

# MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2016 MEETING

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A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on March 7, 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	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Arthur Pencek – President	Present	William Heim, Vice-President	Absent
Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present	Thomas Lynch	Present
Edward Gaughan	Present	Rosemarie Warner, Secretary	Present

Also present were Constance Sanko (Secretary/Treasurer), Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), David Lamm (Building Inspector/Zoning Officer), Bruce Zero (Solicitor), Matthew Zero and Grace Hamilton (Junior Council Members), and Kevin and Theresa Ripley.

**Citizen's Comments:** Theresa Ripley, 210 Jennifer Street, was in attendance to get an update on the status of the handicapped accessible curb/sidewalk on Market Street. A lengthy discussion followed during which time Mrs. Ripley expressed her concern with children and elderly individuals being able to safely cross the streets. Art Pencek stated that the Borough's Engineer reviewed the site and provided a list of things that should not be done for a mid-street crosswalk and is working on a preliminary plan for possibilities; representatives of the Borough met with PennDOT on site to discuss the issue; and State Representative Mike Carroll was contacted to look into different funding sources to help remedy the situation, therefore there is nothing substantial to report at this time. Mrs. Ripley said that the Borough, the Rail Authority, and PennDOT are mandated under Title 62 to make accommodations.

**Minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting:** Ed Gaughan made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting as written. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Connie Sanko presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February and lists of bills to be paid from the General Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, and Due from RACP Account. Rose Warner made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the bills as presented. Thomas Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**Junior Council Persons:** Rose Warner reported that Grace Hamilton won first place in the Junior Academy of Science competition and will now be going on to Penn State at the state level. Art Pencek reported that there was an article in the sports section of The Scranton Times recognizing the North Pocono Soccer Team not only for their athleticism but also for their academics. Council members congratulated both Grace and Matt for their accomplishments.

**Engineer's Report:** Marc Gaughan reported that there were some water issues on Main Street across from the Dollar General due to water running down from the railroad by the signal that says "Red Ahead", causing debris to cover the drains in that area. Mark Mecca and Harry Andes will be sending a letter to PennDOT for clarification as to who is responsible for cleaning the drains.

**Secretary's Report:** Connie Sanko provided copies of the 2016 Moscow Borough Elected and Appointed Officials, Commission, Committees, and Employees contact list to all Councilmembers.

### Correspondence:

- Council members were provided with copies of a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding the former Plociniak Oil Facility on Main Street.
- Council members were provided with a letter from the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter regarding its annual municipal appeal.

**Police Report:** Chief Brenzel gave the police report for the month of February. There were 100 911 calls and 98 cleared calls.

Council members were provided with a newspaper article from The Villager regarding car seat safety.

**North Pocono Council of Governments:** Bill Heim would like the North Pocono Council of Governments to meet to discuss group employee health insurance.

**Building/Zoning Officer's Report:**

- Dave Lamm reported there were some broken pipes at the property at 124 Market Street which is vacant at this time so he contacted AQUA PA to have the water shutoff. He and Chief Brenzel secured the building and Dave sent a letter to the property owner but has not received a response regarding this matter.
- A zoning hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. to consider an application for a variance for Concept Properties (Roxanne Puchalski - Twiddle Bits and Treasures), to turn a commercial property into a residential property.

**Health and Safety:** Ed Gaughan reported that he is looking into forming a safety committee, which must have at least two employee and two employer representatives, and must be in place six months prior to submitting an application for the discount. Art suggested that Ed also contact the fire company since the Borough covers them for workers compensation.

**Planning Commission:**

- Marc Gaughan made a motion to accept the Final Land Development Plan and Highway Occupancy Permit as submitted by JBAS Realty for The Lofts at 242 North Main Street. Thomas Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.
- At the Planning Commission meeting the following issues regarding the North Pocono School District Tennis Court project were discussed:
  1. The landscaping plan needs to be reviewed by the Planning Commission before final approval is granted.
  2. The former driveway that goes into the tennis courts needs to be curbed and grass planted.
  3. At this time there will be no windscreen. Tentative approval will be granted and revisited in six months after the courts have been in use to determine if one is needed.
  4. Lights will only be on certain times, not during the winter months.
  5. There is an underground detention basin that drains into VanBrunt Creek
- At the Planning Commission meeting the following issues regarding the North Pocono School District Track and Field Complex Project were discussed:
  1. If the track and turf are being putting back exactly as is the school won't have to go through some processes such as submitting a land development plan.
  2. The same drainage system is being used but more gravel is being added to the perimeter water system at edge of track and field. There will be no earthwork disturbance.
  3. The school district must provide proof to the Borough that all NPDES and Erosion and Sediment Control permits are in place prior to beginning any work on the project.

