

**MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 3, 2023**

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on April 3, 2023 at 7:00 pm. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA.

Opening of Meeting

Arthur Pencek, Council President, called the April 3, 2023 meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and also stated that meeting is being recorded.

The following Council members were either present or absent:

Rosemarie Warner (Mayor)	Present	Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present
Arthur Pencek (President)	Present	Dennis Cawley	Absent
Edward Gaughan (Vice-President)	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Paula Bechaver	Present	William Heim	Present

Also present were Amy Carlson (Administrative Assistant), Bruce Zero (Solicitor) Conor Mann (Junior Council) George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), Colin Young (Fire Chief) Aaron Pikarski (Moscow Resident) Chris Chermack (Lackawanna County Commissioner) Mayfield Council President Diana Campbell (Running mate with Chris Chermack for Lackawanna County Commissioner)

Citizens Comments:

Aaron Pikarski, Moscow Borough resident seeking if the Borough received a submitted letter about reducing the speed limit on Church Street from Rt 435 to Rt 307 to 35 mph to 25 mph. Art Pencek stated that Chief Brenzel is in conversations with the school district and there has not been any decisions made as it is a work in progress. Mr. Pikarski stated if there is anything he can do to help he is willing to do so. Marc Gaughan thanked Mr. Pikarski for the work he has helped diligently on with the above topic mentioned.

Mr. Pikarski also brought up concerns from last meeting as to an update on code violations on a property at 800 block of Church Street. Art Pencek stated that letters have been issued and the next step of action is submitting to the magistrate.

Lackawanna County Commissioner, Chris Chermack introduced Mayfield Council President Diana Campbell as his running mate for Lackawanna County Commissioner.

Approval of Minutes

The regular monthly council meeting was held on March 6, 2023 minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by William Heim to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

Junior Council

Conor Mann had no Junior Council updates.

Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company

Chief Colin Young reported on the following:

March 2023 monthly report had a total of 61 calls. The breakdown was 47 EMS calls and 14 fire calls.

Chief Colin Young asked if there are any plans on putting a dry hydrant in on the bridge replacement project on Church Street. Art Pencek stated that this is a PennDOT project not the boroughs. Any other concerns should be directed to the Moscow Sewer Authority.

Also addressed was the Chief's concerns at the parking area at Old Mill Park. Road access to the Roaring Brook for access to the water is somewhat difficult when the firetrucks are leaving the area. Marc Gaughan stated that may be something through DEP or in conjunction with DCNR. Marc will assist Colin with looking into.

Chief also inquired as if there is an ordinance for placement of Knox Box on existing and new commercial buildings. If the borough does not have an ordinance can one be instated? Amy Carlson will look to see if there is any existing ordinance.

General Correspondence

Laurel Lines Vol 50 Issue 3 March 2023 was submitted as an informational document for review.

Laurel Lines Vol 50 Issue 4 April 2023 was submitted as an informational document for review.

Letter dated April 1, 2023 from James Strempek of the Moscow Minisink Lions Club regarding the annual Fireworks Extravaganza to be held on Saturday July 8, 2023 as an informational document for review.

Marc Gaughan mentioned that the Laurel Lines is putting together a thank you to the Borough of Moscow at their 50th Anniversary Dinner on November 11, 2023 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton in which he thinks someone from Council should attend.

Meet and Greet Senator Rosemary Brown for Municipal Leaders and First Responders on Wednesday April 19, 2023 at Mendicino's Pizza from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2023 and lists of bills to be paid from the general fund and liquid fuels fund. Bill Heim made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Real Estate Tax Collector

The Real Estate Tax Collector's Report was provided for the month of March 2023.

Administrative Assistant

A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 12, 2023 at 11:30 am with Kevin Adams of Computer Visionaries regarding the finished draft version of the new website to review. At that time, he will go over the site to review and make any changes and additions that would be needed.

2023 Moscow Borough Newsletter (Spring/Summer) will be mailed out with the Moscow Sewer Authority quarterly invoices in mid-April.

Grants

Email dated March 16, 2023 from Jessica Edwards, Regional Planning Manager, office of Planning and Economic Development Lackawanna County regarding approval of extension request for the 2020 and 2021 Re-invest Grants for Golden Park.

Email dated March 30, 2023 from Robert Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. regarding programs PennDOT offers to municipalities when seeking grants. Due to the volume of pages this has been emailed to Borough Council. A hard copy of the presentation can be obtained from Amy Carlson at the business office.

A meeting is scheduled with Louis LaFratte, P.E. LaFratte Engineering on Monday April 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM to discuss grants available for Streets and Parks and Recreation. Marc Gaughan, Mark Mecca, Paula Bechaver and Amy Carlson will be in attendance.

Police Department

There were at total of Chief Brenzel gave the Police report for the month of March 2023. There were 119 911-calls and 115 cleared calls.

Chief Brenzel also stated that she wanted to add she reviewed our records that in 1992 PennDOT completed a speed limit, engineering and traffic study on 690 from Rt 307 to 435 to determine if the reduction of the existing speed limit are warranted. She stated the same exact study was done in 2010 with the same results. PennDOT put a paragraph in that in their opinion in both studies was that both the existing 45 mph and 35 mph speed zones are still the appropriate speed for this road. Studies repeatedly shown that simply reducing a speed limit in an area where motorists are already disregarding it will have little to no effect on reducing speed.

Chief also stated that there have been ATV problems on the railroad. Marc Gaughan stated that they have been also having ATV issues on the trails as well.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rosemarie Warner stated she wanted to thank Amy Carlson on the newsletter preparation and new format of the 2023 Spring/Summer Newsletter.

Shade Tree Commission

Paula Bechaver stated at the April 2023 meeting they will be discussing Arbor Day.

Also, Dan Schilling submitted Proposal for Spring/Fall Cleanup of Borough Building Grounds and increase for labor. Motion made by Bill Heim to approve Spring/Fall Cleanup of Borough Building Grounds and increase for labor. Motion second by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

Building Inspector

Russell Piccotti, Building Inspector submitted 2022 Annual Report.

Zoning Officer

George Parker, PE submitted Monthly Report for the month of March 2023.

Joe Castrogiovanni stated a resident had asked him for an update on the wall on property at Pin Oak. George stated he has been in contact with the property owner in writing as to if he has any plans for the structure of the wall. Property owner stated that he will get back to George with an update.

Art Pencek inquired about the property at 801 Parkview Rd. George said they stopped work on a repair project at a residential dwelling located at 801 Parkview Rd. Contractor dismantling an entire stone chimney from above roof to the ground. A dumpster was parked in the street. No permits have been applied for. Property owner claimed it was an emergency. George told workers to seal up the opening from rainwater and do not do anymore work until permits are processed. George received a call from Nikki at Integrity Chimney Service (570-309-3294) / orders@integritychimneyservice.com George e-mailed Nikki the Zoning and UCC permit applications.

Email dated March 30, 2023 from Brian Yeager, Esquire, Solicitor, Moscow Borough Zoning Hearing Board with a letter regarding Pocono Management (Family Dollar) hearing on Variance Application. George stated he and Attorney Yeager are meeting regarding a date to set for the zoning hearing board this coming week.

Letter dated March 7, 2023 from Lackawanna County Conservation District regarding inspection report for Moscow Dollar General. George stated he will be talking with Robert Bochicchio., DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

Planning Commission

Email dated March 29, 2023 from Robert Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. regarding JBAR Realty, Inc. Stormwater Management Plan Review. The following items have been provided to our office. 1. NPDES Permit Application 2. NPDES Permit and Approval Letter 3. Revised Stormwater Management Plan. Based on the information provided, comments from the Stormwater Management Plan Review Letter dated 12/22/2021 have been resolved and/or the submission has been approved by DEP. The Stormwater Management Plan Review is complete. To date, JBAR Realty, Inc has completed the stormwater compliance but still needs to have trees planted to fulfill the remaining issues finalized.

Nichole Musewicz was interviewed by the Planning Commission and Marc Gaughan stated on behalf of the Planning Commission a recommendation that Council approve the selection for the vacant position available. Motion was made by to approve Nicole to fill the vacant Planning Commission position by Marc Gaughan. Motion was seconded by Paula Bechaver. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Property owner John Mercuri was in attendance, although a zoning issue he wanted to address the topic with the Planning Commission as well. John stated that he wants to sell his 1895 Victorian office as a private residence. Marc Gaughan stated that the Planning Commission obviously did not make any recommendation as this needs to be addressed with to zoning board.

Marc Gaughan stated that the commission wanted to thank George Parker for all of his hard work regarding the continuing maintenance issues with Dollar General.

