

MINUTES OF THE CORNWALL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.
AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

Council President Bruce Harris called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT

Council President Bruce Harris, Council Vice President Bruce Conrad, Council Pro Tem Ron Ricard, John Karinch, Thomas Burton, Beth Yocum, Al Brandt and Mayor Mark Thomas

ALSO PRESENT

Borough Manager Cody Rhoads, Highway Superintendent Tom Smith, Police Chief Brett Hopkins and Borough Engineer Chad Smith

PUBLIC

Meeting attendance sheet is attached hereto

WATER AND SEWER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT – WATER & SEWER

None

NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPT DEDICATION OF BOLLARD SUBDIVISION

There was a portion of Granite Street where the water and sewer facilities were never dedicated. Louie Hurst has completed all the necessary paperwork to complete the dedication. John Karinch made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to accept the dedication. Motion passed.

PUBLIC MEETING – DECEMBER 8TH AT 7 P.M.

Mr. Harris stated that there will be a public meeting on December 8th to explain the process of how water makes its way from Siegrist Dam to the borough.

Mr. Harris said that the borough receives its water from the City of Lebanon Authority (COLA) and sends its waste to COLA as well. The borough has been able to absorb COLA's rate increases over the past few years but are unable to do so in 2023, necessitating an increase for borough residents. The average customer uses 9,000 gallons of water per quarter which would cost \$207.84. That would increase to \$231.24 in 2023.

Mr. Harris stated that the Open Pit contains 6.25 billion gallons of water and has a refresh rate of 500,000 gallons per day. Elizabethtown Area Water Authority currently owns the Open Pit but the borough has had preliminary talks with them about purchasing it. This would necessitate constructing a water treatment plant.

Julie Bowman asked if purchasing the Open Pit would eliminate the need to buy water from COLA. Mr. Karinch felt that the borough would not stop purchasing water from COLA entirely. Currently the borough has an allotment of 325,000 gallons per day from COLA.

CONSIDER AMENDING THE AGENDA

Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to amend the agenda to add Consider Authorizing Resolution 2022-13. Motion passed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION 2022-13

Bruce Conrad made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to adopt Resolution 2022-13 which authorizes the borough to apply for a COVID-19 ARPA PA Water and Sewer Grant for the smart water meter replacement project. Motion passed.

REPORTS

John Karinch made the motion, seconded by Al Brandt, to approve the water and sewer reports. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ursula Bates was having issues with her neighbor blocking the road which prevented access to their house. They do not currently live in the house but are trying to sell it. They stated they were threatened by the neighbors on some of their visits. They asked if the Silver Street could be paved.

Mr. Rhoads stated that street was surveyed and staked off so that the neighbors know where the street is and where their property begins. He suggested that the police are called if they are being harassed so the department can respond and address the situation immediately.

Ms. Bates also questioned if the animals and trash being kept on the property were allowed. Mr. Rhoads stated that the borough will investigate.

Gary Kohr asked if Burd Coleman Road in front of the police station could be changed to a one-way street to see if that would solve any issues before a roundabout is installed. Mr. Rhoads said that he could pass that suggestion on but felt that might cause an issue with traffic then having to make a left turn at the bend to get onto Alden Street.

Linda Kohr stated that the jake brakes are a continued nuisance as well. Mr. Ricard stated that there is a restriction from Cornwall Center to Maple Lane, but he hears them as well.

Julie Bowman stated that the warehouse will be of little help in resolving the issue because the drivers are independent contractors for the most part.

Jeff Bamberger asked if DHL could be contacted to reroute the trucks. He also stated that the state has a truck enforcement crew and wondered if they could be utilized in the borough.

Michelle Hawk, director of the Lebanon Community Library, was asked to provide some statistics about Cornwall residents utilizing the library. In 2021, residents borrowed a value of \$308,000.

Mr. Burton asked how many residents are visiting the library monthly. Ms. Hawk stated that 2,200 residents have a library card. Mr. Burton asked how many are utilizing it monthly though. Ms. Hawk stated she would have to look up that breakdown. A resident stated that you don't necessarily have to physically visit the library anymore as she checks out multiple e-books each month to read.

Ms. Hawk said that people often come to use the library in ways that do not require them to provide which municipality they live in as well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Karinch made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 council meeting. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by John Karinch, to approve the reports. Motion passed.

Mr. Harris read the budget report for October 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE – ADMINISTRATION OF UCC

Mr. Rhoads stated that since the borough is no longer using the county for enforcement, the ordinance will need to be updated to reflect that. John Karinch made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to authorize amending the ordinance as needed. Motion passed.

CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF TIME EXTENSION UNTIL JANUARY 31, 2023, FOR CORNWALL MANOR WOODS CAMPUS PROJECT

Al Brant made the motion, seconded by John Karinch, to accept the time exemption until January 31, 2023 for the Cornwall Manor Woods Campus project. Motion passed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING HANDICAP PARKING SPOT – 361 BOYD

Mr. Harris reviewed a request from a handicapped resident for the addition of a handicap parking space in the vicinity of 361 Boyd Street. Tom Smith reviewed where that was on Boyd Street and stated that it would not be for that specific resident but for anyone who had a handicap placard. Beth Yocum made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to authorize the creation of a handicap parking spot for 361 Boyd Street. Motion passed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF 2023 BUDGET

Mr. Harris stated that there is no tax increase. The highlights include an additional laborer for the highway department and another police officer. This would put the highway department back to five full-time employees and the police department back to eight full-time officers. The budget also includes a new utility truck for the highway department, replacing a 2005 model, and a new

police vehicle. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to authorize advertising the budget. Motion passed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE

John Karinch made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to authorize the purchase of a highway department vehicle and a police vehicle now due to the supply chain issues. Motion passed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING JOINING CORNWALL-LEBANON REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WITH 2023 UPDATE

Jeff Steckbeck reviewed the joint plan at the October meeting. Mr. Karinch asked if the borough retained some independence with a joint plan. Mr. Rhoads stated that there would be independence. The main purpose of a joint plan would be regional planning and the cost savings that come from not having to do our own comprehensive plan update. Chad Smith stated that there would not be joint zoning so the borough would be independent at that level.

After further discussion about the value of a comprehensive plan, council decided to table it until next month so they can get more input from Mr. Steckbeck.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN – 390A REXMONT ROAD

Chad Smith stated that this is a stormwater management plan for a residential dwelling. The planning commission recommended Council grant conditional approval. John Karinch made the motion, seconded by Bruce Conrad, to grant conditional approval dependent on all the comments from Chad Smith being adequately addressed. Motion passed.

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SOLICITOR

Mr. Harris stated that Solicitor Cleary has been the Borough Solicitor for a while and lately has been facing an increased workload. Mr. Harris wanted Solicitor Cleary to meet with the finance committee to discuss the situation.

Mr. Karinch wanted to retain Solicitor Cleary for water and sewer business and have a Lebanon County attorney serve the borough. Mr. Burton wanted the borough solicitor to be from outside of the county. Mr. Harris stated that Solicitor Cleary has done a fantastic job, but he always felt that the borough should have a Lebanon County solicitor. Mr. Conrad felt that this topic deserves further scrutiny. Ms. Yocum stated that Solicitor Cleary has done a fantastic job but saw the merits of having a local attorney. Mayor Thomas and Mr. Brandt wanted to see a change made. Mr. Burton said he would like to keep it outside of the county but agreed we should have a solicitor attend the meetings.

Jeremy Zimmerman asked if consideration would be given to the difference between a borough resident serving as solicitor compared to a county resident. Mr. Karinch said there would be nothing restricting a borough resident from serving as solicitor.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF ERIC TOBIAS

Mr. Harris stated that Eric Tobias has done a great job but due to time constraints he is resigning his position as a part-time police officer. Ron Ricard made the motion, seconded by John Karinch, to accept Eric Tobias' resignation. Motion passed.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Conrad stated that Coffee with Council will be on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, Al Brandt made the motion, seconded by Ron Ricard, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion passed.

Cody Rhoads
Secretary