

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

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

**Opening of Meeting**

Arthur Pencek, Council President, called the January 3, 2023 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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	Present
Edward Gaughan (Vice-President)	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Paula Bechaver	Present	William Heim	Absent

Also present were Amy Carlson (Administrative Assistant), Conor Mann & Jason Castrogiovanni (Junior Council) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Colin Young (Fire Chief)

**Citizens Comments**

There were no citizens comments.

**Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company**

Chief Colin Young reported on the following:

December 2022 monthly report had a total of 79 calls. The breakdown was 66 EMS calls and 13 fire calls.

The year 2022 had a total of 901 calls. The breakdown was 784 EMS calls and 117 fire calls.

Applications for employment requested to be approved. Luke Olszar for a driver employment position and Emily Prell for EMT employment position. Motion made by Marc Gaughan to accept Luke Olszar and Emily Prell to be hired by the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company. Motion was seconded by Edward Gaughan. Motion carried unanimously to a roll call vote.

Discussion was had regarding if the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company did not have the staffing to cover shifts if they could use persons still on the payroll that hadn't been active participants for a period of time. Art Pencek asked Borough Solicitor, Bruce Zero if these individuals are still eligible to work. Mayor Rosemarie Warner stated that we have not received a letter of resignation from them. Borough Solicitor, Bruce Zero stated as long as they hadn't dismissed them or let them go there is no need for reinstating them. Chief Colin Young then re-clarified verbally that if an individual resigned or is dismissed but they want to work they have to be rehired before they can work again. Borough Solicitor, Bruce Zero and Art Pencek stated that that was correct.

Mayor Rosemarie Warner wanted to congratulate Colin Young on his appointment as the new Fire Chief for the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company.

## **December 31, 2022 Expired Term Renewals**

The following individuals have committed to serving in the capacity of the terms listed for the following re-appointments for the Moscow Borough. Mark Gallagher for the Civil Service Commission (new 6-year term), James Pinto for the Moscow Sewer Authority (new 4-year term), Arthur Pencek for the Planning Commission, Alternate (new 4-year term) Kimberly Mecca, Shade Tree Commission (new 4-year term) Lisa Notarianni, Vacancy Board (new 1-year term) Joseph Fesolovich, Planning Commission (serving on a conditional term basis) A motion was made by Marc Gaughan. Motion was seconded by Paula Bechaver. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The regular monthly council meeting was held on December 5, 2022. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Joseph Castrogiovanni to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Dennis Cawley. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Junior Council**

Conor Mann and Jason Castrogiovanni had no Junior Council updates for the month of December 2022.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2022 and lists of bills to be paid from the general fund and liquid fuels fund. Edward Gaughan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. Paula Bechaver 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 December 2022.

## **Engineer's Report**

Marc Gaughan stated that after Dennis Cawley has a Pre-Construction Meeting regarding the Moscow Borough Building Generator scheduled for January 10, 2023 at 10:00 am at the Moscow Borough Building, Marc will be meeting with Robert Bochicchio of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. afterwards.

## **Administrative Assistant**

Amy Carlson had necessary requested adjustments made by Computer Visionaries to the original quote for computer, email and website services. Motion was made by Marc Gaughan to approve and go forward with the presented quote and proceed with transition of services set forth. Joseph Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

North Pocono Public Library Newsletter 2022-Issue 4 was submitted as informational piece.

Louis LaFratte, P.E. LaFratte Engineering, Inc will be attending the February 6, 2022 council meeting to make a presentation to council regarding the option to potentially use his service for larger more complex grants.

## **Police Department**

Chief Brenzel gave the 2022 Police Report totals for the year. She stated there were 1,408 911 Calls, 1,391 911 Calls Cleared, 6,737 Man-hours, 12,943 Miles Patrolled, 11 Collisions, 109 Traffic Citations, 26 Non-traffic Citations, 10 Parking/Borough Summons, 301 Written/Verbal Warnings, 7 Criminal Arrests, 2 Juvenile Petitions (Arrests) 10 Police Escorts and 38 Security/Business House Checks.

Chief Brenzel reported that the Moscow Borough was notified on December 15, 2022 that they held a successful National Night Out Campaign for 2022. The Borough has placed 4th with the National Association of Town Watch under award category 6: For areas with less than 5,000 population.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Rosemarie Warner congratulated Chief Brenzel and Moscow Borough personnel that helped with National Night Out on receiving the 2022 award recognition.

### **Shade Tree Commission**

Paula Bechaver stated the Shade Tree Commission met earlier in the month of December, Once the generator is put in the bench, butterfly garden and time capsule will be moved. Also, discussion was had at some point at this year's Arbor Day Tree that is planted by having a plaque purchased and displayed in dedication to the late Arlene Kakareka who was an active member in the Shade Tree Commission.

### **Zoning Officer**

George Parker, PE submitted Monthly Report for the month of December 2022.

Discussion was had regarding a video that was received by a citizen from the Borough in reference to the Dollar General on Main Street outside property maintenance. George stated that he did not hear back from email and telephone call that was made to management since December 15, 2022. George stated he placed another call to this individual January 3, 2023 and is waiting to see if he can get a better contact to forward the information to.

### **Planning Commission**

Marc Gaughan, Secretary, Planning Commission stated that December 2022 meeting was cancelled due to lack of content on the agenda. The next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2023.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Paula Bechaver, Parks and Recreation Chairperson reported on the following:

Paula is working on the Annual Report that is due February 2023 for Old Mill Park.

Paula stated that she is waiting for updated proposal for Clover Park as Moscow Borough's expired in December 2022. Information is being compiled and the Moscow Borough should qualify for the \$5,000.00 Lackawanna County Reinvest Grant. The deadline is April 30, 2023 and awarded at the first public meeting in June 2023.

### **Recycling**

Joseph Castrogiovanni Recycling Chairperson reported on the following

Joseph stated that the Borough's DPW department will be accepting Christmas Tree's for disposal until the end of January 2023. Residents must drop them off at the Borough Building Recycling Area and the DPW will take them to the Recycling Center for disposal. The DPW Department will not pick up curbside. Art Pencek also brought up there is Christmas Tree disposal at Claws and Paws at Hamlin Corners. Residents would need to drop them off at that location on their own.

## **Municipal Building**

Dennis Cawley, Chairperson reported on the following:

Dennis stated that the generator is on backorder and potentially will not be available for approximately one year.

Amy Carlson on behalf of Dennis contacted Sean Riley, Territory Manager, AED Brands regarding updated status of the Automatic Defibrillators currently on backorder. Sean stated he would have a clearer picture of the time frame just after the holiday, as they expect a larger quantity of ZOLL AEDs to be shipping at that time.

## **Financial Report**

Peoples Security Bank and Trust automatic renewal notice, maturity date of January 05, 2022 for certificate of deposit ending in 3302. Current balance \$10,277.45. Interest rate for possible renewal not yet known. Discussion as to what to invest the current balance in at maturity date. Directed Amy Carlson to have Elizabeth Murray, Treasurer call and get interest rate and contact either William Heim or Joseph Castrogiovanni. Council agreed verbally to rollover the certificate of deposit with Peoples Security but to also inform Bill and Joe with interest percentage information as per requested.

## **Streets**

Marc Gaughan Chair, stated tough storm week before Christmas for DPW. A mix of rain/sleet and heavy snow made it difficult for our DPW Department to keep the roads clear. Currently DPW assessing damage from the storm from the plows. Dennis Cawley, Marc Gaughan and Art Pencek all stated that Mark Mecca, Chad DeFelice and Jody Savitz did a great job keeping up with treating and maintaining the roads due to the circumstances.

Mary Liz Donato, Planning Department Manager, Lackawanna County Dept of Planning & Econ Development had to postpone her presentation on Regional Planning until March 2023.

## **New Business**

Marc Gaughan has requested discussion on property 822 Church Street, owner Mr. Paul Demuth. Property has tires and disheveled vehicles on it. George Parker, Zoning Officer stated he is in violation of Violation of 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, Chapter 3, Section 302.1 and 302.8. Also, violation of Moscow Borough Zoning Ordinance, Article III, Litter, page 24. George will contact Paul Demuth to address the issue.

## **Adjournment**

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

## **Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson**