

**MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 7, 2023**

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

**Opening of Meeting**

Arthur Pencek, Council President, called the August 7, 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 George Parker (Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer) Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), Colin Young (Fire Chief) Jason Castrogiovanni and Katherine Barker (Junior Council) Aaron Pickarski (Moscow resident) Moscow residents Scott and Lucy Grissingner.

**Citizens Comments**

President Art Pencek referred to a copy of a letter dated July 14, 2023 from Robert Kretschmer District Traffic Engineer PA Department of Transportation, regarding the request for traffic study. The traffic study was completed and the conclusion was that studies have repeatedly shown that simply reducing the speed limit in the area where motorists are already disregarding the existing speed limit will have little or no effect on reducing overall speeds. It is only through strict enforcement that overall compliance can be attained. Copies of the report can be obtained by any resident at the Moscow Borough Business Office.

Moscow resident Aaron Pickarski voiced concerns on the zoning ordinance violation on 822 Church Street as there are additional cars on the property. Art Pencek stated that this violation is now being pursued by District Magistrates Office.

Aaron Pickarski speaking on behalf of Leeward Construction, Inc. extended thanks and offered to follow up on any future issues or complaints from residents regarding the water project that was done on Spring Garden and Maple Streets.

**Approval of Minutes**

The regular monthly council meeting was held on July 5, 2023. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Marc Gaughan to accept minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Joseph Castrogiovanni. The motion carried unanimously.

**Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Company**

Chief Colin Young reported on the following:

July 2023 monthly report had a total of 76 calls. The breakdown was 62 EMS calls and 14 fire calls.

Participated in The Street Fair and National Night Out showing tours and different equipment on the various trucks.

The generator fundraiser raffle is still being conducted. The raffle drawing will be held Tuesday September 5, 2023. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the fire company or use the QR code on the fire company's Facebook page.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of July 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. Bill 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 July 2023.

### **Financial Report**

Copies from Murphy, Dougherty & Company Municipal of the Annual Audit & Financial Report for the Year ended December 31, 2022 for the Moscow Borough were submitted as informational piece for review. Bill Heim stated everything is in good shape regarding the entire audit.

### **Streets**

Email dated June 17, 2023 from Aaron Pickarski of Leeward Construction, Inc. regarding Aqua / Moscow Borough Paving Project scope proposal was submitted as an informational piece for review.

Recap of meeting that was held on Tuesday July 18, 2023 with following in attendance Atty. Bruce Zero, State Rep. Kyle Donahue, Art Pencek, Marc Gaughan. Mark Mecca, Robert Bochicchio (Greenman-Pedersen), Leah Rosecrans & Bridget Nealon (Murphy/Dougherty) and Amy Carlson in which discussion was had on the plan for the second round of Rescue Plan money received. Conclusion after discussions at the meeting was that if desired, these funds can be used for a stormwater management plan. Robert Bochicchio (Greenman-Pedersen) will have a proposed survey submitted of the scope of work which will include mapping of all the existing stormwater system located in Moscow Borough along the Right-of-way owned by Moscow Borough and building a stormwater model to help determine stormwater inefficiencies and replacement schedule to be discussed at the next scheduled council meeting.

Marc Gaughan stated that after consulting with solicitor Bruce Zero, the Borough would need to bid out Academy, Spring and Maple street paving overlay project. Before bidding process, the borough would need a design work and bid packages from Greenman-Pedersen. Robert Bochicchio said Greenman-Pedersen could not get them ready in time. Marc stated there are enough funds in the Liquid Fuel account to pave the 100 block of Maple Street.

Marc Gaughan stated that the spray patching in the borough has been completed for the year with Liquid Fuels funds.

### **North Pocono Council of Governments**

Update from COG Meeting that was held on July 12, 2023 regarding the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Marc Gaughan recapped the North Pocono Council of Governments Meeting that was held on July 12, 2023 regarding the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Moving forward, he stated pricing came in very reasonable. All members in attendance were going to take back to their respective areas to further discuss with their municipalities. Moscow Borough Council members Art Pencek, Marc Gaughan, Paula Bechaver and also Mayor Rosemarie Warner were in attendance.

## **Planning Commission**

Discussion was had at the July 31, 2023 meeting of not considering extending another 120-day extension for MarKoz for the Harmony Hills III project unless they submit an updated plan. To date they have not submitted an updated plan.

## **Engineer's Report**

Email dated July 21, 2023 from Robert Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA regarding Moscow Borough Inspections on two projects was submitted as an informational piece for review.

## **Grants**

A letter of support dated July 6, 2023 was signed by Art Pencek and was submitted as an informational piece for review regarding the Multimodal Grant (combined with Roaring Brook Township) – Spencer Road. Second application needed to be submitted as original grant was denied. No action was needed for second letter of support submitted as the content of letter is same information as original.

## **Zoning Officer**

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

## **Personnel Committee**

A motion was made by Ed Gaughan to appoint Amy Carlson as the Moscow Borough Business Office Manager. She will oversee business office operations and business office personnel. The police and DPW departments will be required to submit any Moscow Borough business related requests to Amy Carlson for proper disbursement and delegation. The motion was seconded by Paula Bechaver. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

## **Parks and Recreation**

On Wednesday July 19, 2023 Paula and Amy Carlson met with Louis LaFratte to discuss proposed plans for Lackawanna County / Monroe County LSA Grant application. Paula Bechaver to address updates on plans and application for \$100,000.00 LSA Grant. It is in the boroughs best interest that Louis LaFratte will spearhead this grant with assistance from Paula Bechaver (Council Chairperson, Parks & Recreation) Amy Carlson (Business Office) and Mark Mecca (DPW Director).

Marc Gaughan made a motion to approve Revised Resolution #300-2023 that was needed to submit the application for the Lackawanna County / Monroe County LSA Grant. Bill Heim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Joseph Castrogiovanni made a motion to approve the 2023 Local Share Account Grant Application Allocation Letter for the Lackawanna County / Monroe County LSA Grant application as per advised by Louis LaFratte. The motion was seconded by Dennis Cawley. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Paula Bechaver spoke to Louis LaFratte shared another opportunity for future projects in the park through the Greenways Trails and Recreation Program through DCED. He recommended applying for \$10,000.00. Applications can be submitted beginning December 2023. Paula will be looking into this and will update as information becomes available.

## **Police Report**

Chief Brenzel gave the Police report for the month of July 2023. There were a total of 135 911-calls and 132 cleared calls. Also, several events and training.

Annual rad Kids Camp was held the week of July 24 – July 28 at the Borough Building.

Moscow Borough's 20<sup>th</sup> National Night Out was held Tuesday August 1, 2023 which Chief Brenzel stated was a huge success and also thanked junior council for marching with the National Night Out banner in the NP Cultural Society Street Fair Parade on Friday July 29, 2023.

**Mayor's Report-** Mayor Rosemarie Warner reported on the following:

Commended Chief Brenzel for conducting Annual rad Kids Camp which was held the week of July 24 – July 28 at the Borough Building.

Acknowledged Conor Mann being recognized for his two years of service on Moscow Borough's junior council and presented with proclamations from both Senator Rosemary Brown and State Representative Kyle Donahue's offices at the annual National Night Out.

Commended Parks and Recreation and the DPW for the developments and work being done on improvements on Old Mill Park.

The annual tree lighting ceremony will be Thursday November 30, 2023 and will have more details as we get closer to the dates.

## **Junior Council**

Jason Castrogiovanni stated that everything went well for the junior council's participation in both the National Night Out event and the NP Cultural Society Street Fair Parade.

## **Moscow Sewer Authority**

Email dated July 10, 2023 from James Kanavy regarding article of the state reopening water assistance program was submitted as an informational piece for review.

Email dated July 13, 2023 from Mary Lou Butler, PE, Engineering Surveying Consultants & Design, Inc. regarding Harmony Hills Part 3-GP-5 & GP-7 Sanitary Sewer Stream Crossing Moscow Sewer Authority was submitted as an informational piece for review.

## **Adjournment**

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

## **Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson**