

**LAWRENCEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING.**

DATE: September 6th

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M.

174 Water Tower Road, Lawrenceville, PA

**ROLL CALL**

Council President, Gordy Chilson called the Regular Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council, held at 174 Water Tower Road, to order at 7:00 pm. Councilman Hank Gontarz, Councilman Cleo Russell, Councilwoman Cyndy Burrows, Councilman Mansel O'Dell and Mayor Kris Davis were present as well as Secretary Dana Hughes. Councilman Robert Penzone and Councilwoman Michelle Courtright were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR REGULAR MINUTES:** August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Motion made by Cleo Russell to approve prior August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, regular meeting minutes, seconded by Hank Gontarz. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Cleo Russell, Hank Gontarz, Gordy Chilson No; Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell. Motion passed 3-2

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Cyndy asked about payment to County Commissioners, Secretary stated it's the portion we pay for lighting. Cyndy also asked about payment to Solicitor and telephone conference with DEP. Motion was made by Cleo Russell to approve paying bills as presented. No second to pay bills. Motion failed. Council was asked by secretary about insurance bills and council stated only the essential bills such as utilities, insurance, and payroll to be paid.

**VISITORS:**

Jack Learn	Marilyn McCann	Anna Hotelling	Bill & Bev Shoup
Eddie Wetzal	Kathie Null	Ashley Wetzal	Shannon Wetzal
Lucy Losey	H. Hilfiger	Brad M.	Diana Lewis
Janet Beach	A. Barton	Anthony Urbano	
Kim O'Dell	Carl S.		

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

-Mansel O'Dell stated that he gave secretary a list of items to put on the agenda. Mansel said secretary emailed him stating per Gordy Chilson, he has final say as to what's on the agenda. Mansel said he spoke with attorney and Gordy doesn't have that right. Gordy stated he also talked with Solicitor and Mansel must be misinformed. One attendee and Cyndy Burrows asked if the Solicitor can be present at the next meeting. Mansel asked the council about the lift station and if Sheesley's did maintenance and asked what parts the lift station needs. Gordy stated that Sheesley's did maintenance and that the borough will order necessary parts that need replaced. Mansel asked about the certified mulch. Gordy stated that the council had a bid and voted on the playground mulch. Mansel asked council about the water tower and the stick w/epoxy on it and stated EPA has to approve material to weld on the hole. Mansel also asked if there was any communication with EPA. Gordy stated that there was no epoxy and said he talked with Walther from DEP about getting help finding a water/sewer operator. Mansel asked again about Steve Maslowski at EPA. Gordy stated he talked with Steve on the phone two times but did not join in the phone conference meeting due the EPA having their attorney present and borough's attorney was not able to make that meeting.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 23 – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 23 Fire Service Contract between Lawrenceville Borough, Tioga County, and Lawrenceville Fire Department Inc. from Chief Brad Hackett and Lee Strange was presented by Kat Helgemo and given to secretary to be ratified, signed, and completed in an expeditious manner to secretary Dana Hughes.

- **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Kris Davis stated that the pothole in front of post office driveway had been repaired. He Tioga-Lawrenceville Little League want to thank all the firemen that help out during Old Homes Day and a support they do.

- **POLICE REPORT:**

66 Incidents

- **AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION:**

No report. Information from county was not available. Kat Helgemo stated they provide August and September information in the next meeting.

## **LIBRARY-**

Lucy Losey stated making small improvements for library, they are making contacts, over winter they will clean & improve the upstairs, supplies and will apply for federal grant next year. They know a person that will provide all labor and all they need are supplies for windows and flooring. Lucy and Secretary to apply for Library grant next year. Also, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be next year.

## **BUILDING ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER –**

Logan Crawford zoning permit application, check #5752 in the amount of \$50.00; approval to construct a roof over existing 16'x24' porch on 49 Mechanic Street (Tabled)

Gordy said he spoke with resident and explained application was not complete. Gordy stated we don't have a zoning officer and the zoning permit is needed to get a building permit.

## **PUBLIC WORKS- STREETS AND DIKES –**

-Bids for levy maintenance. No bids came in. Mayor Kris Davis and Gordy Chilson walked the levy with potential contractor. The council received a bid from First Choice Lawn & Snow, LLC. In the amount of \$40,000.

