



The Borough of Elverson
101 South Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 206
Elverson, PA 19520
Phone (610) 286-6420
Fax (610) 286-5950

February 1, 2022

The monthly meeting of the Elverson Borough Council was held on February 1, 2022 and called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Bob Clements who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Merle Stoltzfus led in prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members, Bob Clements, Merle Stoltzfus, George Firrantello, Mike Trojecki, Thomas Feeley, Dennis Kurtz, Mayor Esther Prosser and Secretary/Treasurer, Lori Kolb, Absent, Jack Stewart

Also in attendance: Mark Stabolepszy, SSM Group, Barclay Hargreaves, EOC, Lisa Palser, Trails Committee, Donna Moyer and Chris Gabel, Property Owners

MINUTES:

Motion was made by George Firrantello and seconded by Mike Trojecki accept the January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting Minutes as submitted.
Motion carried by all.

Motion was made by George Firrantello, and seconded by Dennis Kurtz to accept the February 3, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion carried by all.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Lisa Palser expressed appreciation to Council Members for approving the Active Transportation Plan in December 2021. Ms. Palser reviewed what Parks and Recreation Committee is does, and requested Council consider merging the Parks and Recreation Committee with the Trails Committee. Ms. Palser noted that in her conversation with Esther Prosser, if approved, could she be considered as Chair Person for the consolidated committee. Merle Stoltzfus commented that he was in favor of the idea of merging the two committees, as their work is very relative. Merle Stoltzfus commented that although Council approves the committees, they do not appoint the chair person, as that would be determined by the committee as group.

Motion was made by George Firrantello, and seconded by Dennis Kurtz to consolidate the Park and Recreation and Trails Committees, and to rename the new group as Park, Recreation and Trails Committee. Motion carried by all.

Lisa Palser asked if Council had any concerns for the Park, Recreation and Trails Committee participating in the Big Woods or partnership Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscaping Initiative, or any other organizations. Council was in favor of the committee's representation of the Borough, and participation with those types of organizations.

Lisa Palser asked if there has been a trails fund account established, to which George Firrantello confirmed there has been an account established. Ms. Palser suggested there is a matching grant coming up through the Chester County Parks and Preservation, which could be applied for. Ms. Palser reported that the Borough portion to begin work on the Blue Rock trail would be estimated to be approximately \$15,000, and that some of that work could be done by volunteers, however paperwork would need to be filed to establish the easement first. Ms. Palser said once the easement is established, there would need to be work started to begin clearing, edging, and providing signage for the trail. Ms. Palser also mentioned there is an AARP grant, which could be used to improve the West end of the Hopewell Spur trail.

Motion was made by George Firrantello seconded by Merle Stoltzfus to move up to \$15,000 from the GFMM account into the Trails Fund Account, subject to the Park, Recreation and Trails Committee being awarded the grant through the Chester County Parks and Preservation. Motion carried by all.

Lisa Palser explained that many other Park Committees use volunteers, and asked if Council was in favor of using volunteers. Council agreed that they are in favor of using volunteers. Ms. Palser said she will provide a draft waiver document for volunteers for Council's consideration.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Motion was made by Mike Trojecki, and seconded by Dennis Kurtz, to accept the Treasurers Report and pay bills as presented. Motion carried by all.

George Firrantello reviewed the status of all Borough fund accounts, and additional information regarding the ARPA funds.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Bob Clements reviewed the letter received from Voter Services, explaining that Esther Prosser had enough write in votes to be elected to the position of tax collector, however she has declined the position, as there is no Borough tax. Council agreed that since the position is vacant, the topic will be tabled until such time as additional information is received.

Bob Clements reviewed the information included in the letter received from Whitford Corporation in regard to the application which they have submitted to the PA DEP. Mr. Clements said that he will let the PADEP advise Council as to any action needed by the Borough.

MAYOR REPORT:

Esther Prosser provided an update on the Neighborhood Watch Committee. Ms. Prosser reported she has recruited 24 members, and is hoping to recruit an additional 12 members.

Esther Prosser reported that she has contacted the PA State Police, regarding a dog attack which occurred in the Borough. Ms. Prosser said this did not appear to be the first incident where the dog has gotten away. Ms. Prosser is hopeful that this situation can be resolved as soon as possible.

Esther Prosser said that the Brick Lane Church has been allowing space for indoor pickle ball, and mentioned that one of the participants in the group said that the TV Elementary Center could be a possible location for indoor games, however the school would require a certificate of insurance for this activity. Lori Kolb mentioned that she has been in touch with the Borough's insurance company, and the off-site activity would not be something that would be covered under the Borough's policy. Council agreed that coverage could not be provided for

this off-site activity.

Bob Clements read apology letters from those who vandalized some of the property's in Summerfield. There were no further comments from Council on this topic.

BUILDING, GROUNDS STREETS AND LIGHTS:

Tom Feeley mentioned he is waiting for the electrician to provide a quote for the work needed to install the security system at the park. Mr. Feeley said that after speaking with the representative at ICU Security, the system originally planned for could be upgraded to an eight camera box, so that four could be placed at the park, and additional cameras could be placed at the Borough Hall. Council was in agreement to upgrading to the box to accommodate eight cameras.

Tom Feeley said that he is also waiting for a quote to add new dusk to dawn lighting in the gazebos, which would have covers to protect them from being vandalized. Mr. Feeley expressed this new lighting would provide the ability for neighborhood watch to be able to see into the park area at night.

Tom Feeley suggested that we could request an increase police presence, due to vandalism in the Borough. Barclay Hargreaves said he would speak with Lieutenant Donahue regarding more frequent Police presence.

STATE POLICE:

Bob Clements reviewed both the December and January PA State Police reports. There were no concerns.

EMERGENCY MANGEMENT:

Barclay Hargreaves expressed appreciation to Council for re-appointing him as the Borough's Emergency Operations Coordinator, and introduced his self to new Council Members. Mr. Hargreaves reviewed the effects of the hospital closures on the EMS System. Mr. Hargreaves informed Council that when an ambulance is called, either BLS or ALS will respond, and said more units have been added due to the hospital closures, and assured Council that Medic 93 is still running. Mr. Hargreaves reviewed the information provided regarding the hospital closures, and the situational report from the Department of Emergency Services, explaining how they are mitigating the hospital closure situation. Mr. Hargreaves reported that the closures are putting a major stress on the local EMS services, because it takes the EMS units outside of their area, and the longer wait time for staying with a patient until they can be turned over to the hospitals has also become a concern. Mr. Hargreaves said that MICU units have also been added to the area to assist. George Firrantello reported that he and Tom Feeley attended the meeting at Honey Brook Borough in person and Bob Clements participated via zoom, which was organized to help to support the EHBEMS. Mr. Firrantello said that a formula was provided by the executive director of the EHBEMS, regarding allotment of funds needed from Municipalities to support the organization, based on calls and population. Bob Clements suggested Council consider forming a small committee to work on a future plan for appropriating a portion of the ARPA funding for EMS services. George Firrantello, Merle Stoltzfus and Dennis Kurtz volunteered to form the committee to review proposed funding in support of the EHBEMS. Mr. Firrantello said that a second meeting is being held at the Honey Brook Borough in support of the EHBEMS on February 3rd.

ENGINEERING:

Mark Stabolepszy asked Council if they are planning the Park Avenue road improvements for 2022. George Firrantello confirmed that the Park Avenue road work was included in the 2022 Budget. Lori Kolb confirmed that the improvements were planned to be an overlay on the

entire length of Park Avenue. Mr. Clements mentioned that there was previous discussion regarding changes to the timing of the work due to a second phase of Hopewell Manor. Merle Stoltzfus will get in touch with the representative for Hopewell Manor, and Council will review the Park Avenue improvements at the March meeting.

BUILDING AND ZONING:

Bob Clements reviewed the January Kraft Code Services report, there was one permit issued in the month of January.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Bob Clements requested that Council Members review the Municipal Authority report that was included in the packets. Mr. Clements confirmed that Jack Stewart was unable to attend the Municipal Authority meeting, and was not present to review the report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion was made by George Firrantello, seconded by Merle Stoltzfus, to approve executing the Comcast Franchise Agreement as presented, and authorized Lori Kolb to proceed with requesting the Borough's Solicitor to draft the corresponding Ordinance and advertise for proposed enactment, as required. Motion carried by all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Clements asked if Council had any suggestions for activating the Historical Commission, which has been inactive for a number of years. Council agreed to communicate with residents to see if there might be anyone interested in filling vacant positions and re-activating the Commission.

Bob Clements reviewed the concern for safety for parking on South Chestnut. Mr. Stoltzfus expressed that with the increase in traffic, due to the Route 345 detour, it is possible that there could be an opportunity to review the possibility for repainting the yellow line to be in the center of the roadway on South Chestnut Street. Mr. Stoltzfus and Mr. Clements will request to meet with Representative Hennessey, to review this situation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Tom Feeley, and seconded by Mike Trojecki, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully,

Lori Kolb, Secretary Treasurer