

**BOROUGH OF CARROLL VALLEY  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF BOROUGH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, July 13, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.  
MINUTES**

Richard Mathews, President called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The attendance was as follows:

**BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Present**

Richard Mathews  
Robert Verderaime  
David Lillard via phone  
John Schubring  
Bruce Carr  
L. Michael Wight

**Absent**

Jessica Kraft

**BOROUGH OFFICIALS, ETC**

Ronald J. Harris, Mayor  
David A. Hazlett, Borough Manager  
Gayle R. Marthers, Borough Secretary  
Richard L. Hileman, II, Police Chief  
Zachary Rice, Borough Solicitor

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2021, REGULAR MEETING**

Following brief discussion:

\*\*\* R. Verderaime moved; J. Schubring seconded, that the minutes of the June 15, 2021, Regular Meeting be approved as submitted. Motion passed unanimously via roll call with M. Wight abstaining due to absence.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

No one addressed Council at this time.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

There were none.

**MAYOR'S REPORT – R. HARRIS**

- Police Report – Chief Hileman reviewed the document with the following items noted:
  - ◆ Criminal Action has been taken against a Borough resident for making a false report to the US Department of Veterans' Affairs Crisis Hotline. He spoke further about the services available for local Veterans.
  - ◆ August and September have been designated as Drunk & Drugged Driving awareness months. Local Law Enforcement Agencies were asked to increase their focus on impaired drivers. Chief Hileman answered questions regarding:
    - Standard Field Sobriety Testing specific to Drugged Drivers
    - Breath and Blood Testing of possible impaired drivers
    - What if any action is being taken by Police Departments to slow or stop the legislative push to further legalize marijuana use?
  - ◆ Statistical Review
    - Questions asked by Mr. Carr:
      - What areas were targeted for Speed Enforcement last month?
        - Answer given by Chief Hileman: Jacks Mountain Road, Rt 16 near intersection with Rt 116 at Zora, Skylark Trail

- Was there a significant difference in any one area regarding the number of violations?
    - Answer given by Chief Hileman: No, the number of citations were relatively equal
- Updates:
  - July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration was very successful, estimated attendance of 2500 for the concert and many thousands more filled the local trails, parking lots and open areas to view the fireworks display.
  - COVID-19 Update
    - ◆ Positive Cases:  
zip code of 17320 is 508; Adams County is 8026
    - ◆ Increase from last report:  
zip code of 17320 is 9; Adams County is 71
    - ◆ Consensus of Members agreed that the updates could be discontinued and requested that the set-up of the meeting room be returned to pre-COVID-19 conditions
  - Blood Drive was held on June 10, 2021:
    - ◆ 27 Donors
    - ◆ 25 Pints Collected
    - ◆ 75 Local Lives Saved
  - Neighbors Helping Neighbors is hosting Community Days on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup> where anyone residing within the Fairfield School District boundary can request help with small maintenance projects or lawn cleanup. The number of individuals who can be helped and the size of the projects that can be accomplished will be determined by the number of volunteers available. If interested in helping or if you need help, call Robin Dicken. Mr. Hazlett offered public thanks and accolades to Robin Dicken for her continued dedication to help all those in need in the community.
  - Movie-in-the-Park was held on June 18, 2021, with excellent attendance. Next movie will be “Godzilla vs Kong” scheduled for Friday, July 16, 2021
  - Library Programming spotlighting the Story Walk activity
- In Requiem:
  - 13 Officers from various cities across the US were honored for their bravery following their Line-of-Duty deaths during the month of June 2021; Mayor Harris noted that 3 of those were related to COVID-19

## **FIRE/EMS/EMA REPORTS**

Reports were provided by Fountaindale Fire Company for review; they were accepted by consensus.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Finance Committee.

Mayor Harris, Finance Committee Chair reviewed the written report provided to Members from the meeting held July 7, 2021. Having no comment; Members accepted the report by consensus.

### Planning Commission.

Mr. Wight, Planning Commission Chair provided a verbal report of the July 6, 2021 meeting:

- The Commission agreed by unanimous motion to recommend that Council abandon the changes to the current sign ordinance and focus on the Chapter 27: Zoning Ordinance re-write that is nearing completion. Brief discussion ensued regarding the issue before Members agreed by consensus to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

- Announced the resignation of Mr. Bernard Garland resulting in two (2) vacancies on the Commission. Mr. Hazlett shared that he advertised for volunteers via the website and social media but has not received any applications thus far.
- Announced a change of date for the next meeting from August 2, 2021 to Tuesday, August 3, 2021 in order to maintain a quorum.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS – BOROUGH MANAGER**

### **Treasurer's Report for June 2021.**

Following brief discussion:

\*\*\*B. Carr moved, M. Wight seconded, that Council accept the June 2021 Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.

### **Resident Request.**

Mr. Hazlett reviewed the series of emails shared with Members regarding the request for a "No Outlet" sign to be installed on Ringneck Trail near its intersection with Partridge Trail. Lengthy discussion included the following:

- Review of the Normal Process upon receiving a request of this nature:
  - Mr. Hazlett requests the opinion of Municipal Services Supervisor and the Police Chief ensuring all areas of public safety are addressed.
  - Mr. Hazlett evaluates the request using the information received and renders a decision.
  - This particular request has come before Council because the resident requested Council input
- Comments/Concerns
  - Setting of Precedence
  - Cost of Sign, Installation, Maintenance
  - Good Public Relations
  - Types of Dead-End trails & Cul-de-sacs
    - Large enough for delivery trucks to turn around without damaging property
    - Small area, cars can turn around, but delivery trucks must k-turn and could potentially cause property damage
    - Trail ends without turn around area
  - Request for a sign at Helen Trail intersection with Warren Trail
  - Solutions?
    - Build bigger Cul-de-sacs
    - Put up signs on every dead-end trail
    - Keep current process

\*\*\*R. Verderaime moved; R. Mathews seconded that Council approve the purchase and installation of a "No Outlet" sign on Ringneck Trail near its intersection with Partridge Trail. Mr. Verderaime, Mr. Mathews and Mr. Schubring voted yes; Mr. Lillard, Mr. Carr and Mr. Wight voted no via roll call resulting in a tie. Mr. Mathews requested a vote by Mayor Harris. Mayor Harris respectfully declined casting a tie-breaking vote.

\*\*\*D. Lillard moved; M. Wight seconded that Council agree to have Borough Staff conduct a study of all Dead-End Trails to collect the following information: the number of Dead-End Trails, the type of Dead-End Trails and cost of installing a "No Outlet" sign. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.

Mr. Hazlett will contact the resident who requested the sign. The police, municipal services and Mayor Harris will be consulted during the study process.

### **2020 Liquid Fuels Audit.**

Ms. Marthers shared that the annual Liquid Fuels Audit for 2020 has been completed with no adverse findings. Members accepted the audit by consensus with little discussion.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Grant Funding Updates.**

Members reviewed the written report supplied by Marissa Price of GMS Funding Solutions outlining the various grants being managed by her agency. Mr. Hazlett shared that the Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades are moving forward; Phase 1 is slated to begin construction by the end of September and Phase 2 should be ready to go out for bid by January 1, 2022 with a midyear start date. The report was accepted by consensus.

#### **Property Maintenance.**

Mr. Mathews shared that the special meeting of Council scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2021 has been postponed. Work is continuing on the enforcement process document. Dave Hazlett invited Members to “take a ride” with him and point out concerns that each may have; providing the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the ordinances and their limitations. Mr. Mathews explained that the guidance document that he and Mr. Verderaime worked on and the flow chart that Mayor Harris and he are developing is designed to aid a new code enforcement official to identify and prepare violation notices for ordinance infractions. The intent of this project is to address both the ordinance weaknesses and provide a consistent, fair and prosecutable process for enforcement. Further explanation included the desire to have Borough Staff fully involved in the development of both enforceable ordinances and the process by which those ordinances are enforced. Mr. Hazlett pledged the staff’s commitment to helping in any way needed.

#### **High-Speed Broadband Update.**

Mr. Hazlett offered a brief update of past conversations with Comcast that stalled when faced with a \$29,000 price tag for the extension. Comcast had previously agreed to fund this project fully. At that time, the position that both the Borough and Liberty Township held was that no tax-payer dollars should be spent on the project since that was how the project was proposed to the residents initially. Questions and Concerns voiced:

- Mr. Wight asked for information regarding the new legislation offering 5G small network hubs to address isolated areas of no available service. It was discussed briefly and decided that this technology was not a viable solution.
- Mr. Carr asked if the legislators who helped bring cellular towers and service to the area could help with this initiative. Mr. Hazlett and Mayor Harris will follow-up on this possibility.
- Highspeed Broadband Service was specifically included as a recommended use for the American Rescue Plan Act’s COVID relief funds.

Receipt of the COVID relief funds and growing frustration of the Borough residents who need adequate broadband for educational and work pursuits have changed Mr. Hazlett’s opinion on the issue. He requested that Council consider a motion to allow negotiation with Comcast to resume with the understanding that, if necessary, the Borough will pay its share of the fees needed for the extension up to the quote of \$29,000 and push to have it installed by December 31, 2021. Following much discussion:

\*\*\* M. Wight moved; D. Lillard seconded that Council approve for Dave Hazlett, Borough Manager, to communicate with COMCAST offering to pay the costs to install infrastructure necessary to complete the extension of broadband service to the D-section of the Borough no later than December 31, 2021. And further authorized Mr. Hazlett to contact Liberty Township for support and commitment to the project. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.

**3 Willow Trail Update.**

Mr. Hazlett spoke to Adams County Tax Claim office and confirmed the policy when a repository sale of property is denied by a taxing authority (the Borough) the property returns to the county repository until the next cycle of sales. The County Conservation District continues to pursue corrective action regarding the damage found on the property. Members agreed by consensus that the issue may be considered resolved and removed from further agendas.

**Sign Ordinance Update.**

Addressed during Planning Commission report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

No one addressed Council at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. via a motion by M. Wight and seconded by B. Carr that passed unanimously.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

The Attendance Register is attached, numbered Page 6 and made a part of the Official Minutes.

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Gayle Marthers, Borough Secretary