

**Borough of Pitcairn Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**June 8, 2020**  
**7:00 pm**

**Meeting called to order – Vice President John Bova**

**Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Roll Call:**

John Bova

Kevin Dick

Debra Freeman

Dona Galia

Lisa Petrosky

Jim Rullo

Michael Tobias

Mayor Margaret Stevick

All present with the exception of Council President, Dona Galia.

Engineer Don Black and Solicitor Michael Witherel were present.

Mr. Bova announced that Council held an Executive Session at 6:00 pm to discuss personnel and a legal matter.

**Mr. Rullo motioned to approve Minutes from May 11, 2020 Borough Council Workshop Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

**Citizen Comment on Agenda Items**

No citizen comments or questions were submitted.

Public Works and Utility Foreman, James Comunale, was present to comment on the list of paving with estimated costs he submitted to Council. Mr. Comunale: 13<sup>th</sup> Street from Highland to Brinton, the entire length of High Street where Public Works could perform drainage work, the entire length of Pitcairn Avenue, and Brinton from Sixth to Broadway. Mr. Comunale detailed the proposed repair of Brinton including brick removal, adding that Brinton from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> needs repaired as well. Mr. Bova explained \$200,000 in awarded grant money can be allocated for paving. Mr. Bova agreed the bricks should be removed before paving to avoid a repeat of drainage problems when paving was done years ago over the bricks.

Mr. Bova asked Engineer Don Black for an update on Center Avenue. Mr. Black: the pre-bid Meeting went very well; at least eight specialty contractors. Pitcairn has enough grant money to do the worst portion and can extend it in twenty foot increments. Garvin set it up as design build so the contractors design the fix; probably going to be soil nails to stabilize the road. Mr. Comunale is creating an area where the contractor can leave a great deal of material, saving the cost of hauling it away.

Mr. Dick suggested paving the alley by the old Borough building, the alley by Dan's Floral and Mr. Bova suggested the alley off Wall by the school. When asked his opinion, Mr. Comunale emphasized the priority of paving and curbing the hill portion of Brinton with grant money as it will be expensive. Use borough money for the smaller, less expensive alleys. Mrs. Freeman: what is the time frame for Brinton. Discussion took place regarding coordinating Center Avenue and Brinton to be done at different times, but not wait until too late in the year. Mr. Black: bids for Center Avenue will be opened next week; work could begin within 30 days. Discussion took place regarding the list of roads, estimated to be over the \$200,000 grant amount.

Mr. Bova asked Mr. Comunale to explain why Pitcairn needs a Public Works building. Mr. Comunale: the new owner of 582 Sixth Street has agreed to permit occupancy until April 2021. The two dump trucks with spreaders will not fit in the former ambulance garage, cannot be out in the weather. There is a skid steerer,

backhoe, pickup truck and a lot of other equipment and supplies. Mr. Bova asked for an estimate if the borough employees built it. Mr. Comunale: approximately \$120,000 which includes bidding out the parts PW cannot do, as well as bidding out the building shell list of supplies. They could begin in autumn. Must be under roof and floor in before winter; the employees could not do other projects in order to do that. Discussion took place regarding finances and need for the building.

Mr. Tobias asked Mr. Comunale when the painting of curbs and lines would take place. Mr. Comunale: we just received more signs to post side streets for street sweeping. The plan is to do everything at the same time: cut weeds, sweep, paint curbs, one side at a time. Mrs. Petrosky asked if the high school summer work program is still running. Mr. Tobias thought those programs were canceled due to the pandemic.

### **Mayor Betsy Stevick**

Mayor Stevick had two applications for part time police officers. Chief Farally is recommending Council hire Branden Linebarger and Justin Hott. Mayor Stevick reported these hires would relieve a lot of the overtime. She asked to see the police department time sheets for overtime related to the pandemic and protests. Mr. Bova said he has spoken to other boroughs and their Council receives monthly reports about the calls and who is on shift. Mayor Stevick confirmed she receives them. She said Governor Wolf has asked FEMA to get involved, she is hoping to get help from that agency for the pandemic and protests. Mayor Stevick has asked Chief Farally to keep track of hours. Mr. Rullo offered to ask Chief about the reports and forward them to Council. Mr. Dick asked if they were maintaining a mileage log on the vehicles. Mayor Stevick responded, yes, they are doing that.

**Mr. Dick motioned to hire part time Police Officer Brenden Linebarger. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Tobias motioned to hire part time Police Officer Justin Hott. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.**

Mayor Stevick relayed to Council that Karen Desmond is asking for a handicap parking sign at 416 Second Street. **Mr. Dick motioned to move a handicap parking sign from a spot no longer needed, to 416 Second Street. Seconded by Mrs. Freeman; motion carried unanimously.**

### **Personnel – Dona Galia**

In response to the Green Phase for reopening Allegheny County, Mr. Bova referenced the well publicized guidelines the Borough has been following. Council directed the Borough Manager to continue implementing social distancing guidelines for the public using the Borough building and the parks. Signage will need to be displayed at each park.

Mr. Bova announced Council has received a petition from 15 residents requesting speed bumps on North Avenue. Discussion took place regarding traffic studies required for speed bumps. Mr. Rullo as Public Safety Committee Chair offered to talk to the residents, visit the location next week. Mrs. Freeman asked if surveillance cameras could show who was speeding and how many cars use it. Mr. Bova said other Council members can accompany Mr. Rullo, bring up the topic at the next Meeting for a vote.

### **Streets – Kevin Dick**

Mr. Dick asked Mr. Black if he recommended the next motion and he responded, yes. **Mr. Dick motioned to release retainage for 2018 paving project as requested by A. Liberoni, Inc. in the amount of \$14,567.33. Mr. Tobias seconded; the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Dick motioned to adopt Resolution 26-2020, an application for a PA H2O grant in the amount of \$125,125 to be used for Dirty Camp Run Flood Control Project sponsor adjustments. The Borough's match to be \$18,769. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dick announced sealed Bids for the Center Avenue Landslide Project will be opened on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Borough was awarded a grant for \$525,000.

**Mr. Dick motioned to accept a CDBG grant award of \$20,013 for the paving of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The Borough match is \$28,127. Seconded by Mr. Rullo.** Question on the motion: Mrs. Petrosky asked why the borough match was more than the grant. Bids came in higher than first expected; the amounts were discussed at prior Meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Dick motioned to request a change of scope for the CITF grant, to shovel ready paving list, in the amount of \$200,000. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Dick motioned to accept Cargill, Inc. time extension to meet purchase requirement for rock salt by December 31, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman**

Mrs. Freeman reported the Park Building steps and railings are in the process of being reconstructed.

**Mrs. Freeman motioned to approve playing fields use request from PitCare for a mentoring event on June 13, 11:00 to 3:00. Participants will sit on the lower fields with required social distancing. Seconded by Mrs. Petrosky; motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky**

**Mrs. Petrosky motioned to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.** She thanked the Borough employees for keeping the town running during this difficult time.

#### **Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias**

Mr. Tobias announced the Janie Summers Community Clean Up will take place on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

**Mr. Tobias motioned to adopt Resolution approving application for up to \$300,000 CFA Blight Remediation Grant for demolitions. Application deadline is July 31, 2020. Seconded by Mr. Dick.** Mr. Tobias: we need to select structures. Discussion took place regarding possible structures, and how widely costs can vary due to asbestos abatement. Mr. Black suggested choosing structures and he will estimate the costs. Mr. Black: regardless of this grant, it would be nice to have a list of blighted properties to demolish over a multi-year plan. Mr. Tobias is willing to drive around with Code Officer Nick Turner to investigate properties as soon as possible. Mr. Bova expressed interest in the concept of conservatorship. Mrs. Freeman asked if the grant money covered commercial buildings. Mr. Black: typically it is more complex, will need all the proper clearances. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Nick Turner is present to comment on his monthly report. Mr. Dick suggested liening properties owned by banks that need mowed by the street department. Mr. Witherel: give them notice and then lien them seasonally because there is a cost to the procedure.

### **Electric – John Bova**

**Mr. Bova motioned to write off old electric accounts prior to 2014. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.** It was clarified these will only be accounts that cannot otherwise be collected.

Mr. Bova reported after a long winter and additional extended period for electric service shut offs, beginning June 2 the Borough resumed shut offs, the goal is get all past due accounts in line, to strictly and consistently enforce the adopted repayment policy.

### **Public Safety – Jim Rullo**

**Mr. Rullo motioned to offer full time employment to part time Police Officer Anthony Peduzzi.** His background and experience shows his capabilities. **Seconded by Mr. Dick.** Mr. Rullo suggested a roll call vote. Mr. Bova commented he would like to know the precise impact on the finances in making a part timer full time. Discussion took place. Mrs. Freeman: what time frame to require him to move into Pitcairn. The new CBA was consulted. Mr. Bova: because we have less than three full time officers, we can bypass civil service. Mrs. Petrosky asked if the officers are working 8 or 10 hr shifts. Mayor Stevick: eight, but sometimes we have to call them back. The Solicitor read from the CBA that full time hires after 2014 must live in the Borough, no deadline stated. He suggested you could give the probationary period to relocate. Mr. Tobias asked if anyone had spoken to the Officer about residency. Mr. Bova: we could offer it to him with the contingency he move within a year. Mayor Stevick wondered what the other Officers would think who have been here longer. Mr. Bova: our Police Chief and Public Safety Committee Chair have strongly recommended him. **Roll call vote resulted in the motion carrying,** with Mr. Bova voting not in favor. Mr. Rullo thanked law enforcement in the community for the good job they are doing.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Nothing tonight.

### **Engineer's Report**

Nothing in addition to what was already discussed.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

Ms. Dietz read aloud the various bank fund balances, and provided a spreadsheet to Council showing grants awarded and the Borough's committed matching funds, as well as the lowered revenues compared to the same totals last year, due to the pandemic. She echoed concern voiced by local and State government experts that boroughs will see marked decreases in various sources of income, possibly leading to dipping into reserves and capital funds, some boroughs even furloughing workers. Ms. Dietz will keep Council informed each month, cautioning that the third and fourth quarter will reveal a better picture of the impact. The projections for next year are that Liquid Fuels, RAD taxes, Fire Relief and other subsidies will be adversely affected and boroughs are encouraged to be prepared for a difficult year.

**Mr. Tobias motioned to Adjourn at 8:20 pm. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Annette Dietz