

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**

ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Robert J. May, Council President
Mr. David W. Eggert, Council Vice President
Rev. D. Michael Bennethum, Councilman
Mr. Michael Fritz, Councilman
Mr. Steve Geibel, Councilman
Mr. Warren Lubenow, Councilman
Mr. Gregory Zawilla, Councilman

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager
Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary
Mr. Derrek Rhoads, GIS/Roadmaster
Deputy Fire Chief Christopher Jordan, Exeter Fire
Mr. Ty Leinneweber, Borough Engineer, SDE
Mr. Barrie C. Kinsey, Borough Mayor
Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor, Kozloff Stoudt

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order by Council President, Mr. Robert J. May, at 7:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the Thursday, February 11, 2021, meeting were distributed to the members of Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. David Eggert made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was distributed to the members of Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the treasurer's report and Ms. Leinbach indicated that the report could be approved as presented and filed for audit. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion approving the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mr. Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$229,835.06 **SEWER:** \$287,597.80 **RESERVE:** \$76,535.71 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$262,439.25 **FIRE TAX:** \$3,217.99

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: All bills requiring payment and ratification from all funds were presented for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the bills. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$48,052.95. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$3,328.72. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$5,833.08. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$413.40. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mr. Michael Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS, PETITIONS

DEPUTY CHIEF CHRIS JORDAN - EXETER FIRE

Deputy Chief Jordan presented this evening with regard to the fire fighter tax relief legislation. Deputy Chief Jordan presented a few months back with regard to this legislation. He noted that in February Exeter Township had voted to increase the relief from 15% to 50% and is requesting that the Borough do the same for the fire fighters who live in St. Lawrence Borough. Mr. May asked if there was any feedback from the school district with regard to the relief that they will be granting; Deputy Chief indicated that since their fiscal year is a little different and they will be meeting with them in regard to this in April or May. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she has received the Ordinance that was passed by Exeter Township and they she is about one third of the way through the wording of the Ordinance since ours is done as a reimbursement. Deputy Chief Jordan also indicated that since Exeter Township implemented the 50% that they have received four new applications so he feels that this will aid in getting volunteers. There was also a discussion about making sure that the ordinance can be amended by Resolution since the process of passing and Ordinance can be quite expensive. The Borough initially when this was passed spent over \$3,000.00 in order to give three residents tax relief for not even \$2,000. This Ordinance should be ready for review and advertisement at the April meeting.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER, SDE

READING REAL ESTATE - Mr. Leinneweber distributed a new plan that he just received today from Reading Real Estate. Mr. Leinneweber indicated that there are still a couple of missing items that were not addressed from his last review letter. The plan did show a pedestrian walkway and a lighting was shown but needs to be verified however posts need to be installed as a base. The proposed parking that his shown is still one space shy of what is required. There was a short discussion about impervious surface and Council asked Mr. Leinneweber if he had any thoughts on how they could gain one additional space. Mr. Leinneweber indicated that he did not but that he also believes that they are counting their ADA space as a parking space which cannot be counted in the total number of spaces required. The other topic discussion was the construction of sidewalks and the three years that Council was going to give them to install. Mr. Leinneweber's recommendation is to set up an escrow for the construction of the sidewalk so that if the construction does not move forward that the money is there for the sidewalk to be done. Ms. London indicated that this could also be done as a letter of credit. This policy is in the ordinance but has not always been implemented however it is the recommendation of our professionals that when it comes to deferral of construction for improvements that this policy be enforced.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - BARRIE KINSEY

The police report was available for review and Mr. Kinsey's report is in the minutes for review.

PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 845-2021 – Resolution 845-2021 reappoints Ms. Tracy Whitman to the Planning Commission for a 5-year term expiring April of 2026. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion to adopt Resolution 845-2021 reappointing Ms. Whitman to the Planning Commission for a 5-year term; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

RESIGNATION OF TYLER NEIWENDER - Mr. Neiswender is resigning from the Planning Commission due to a work conflict and inability to attend meetings. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to accept Mr. Neiswender's resignation from the Planning Commission; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION 846-2021 – Resolution 846-2021 appoints Mr. Joseph Ravert to the Planning Commission to fulfil the vacancy and remaining term of Mr. Neiswender set to expire April 2024. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion to adopt Resolution 846-2021 appointing Mr. Ravert to the Planning Commission; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

SANITARY SEWER

SSO - Mr. Rhoads Public Works report reported that there was a sanitary sewer overflow on the 3900 block of Kline Avenue in the wooded area. The roots were cleared however the plan is to have the line televised and relined. It is also recommended by Mr. Rhoads and Ms. Leinbach to have the other lines that are in wooded areas televised and relined to avoid any future issues.

RECREATION

EASTER EGG HUNT – There will be no Easter Egg Hunt this year due to COVID.

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM - Ms. Leinbach indicated that we are still investigating the options for having a summer playground program. This was discussed and Council would like to be prepared to open the playground. Further discussion and final decisions will be made in April.

MUNICIPAL LANDS

TREES - The Borough has purchased trees for the wooded areas and the open area around the Penns Grant region. Mr. May has donated \$25.00 for the purchase of the trees.

MET ED- Mr. Lubenow indicated that Met Ed is clear cutting trees around and under the power lines and just wanted to know if the Borough was aware to which Ms. Leinbach indicated that she was aware that it was going to be done but thought it was going to be done later in the year.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be going out shortly; Mr. Lubenow will contact the Borough office with a date for his hike and the notice of no Easter Egg Hunt will be published.

LIBRARY LIAISON - REV BENNETHUM

Curbside pickup is still being offered for the library.

OLD BUSINESS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST - Mrs. Eggert indicated that she has received all of the statements with the exception of Mr. Leinneuber and Ms. London.

ACRYOLABS – Mr. Fritz asked what the status was on the request of Acryolabs to construct the sidewalks since they are at least 3 years passed the deadline to install such sidewalks. There was a discussion and Council would like to move forward with the notice of violation and let them appeal it to the Zoning Hearing Board. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to move forward with the enforcement of the violation for the construction of sidewalks; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS


RESOLUTION 847-2021 - Resolution 847-2021 will appoint Mr. Golashovsky as the fire marshal/fire investigator for the Borough. There was some discussion. **MOTION:** Mr. Steve Geibel made the motion to adopt Resolution 847-2021 appointing Mr. Golashovsky as a Borough fire marshal and investigator; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; Mr. May, Rev Bennethum, Mr. Lubenow, Mr. Geibel, Mr. Fritz and Mr. Zawilla voting in favor; Mr. Eggert voting nay.

WOMEN'S CLUB - Mr. Eggert indicated that the Women's Club is asking permission to have their election day sale of sandwiches, soup and baked goods for the upcoming May election. They would like to use the room upstairs to make the sandwiches in the morning and then to sell outside where they sold at the November election. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion allowing the Women's Club to hold their May election day sandwich sale and use the room upstairs to make the sandwiches the morning of and then to go outside to sell; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

SINKING CURB - Mr. Fritz indicated that the curb at the intersection at Levan and St. Lawrence Avenue is sinking and asked if Mr. Rhoads could investigate this further.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert
Borough Secretary