

**MEETING OF THE MOUNT PENN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**January 26, 2021**

The Mount Penn Borough Council met in regular session on January 26, 2021 via Zoom. President Goodman brought the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Responding to roll call were, President Goodman, and Council Members: James Cocuzza, John Fielding, Richard Lombardo, Ryan Maurer, Roger Reto, and Tom Staron. Also in attendance were Mayor Nowotarski, Solicitor Tom Klonis, Engineer Christopher Falencki, Property Maintenance Inspector Adam Bender, and Secretary Bette Petrov. Chief Serafin did not attend.

**I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: No Report**

**II. ENGINEERING**

- Engineering Report December 28, 2020 – January 20, 2021 submitted to Council. Mr. Falencki spoke that the 2021 Road Projects Program was never put together. Mr. Okonski stated there are 13 streets in need of paving. Another street inspection will be completed in April. Patching will take place again with St. Lawrence. Discussion continued. Mr. Maurer questioned Mr. Falencki regarding Dirt and Gravel Program specifically Low Volume. Discussion continued regarding the Borough’s needs, qualifications, and grant amounts also to be matched.
- Mr. Falencki spoke on the handicap ramp project specifically on Cumberland Avenue. Handicap ramps are tied to road improvements. Discussion continued.
- Mr. Falencki spoke on permits issued. Use & Occupancy Permits issued after completion of work states work is in compliance and safe for occupancy. Mr. Reto made the motion seconded by Mr. Lombardo to have the Use & Occupancy Permit added to the fee schedule. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Falencki will work with Mr. Bender.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Moved by Mr. Staron, seconded by Mr. Lombardo to approve the minutes of December 29, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. FINANCE REPORT**

- Moved by Mr. Maurer, and seconded by Mr. Reto to accept the Treasurer’s Report for December 2020. The motion carried unanimously. The following balances were reported.

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| Checking      | 44,943.65  |
| Savings       | 160,666.89 |
| Liquid Fuels  | 69,796.56  |
| PIB Loan      | 40,309.96  |
| Fire Tax      | 15,820.08  |
| Ambulance Tax | 16,238.22  |
| Petty Cash    | 50.00      |

Mr. Maurer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Reto, to ratify check #18615 - #18623 dated January 11, 2021 inclusive of on-line payments for a total of \$25,399.43; and check #18624 - #18636 dated January 26, 2021 inclusive of an on-line payment for a total of \$22,634.62 from the General Fund. Additionally, check #1325 - #1326 dated January 26, 2021 for \$4,145.60 from Liquid Fuels. The motion carried unanimously.

- President Goodman spoke on the Borough doing the audit of the Tax Collector. Mr. Klonis stated there is no legal requirement by the Borough to audit the Tax Collector. Mr. Staron made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo not to have an annual audit performed on the tax collector. The motion carried unanimously.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **A. STREETS:**

- Mr. Cocuzza spoke on the street list provided by Mr. Okonski. Reconstruction Cost \$80K -\$100K per block. Mr. Okonski explained the system of Reclamation. It is a cost savings if two – fours streets repaired together. He also conveyed there is quite a bit of patching needed. Mr. Falencki conveyed when streets are completed the handicap ramps are also completed. Cost of ramps \$5K - \$7K each. Discussion continued. Mr. Falencki will work with Mr. Okonski and make his recommendation at the next meeting.
- Mr. Okonski opposed the time clock for streets placed in Borough Hall. A punch time clock will be purchased for the garage.
- Per Mr. Okonski, if trees are awarded, from the grant submitted by Mr. Bender, 5 will be placed at 25<sup>th</sup> & Fairview and 5 on Endlich.

**B. PARKS & PUBLIC PROPERTY:** - No Report

**C. SOLID WASTE & PUBLIC UTILITIES:** - No Report

### **D. PERSONNEL:**

In accordance with the union contract, the salary for Mark Stufflet may have to be adjusted. The union is amending the contract. Discussion continued.

Mr. Staron asked for an executive session at 8:25 PM

Regular session resumed at 8:39 PM. Let the record show no action was taken.

**E. INSURANCE/PENSION:** - No Report

### **F. CODES:**

- President Goodman conveyed he discussed with Paul Janssen and Mr. Klonis the forming a sub-committee with codes that will interact with Lower Alsace. Mr. Bender conveyed his concerns and suggestions. Mr. Klonis questioned Mr. Bender who conveyed there less collaboration with Lower Alsace, and there appears to be no advantage for the Borough to this program. Discussion continued. Mr. Fielding suggested Mr. Bender put together a preliminary budget what he would need to run a codes department for the Borough of Mount Penn.
- Mr. Lombardo made the motion, seconded by Mr. Fielding to purchase a computer not to exceed \$500.00. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Fielding made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo to table the execution of the Second Amendment to the Amended and Restated Articles of Agreement of the Central Berks Regional Police Department. The motion carried unanimously.

## **VI: LIASION REPORTS:**

### **A. Fire Company:**

**Fastnachts February 13 – 14, 2021**

**B. MPBMA:** No Report

**C. AVMA:** - No Report

**D. Planning Commission:** - No Report

**E. Police Commission:**

- Mr. Maurer made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to authorize the execution of the agreement that will indemnify the Borough from any and all liability associated with the Borough's employee(s) doing the work maintaining CBRPD vehicles; and to permit the streets personnel to do minor maintenance on the Police vehicles. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. RCAV: No Report****VI. OTHER REPORTS:****A. Mayor:** - No Report**B. Solicitor:** No Report.**C. Secretary:**

- Requested all elected all council and appointed officials to complete and return the Statement of Financial Interests

**VII. ORDINANCES:**

- Mr. Klonis read the verbiage on Ordinance #860 for handicapped parking. Mr. Staron made the motion, seconded by Mr. Lombardo to adopt the Ordinance #860. Mr. Klonis delivered the verbiage of Ordinance #861 amending Ordinance #848 for the Parking Lot South 23rd and Perkiomen Avenue. Mr. Reto made the motion seconded by Mr. Maurer to adopt Ordinance #861. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Reto will distribute a letter on all vehicles currently in the lot.

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS**

- Mr. Staron made the motion seconded by Mr. Lombardo to accept Resolution #01-21 appointing John Skrincosky, Jr. as Assistant Treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #02-21 appointing Herbein & Company Auditor for the Borough during the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #03-21 appointing Timothy Waldman as Electrical Inspector for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #04-21 appointing Joshua Nowotarski at the Borough's representative to the Central Berks Regional Police Department Commission through December 31, 2021.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #05-21 appointing Brian Sands as Plumbing Inspector for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #06-21 appointing Bette E. Petrov as Secretary to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #07-21 appointing Thomas L. Klonis as Solicitor to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #08-21 appointing Bette E. Petrov Treasurer to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #09-21 appointing Ryan Maurer as Alternate Representative to the Central Berks Regional Police Department Commission through December 31, 2021.
- Mr. Staron made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #10-21 appointing Mr. Cocuzza as the Borough's representative to the Central Berks Regional Police Department Commission through December 31, 2021.

- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #11-21 appointing McCarthy Engineering (Shawn Schwartz) as Building Code Official for the Borough through the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #12-21 appointing McCarthy Engineering as the Engineer to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #13-21 appointing McCarthy Engineering as Accessibility Inspector to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #14-21 appointing McCarthy Engineering (Gary Herb) as Sewage Enforcement Officer to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #15-21 appointing McCarthy Engineering (Shawn Schwartz) as Zoning Officer to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #16-21 appointing Adam Bender as the Assistant Zoning Officer to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #17-21 appointing Thomas A. Staron to the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority to a five-year term expiring December 31, 2025.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #18-21 appointing Bette E. Petrov as the Right-To-Know Officer to the Borough for the 2021 year.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #19-21 approving the new Fee Schedule for the Borough of Mount Penn.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #20-21 approving the salary schedule.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #21-21 appointing Kelly Dudash as the Borough's representative to the Antietam Valley Recreation Commission for a five-year period expiring December 31, 2025.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #22-21 appointing Michael Worrall as the Borough's representative to the Antietam Valley Recreation Commission for a five-year period expiring December 31, 2025.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Reto to accept Resolution #23-21 appointing Alfred Worrall to serve as the Tax Collector of the Borough of Mount Penn for the year 2021.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mr. Staron made the motion seconded by Mr. Cocuzza to have the Website updated. The motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Cocuzza made the motion seconded by Mr. Fielding to accept the resignation of John Skrincosky, Jr. The motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion was held as to where Mr. Worrall will be based and what expenses incurred will be handled by the Borough. Mr. Goodman will speak with Mr. Worrall.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Mr. Maurer made the motion for adjournment at 9:43 P.M. seconded by Mr. Cocuzza. The motion carried unanimously.

Workshop meeting scheduled for 7:30 P.M. Thursday, February 18, 2021

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be held 7:30 P.M., Tuesday, February 23, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bette E. Petrov*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*