

March 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Council of the Borough of Minersville was held March 9, 2021. Due to the Covid19 Virus, a zoom meeting was held. President Milbrandt opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

The following Council members attended the March 9, 2021 meeting: Ms. Katielynn Milbrandt, Mr. Mike Firestine, Ms. Sarah Newton, Mr. Jamie Kuehn, Mr. Ian Mahal, Mr. Steve Darosh, Mr. Robert Umbenhen, Mayor Sean Palmer, Solicitor Evans, Police Chief Combs, Kyle Crouse and Bob Mahalchick, Borough Manager.

Mr. Umbenhen made a motion, second by Mr. Firestine, to approve the minutes from February 2021. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Umbenhen seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Ms. Darosh made a motion to approve the Officers' Reports. Mr. Mahal seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Citizens' Comments:

Mr. John Zimmerman, a member of the Fire Police, 300 Lewis Street, Apartment 708, commented during the New Business.

Communications:

There were no communications to report.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business:

The Mt. Pleasant Hose Company is merging with the Miners Fire Rescue.

Ms. Newton made a motion to approve the driveway application of 413 Lytle Street.

Mr. Mahal seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Mahalchick recommends hiring two summer helpers now so that they can help with snow removal if necessary. Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Kuehn to hire the summer help as recommended. The motion passed as presented.

The Solicitor has reviewed the contract agreement with K&B Recycling. Council members should review the agreement and decide on a date and if the event should only be open to residents prior to the April meeting.

The issue of paying the Fire Police for their assistance with street closings for snow cleanup following the snow emergency was discussed. During the emergency Mr. Firestine asked for the Fire Police and Mr. Eichenberg asked if they would be paid. Mr. Mahalchick and Mr. Firestine stated they would. A bill for approximately \$333 was presented for their services. Mr. Laughlin stated it was not an emergency.

Mr. Mahalchick stated it was declared a snow emergency and while cars were moved for snow removal the Fire Police were needed to direct traffic. Mr. Kuehn stated he felt it was setting a bad precedent. Ms. Newton stated it is a volunteer service. John Zimmerman stated that the Fire Police get paid when they perform in other boroughs. Police Chief Combs stated he did not have the officers to direct traffic and if the Fire Police were told they would be paid, how do you not pay them? Mr. Firestine and Mr. Mahalchick mistakenly thought it could be paid out of liquid fuels funds and later found out it doesn't qualify for liquid fuels funding. Mr. Firestine stated the Borough workers were busy plowing so they could not direct traffic. Mr. Mahalchick asked what would happen if there were another snowstorm. Ms. Newton stated she was concerned that they asked to be paid. Mr. Kuehn said it is setting a bad precedent. Mr. Mahalchick stated that fire or accidents are considered an emergency. Ms. Newton stated then perhaps they should not be called volunteers. Mr. Mahal suggested Mr. Mahalchick send a letter to Mr. Laughlin explaining the situation. Mr. Mahalchick stated Mr. Laughlin said he couldn't guarantee volunteers. We do contribute a stipend to the Fire Police for hats, etc.

Committee Reports-

Streets and Highways-Mr. Firestine stated there are \$100,527 in Liquid Fuels and \$54,539 in the Equipment Account. The money is there to allow the purchase of a new truck and skid loader. The 2008 dump truck would be good to keep for a spare. The co-stars price is the same at every dealership. Mr. Firestine is preparing a list of streets for repair. Ms. Newton congratulated the Street Department on their pothole repair. Mr. Darosh stated his son cleared snow from the walking path. Mr. Mahalchick stated the Street Department could salt the path. Mr. Darosh stated the playgrounds and basketball courts are snow covered. Mr. Firestine stated that when he was a kid they shoveled the courts if they wanted to play. Ms. Milbrandt stated other communities walking paths are still snow covered.

Mr. Mahalchick stated that out of caution the town Easter Egg Hunt would not be held this year.

Mr. Mahalchick stated that the Borough Office is now working at full staff in person. Other communities are keeping their offices closed.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Umbenhen to begin with the April meeting, sessions would be held in person for council members only. Zoom would also be available for the public and those not comfortable with meeting in person. On the question, Solicitor Evans stated it could be advertised on social media. The motion passed as presented.

Mr. Firestine made a motion, second by Mr. Mahal, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Capik, Secretary

