

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2019 MEETING

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on August 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Moscow Borough Building, 123 VanBrunt Street, Moscow, PA. The following Council members were either present or absent:

Rosemarie Warner – Mayor	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Arthur Pencek – President	Present	Daniel Hanna	Present
Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present	William Heim, Vice-President	Absent
Edward Gaughan	Present	Thomas Lynch	Absent

Also present were Constance Sanko (Secretary), David Lamm (Building Inspector/Zoning Officer), Shawn Young (Fire Chief), Marie LaRosa (Junior Council Member), Teresa Ripley, and several members of American Legion Post 579.

Moscow Volunteer Fire Company: Shawn Young, Fire Chief, reported that there were 109 EMS calls and 11 fire related calls for the month of July. The Run for the Hoses one mile run held on August 3, 2019 was well attended.

Citizen's Comments: Bill Scally, from American Legion Post 579, 111 Church Street, thanked the Borough for the National Night Out Award presented to them for the improvements made to the Legion building and for taking care of the flags and wreath at the Borough Building. The Legion will be doing some work on the building, which is 108 years, and estimate the cost to be about \$50,000.00. The Legion has been in contact with State Representative Mike Carroll who advised them to apply for a Monroe County Local Share Grant through the Borough. Art Pencek advised Mr. Scally to contact Connie Sanko who will assist with the grant application.

Minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting: Ed Gaughan made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting as written. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of July and lists of bills to be paid from the General Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund. Marc Gaughan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and to pay the bills as presented. Joe Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Junior Council Persons:

- Brian Castrogiovanni was unable to attend this meeting so he will be given his Oath of Office at the September 3, 2019 Council meeting.
- Connie Sanko thanked the Junior Council members and their friends for their assistance with the Moscow Country Street Fair parade and National Night Out.
- Mayor Warner would like to see the Junior Council members schedule a meeting with the members of the Young Visionaries.

Engineer's Report: A letter dated August 8, 2019 was received from GPI regarding the VanBrunt Street Bridge Replacement over VanBrunt Creek. Marc Gaughan reported that he, Art Pencek, Harry Andes, Mark Mecca, representatives from the North Pocono School District and bus drivers, and GPI also representing Lackawanna County, met to discuss the VanBrunt Street replacement bridge. The project will take place next summer. It was suggested that the Borough do some shoring up on the Orchard Street Bridge at the same time.

Grants:

- Council members were given copies of a letter dated July 9, 2019 to the Lackawanna County Commissioners stating that the Moscow Borough is applying for a Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Act 13 Flood Mitigation Grant for Scanlon Lane.

- An application was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for a Monroe County Local Share Account grant for the 15% match for the Act 13 Floor Mitigation Grant.

Correspondence: Council members were provided with the following:

- Letter dated July 8, 2019 from Colwell-Naegele Associates, Inc. regarding BGM Enterprises, Inc., Harmony Hills Phase 3 Land Development.
- Letter dated June 28, 2019 from the Office of the Governor regarding a policy change for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grants.
- Letter dated July 2, 2019 from the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs regarding a meeting scheduled for August 15, 2019.
- Thank you note from the Friends of the North Pocono Library thanking the Borough for allowing them to store books to be used for the Book Sale held during the Moscow Country Street Fair.
- Email dated August 1, 2019 from Portnoff Law Associates regarding collection of delinquent municipal taxes.
- North Pocono Public Library newsletter.

Police Report: Council members were provided with copies of the police report for the month of July. There were 142 911 calls and 137 cleared calls.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Warner thanked Art Pencek for filling in for her to present the awards on National Night Out. She also thanked Connie Sanko, Beth Murray and Chief Brenzel for all the work they did for National Night Out noting that Chief Brenzel takes great pride in this event. She also thanked the part-time officers for stepping up during the fair to cover the shifts and in particular Justin Zeiler.

Building Permits/Zoning Permits: Dave Lamm gave a report on the building and zoning permits issued in July.

Building Inspector/Zoning Officer's Report:

- Dave Lamm reported that a house on Willow Street was condemned due to there being no electricity and water, and unsanitary conditions. There were also no smoke detectors. There was also a large amount of garbage and debris in the driveway and yard. The Area on Aging has been contacted for their assistance. A legal opinion is needed before the Borough can do anything to remove the garbage.

Zoning Hearing Board: An Affidavit to Proceed in Forma Pauperis Before the Moscow Borough Zoning Hearing Board was submitted for approval. Joe Castrogiovanni made a motion to accept the Affidavit to Proceed in Forma Pauperis Before the Moscow Borough Zoning Hearing Board as presented. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Planning Commission: Marc Gaughan reported on the following:

- Planning Commission members were provided with a letter dated July 3, 2019 to Jason Toy from Borough Council advising him to go back to the Planning Commission for a review of his second submission of his plans for the property at New and Lincoln Streets. They were also provided with a letter dated August 2, 2019 from the Planning Commission to Borough Council recommending that the property be rezoned to C1. since it is contiguous with Mr. Toy's other commercial property. After a brief discussion Marc Gaughan made a motion to move forward with rezoning Mr. Toy's property from an R2 zone to a C1 zone. Dan Hanna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote. A public hearing will be scheduled for this purpose.
- Marc Gaughan asked Dave Lamm if he heard from Rickie Emily or Timothy Pappas regarding the zoning hearing variance they obtained for a business and whether or not the project fell through.

Recreation:

- The rules and regulations signs for Old Mill Park and Harmony Park are pending.

- The park sign at Harmony Park has been installed.
- Marc Gaughan said that the arboretum at Golden Park looks beautiful and that he sees a lot of people using Old Mill Park.
- Marc Gaughan met with Mark Mecca about Harmony Park and said DPW is doing a great job clearing out old debris that was dumped in the past and are now getting the park in good shape.

Recycling: Joe Castrogiovanni said people continue to dump yard waste in front of the drop off area rather than taking it to the back and are also dumping wrong materials. He suggested possibly installing some motion detector cameras.

Council members were provided with copies of the following:

- Email from Barbara Giovagnoli regarding a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Roundtable Discussion at the DEP Northeast Regional Office on August 6, 2019.
- Email from Barbara Giovagnoli regarding the Annual Municipal Meeting on August 27, 2019. Joe Castrogiovanni and Mark Mecca will be attending the meeting.
- Article from Borough News, "Legislation Aims to Curb Single-Use Plastics and Litter"
- Article from Columbia Magazine, "Our Plastic Problem"
- Monthly Recycling Report for June: 3.05 tons paper; 3.43 tons comingled; 5.67 tons cardboard; 33.91 tons brush; 14 trips to recycling center

Municipal Building:

- Harry Andes provided the bid specs for the replacement of the sidewalks in front of the Borough Building. Marc Gaughan made a motion to advertise for bids for the replacement of the sidewalks in front of the Borough Building. Ed Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Financial Report: Council members were provided with a letter from Murphy, Dougherty & Company regarding the 2018 Audit together with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Municipal Annual Audit, the Financial Report for the year ended December 31, 2018 submitted by Murphy, Dougherty & Company, and the Moscow Borough Concise Statement of Revenue Receipts and Expenditures Paid, Combined Funds - Year Ended December 31, 2018. Murphy, Dougherty & Company recommended that Borough Council institute a financial policy change to transfer funds from the prior year Earned Income Tax Fund into the General Fund at \$5,000.00 per month. Joe Castrogiovanni made a motion to change the Borough's financial policy to transfer \$5,000.00 each month from the Earned Income Tax Fund to the General Fund. Marc Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Moscow Sewer Authority: Council members were provided with the following:

- A notice to Moscow Sewer Authority ratepayers regarding an infiltration study.
- A letter dated July 24, 2019 regarding a house on Mary Street that is not connected to central sewer that may be causing contamination of a well on the property below it.

An open position on the Moscow Sewer Authority still remains. The position was previously advertised in The Scranton Times. Art Pencek suggested that it be readvertised.

Streets: Marc Gaughan reported on the following:

- He and Harry Andes met with Leeward regarding Grove Street.
- The part-time seasonal employee that was hired in July is no longer working with the Borough due to health issues. He did a great job while he was here.

- He recommended that Council look into the possibility of abandoning Janette Street due to its steepness. There may be some legal ramifications since there are several vacant lots on Janette Street who may not then have access to their properties.
- A thank you was received from Arthur Frable thanking Connie Sanko and Mark Mecca for their assistance in getting a drain fixed by his mother's property on Gardner Street.
- Pocono Spray Patching did major spray patching throughout the Borough to maintain the streets until they can be rebuilt.

Old Business:

- Connie Sanko is scheduling a meeting with Rose Warner and Bethany Staples to complete the updates to the website.
- Art Pencek is waiting to hear back from PennDOT about placing the entrance sign on State right-of-way near the Library.

Adjournment: Marc Gaughan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Hanna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Constance Sanko