

**CLEARFIELD BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2020**

Clearfield Borough Council met in regular session on Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Clearfield Borough Building. Lew Duttry called the meeting to order. Lew Duttry held a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Lewis Duttry, Stephanie Tarbay, Jim Kling, Brande Plyler, Mason Strouse, Scott Ortasic

ABSENT: Steve Harmic, Robbie Tubbs, Mayor Schell, Solicitor Chip Bell, Borough Secretary Betsy Houser

OTHERS PRESENT:, Borough Operations Manager Leslie Stott, Code Officer Larry Mack, Chief Vincent McGinnis, Fire Chief Justin Worley

MEDIA: Dustin Parks, Gant Media

Lew Duttry called for a Motion seeking approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2020 Clearfield Borough Council Meeting. **MOTION** was made by Jim Kling and seconded by Mason Strouse. **MOTION** Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC AUDIENCE: None

REPORTS OF BOROUGH OFFICERS

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A copy of the Fire Department's report is on file. Justin said that there has been a lot of calls with the snow storm. Everything is in service other than the apparatus, Les can fill you in on it. The new radios should be in soon. They will get installed as soon as they get in. The Relief Association bought those. Les stated the truck, once they got the \$11,000 swivel on it, the core was too badly to rebuilt it was too broken. This is why they took so long to fix the hydraulics, then they found another list of items that cost \$10,000, that were required to be fixed to have the truck certified. Some were things, if the truck wasn't three hours away, we thought we could go get it and do some repairs ourselves, but looking at all options, we went through the paperwork, it was determined for the truck to stay and get done. The Fire Dept. did receive a Cares Grant, they are going to pay for the most of the repairs, she thanked the fire dept. very much for that. Justin added, the overall age of the truck is 20 years old, in the near future he would like to get with Public Safety, to have a game plan, for selling a piece for replacement of some sort. As time goes on, we do not want to risk having two pieces down at the same time. Les said the Fire Dept. will come with a game plan. Justin said will extend the life of this truck. The Santa tour will be Saturday, starting at 3:00. They will do the best job to get through all the streets in the Borough. If you hear us, come out to the corner and see us. The bags for hand out are ready. Jim Kling asked if you can make some noise so people can hear them coming. Justin said absolutely! He also added to check their Face book page for updates.

POLICE: A copy of the Police Department's report is on file. Chief McGinnis stated the meters downtown are certified. Every five years they need certified. They are up for certification now. There is a person that certifies them. There are 500. Terry Malloy just purchased 81 new meters, He is the President of Park N Shop. With that we have started to test them, Terry is that person. Our meter guy is bringing them in for Terry to certify them. The chief also added with the snow storm for everyone to slow down, be curious. This will take some time to clean up.

Nate Curry stated that the Giving Tree for 2020, this was the best year. Over \$14,000 donated money. It will be for seniors for fuel or repairs for furnaces. 277 tags were fill for the seniors. The tags were gone in three to four days. An idea was given for the seniors who has custody of grand children, so they did tags this years for some of those children. 110 tags were filled for the children. He thanked the members who participated in this event. It was awesome.

Nate Curry also thanked the first responders from the storm last night. Some of them put countless hours in. From up on the interstate to our own roads. He thanked them very much.

STREET: Les said the crew started at 6:30 yesterday, until 2:30 today, they worked 32 hours straight. Twenty inches of snow. They were working on the roads to get cleared. The equipment and trucks got stuck at times. The alleys did not get done yet. They are hoping to start tomorrow. Down town will need unloaded as well. She said they have done a great job. Jim Kling also added for anyone living near a fire hydrant, please dig it out. Les said three feet out.

MAYOR:

SOLICITOR:

BOROUGH OPERATIONS MANAGER: She asked motorists to drive slow on Front St. Wednesday morning some holes were filled in. There has been Covid cases with in the Borough. We do have sprayers to use. The products are being used, Larry Mack is doing a very good job applying it.

ENGINEER

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: A copy of the code officer reports are on file. Larry Mack stated that Monday the final inspection was done on Sheetz. It passed. It will be open the 23rd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY:

MOTION was made by Stephanie Tarbay and seconded by Mason Strouse to agree to sign an agreement to dispose of old bullet proof vests. The only cost is to ship them to Alabama. **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Jim Kling to see old police radios and equipment at \$50 per piece to a local fire department. **MOTION** Carried.

PUBLIC WORKS:

MOTION was made by Brande Plyler and seconded by Mason Strouse to advertise for gasoline and diesel bids. **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made to approve to appoint Stiffler McGraw as our engineers for 2021. **MOTION** Carried.

Remind residents that there is not a Christmas tree pick up. Trees must be taken to the compost site for disposal.

PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

MOTION was made by Jim Kling and seconded by Brande Plyler to approve new rates for the Middle Department Inspection Agency. They have not had a rate increase since June 2009 . **MOTION** Carried.

Note: The Clearfield Skate Park through the Clearfield Borough is to receive at least \$445 of grant funds from the Clearfield County Charitable Foundation for a ramp project.

MOTION was made by Brande Plyler and seconded by Mason Strouse to provide public notice for the listing of Borough meetings for the year 2021. **MOTION** Carried. Jim Kling asked about Zoning meetings being advertised, Les stated they are only advertised when they have them. There was only one this year.

MOTION was made by Stephanie Tarbay and seconded by Mason Strouse to provide public notice for the listing of the Borough Planning Commission meetings for the year 2021 including the reorganization meeting at the first meeting. **MOTION** Carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

MOTION was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Mason Strouse to re advertise for part time assistance with recycling. It is 4 hours every other Tuesday . **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made by Jim Kling and seconded by Lew Duttry to advertise openings on all boards and committees for the Clearfield Borough. **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Jim Kling to approve to send 1 officer to Crime Scene training and management for 2 days in Harrisburg for \$175 plus 1 night of lodging in February 2021. **MOTION** Carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MOTION was made by Brande Plyler and seconded by Mason Strouse to approve the bill list for payment . **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made by Jim Kling and seconded by Brande Plyler to approve the ordinance fixing the tax rate at 27 mils. **MOTION** Carried. Jim Kling stated that is no tax increase.

MOTION was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Brande Plyler to approve to set the police retirement pension at the continued rate of 5%. **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Jim Kling to adopt the 2021 general fund and liquid fuels budget which was appropriately advertised. **MOTION** Carried.

MOTION was made by Jim Kling and seconded by Brande Plyler to approve an electric rate contract with Vistra Corp for 24 months, starting June 21 as suggested by Tom Toplak, our broker from World-Kinect. This would be a \$200 per year increase. **MOTION** Carried. Les stated when they started with these contracts, this contract replaces our contract we have had the same broker, and it had been called On Demand.

MOTION was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Brande Plyler to approve five notice to Highmark BCBS that we are cancelling our health insurance policy and moving to UPMC as long as both unions agree. The policy is very similar. Highmark had a 26% increase this year. UPMC rates would be a savings of \$33,000 for 2021. **MOTION** Carried. Les said Highmark to a huge jump. Now with the affordable care act it is based on age, gender, and used to have a tobacco field. Both unions have to agree with this. She doesn't see where either contract would not accept this plan. She has not given the UPMC plan yet to either union. She will have to give the Highmark a 30 day notice. Jim Kling asked if preexisting conditions will be covered, and yes it will Les said.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS: Jim Kling commended the road crew for a good job with snow removal from the storm.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED 6:45 pm

Submitted By: Betsy Houser, Borough Secretary/Administrative Assistant