

**BOROUGH OF ST. LAWRENCE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 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:

Mr. Barrie Kinsey, Borough Mayor
Ms. Allison Leinbach, Borough Manager
Mr. Derrek Rhoads, Borough Road Master
Mrs. Susan D. Eggert, Borough Secretary
Ms. Joan London, Kozloff Stoudt, Borough Solicitor
Mr. Ty Leinneweber, SDE, Borough Engineer

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

BOROUGH APPOINTMENTS 2021 - Mr. May read aloud (list is included in the minutes) all appointments which are a one year appointment to be adopted by Resolution. The 2021 Borough appointments will be Resolution 842-2021. **MOTION:** Mr. David Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 842-2021; seconded by Mr. Warren Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes from the December 10, 2020 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. Lubenow 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 presented to Council prior to the meeting to review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications to the treasurer's report and can 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. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

GENERAL: \$238,215.04 **SEWER:** \$300,760.60 **RESERVE:** \$76,481.96 **LIQUID FUELS:** \$270,704.80 **FIRE TAX:** \$5,439.07

APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Bills needing authorizing for payment and ratification as of December 31, 2020, were presented to Council for review. There were no questions, corrections or clarifications needed. Bills needing authorization for payment and ratification from the general fund totaled \$54,073.56. Bills needing authorization for payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$2,066.61. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification for all bills presented as of December 31, 2020; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried. Bills requiring payment and ratification as of January 14, 2021 were presented to Council for

review. Bills requiring authorization from the general fund totaled \$34,137.77. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the sewer fund totaled \$1,342.33. Bills requiring payment and ratification from the liquid fuels fund totaled \$180.77. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion authorizing payment and ratification of all bills presented as of January 14, 2021; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER - TY LEINNEWEBER

DUSTIN MANZ TIMBER HARVEST - Mr. Leinneweber indicated that this has been completed and Mr. Rhoads went to the site and took pictures. This area has been reseeded and straw has been laid. This site will be looked at again in the spring to be sure that there are no further problems and that the site has been restored to its former state prior to the harvest.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR - JOAN LONDON

FIRE TAX LIENS - Ms. London indicated that the unpaid fire tax liens have been placed and filed. There were three liens.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MAYOR - BARRIE KINSEY

The mayor's report is included in the minutes as well as the police report.

BUDGET & FINANCE - ALLISON LEINBACH

RESOLUTION 844-2021 - Resolution 844-2021 needs to be adopted as the 2021 fee schedule. The only changes from the previous fee schedule are the professional fees such as solicitor and engineers.

MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 844-2021; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

CERTIFICATION OF UNPAID REAL ESTATE TAXES - Mrs. Eggert indicated that the tax collector needs to be exonerated for the collection of eight outstanding real estate tax bills totaling \$4,036.73 to be turned over to the Berks County Tax Claim for collection; this is less than 2% not collected. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to exonerate the tax collector of eight outstanding real estate tax bills for 2020 totaling \$4,036.73 and turn this over to Berks County Tax Claim for collection; seconded by Mr. Lubenow; all were in favor and the motion carried.

CERTIFICATION OF UNPAID FIRE TAX BILLS - Mrs. Eggert indicated that the tax collector needs to be exonerated for the collection of eight outstanding fire tax bills totaling \$388.94 to be turned over to the Borough for collection. Ms. Leinbach indicated that the bills are prepared and will be sent to the residents for collection. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to exonerate the tax collector of the eight outstanding fire tax bills totaling \$388.94 to be turned over to the Borough for collection; seconded by Mr. Fritz; all were in favor and the motion carried.

STREETS & LIGHTS

Mr. Rhoads indicated that the street crew was out crack sealing this week. There are also two street lights that need to be repaired. This will be done next week when the truck is available.

INSURANCE

Ms. Leinbach indicated that the claim for the damaged signal will finally be paid since the repairs have been completed and the invoice was received from Telco.

NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be sent out prior to Easter when a decision about the Easter Egg hunt can be made.

LIBRARY LIAISON – REV BENNETHUM

A thank you letter was received from the Exeter Library for our contribution in 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MEMORIAL PLAQUE - The memorial plaque is downstairs; Mr. Lubenow indicated that he has gotten a few inquiries about the plaque and wanted to know when and where this was going to be displayed. Mr. Rhoads will mark out a few areas prior to the next Council meeting and a decision will be made. Hopefully the plaque can then be displayed by the March Council meeting and a ceremony dedicating the plaque can be made around Memorial Day; if not Veteran’s Day depending on COVID restrictions.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 843-2021 - Resolution 843-2021 allows for the destruction of municipal records as outlined in the Resolution. This list was sent out to all Council members to review prior to the meeting this evening. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to adopt Resolution 843-2021; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried.

QUILT - Mr. Lubenow indicated that a local artist, Martha Ressler, did quilts of all of the municipalities that was displayed at the Goggleworks. This was Mr. Lubenow’s personal property and will not be displayed at Borough Hall; the quilt depicted the free library that is outside Borough Hall at this time.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST - Mrs. Eggert distributed the statements of financial interest to the members of Council. These are kept on file at the Borough Hall and are due back by 5/1/21.

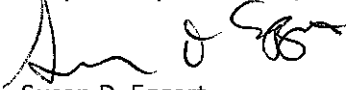
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council went into executive session at 8:04 PM to discuss personnel matters. **MOTION:** Mr. Eggert made the motion to go into executive session; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried. Council came out of executive session at 8:27 PM.

MOTION: Rev. Bennethum made the motion to give a 3% increase to Ms. Leinbach, Mr. Rhoads, and Mrs. Eggert; also increase Brennan Scheetz and Lynn Leinbach to \$15.00 per hour; Richard Gerhart will be put on a \$600.00 annual retainer for fire inspection services; seconded by Mr. Steve Geibel; all were in favor and the motion carried. Of note, Mr. Eggert abstained only with regards to Mrs. Eggert’s salary due to personal gain conflict.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: Mr. Eggert made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Rev. Bennethum; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting of the St. Lawrence Borough Council adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan D. Eggert
Borough Secretary

ST. LAWRENCE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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