

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018**

**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. Joan London, Borough Solicitor, Kozloff Stoudt  
Ms. Pamela Stevens, Borough Engineer, SDE  
Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager  
Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary  
Mr. Gregory Zawilla, Borough Mayor  
Mr. Keith Stunz, Member of the POS of A  
Mr. Robert Rivers, Member of the POS of A

**ABSENT:** Mr. Rick Davidson, Councilman

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council was called to order at 7:31 PM by Council President, Mr. Robert J. May.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The minutes from the May 10, 2018 meeting were presented to Council for their review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the minutes. **MOTION:** Mr. Warren Lubenow made the motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. David Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report was presented to Council prior to the meeting for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the report. Mr. May indicated that the sewer loan balances are also included on the report for Council's review. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented and file it for audit; seconded by Mr. Michael Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**GENERAL: \$363,141.54 RESERVE: \$74,088.59 SEWER: \$308,591.29 LIQUID FUELS: \$277,276.78 FIRE TAX: \$42,229.14  
FIRE ESCROW: \$24,079.30**

**APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:** All bills requiring payment and ratification from both the general fund and sewer fund were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications. The total amount to be paid or ratified from the general fund is \$73,658.96. The total amount of bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund is \$94,525.39. **MOTION:** Mr. Fritz made the motion to approve payment and ratification of all bills presented from both the general and sewer funds; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS, PETITIONS:**

**KEITH STUNZ** - Mr. Stunz presented before Council on behalf of the Patriotic Sons of America Camp 230. The POS of A is upset about the removal of the benches from their meeting room. Mr. Stunz along with Mr. Rivers claim that all of the benches belong to the POS of A and that they would like to have the nine benches that were removed from their room put back into their room because they use and need them for their meetings. Mr. Rivers gave the background of the ownership of the benches to Council and showed a newspaper photograph of the POS of A using the benches. Mr. Rivers also indicated that the POS of A has done a lot for the Borough over the years. Mr. May apologized to Mr. Stunz and Mr. Rivers on behalf of the Borough Council with regard to the benches indicating that the Borough Council did not know that the benches belonged to the POS of A. Ms. London will draw up an agreement with regard to the possession of nine of the benches to the POS of A. In addition there was further discussion about the monument. Mr. Rivers indicated that the monument does not belong to the POS of A but does belong to the Borough. There have been talks in the past about removing the plaque and hanging it somewhere in the Borough Hall. There will be further discussion next month about moving forward with this action.

**REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - PAMELA STEVENS**

**TURKEY HILL** - Turkey Hill is definitely going to need zoning relief for installation of additional gas pumps. This would encroach into the right of way even further than it already does; a draft letter is being done for Ms. London to review since this will have to go before the Zoning Hearing Board if they decide to pursue the project.

**NOV** - A notice of violation was sent to the resident at 3425 St. Lawrence Avenue for the garage that is falling down that states that the structure has been deemed unsafe and needs to be removed in 60 days.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING** - There will be a Planning Commission Meeting on Wednesday, June 27, at 7:30 PM.

**STORMWATER** – There is information needed for the cell tower, 33 N. Bingaman Street and 11 Ranor Court.

**LIQUID FUELS** – Ms. Stevens needs more information to aid in getting Maci Way added to the liquid fuels map and it needs to be determined whether or not it would be worthwhile to move forward.

**HARVEY AVENUE BRIDGE** – Since this project has started there has been traffic congestion issues with the detour especially on Prospect Street. There has been complaints and the Borough has received a phone call from Central Berks Police about the timing of the traffic signal at Prospect and St. Lawrence Avenue. Ms. Leinbach indicated that she did have a lengthy conversation with the traffic signal contractor. During that conversation the contractor indicated that PennDOT had no plan and that the plan was just to “wing it” and see how it goes; the police have been given the contact information for the contractor and right now it was decided to let the police handle the matter.