-Kat Helgemo said she was contacted by email from DEP and they were going to do an inspection on September, 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Lawrenceville project and this needs attention. Cyndy Burrows and Jessica Barron forwarded this information to the secretary.

## **PARKS & RECREATION –**

## **PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENT –**

-Zoning Officer is vacant: Motion made by Cyndy Burrows to advertise for Zoning Officer, seconded by Mansel O'Dell. Motion was rescinded. Council asked if secretary could contact Mike Zimmerman and see if he would be interested in putting an application in for the position.

## **WATER/SEWER-**

-Refund water deposit, 68 State St., and 5 Cowanesque St.

-Motion made by Mansel O'Dell to refund the two water/sewer deposits, seconded by Cleo Russell. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Cleo Russell, Hank Gontarz, Gordy Chilson, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell.

Motion passed 5-0. Secretary asked if you need to have water deposit refund on the agenda for approval. Cleo said it's a formality and Gordy stated that it protects the Secretary and the Borough.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Rob Abel- would like Welcome signs coming into Lawrenceville from Rt15 and Rt49 for the United Methodist Church.  
Motion made by Cleo Russell, seconded by Mansel O'Dell for Rob Abel inform the council as to dimension of signs and photo. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Cleo Russell, Hank Gontarz, Gordy Chilson, Cyndy Burrows, and Mansel O'Dell. Motion passed 5-0
- Caleb Geist- Geist Water Consulting balance of \$1774.20 for May  
Motion made by Cyndy Burrows, seconded by Mansel O'Dell to to pay Geist Water Consulting the remainder of May's pay in the amount of \$1774.20. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Gordy Chilson, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell. No; Cleo Russell Motion passed 4-1
- Mulch- Mansel O'Dell to provide background on mulch  
Cyndy stated that the council paid for non-certified mulch. Mansel stated the previous motion voted on was for certified playground mulch. Mansel said the difference is that certified mulch has an 8-to-9-year warranty and is clean making it like a mat that is safe to fall on. Cyndy and Mansel stated the borough did not receive certified mulch.  
Motion made by Mansel O'Dell, seconded by Cyndy Burrows to have Mik-Lill enterprise LLC, Mike Morse to remove mulch and to buy certified playground mulch at his cost. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell. No; Gordy Chilson - Motion passed 4-1
- Quote to redo front sign of borough office  
Motion made by Cleo Russell to hire Larry Orr to refurbish sign in front of Borough Office. Anthony Urbano stated its two different materials from cemetery sign and what was quoted; vinyl vs. engraved and two get both quotes. Motion was not seconded.  
Motion made by Cleo Russell, seconded by Mansel O'Dell to contact and get a quote from Larry Orr for an embossed, engraved lettering sign similar to the cemetery sign for second quote and let Borough decide. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell. No; Gordy Chilson - Motion passed 4-1

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Approval for Council Members to contact Treasurer reviewed by Finance Committee  
Cyndy Burrows said she previously submitted financial questions to finance committee and she has been waiting since last month on the answers and also the water maintenance fees have not been added to maintenance funds and wants to know where that is.  
Motion made by Mansel O'Dell, seconded by Hank Gontarz for Cyndy Burrows, Dana Hughes, and one other council member to sit down with Vicki Willis, treasurer, to answer financial questions. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell, and Gordy Chilson Motion passed 5-0
- Fall Clean-Up  
Motion made by Cleo Russell, seconded by Mansel O'Dell to have Fall Clean-up Day October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Lawrenceville Water Plant. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell, and Gordy Chilson. Motion passed 5-0
- 2023 Budget  
Gordy stated the secretary will provide profit & loss statement and the Finance Committee will put the 2023 budget together. Gordy said the proposed budget will be put in the paper.
- Proposal from Daniel Rogers, CPA to conduct yearly audit for 2021  
Motion made by Cleo Russell, seconded by Cyndy Burrows for Daniel Rogers, CPA to conduct yearly audit for 2021. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell, and Gordy Chilson Motion passed 5-0

- TCAB Members dinner \$15.00 p/person  
Gordy stated to let the secretary know if any council member is interested in attending this dinner and if so, they would have to pay the \$15.00 fee.
- Sign Permit Application/Guaranteed Auto  
Motion made by Mansel O'Dell, seconded by Hank Gontarz to accept sign and approval of application for Guaranteed Auto. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell, and Gordy Chilson Motion passed 5-0
- PSAB Website for Lawrenceville Borough  
Motion made by Mansel O'Dell, seconded by Cyndy Burrows to amend agenda and add PSAB Website. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cleo Russell, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell No; Gordy Chilson Motion passed 4-1  
Motion made by Mansel O'Dell, seconded by Cyndy Burrows to have and pay for PSAB website for Lawrenceville Borough. Roll Call Vote: Yes; Hank Gontarz, Cyndy Burrows, Mansel O'Dell No; Gordy Chilson and Cleo Russell Motion passed 3-2

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

Anthony Urbano- asked about the mulch and the responsibilities of park committee to research and there were not enough quotes. Gordy Chilson said the price was cheaper and under the threshold without bidding out and noted that the borough council voted and approved the playground mulch in a public meeting. Anthony asked if the council approved of how the purchase of the mulch went down and if the council is personally happy with what happened. Gordy stated that once the borough council votes on something it's a dead issue unless something drastically changes. Cleo Russell said he is personally ok with it. Anthony said as far as signs, the council should have been put the sign refurbish out to bid instead of one person and he does signs himself. Gordy stated he voted no for the prior motion.

An Attendee said Gordy once said the insurance company has to approve the mulch on Cherry St. Park. Gordy said no he never told her that. He said they go by the law and the underwriters under that policy are the ones that determine right from wrong.

Anna Hoteling- Asked, when we are going to have an operator? Gordy said they have called 2/3 of the Pennsylvania list. Anna said if you, Gordy, would resign they would have a water/sewer operator and asked Gordy, "If you are for the people, why will you not resign?". Anna said that she wanted Gordy to resign for the good of the town.

Jessica Barron- asked where the 30-day OEM manual to DEP is and if it was submitted. Gordy stated the borough solicitor asked DEP for an extension. Jessica also asked about the Emergency Response Plan and that Caleb Geist was on that plan without his permission. Jessica asked who submitted the ERP. Gordy and Cleo stated that it wasn't them. She stated a generator for the water plant has to be put in place by December 2023. Gordy stated they have a weekly meeting with the engineer, JimmieJoe and are working on this. She asked what the status is about the EDU if someone wants fresh water and sewer. Gordy listed the names on the EDU list.

Kat Helgemo stated there is no evidence in the ledgers that the engineer has billed the town for any work. Gordy stated he has not billed the borough yet.

Sharon Wetzel asked if Gordy could let everyone know what the ordinance is for a septic and a well for the borough. Gordy stated you are allowed a well but no septic. A well could be used to wash a car or house.

It was stated that it would be nice to have a borough website so residents could access the boroughs ordinances. It was discussed to amend agenda to add PSAB for borough website. Mansel made a motion to amend agenda and add PSAB website to motion. Gordy asked Hank if he would entertain creating a website for the borough. Angelina stated that title 65, with everything going on right here is actually illegal. She said she

had a right to stand up and to object the meeting based on title 65. See PSAB website for Lawrenceville Borough for motion.

Angelina Barton from Ionumedia, LLC. addressed about replacement of refrigerator for sewer/water. Cleo stated that the refrigerator was replaced. She asked about Mike Mik-II, Mike Morse and any contracts for the borough. Gordy said Mr. Morse only has one contract with the borough and that is plowing and cindering. The contract for 2021 was extended to the year 2022. Angelina asked about advertisement of levy and the lack of job applicants; The question was, would you agree with the statement that leaves Lawrenceville vulnerable to be taken advantage of by contractors. Gordy stated the levy was advertised two times with no bids so if someone comes along and you get a bid from them, the council can accept it or reject it. Angelina posed the question to council members, "Would you vote for yourself". Gordy said yes, Cleo said yes, Hank said no, Kris said yes, Cyndy said yes, and Mansel said no.

An attendee asked again about the hole in the water tank and the stick in the hole with epoxy around it. Gordy called Mike on speaker phone and asked if DEP lied about the epoxy. Mike said he plugged the hole with a stick and there is no epoxy around the stick and it is a misrepresentation from DEP.

**ADJOURNMENT MOTION:** TIME: 9:58 PM

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Secretary

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Council President