

MOSCOW BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2019 MEETING

A meeting of the Moscow Borough Council was held on January 8, 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	Present
Edward Gaughan	Present	Thomas Lynch	Present

Also present were Constance Sanko (Secretary), Ivy Brenzel (Police Chief), David Lamm (Building Inspector/Zoning Officer), and Mark Gallagher (Moscow Volunteer Fire Department).

Citizen's Comments: Mark Gallagher, representing the Moscow Volunteer Fire Department, gave a report on the activities for the year 2018. There were 1061 EMS calls and 193 fire related/EMS service calls. The Fire Department will be ordering a new truck to replace the Rescue and the Engine. He said it is getting more difficult to rely on volunteers so Mutual Aid is used more often. Mark said the Fire Department has a good working relationship with the neighboring towns and he thanked Council for its support. Art Pencek and Rose Warner thanked the Fire Department for all they do.

Minutes of the December 17, 2018 meeting: Bill Heim made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 17, 2018 meeting as written. Edward Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

- Elizabeth Murray submitted the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 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. Dan Hanna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.
- Council members were provided with copies of the Wage Tax Collector's report for the month of December.
- Certificate of Deposit #***3302 renewed on January 5, 2019.

Secretary's Report: Connie Sanko said it is time to bid out for Clean and Green. Bill Heim made a motion to advertise for Clean and Green. Joe Castrogiovanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Correspondence:

- A letter dated December 17, 2018 was received from Attorney Joseph McDonald expressing his interest in being the Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor for Moscow Borough with a rate change from \$175.00 to \$200.00 per hour. Bill Heim made a motion to retain Attorney Joseph McDonald as the Alternate Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at a rate of \$200.00 per hour. Dan Hanna seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.
- A thank you note was received from Joan Powell and Barb Belasky for the Christmas gift from the Borough.
- A meeting of the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs is scheduled for January 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Barbara Giovagnoli from the Lackawanna County Office of Sustainability will be the guest speaker and will be speaking on the new recycling regulations.

Police Report:

- Chief Brenzel gave the police report of the month of December. There were 114 911 calls and 112 cleared calls. She also gave the yearly report for 2018. There were 1,571 911 calls and 1,557 cleared calls in 2018.

- One of the police vehicles was involved in a minor incident when it hit a raccoon, causing damage to the radiator and front of the vehicle. It is out of service until repairs can be made. In the meantime a rental vehicle is being used.
- The Borough was notified that it placed second in its category nationwide for National Night Out. Chief Brenzel thanked Council for all of its support.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Warner reported that Russian Christmas was very nice. Music and art works were provided by the North Pocono High School. She thanked the Junior Council members for showing up to help.
- She said that she is very proud that the Borough placed second for National Night Out in its category nationwide. Moscow Borough was the only municipality from Pennsylvania to place in that category.

Building/Zoning Officer's Report:

- Dave Lamm reported that Brian Chase submitted a Right-to-Know request to look at building permits issued to St. Catherine's. There were four permits issued since 2010. He met with Brian and Ray today to go over the drawings. Marc Gaughan wanted to know if they had requested an as built plan. Art said they are waiting for the final design.
- Art Pencek reported that a letter was received from Judge Mazzoni dated December 27, 2018 turning the St. Catherine's issue over to a judge. There were certain conditions set forth by St. Catherine's that the Chase's will not accept. A hearing date is being scheduled.

Zoning Hearing Board: Council members were provided with a Certified Record of Proceedings submitted by Attorney Brian Yeager to the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas regarding the Sams Land LLC appeal.

Planning Commission: Council members were provided with the following:

- Letter dated December 21, 2018 from Mayor Rosemarie Warner to Dollar General regarding the outside appearances of their buildings.
- Lackawanna County Planning Commission Subdivision and Land Development Evaluation for Dollar General for the Denise Cebular property. Dollar General still has not purchased the Cebular and Pierre properties; there are Purchase Agreements in place. Art Pencek said the lots should be consolidated. Marc Gaughan said this is Dollar General's intent.
- Mary Liz Donato and Harry Andes strongly encouraged the Planning Commission not to accept conditional approval for Dollar General for a number of reasons, more specifically Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection approvals are still needed.
- Newspaper article from The Scranton Times regarding Airbnb's.
- The Planning Commission will begin reviewing the current zoning ordinance for changes.

Recycling: Council members were provided with the following:

- Letter dated December 21, 2018 sent to Borough Residents/Property Owners regarding new recycling guidelines.
- Letter dated January 8, 2019 from Covington Township inquiring if the Borough would haul their recycling containers at a rate of \$150.00 per pull per container on a temporary basis until repairs are made to Covington's roll off truck. Art Pencek said the Borough will be supplying the driver. Marc Gaughan made a motion to haul Covington Township's recycling containers on a temporary basis at a rate of \$150.00 per pull per container. Tom Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

- Joe Castrogiovanni said he will be getting signage for the recycling area to have the yard waste separated.
- Monthly Recycling Report for December: 5.05 tons paper; 5.17 tons comingled; 7.46 tons cardboard; 13.81 tons brush; 16 trips to recycling center.
- Yearly Report Totals for recycling for 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 were provided.

Municipal Building: All of the exercise equipment from the basement has been removed.

Streets: Marc Gaughan reported on the following:

- A waiver is needed from Ardito's for the Borough to repair the sinkhole in the parking lot. Bruce is working on this. Art Pencek said FEMA may come to look at it for possible funding.
- Harry Andes looked at the sinkhole at the intersection of Church and Maple Streets. It is a parallel pipe so it belongs to the Borough. Harry Andes said to let PennDOT know that it is a safety issue and they should correct the problem.
- Art Pencek and Marc Gaughan will look locally to rent a street sweeper. They would pay someone to operate the sweeper.

Personnel Committee: Connie Sanko reported that DGK Insurance requires that some more specific information be included in the Employee Handbook with regard to background checks. She will get this information to Ed Gaughan.

Old Business: Bill Heim and Rose Warner are still looking into updating the Borough's website.

New Business:

- Connie Sanko reported that the Borough Office received several requests regarding the placement of Veteran's Banners in the Borough similar to those in Covington Township. She said that the owner of The Mess Hall took on all the responsibility for arranging for the banners to be placed but Covington Township hung the banners since they have a bucket truck. Connie also spoke to Cesare Forconi from Dickson City Borough who said that the process can be expensive and that the banners do not hold up well. He suggested a memorial wall such as in Old Forge Borough and Blakely Borough. Art Pencek said that if someone wants to take this over as a project, maybe the banners could possibly be placed on the lights in the parking lot on Main Street. Marc Gaughan said that the Borough already has a Veterans Memorial in front of the Borough Building that was donated by The American Legion.

Council members were provided with a list of positions on committees. Bill Heim made a motion to reappoint the members of the following committees as listed. Edward Gaughan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Civil Service Commission: Kevin Strausser - six year term; John Franklin - six year term

Moscow Sewer Authority Sewer: Stanley Zagorski - four year term

Planning Commission: Joseph Fesolovich - four year term; Barry Gabello - four year term

Recreation Commission: Elwood Perry - four year term

Shade Tree Commission: Rose Standiford - four year term; Kim Mecca - four year term

Adjournment: Bill Heim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Constance Sanko