

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
IN THE CORNWALL BOROUGH GARAGE

Council President John Karinch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT

Council President John Karinch, Council Vice President Ron Ricard, Marie Tribioli, Steve Tribioli, Al Brandt, Thomas Burton, Bruce Conrad and Mayor Mark Thomas

ALSO PRESENT

Borough Manager Cody Rhoads, Highway Superintendent Tom Smith, Engineer Steve Dellinger and Cornwall Borough Police Chief Brett Hopkins

PUBLIC

Meeting attendance sheet is attached hereto.

PUBLIC COMMENT – WATER & SEWER

No comments.

WATER & SEWER BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

AUTHORIZE SOLICITOR TO REVIEW PROPOSED NORTH CORNWALL AGREEMENT

Al Brandt made a motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to authorize the solicitor to review the agreement. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to approve the director's water and sewer reports. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2021 council meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to approve the reports. Motion passed.

John Karinch complimented Tom Smith on the landscaping around the building. Marie Tribioli confirmed that storm water pipe on Burd Coleman was replaced. Mr. Smith said it was and the owner was happy with the result.

Mr. Karinch read the budget report into the record.

OLD BUSINESS

FIRE COMPANY

Mr. Karinch opened the discussion about the need to replace the ladder truck. He stated that the fire company has the opportunity to purchase a 2012 Pierce 75' aerial from Tobyhanna Township for \$500,000. Mr. Karinch felt that the borough's financial situation was stable enough to afford a \$30,000 payment for the next eight years.

Mr. Brandt said he would rather see a fee for the service instead of taking the money out of the general fund.

Mayor Thomas asked if they had tried to negotiate the price down. He was informed that the price was firm. Mr. Karinch stated that one of the problems with the current truck is that the parts are hard to come by due to the age. Mayor Thomas was skeptical of that assertion.

Mayor Thomas stated that the fire company said at a previous meeting the fire company stated that they had \$150,000 to contribute, now it is down to \$100,000. He was concerned with that change. It was stated that fire company would also be taking out a loan for the fire truck in the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. Ricard said it was important that residents understand that they do not currently pay a fire tax. He talks to a lot of people who believe this. He wants there to be a transparency so that everyone can see the issues at hand.

Mayor Thomas felt that the current mailer for the fund drive was impersonable. Mr. Karinch said the latest one mentioned the issue they are facing with the truck.

Mr. Conrad thought there should be a special council meeting dedicated to the issue of fire protection in the community.

Ms. Tribioli said that by all accounts the truck they are proposing to purchase is a good deal and it is possible they will lose out on it if we continue to wait.

Jeff Bamberger, Pine Street, suggested that Cornwall Manor could be contacted for a donation to the ladder truck.

Mayor Thomas suggested the sale of the 1997 truck should be split between the borough and fire company to be put towards the loans.

There was discussion about a potential consolidation with neighboring municipalities in the future. Mayor Thomas said it might not be smart to pursue that with debt hanging over their head. Mr. Karinch said that consolidation would be too far down the road to decide not to purchase this truck.

After more discussion, Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to finance the borough's portion of the purchase contingent on the ownership agreement being signed by both parties. Al Brandt voted against. Motion passed 6-1.

CEDAR STREET AIRBNB

Mr. Karinch stated that the enforcement notice has been sent to the owners of the property and they had until today's date to respond.

PALMER STREET STOP SIGN

Mr. Karinch reviewed Solicitor Cleary's letter regarding the placement of a stop sign at the bottom of the hill on Palmer Street. Marie Tribioli made a motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to place a stop sign at the intersection of Palmer and Walker Streets. Motion passed.

MINERSVILLAGE TRAILS

Mr. Karinch reviewed Solicitor Cleary's letter regarding liability regarding constructing trails on the borough's property on Boyd Street. It was suggested that the president of SAMBA attend the June planning and zoning meeting to further explain what they would plan to do.

TICE LANE BRIDGE

Mr. Karinch stated that Hanover's letter said they do not and should not design and back the Tice Lane bridge replacement. Mr. Dellinger clarified that the letter means that they cannot design and build the bridge.

Mr. Dellinger stated that their cost estimate for the replacement is \$246,000 and an additional \$37,000-42,000 for permitting and engineering.

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN AND AWARD 2021 PAVING BIDS

The 2021 paving projects consist of Maple Lane, starting at Route 419 and continuing to North Cornwall Road. Ash Lane from 1225 to Beech Lane. Dogwood Drive starting at Spring Hill Lane and ending at Hemlock Lane and Bayberry Court, starting at Ash Lane, and ending at the cul-de-sac.

The bids were as follows:

H+K - \$247,410.50

Highway Materials - \$255,799.88

Pennsy Supply - \$240,932.50

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to accept the bids and award the project to the low bidder, Pennsy Supply, in the amount of \$240,932.50 contingent on a review of the bids by the highway superintendent. Motion passed.

Mr. Conrad asked if there were any projects scheduled on these roads. UGI planned to install two gas services on Maple Lane but after that there is moratorium on cutting the road. The bids were a little over budget, but Mr. Rhoads was confident that they could make it work.

OAK STREET AND FINCH ALLEY

Mr. Karinch reviewed a lengthy discussion from the planning and zoning meeting regarding Oak Street and Finch Alley. It has been a challenge to determine if these two were ever officially abandoned by the borough. The discussion originated due to a resident requesting to build a garage on the alley. There is a difference in the setback if the alley is private as opposed to public.

Jeff Bamberger wanted to know if the same issue applies to Oak Street. He thinks Finch Alley should be accessed from the portion of Oak Street with curbing instead of from Pine Street. He also asked if the alley and street were private, who would be liable if something happened.

After further discussion, it was determined that Solicitor Cleary should be contacted to determine what steps need to be taken to vacate the alley.

CONDITIONAL APPROVAL – REXMONT EC CHURCH LOT ANNEXATION

Mr. Dellinger reviewed the project which would see the back half of the parsonage lot be added to the lot the church is on. Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to approve the Rexmont EC Church lot annexation conditional to the engineer's comments being satisfactorily addressed. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE STORMWATER EXEMPTION – 101 SPRING HILL LANE

Mr. Dellinger reviewed the project at 101 Spring Hill Lane. Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to authorize a stormwater exemption for 101 Spring Hill Lane. Motion passed.

2021 COUNTY AID AGREEMENT

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to authorize the manager to submit the 2021 application for county aid. Motion passed.

SUNOCO RUEM EXTENSION

Marie Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to grant a one-year extension to Sunoco's road use and excess maintenance agreement. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF STEPHEN BLACK LOC ON JUNE 9TH, 2021

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to authorize the release of the letter of credit for Hilltop Estates contingent on a review of the street by the highway superintendent. Motion passed.

CORNWALL JUNCTION STREETLIGHT AGREEMENT

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to sign the agreement with Met-Ed to install streetlights in the Cornwall Junction development.

DESIGNATE BOROUGH MANAGER AS CAO FOR THE PENSIONS

Steve Tribioli made the motion, seconded by Marie Tribioli, to appoint the borough manager position as the Chief Administrative Officer for the uniform and non-uniform pension plans. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE FIRE POLICE TO ASSIST WITH SACRED HEART FESTIVAL

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Thomas Burton, to authorize the fire police to assist with the annual festival to be held at Sacred Heart on July 9th through July 11th. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to adjourn to executive session at 7:50 p.m. Motion passed.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Steve Tribioli, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion passed.

Cody Rhoads
Secretary