

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2016 MEETING

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on April 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA. The following Council members were either present or absent:

Daniel F. Edwards – Mayor	Absent	Marc Gaughan	Present
Arthur Pencek – President	Present	William Heim, Vice-President	Present
Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present	Thomas Lynch	Present
Edward Gaughan	Present	Rosemarie Warner, Secretary	Present

Also present were Constance Sanko (Secretary/Treasurer); David Lamm (Building Inspector/Zoning Officer); Bruce Zero (Solicitor); Matt Zero and Grace Hamilton (Junior Council Members); Mark and Matthew Gallagher (Fire Company); and citizens Daniel Schilling, Mike Schank, Frank Goryl, Daniel Podest, and Jean Ann Morton.

Citizen's Comments:

- Daniel Podest, 129 Maple Street, stated that there is an issue with water settling on his property from the alleyway at the back of his house which is not his property and had pictures showing evidence of the water. It is believed that this alleyway is owned by the Borough; however, Attorney Zero said that the Borough does not receive any liquid fuels taxes on the alleyway and never adopted it as a Borough Street. After a brief discussion Attorney Zero said that at this time the Borough cannot do anything to alleviate the situation until ownership of the property is determined. He recommended that Borough Council have a full title search of the property completed.
- Frank Goryl, 221 - 223 North Main Street, brought a letter from his lawyer requesting that Mr. Goryl request a letter from Moscow Borough confirming that his property is permissible under the Zoning Ordinance as his residence. After a lengthy discussion no motion was made by Council to write a letter for Mr. Goryl as requested.
- Jean Ann Morton, 308 VanBrunt Street, expressed some concern with safety and health issues with the pond at the corner of VanBrunt and Orchard Streets. She said that teenagers are walking across the waterway and that the fence is not very safe. Art said that the police department was advised to watch for the teenagers. Mrs. Morton was asked to call the police when she sees the teenagers in the area. She also has environmental concerns with insets since there is pooling water in the pond. Art Pencek said that the Borough does not own the pond but will do some research to see what can be done.

Opening of Bids for Landscaping at Borough Building: Two bids were submitted for the landscaping at the Borough Building:

- Northeast Prestige Landscaping: \$1,257.00
- Secret Garden Designs: Prices per option were provided.

Bill Heim made a motion to accept the bids as presented and allow the committee to review the proposals and select a vendor. Tom Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Moscow Volunteer Fire Company: Matthew Gallagher, a junior member of the fire company, gave the monthly report for the month of March. There were 50 EMS calls and 7 fire calls. The annual chicken BBQ will take place on June 5, 2016. There was a very successful trench class held with the North Pocono Mutual Aid for which RLE Enterprises donated the manpower to build the trench.

Minutes of the April 4, 2016 meeting: Bill Heim made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2016 meeting as written. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Connie Sanko presented a list of bills to be paid from the General Fund. Ed Gaughan made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Rose Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Council members were provided with Building Inspector and Berkheimer Act 32 Earned Income Tax Monthly Reports.

Engineer's Report: Greenman - Pedersen, Inc. provided a letter regarding the Market Street sidewalk and crosswalk issue and provided a concept plan and a cost estimate. Art Pencek suggested that a meeting be scheduled with PennDOT and Mike Carroll's office.

Secretary's Report:

- A newsletter was issued on April 15, 2016.
- Council members were reminded that Statements of Financial Interests are due on May 1, 2016.

Grants:

- The United States Department of Agriculture grant in the amount of \$99,959.00 does not need to be audited since it is under the \$100,000.00 threshold.
- Murphy, Dougherty & Company submitted a proposal in the amount of \$1,900.00 to perform an audit of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Grant. Bill Heim made a motion to have Murphy, Dougherty & Company perform the audit in the amount of \$1,900.00. Rose Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Correspondence: Council members were provided with a notice from the Pennsylvania Economy League regarding a Civic Leadership Education Program.

Shade Tree Commission: Dan Schilling reported that a Shade Tree Commission meeting was held on April 12, 2016. An Arbor Day celebration will take place on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at Golden Park.

North Pocono Council of Governments: Bill Heim is still waiting for some responses from North Pocono Council of Governments members regarding group health insurance.

Building/Zoning Officer's Report: Dave Lamm reported on the following issues:

- Bianca Fruehan, 716 Beech Street, requested that "Children at Play" signs be put up on Beech Street to slow traffic since there is a day care on that street.
- The owner of the property at 412 Brook Street was given misinformation by the realtor when he purchased the property and was told the garage was a commercial usage. He now wants to put in a towing business but Dave said the property is in an R2 zone and the garage is an accessory to the house.
- Jaime Cianfichi, owner of the property at 305 North Main Street, has some ideas for developing that property. Dave advised him to attend the next Planning Commission meeting.
- Dave Lamm reported that a zoning hearing is scheduled for April 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. for the application of Marianne Sizelove, 215 North Main Street, for a special exception for a duplex in a commercial zone (former Twiddle Bits and Treasures property).

Planning Commission: The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2016.

Council members were provided with a draft amendment to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to residential properties in a commercial zone. This matter will be discussed at the April 25, 2016 meeting.

Recycling: Joe Castrogiovanni reported that there are issues with recycling electronics and that the Lackawanna Recycling Center has extended its deadline to May 1, 2016 for when it will begin charging. An electronics drop-off has been scheduled for April 23, 2016 at the Building from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Municipal Building:

- Art Pencek will contact a contractor to paint the police door.

- The guiderail at the rear of the building has been installed.

Streets: Marc Gaughan reported on the following:

- A letter was sent to Jeff Fuhr from PennDOT requesting, at the suggestion of Bill Heim, that the red light on Main Street and Market Street be frozen for ten seconds to allow for people crossing at that intersection more time to cross.
- An ad will be placed for a temporary part-time seasonal employee to help with the Department of Public Works Department at an hourly rate of \$8.00 per hour.
- A selected group of street lights will be changed over by PPL with the LED light bulbs.
- Harry Andes will contact Wayco to pave Old Logger Road once the weather gets warmer.

Solicitor's Report:

- As previously stated, Attorney Zero recommended that the Borough have a title search completed for the alleyway between Maple and Green Streets. Bill Heim made a motion to have a title search completed on the alleyway between Maple Street and Green Streets not to exceed \$300.00. Joe Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.
- Attorney Zero sent a letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources with the Borough's proposal for creating a trailhead at the Moscow Sewer Authority to replace New Street Park.
- Attorney Zero is still working on an ordinance for naming the parks and enforcing park rules.

New Business:

- Council members were provided with a newspaper article from The Scranton Times regarding state police services. Art said this is not an issue that concerns the Borough since we have our own police department.
- Council members were provided with a newspaper article from The Scranton Times regarding consolidation of local municipalities. Art said this should concern the borough because he feels that when consolidation takes place that small communities get left out.

Adjournment: Ed Gaughan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rose Warner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Constance Sanko