**Recreation:**

- Rose Warner provided Council members with the annual report she submitted to Lackawanna County regarding the park development plan for the park on Market Street. Rose Warner and Marc Gaughan will be meeting with Bill Davis on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 to do an onsite visit.
- Attorney Bruce Zero will prepare a resolution naming the park on Market Street "Old Mill Park". Rose Warner said that at one time Market Street was called Old Mill Street and would like to incorporate the history of the area into the name of the park.

- The Pocono Forest & Waters Conservation Landscape is holding a meeting on March 17, 2016 at the Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center. Mark Gaughan will be giving a guided tour of the property after the meeting.

**Recycling:** Joe Castrogiovanni and Art Pencek attended a meeting on February 25, 2016 hosted by the Lackawanna County Office of Sustainability. A discussion was held on local garbage haulers now picking up recycling. Art recommended that the Borough residents be notified of these changes once more information is received. The Borough is continuing to pick up recycling and gets a Performance Grant based on totals picked up.

Monthly Recycling Report for January: 4.82 tons paper; 7.73 tons commingled; 7.85 tons cardboard; 0 tons electronics; 6.86 brush; 18 trips to recycling center.

**Municipal Building:**

- Art will make some calls regarding the Perimeter fence.
- Art will meet with Tom Lynch to go over rates for electricity.
- Art said that there is an odor in the building at times and contacted Mike Andrews to provide an estimate for cleaning the ductwork. Mr. Andrew's proposal is \$5,200.00 which Art thinks is too high. He will contact two other companies for proposals. Dan said the ducts should be cleaned every five years.

**Financial Report:**

- Murphy, Dougherty and Company is currently conducting the Borough audit.
- Arthur Pencek and William Heim are now covered with bond insurance since they sign checks.

**Moscow Sewer Authority:**

- Attorney Zero will prepare the final copy of the Trail Easement Agreement with the Moscow Sewer Authority. Copies will be provided to Council for review prior to the next meeting.
- A letter was received from Engineering Surveying Consultants & Design, Inc. regarding the Moscow Sewer Authority Waste Water Treatment Plan NPDES Permit Renewal.

**Streets:**

- Council members were provided with copies of "Placemaking Main Street into a Destination Downtown". Marc Gaughan said this deals with what the Borough has been doing for the past five years. Marc would like to see a Business and Professional Committee established to recruit businesses to town and asked Tom Lynch and Joe Castrogiovanni to become involved. He also suggested that we come up with a theme for the Borough.
- Marc said the Borough needs to install "no parking" signs along certain areas of Market Street since people are damaging the grass and sidewalks by parking on them. The Borough has invested too much money in these areas to have them damaged.
- Harry Andes will be looking at the Orchard Street Bridge.
- Marc said he received information from PPL about a program where PPL will replace street light bulbs over ten years old with new LED lights at no cost to the Borough. However Marc estimated that it will cost the Borough \$500.00 more in electrical bills each year. He said the new lights are very bright and suggested trying them in the commercial areas only to see how they will work out before putting them in residential areas.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- Attorney Zero met with Attorney John Brazil, solicitor for the Moscow Sewer Authority, who said that the Sewer Authority approved a portion of its property to be used as a trailhead; however a survey and subdivision will have to be completed at the expense of the Borough. Attorney Zero

said that before moving forward on this the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources needs to approve this as a replacement for New Street Park.

- Attorney Zero is continuing work on the enforcement of park rules.

**New Business:** Theresa Ripley asked if dogs will be allowed in the Old Mill Park. Rose Warner said that right now the Borough is following its park ordinance which does not permit dogs in parks. Art said the ordinance is in place because people do not pick up after their dogs. A brief discussion followed because Mrs. Ripley would like to see residents be able to continue to walk their dogs in that area.

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

**Minutes submitted by Constance Sanko**