

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 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

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager  
Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary  
Mr. Derrek Rhoads, GIS/Roadmaster  
Mr. Ty Leinneuber, Borough Engineer, SDE  
Ms. Joan London, Borough Solicitor, Kozloff Stoudt  
Mr. Barrie C. Kinsey, Borough Mayor

**ABSENT:** Mr. Gregory Zawilla, Councilman

**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 previous meeting of Thursday, March 11, 2021, 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 Mr. Michael Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was distributed to the members of Council prior to the meeting for review and Ms. Leinbach indicated that the treasurer's report could be approved as presented and filed for audit. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve 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:** \$258,304.20 **SEWER:** \$290,507.28 **RESERVE:** \$76,566.84 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$305,851.45 **FIRE TAX:** \$13,340.91

**APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** All bills requirement payment and ratification were presented to the Council for review. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$96,538.62. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$16,512.12. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the fire tax fund totaled \$159.00. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to all bills presented. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

## **PUBLIC HEARING AND PETITIONS**

**(E-MAIL FROM ZOOM) KAY OSWALD** - Ms. Oswald is a resident at 253 Elm Street. Ms. Oswald e-mailed with regards to the street sweeping. Although she is happy that street sweeping is being done she is not happy that both sides of the street are being done on the same day because it leaves them nowhere to park and doesn't believe that that was a reasonable decision. Mr. Rhoads addressed this complaint; the street was posted on both sides no parking however the even number side of the street was marked no parking for Thursday and the odd number side of the street was marked for no parking on Friday therefore not both sides of the street were no parking at the same time. Mr. Rhoads will e-mail the resident explaining the situation about the no parking for street sweeping.

## **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER, SDE**

**READING REAL ESTATE** - Mr. Leinneweber indicated that new plans were submitted for parking for Reading Real Estate. These plans were distributed to the members of Council; the plan seems to have met all the requirements that were requested however the escrow is only allowing for a four-foot sidewalk not a five-foot sidewalk and this will be addressed with them. There also needs to be an improvements agreement as well as settlement of outstanding invoices for the plan review. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the plans as submitted contingent upon the improvements agreement which Ms. London will prepare, the escrow for installation of a five-foot sidewalk and the settlement of outstanding invoices for plan review; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**ACRYLABS** - The professionals have contacted that Borough for sidewalk specs for the installation of the sidewalk. No formalized plans have been received to date.

## **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - BARRIE KINSEY**

**POLICE REPORT** - Mayor Kinsey reported that there was nothing of significance of the police report last month.

**MUHLENBERG SHOOTING** - Mr. Lubenow asked Mayor Kinsey if our police were trained in deescalating situations before acting in light of the situation that happened in Muhlenberg where the police shot a man to death during a specified incident. Mayor Kinsey replied that the police are trained in deescalating situations.

## **BUDGET & FINANCE - ALLISON LEINBACH**

**RESOLUTION 848-2021** - Resolution 848-2021 amends the fee schedule adding application fees and administrative costs to spend down accounts to cover costs of professionals that need to be used to review applications or take part in face to face meetings. Mr. Lubenow asked Ms. London if other municipalities have such fees to which she answered yes. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 848-2021 amending the fee schedule to add application fees and administrative costs related to applications; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

## **STREETS & LIGHTS**

**INDUSTRIAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE** - Street sweeping was scheduled after the last Council meeting but before this meeting; the street sweeping actually began today. The quote was for \$2500. There was an extra charge of \$400 for St. Lawrence Avenue which they were authorized to do but canceled because PennDOT actually came through last Friday, April 2 and did St. Lawrence Avenue.

**MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing Industrial Grounds Maintenance to perform the street sweeping at a cost of \$2,500; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020** - The Planning Commission annual report for 2020 was presented to Council for review. The Planning Commission only met one time in the 2020 calendar year to review further plans from Reading Real Estate.

**WOLFE DYE & BLEACH PROPERTY** - Mr. Lubenow also told Council that the Planning Commission had an informal discussion with a potential developer for the Wolfe Dye & Bleach property. The developers who are local had a few ideas for the property one of which are luxury apartments with elevated parking. This was discussed briefly and both Mr. Leinneweber and Ms. Leinbach agreed that no matter what they would like to do with the property they will need to go to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance because of floodplain and the fact that they will be doing more than 50% over the worth of the building in renovations which will trigger a variance. Mr. Lubenow indicated that the Commission would like to work with them to get something done at that location and that this would be a good fit since the entire area is already residential.

#### **SANITARY SEWER**

**REQUEST FROM PHOEBE/JOHN F. LUTZ APARTMENTS** - A request letter was in the packet from Phoebe requesting that the late fees be waived on their sewer bill because of the slowness of the mail. Council agreed that the mail is unusually slow and that they would be willing to forgive this one time but that they should look into paying electronically since it is available knowing that the mail is slow. Mrs. Eggert will let them know that is definitely a one-time waiver and that no further waivers would be granted. **MOTION:** Mr. Steve Geibel made the motion authorizing the waiving of the late fee on the sewer bill for this one-time only; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; Mr. Geibel, Rev. Bennethum, Mr. Lubenow, Mr. Eggert, and Mr. Fritz voting in favor; Mr. May opposed; the motion carried.

#### **TRASH & RECYCLING**

The trash was picked up first this week and Mascaro apologized for the mistake.

#### **MUNICIPAL LANDS**

**AILANTHUS** – Mr. Lubenow indicated that there are cluster of ailanthus trees in the back of the woods that need to be removed. Mr. Lubenow will get with Mr. Rhoads to take care of the problem. Mr. Rhoads also indicated that he wants to get up there also to check on the fire lane access since there was already one brush fire this year.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**FIRE FIGHTER TAX RELIEF ORDINANCE** - The fire fighter tax relief ordinance was available for review. Ms. London will need to review. There are a few items that need to be reviewed carefully having to do with the application deadlines to file. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made motion authorizing the review of ordinance by Ms. London and advertising the ordinance for adoption at the May meeting; seconded by Mr. Fritz; Mr. Eggert, Mr. May, Mr. Lubenow, and Rev. Bennethum voting in favor; Mr. Geibel abstaining due to personal gain; the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MPBMA GRANT** - There was a letter requesting the Borough's support for a grant opportunity for MPBMA for replacement of seven well pumps. The project could cost up to \$351,000. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authoring a letter of support for the MPBMA seeking grant opportunities for replacement of seven well pumps; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**WAR PLAQUE** - Council asked Mr. Rhoads when the plaque would be installed. Mr. Rhoads plans to have the plaque installed before Memorial Day. Because of COVID a ceremony will not be held until Veteran's Day.

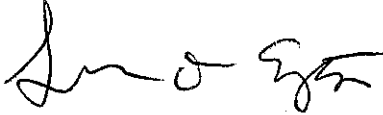
**INCOMING & OUTGOING COMMUNICATIONS**

**ORDINANCE OF LERTA** - Mr. Lubenow indicated that Hunter Ahrens from the Exeter School Board reached out to him inquiring as to whether or not the Borough had an ordinance on LERTA. The answer is no and Mr. Lubenow will reach out to Mr. Ahrens with that answer.

**CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNMENT** - Ms. Leinbach indicated that she received a letter from the Center in Excellence in Government requesting an increase in our sponsorship. The Borough currently contributes \$500; there was a short discussion and no action was taken at this time.

**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 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert  
Borough Secretary