motion seconded by Art adopting Resolution 2020-931 appointing Melvin Steele to another 3-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Ray who voted no.

- 13. Discussion on 2020 Budget – M/V to Reopen or Remain Closed**
Scott made a motion seconded by Josh to keep the budget closed. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Art who voted no.

- 14. Appointments to Committees of Council by Council President**
Ray asked the councilmembers to submit their desired committee appointments to Jeff who will pass them along to him.

- 15. 2020 Pay Resolutions**
- a. **M/V on Assistant Secretary (Resolution 2020-932)**
 - b. **M/V on Public Works Team Leader (Resolution 2020-933)**
 - c. **M/V on 1st Class Laborer – Humes (Resolution 2020-934)**
 - d. **M/V on First Class Laborer – Sever (Resolution 2020-935)**
 - e. **M/V on Borough Manager (Resolution 2020-936)**
 - f. **M/V on Code Enforcement Officer (Resolution 2020-937)**
 - g. **M/V on UCC Inspector (Resolution 2020-938)**
 - h. **M/V on Part-Time Seasonal Park Employee (Resolution 2020-939)**
 - i. **M/V on Part-Time Casual Snow-Plow Operator (Resolution 2020-940)**

Todd made a motion seconded by Tom to adopt pay resolutions 2020-932 through 2020-940. Motion passed with all voting in favor with the exception of Art who voted no.

Reports

Administrative

Ray asked that the Engineer's Report be next because Emil had to attend another borough reorganization meeting.

Engineer's Report

Emil reported that:

- He would be contacting the Farlow's about getting an easement for the sewer line that would need to be moved. The Farlow's wanted to wait until after the holidays to address the request.
- He has started the park survey.
- Hopefully, the sealcoating contracted for last year and the Shrader Hollow culvert replacement will be completed this year.
- We will have to decide whether we want to use the 2020 liquid fuels money for paving or for storm sewers.

Tom asked about East Post Avenue. Emil stated that there are a lot of utilities that run through that area to work around. There is also a fear of a lot of rock in that area.

Jeff stated that Emil will have to do a survey for the Rachael Drive Roundabout because PennDOT is requiring an engineer-stamped drawing of the landscaping plan.

Jeff also reported that two property owners, one on N. Center and the other on S. Center verbally agreed to allow telephone poles to be installed on their properties on which to mount an electric meter for the Christmas lights. The property lines for both properties will have to be determined in relation to the right-of-way. John stated a license agreement will be needed with the owners.

John asked about N. Rachel Drive. Emil stated some additional work to the slopes surrounding the road need seeded to prevent erosion before the borough can accept the road.

Planning Commission

Jeff stated that the January Planning Commission meeting will be held on January 8, 2020 regarding the MAWC building project. He also reported that 20 people have signed up for the PMPEI Planning Commission training which will be held at the council chamber on January 15th, 22nd and 29th. So far 20 people have registered.

Borough Manager

No report.

Code Enforcement

Scott's report was in the agenda packet.

Solicitor's Report

John updated council on Sheetz which filed a Conditional Use appeal with the Court of Common Pleas. The borough has to file information regarding the appeal. John stated that he spoke to the attorney from Sheetz. He stated that the attorney told him that they would like to work things out and that they presented landscaping plans to the adjacent hotel and they were okay with them.

Fire Department Liaison

Rob Cammarata gave the report earlier in the meeting.

Council President

No report.

Mayor

No report.

Personnel

No report.

Public Works/MS4 & Parks

Jeff stated that Public Works has made a great deal of progress on the new floor installation in the ancillary rooms in the public works garage.

Special Events

Josh stated that the Christmas event very well. A good crowd was in attendance.

Financial Report

Scott reviewed the financial report a copy of which was provided to council. Through December 31, 2019: check book balance \$579,867.41 and total all savings accounts: \$1,654,902.12. Taxes remitted between November 1st and December 31st: \$111,744.87.

Building and Real Estate

No report.

Additional Opportunities for Public Comment

Tom Smith commented that as per his understanding of Robert's Rules, the agenda cannot be changed without council's permission. John stated that the council never adopted Robert's Rules.

Jeff thanked council for the adoption of the pay resolutions.

Announcements

Ray stated that the next meeting would be on January 21st.

Safety Committee

Jeff stated that the committee met in December and reviewed vehicle lift safety in anticipation of Public Works purchasing a new lift.

Adjournment

Todd made a motion seconded by Josh to adjourn at 6:50. There were no objections to the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary