

The August committee meeting 8/3/2021 was called to order by Borough Council President Bruce Markovich and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The following items were discussed by committee topic in a contiguous manner beginning at 4:00 p.m.:

In attendance at the beginning of the meeting session: Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Bob Silver Gwyneth Collevchio, and Mayor Michele Bartek Marie Ondrus was not in attendance.

There was a presentation by Renee Roberts of Carbon County Tax Claim Office.

Renee explained the three steps the County follows for collecting delinquent taxes they are:

1. Tax Lien
2. Upset Sale
3. Judicial Sale

After Judicial Sale any unsold properties are then put on a Repository List. The County with written consent from the taxing district may accept an offer of any price on these properties. The County sets the minimum bid equal to that of the Judicial Sale bid.

Renee also gave us a list of the Positive Aspects of the Tax Claim Bureau in the Delinquent Collections Process:

1. Location - Records are all in one location
2. Convenience for Taxpayers
3. Tax Claim Bureau is self sufficient
4. Operating costs kept to a minimum
5. Uniformity of treatment for all Taxpayers
6. Easy Access to current assessment and delinquent tax information with no extra charges
7. Tax Claim Bureau collects delinquent tax amount, penalties, monthly interest of ¾% on the balance due; County retains 5%
8. Tax claim never allows the taxpayer to fall so far behind that they will never get caught up

Renee also pointed out the Negative aspects of 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Collection

1. Exorbitant fees are charged
2. The fees charged by 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Collectors are for pure profit. Tax Claim Bureau fees are to cover the costs of bureau operation.
3. Location – To many offices for taxpayer to go to take care of delinquent tax.
4. Confusion between tax sale and foreclosure sale for the taxpayer.
5. The Tax Claim Bureau no longer has current or accurate information regarding taxes and properties for all residents in the taxing authorities.
6. Access to public records that by law should be in public domain are not readily available.
7. Taxpayers are not treated equally sales are cherry picked

8. Many of the responsibilities of the Tax Claim Bureau now falls to the taxing authority.
9. Complicates Bureau Sales
10. Distribution of Sales
11. Third party collector information is not accurate
12. At every turn the Bureau is hindered by 3<sup>rd</sup> party collectors.

Renee concluded in saying that there will always be delinquent taxpayers. The county is an effective system, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> party weakens the effective system it also confuses the taxpayer.

Bruce mentioned that some of the Borough concerns are that the Auditor mentioned in our audit about the delinquent taxes. The Borough in applying for a USDA Loan they mentioned our delinquent taxes. Because of the amount our interest rate may be higher. I believe that right now our delinquent tax amount is at \$346,000.00 is there anything that can be done?

#### **Public Works :**

The Committee is William Chuma, John Turcmanovich, and Martin Ditsky.

The guys are in Summit Hill paving and then going to the school we are not going to get any paving done till they are done with the school. I talked to Radocha about milling the starts and stops on the streets for paving he said that his machine is not worth bringing in and to rent one it is \$1400.00 a day without an operator. We are thinking of using the Zipper from the County it is \$175.00 a day. There are 3 manholes need to be repaired behind St. Anne's. Bill called for a price on Crack Sealant it is \$1250.00 a pallet and he said we will probably need 2 pallets. Bill went down to Radocha's to see who was responsible for the hole on the 100 block of W. Kline Ave. he said it was him and he will repair it. Bill talked to Radocha about the fee for Street Opening Permit and how the fee should be raised because some of the contractors are not finishing the job. Radocha told Bill that Summit Hill gets \$750.00 for a Street Opening Permit and they are very strict about it you must have the work complete in 30 days. Bill mentioned that we should make our permit start at \$500.00 and make it a sliding scale depending on the size of the hole.

There was a discussion about taking the angle parking in the unit block of E. Ridge St. and the 100 block of W. Ridge St. and make the parking parallel.

Bill said that he is about 2 weeks out from starting the paving.

#### **Municipal Administration:**

The Committee is Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, and Gwyneth Collevchio.

The discussion opened about delinquent taxes Gwyn believes that Carbon County is not aggressive enough. They want the taxes collected faster. Landlords should have suspended licenses if they do not pay their taxes. Portnoff was considered for collecting any taxes that were not paid for 2021 going forward.

We have 5 applications for Part-time Secretary, 1 for Crossing Guard and none for part-time Police officers. So, we are going to call up the people to set up for interviews. The job description for the part-time borough secretary will be explained to them at the interview.

We are getting \$398,000.00 in COVID money. The money must be spent by December 2024. The Fire Company is wondering what we are going to do about the money that we owe them. They need to turn in the receipts and then we pay them. The Street Light deadline is Tuesday 8/10/21. There were two contractors that turned their bids in for that project.

The Water Company turned down our request for that piece of property next to the pump house they said they want to put up a pole building down there. Discussed using the yellow building at Silberline for the Borough Garage. Michele would like to have a Salvage Yard down at Silberline.

The LSA Grant which is due by the end of August beginning of September we would like to do for Handicap Sidewalks for Kennedy Park.

We sent another letter to Panther Valley School District about sidewalks and again no response. We are still seeing people on wheelchairs in the middle of Bertsch St going to Boyer's.

Cloud Services was down at the Police Dept. with Michele to see what was needed down there. They discussed how the Police and the Borough Office need to be separated from each other. Michele said they were more worried about the equipment than about the IT part and asked them more about the reaction time if something goes down. Bruce said that we need to look over the proposal from Overwatch and the one from Cloud Services and see what is being offered. Bob, John, and Bruce decided to get together with both companies before the Council meeting the date was set for Tuesday August 10 at 4:00 p.m.

#### **Parks & Recreation :**

The Committee is Gwyneth Collevchio, William Chuma, and Martin Ditsky

**I am going to enter the minutes for Park & Rec. the best I can someone was going back and forth through the swinging gate, so every sentence was interrupted, and I only have half the information.**

#### **Public Safety:**

The Committee is John Turcmanovich, Martin Ditsky, and Gwyneth Collevchio.

Civil Service Exams never took place the one that we were going to test had to work that day. Talked about running an ad on the web site for the Chief of Police Assoc.

Gwyn said that someone came to the pool to give a price on the bathrooms. They are waiting on pricing, so she did not get the proposal yet. Friend of the Pool said that they are going to pay to have the Concession Stand cleaned we are still waiting on the contract.

One of the members of Friends of the Pool asked about moving the skate park up into the pool area to make it more visible.

Tom Rang from the audience voiced a concern about the Code Enforcement Officer Jim Dean. Bruce informed Tom that he would sit Jim down and talk to him about the situation.

Michele spoke about Codification and how they will be going through and making recommendations on certain Ordinances and the changes that can be made and then it can be sent off to the Solicitor.

The meeting concluded.

Respectfully Submitted, *Wendy Butrie*, Secretary Treasurer