**OLEY TURNPIKE ROAD PROJECT** - The contractor for the road project for Oley Turnpike Road tore out all of the manhole risers when milling and then asked the Borough for the new risers. There was no notification that this was going to be done and the risers have been ordered. All of the manholes require custom made risers and will take approximately two weeks to arrive. Apparently PennDOT has been on the contractor about this but since the Borough was given no notification of this there is not much else we can do at this point.

**TREES IN ROW OF STREETS** - Ms. London indicated that the trees in the right of way would fall under the property owner for maintenance however fallen limbs of such trees on the street or in the right of way would be the Borough's responsibility. Ms. London will work on a sample ordinance on tree responsibility for the next meeting.

**SEIDEL STREET** - There has been a parking issue on Seidel Street especially with school buses being able to make the turn. The property owners have been contacted and they agreed to park above the driveway to alleviate this problem in the future. Discussions about opening up parking on the other side of the street was discussed and then making no parking on the other side where potential problems occur due to the layout of the street was discussed as well. There are a few other streets where the same problem arises and therefore all of the streets that have problems will be addressed in one ordinance rather than having to do multiple ordinances. It was noted that there are problems with Ganster and Jacksonwald Avenue at Chestnut; others will be looked at before an ordinance is proposed for adoption.

#### **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON, KOZLOFF STOUTD**

**DRAFT ORD VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS** - Ms. London and Mr. Geibel have been working on a draft ordinance which will give volunteer firefighters tax relief. Exeter Township has passed an ordinance and this draft ordinance is giving pretty much the same relief. Copies were given to Council for review. It was noted that ambulance personnel should also be added to this ordinance as they volunteer as well. There is a list of requirements that Mr. Geibel and Ms. London read that would qualify an individual to get the tax relief. Mr. Eggert will contact Mt. Penn Fire Department for a list of requirements as some of the ones on the Exeter list would not apply to Mt. Penn. Ms. London indicated that Mt. Penn Borough and Lower Alsace Township have not adopted an ordinance. Information would be needed for Lower Alsace Ambulance personnel as well.

**3614/3616 Jacksonwald Avenue** - Mr. Fritz indicated that Mr. Wyllie, who is a resident of the Borough has complained about not being able to access his garage because of the apartments in the alley who park in front. This is also a dedicated fire lane. When the apartments were established there was a variance granted however the fire lane designation was done by ordinance. Ms. London indicated that the ordinance would take precedence. A letter will be sent to the tenants and property owner and the police will be notified to enforce the fire lane designation.

#### **REPORT OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER**

There are multiple enforcements in progress currently.

#### **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR**

**SPEEDING** - The police report was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Fritz commented on the amount of citations vs. warnings with regard to speed. Also Mr. Fritz commented about the speed sensory sign going down closer to the stadium because since the detour has been in place Mr. Fritz indicated that the speed of vehicles has worsened through this area.

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

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** – Central Berks Police have requested a donation of \$500 for National Night Out. The Borough has contributed to National Night Out for the last few years. **MOTION:** Mr. Fritz made the motion to give Central Berks Police a \$500 donation toward National Night Out; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXETER TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT** - Exeter Township School District has sent the Borough a request for reimbursement of the Borough taxes that they paid on the property at 200 Elm Street. A portion of that building is rented to an alternative school and the County has taxed that portion of the school. In the past, the Borough has always reimbursed the Borough portion of the tax bill in the amount of \$179.93. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to reimburse the Exeter Township School District in the amount of \$179.93; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **STREETS & LIGHTS**

**PATTON & TEAK STREET LIGHT** – Ms. Leinbach told Council that she contacted Independence Lighting to give us a quote on a solar light. This is the same company that we purchased the solar light from that is in Orchard Court. We are waiting for a quote on the solar light for this location.

**ELM STREET** - The upper portion of Elm Street is very dark. Ms. Leinbach is also getting a quote for LED street lights in this location because there is easy access to electricity in this area. We are also waiting for a quote on these lights.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION**

**JUNE 27** - The Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, June 27 at 7:30 PM.

**SANITARY SEWER** - Mr. Lubenow indicated that he had attended an event with PA American Water and they would like to have a sit down. Ms. London indicated that she would like to attend the meeting as well; it was determined that this would be the right thing to do since the sewer plant has been sold and to at least listen to what they have to say at this point.

#### **TRASH & RECYCLING**

We are coming up on option year #2 of the trash contract. The annual cost for trash pickup for option year #2 is \$123,660.00. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made the motion authorizing the Borough office to send a letter to J P Mascaro indicating that the Borough would like to enter into option year #2 of the trash contract; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

#### **RECREATION**

**PLAYGROUND OPENING** - The playground will open on June 18. We will be having a morning and evening program again this year depending on attendance and then make the decision for next year.

**DRAG RACING** - Mr. Geibel indicated that he saw teenagers drag racing on Jacksonwald Avenue. The police will be notified of this occurrence since the playground will be opening next week.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR - DAVID EGGERT**

**PAGER** - Mr. Eggert asked if the pager was located because the County will be placing an order for pagers. Mr. Eggert was looking for authorization to purchase a pager. **MOTION:** Rev. Bennethum authorized Mr. Eggert to spend up to \$1000 for a pager; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**EXETER FIRE DEPARTMENT** - Mr. Fritz indicated that he attended a bylaws meeting. Mr. Fritz is concerned and would like to have Ms. London review the bylaws since he was told that by having a seat on the board of directors could hold board members responsible if something goes wrong such as an accident with fire apparatus. He would like to be clarify whether or not he could be held responsible. Upon Ms. London's review he will decide whether or not he really wants to be on the board of directors.

## **ZONING HEARING BOARD**

**ALTERNATES** - The Zoning Hearing Board does not have any alternates currently; we have a married couple Kristin and Matthew Livingood who have been residents of St. Lawrence for over 15 years who would be interested in serving as alternates on the board. Council wishes to name both Kristin and Matthew as alternates. A Resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

## **MUNICIPAL LANDS**

**AILANTHUS TREES** - Ms. Leinbach indicated that the road crew namely Mr. Rhoads and Mr. Meers have been out cutting ailanthus trees down in the open area off of Lynn Avenue. There were a lot of nymphs on the trees.

**ROAD CREW ATTIRE** - Mr. May indicated he would like to see the Borough implement a dress code for the road crew. He feels that they should be wearing long pants and steel tip shoes for safety reasons. He indicated that he knows of several incidences that workman's compensation will deny claims if injuries occur and proper attire is not being worn. There was a discussion and it was determined that the Borough will cover the cost of the first pair of steel tipped boots up to \$100. **MOTION:** Mr. Fritz made the motion to implement a dress code for all road crew to wear long pants and steel tipped boots when doing work for the Borough; seconded by Mr. Robert May; all were in favor and the motion carried.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

The newsletters will be taken to the post office tomorrow. This contains all summer related information.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

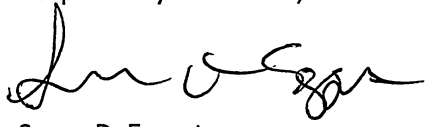
**CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING** – A Resolution to support the citizen's commission for legislative and congressional redistricting was prepared for adoption. Each Council member was given a copy to review and a copy of the Resolution is included in the minutes for review. **MOTION:** Mr. Lubenow made a motion to adopt Resolution 802-2018 giving support of the citizen's commission for legislative and congressional redistricting; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT LETTERS** - Mr. Lubenow asked whether or not the code enforcement letters to the Lutz Apartments and the residents at 3531 Jacksonwald Avenue. Ms. Leinbach indicated that upon further review of the zoning variance decision for the Lutz Apartments that there is nothing that can be enforced. As far as the residents at 3531 Jacksonwald Avenue; they will be asked to paint the curb. Ms. London indicated that this is the only action that can be taken at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**FIRE/EMS PROPOSALS** - This year is the end of the three year proposal for fire and EMS services. Mr. Fritz asked whether or not any reports were received from Lower Alsace Ambulance; Ms. Leinbach indicated that no reports were ever received however no reports were received from Exeter Fire or Mt. Penn Fire either. This will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Mr. Fritz made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Eggert; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 9:03 PM. Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan D. Eggert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "E".

Susan D. Eggert  
Borough Secretary