Parks and Recreation

A meeting was held on Friday March 17, 2023, regarding grants availability. In attendance were State Representative Kyle Donahue, Paula Bechaver, Mark Mecca and Amy Carlson.

Rep. Donahue has approximately \$12,500.00 he can allot to the Borough immediately. The group agreed that this money would be best utilized for rubber mulching at both Clover Park and Old Mill Park. This being the case, requesting that the Re-Invest grant that the Borough was originally pursuing for the rubber mulch at Clover Park is now being sought for benches and tables at the recently acquired park area near the Moscow Sewer Authority.

Resolution 297-2023 which has been reviewed and approved by Moscow Borough Solicitor Bruce Zero for submission for Councils approval. This resolution needs to be submitted with the re-invest grant application. A motion was made by Joseph Castrogiovanni to accept Resolution 297-2023 "Section 7 Certification and Acceptance" of an application form for a Lackawanna County Community Re-Invest Grant. Bill Heim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Looking ahead to the next round of LSA applications (July 1st), Parks and Recreation would like to apply for grant money for Clover Park's play equipment, Golden Park's rubber mulch, and equipment (potentially disc golf/bocce ball) for Harmony Park. Harmony Park being more geared toward adults since the other parks are geared toward the children of the community. The same group will meet again in early June to discuss plan going forward with continued updates for Council.

Recycling

2023 Spring Clean Up dates have been set to May 22,23 and 24. Due to increasing costs this will be the last Clean and Green service offered to Borough residents until the year 2025.

Information on 2023 Spring-Clean Up for the Borough will be included in 2023 Moscow Borough Newsletter (Spring/Summer) and mailed mid-April with the Moscow Sewer Authority invoices. Once the new website is live it will be included on it as well.

Municipal Building

Email dated April 3, 2023 discussed from Robert Bochicchio,P.E., DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. regarding generator update as projected delivery may not be until January of 2024.

On Monday April 3, 2023 we received two automatic defibrillators from ZOLL for the business office and DPW department. They have been stored in locked fireproof storage area in the building until Sean Riley from AED Brands sets up the ZOLL training. Moscow Borough Police Chief Ivy Brenzel stated that the police department is trained to teach and can instruct whoever needs it. Atty. Bruce Zero stated he recommends the training. Moving forward, Chief Brenzel can discuss any certification training with both Dennis Cawley and Mayor Rosemarie Warner. Art Pencek stated he will be talking to Marc Mecca and Dennis Cawley to see where they want the AED devices mounted in the building.

Financial Report

Email from Jeff Kyle, DGK dated February 8, 2023 to increase Cyber Liability from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.000. This was tabled from the March 2023 Council Meeting. Bill Heim discussed this with Jeff Kyle and made a motion to increase the coverage at a cost of \$400.00 annually. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter dated March 15, 2023 regarding 2019 Ford Explorer (Police) lease which has been paid in full. Title has been received and has been filed in fireproof filing cabinets at the business office.

Borough Treasurer Elizabeth Murray has upgraded the software package with Intuit effective April 1, 2023 from Desktop Pro QuickBooks to Enterprise Gold Licensing for a savings as per directed by Bill Heim.

Lackawanna County TCC did not meet in March but do have another meeting scheduled for April 27, 2023. No indication currently of any additional charges to the Borough this year.

Moscow Sewer Authority

Email dated March 30, 2023 from Michele Laurer of the Department of Environmental Protection regarding Individual; NPDES Permit Issuance effective March 29, 2023. Copies of the actual permit can be obtained from Amy Carlson at the Business Office upon request.

Streets

DPW Supervisor, Mark Mecca has not yet heard back as to when the street sweeper will be available for use for the Borough of Moscow. Mark is reaching out to other local contractors in the event we cannot get the one from Harrisburg that he Borough usually uses.

Marc Gaughan is meeting on Monday April 10, 2023 with Robert Bochicchio,P.E., DBIA of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. reviewing the plans of 200 block of Maple Street.

Also, Marc added residents have been asking about the large amount of black piping Academy Street and The Academy parking lots. This is the water company Aqua PA project materials for rebuilding the water lines on all of Spring Garden, a block of Academy and portions of Maple Street. In the borough's negotiations with them, Aqua PA proposed that they would pave all of Spring Garden which saves the Borough approximately \$100,000.00 in road paving expense.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Marc Gaughan to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Edward Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson