

**MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 5, 2023**

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on June 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA.

**Opening of Meeting**

Arthur Pencek, Council President, called the June 5, 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	Present
Edward Gaughan (Vice-President)	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Paula Bechaver	Present	William Heim	Present

Also present were Amy Carlson (Administrative Assistant), Conor Mann and Jason Castrogiovanni (Junior Council) George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), Colin Young (Fire Chief) Aaron Pikarski (Moscow Resident) Jillian Kaminski (Moscow Resident), Guy Palmer (Moscow Property Owner), Lori Trygar, Karen Clifford, Karen Campbell (Republican Lackawanna County Commissioner Candidate) Mr. and Mrs. John Mann and Family Members, Lisa Duffy, Michele Orrson & Stephanie Minkoff (North Pocono Cultural Society)

Moscow Borough Council President Art Pencek stated that this is Conor Mann's last meeting as Junior Council Member and has been appreciated for time given to the program. Council members thanked him and wished him best of luck. Mayor Rosemarie Warner stated that Conor will be attending St. Joseph's University and thanked him as well.

**Citizens Comments:**

Guy Palmer, Moscow property owner, submitted pictures of damage from the last rain storm of concerns regarding water flow and flooding & damage onto his property on 103 Willow Street. He stated that this was brought to the attention of Council in the past. He requested to be kept up to date and is seeking help and a resolution of the drainage problem at the top of Stephens Heights development where the water problem flow is occurring. Street Chair Marc Gaughan stated that there will be work done by the Borough DPW in the coming months to fix the drainage issues as funding was not available in the past. The current status is that the Borough engineer Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. is in process of working on the plans and will only be addressing the issues regarding the public streets not anything on the private properties that may be adding to the problem. Marc stated that work is slated for completion by fall of 2023. A thank you went out to Mark Mecca, Director of DPW for his input and fiscal savings to have this resolved.

Moscow resident, Aaron Pickarski brought up concerns from last meeting as to an update on code violations on a property at 822 Church Street. George Parker, Zoning Officer certified letters were sent and signed for. He has not heard anything back and has since been on site twice and nothing has changed. George has now stated that he will be turning this over to our solicitor for further action.

Aaron Pickarski, Moscow Borough resident also asked Council for an update on the dog barking ordinance issue from the last Council meeting would be enforced as there is continuous noise disturbance the morning in his neighborhood by his property on 810 Church Street. Art Pencek stated

that there will be a post on the Moscow Borough website for the residents as a reminder of the current ordinance.

Aaron Pickarski, executive of Leeward Construction will be installing water mains on Academy Street, Green Street, Maple Street, Spring Garden Street, and Church Street (between Maple & Spring Garden). There will be restoration of the asphalt trench in the streets and replacement of concrete sidewalk where the new water main causes for damage. Leeward Construction will extend the same price per Square Yard for Sidewalk Restoration of \$135.00 per Square Yard to the residents of Moscow to the affected properties in these specified areas.

Aaron Pickarski also addressed regarding his traffic and speed concerns on RT 690 from Main St to RT 307 and his request to have PennDOT perform a traffic study on said areas which was brought to Council attention from last meeting. He also requested copies of the 1992 and 2010 traffic studies performed on the same areas. President, Art Pencek stated that he would have copies of both studies provided for him and that a letter of request to PennDOT for a traffic study would be drafted and mailed out. Marc Gaughan stated that police enforcement has been seen increased in the past months.

Lisa Duffy, North Pocono Cultural Society, introduced Michele Orrson new president of the Society and Stephanie Minkoff Cultural Society Board Member. Lisa stated that she would like to see if the Borough can assist in watering of the plants on Main Street throughout the summer months before they are hung. Marc Gaughan will speak to Mark Mecca, DPW. Marc Gaughan stated he believes they can assist. Lisa addressed approvals needed for the Moscow Street Fair being held July 28, 29 & 30<sup>th</sup>. She requested permission to use basketball court across from the Borough Building and the use of Golden Park as a landing site for the Lehigh Valley Hospital helicopter that will circle the borough during the event. Also, permission requested for the use of blocking off Main St. for the parade on Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> and also Van Brunt Street to Grove Street for the entirety of the Moscow Street Fair. Art and Mayor Warner asked Chief Brenzel if these requests would be ok, Chief Brenzel stated that these requests were fine.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The regular monthly council meeting was held on May 1, 2023. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Ed Gaughan to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by William Heim. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Rosemarie Warner again wishing Conor Mann congratulations and best of luck and success. Also that Jason Castrogiovanni will be moving up to the senior position on junior council next year Mayor Warner nominated Katherine Barker on becoming junior representative for the 2023-2024 school year Moscow Junior Council Program. Motion was made by William Hiem to accept the nomination and appoint Katherine Barker as new junior council member. Motion was seconded by Marc Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously.

Commended Officer Janniell DeJesus for his assistance on Sunday June 4, 2023 placing signs for the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co. Annual Chicken BBQ. Event was a huge success.

Commended Cpl. Martin Cieless on his assistance with the North Pocono Outdoor Association street crossing.

Thanked Chief Brenzel and police staff for their efforts of enforcing the speed limits and traffic control during the North Pocono School sessions this year on Church Street.

### **Junior Council**

Conor Mann thanked everyone for the learning experience he has had the past two years serving on the Moscow Borough junior council.

## **Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company**

Chief Colin Young reported on the following:

May 2023 monthly report had a total of 93 calls. The breakdown was 75 EMS calls and 18 fire calls.

Chief thanked everyone in the Borough that came out to support the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company's Annual Chicken BBQ which was very successful. North Pocono area local boy scouts were also in attendance to help with the event.

Generator raffle will be coming up in a few months as a fundraising event.

North Pocono Fire and Rescue Association is having a "passport" fundraiser to increase attendance to the fundraisers over the summer months. Attendees will have the "passport" stamped at each event if all events are stamped will be entered into a drawing for a prize.

## **General Correspondence**

Laurel Lines a publication of the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society Vol 50, Issue 5 May 2023 for informational purposes and review.

Laurel Lines a publication of the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society Vol 50, Issue 6 June 2023 for informational purposes and review.

Email correspondence from Christopher Kelly, NP Public Library regarding upcoming events for informational purposes and review.

North Pocono Minisink Lions Club Annual Fireworks Extravaganza to be held Saturday July 8, 2023 for informational purposes and review.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Motion to accept budget transfers of \$3,250.00 submitted was made by William Hiem. Motion was seconded by Ed Gaughan. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of May 2023 and lists of bills to be paid from the general fund and liquid fuels fund. Paula Bechaver made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. William Heim 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 May 2023.

## **Engineers Report , Greenman-Pedersen Inc.**

Invoice was submitted by Greenman-Pedersen for design work on Maple Street stormwater, curbs and paving.

Marc Gaughan stated he would like to see meetings with engineers and DPW going forward with any projects going on in the borough regarding streets so that the residents are aware and educated as to what is being performed.

## **Administrative Assistant**

Wednesday May 10, 2023 Shred-All Co. Roaring Brook Township was on site for destruction of specific records listed in Resolution #297-2023.

Additional research being conducted for grant opportunities for 2 AED's for the police department. Covid Rescue Funds cannot be used for this purchase according to guidelines. Permission was granted to contact Sean Reilley at ZOLL to order them as they are currently on back order. If no grant is found a line item would need to be added for police expense during the 2024 budgeting process.

## **Grants**

Letter dated May 4, 2023 regarding Lands of DiMattio-PIN 198.01-010-01159-Jct Sunrise Blvd and Old Logger Road which was mailed out Friday May 5, 2023. for informational purposes and review.

## **Police Department**

There were at total of Chief Brenzel gave the Police report for the month of May 2023. There were 192 911-calls and 182 cleared calls. Also, several events and training.

Email regarding thank you to Nate and Yvonne Bifano for donation of water to police department.

Motion to pass resolution #299-2023 Donation of Abandon Bicycles to donate to North Pocono Minisink Lions Club by Marc Gaughan. Motion seconded by Dennis Cawley. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Letter dated May 18, 2023 regarding JNET Audit compliance for informational purposes and review.

## **North Pocono Council of Governments**

Next COG Meeting scheduled for July 12, 2023 at the Moscow Borough Building at 7 PM. Mary Liz Donato, Planning Department Manager, Lackawanna County Dept of Planning & Economic Development presenting a cost estimate for the Regional Comprehensive Plan which will include eight municipalities.

## **Zoning Officer**

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

Letter dated May 4, 2023 regarding Lands of DiMattio-PIN 198.01-010-01159-Jct Sunrise Blvd and Old Logger Road which was mailed out Friday May 5, 2023 for informational purposes and review.

## **Zoning Hearing Board**

Copy of Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law from the Moscow Borough Zoning Hearing Board regarding variance to use property as a single-family residence, 201 North Main Street. Report was submitted for informational purpose from Brian Yeager, Esquire.

## **Planning Commission**

Marc Gaughan stated that he, Art Pencek and Nichole Musewicz attended a combined 10-hour (3 session) workshop on zoning and comprehensive planning.

Discussion on impact fee brought up at workshop, the Borough cannot apply an impact fee.

Judy Castrogiovanni's concerns at the May 30, 2023 meeting regarding heavy equipment parked at the entrance of Harmony Hills III. George Parker is aware of this.

Discussed MarKoz sale of property in the Harmony Hills development area was discussed.

Sling Shots and former Powell & Powell Law offices buildings on North Main Street owned by the same owner discussion was had of possibilities of combining them.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Paula Beachaver, Chair is scheduling a meeting with Kyle Donahue, Mark Mecca and Amy Carlson in the next week to discuss open grant submission for LSA grants beginning July 1, 2023. Clover Park, Golden Park rubber mulch and some equipment for Harmony Park. No match needed.

Resident complaint of Golden Park pitcher's mound eroded. Borough has the money of quoted \$2,200.00 to fix but there is a concern of washouts. Managers of the teams need to work with the borough as to help with the prevention of the washouts the fields need to be raked after every game. Art Penczek stated that Dandy Lion Little League may volunteer to get the Diamatex to prevent from the washouts.

### **Recycling**

Joseph Castrogiovanni stated that the Spring Clean Up went extremely well this year. Completed in one day. People that have electronics still left out curbside that were not picked up need to be notified. Marc Gaughan stated he would get a list if any.

### **Municipal Building**

Email dated May 18, 2023 from Leah C. Rosenkrans, CPA Murphy Dougherty & Company, who spoke to an individual at the state, Ted Martin. He stated that the funds for the American Rescue Funds issued to the Moscow Borough should be expended by 12/31/24, which agrees to the answer in the frequently asked questions listed on the state website. The Borough complies since the purchase of the generator was ordered on October 25, 2022 with the first round of funds.

Discussion of second round of Rescue Plan Funds of \$106,837.65 which has been received in September of 2022 and deposited in the general fund. Expensed (committed) deadline is December 31, 2024. Pay out of the expenses must be by December 31, 2026.

Amy Carlson will be reaching out to our counterparts in other municipalities to see what they are spending their Rescue Funds on with updates to follow.

### **Financial Report**

Discussion of Ordinance # 263-2021 regarding tenant registration. Beth Murray of the business office has stated that numerous property owners are in non-compliance. This includes businesses and landlords who have multiple rentals for informational piece and review at the next Council Meeting for a better way to enforcement of the ordinance.

Lackawanna County TCC had cancelled all of the rest of the meetings until September 2023.

Amy Carlson will be training in QuickBooks payroll reporting for improvements on our current system. Beth Murray will be training afterhours (per her request) on the QuickBooks most current upgrades with the newest version. There is currently approximately \$900.00 for these training services in the 2023 budget.

## **Streets**

Email dated May 9, 2023 from Robert Bochicchio P.E. DBIA Greenman-Pedersen regarding PreCon – Spring Garden Street for informational purposes and review.

Invoice 0363190 for Maple Street Project payment to Greenman Pedersen determination needs to be made as to what account to expense \$6,400.00. for informational purposes and review.

Marc Gaughan was contacted by Dan Schilling of the United Methodist Church about concerns of Aqua PA during the water project of removal of two of the thirty-year old locust trees at the front of the Moscow Methodist Church. Aqua PA was not aware of the Shade Tree Ordinance, this was sent for Aqua PA for review. After discussion with Aqua PA they may be able to avoid removal of the trees.

Maple Street and Stephens Heights projects were already discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Landscaping will be done corner of Autumn and Greenfield for washouts. Residents of those properties will be asked not to park in that section which prevents the efficiency of the water retention. They are asked to please to use their driveways when parking their vehicles.

Also, there were a great deal of wash outs from the storm on Greenfield Road.

Aqua PA will be paving Spring Garden Street after the water project is completed at no charge to the borough.

## **New Business**

Meeting for July monthly Council Meeting was originally scheduled for Monday July 3, 2023. Due to possibility of insufficient quorum meeting was agreed to be moved to Wednesday July 5, 2023. Advertisement will be published in the Times-Tribune for change of original date.

## **Adjournment**

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

## **Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson**