

The February committee meeting 2/1/2022 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 4:00p.m.

In attendance at the beginning of the meeting session: Bruce Markovich, Martin Ditsky, John Turcmanovich, William Chuma, Jennifer Staines, Gwyneth Collevchio, Mayor Hugh Vrablic and Jay Doyle were not in attendance.

Public Works:

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

The guys did a lot of cindering and snow plowing. People are mad about Borough doing curb to curb plowing I think we should either stop it or let the people fend for themselves if they throw their snow on the street then they should be arrested. Bruce asked what they are complaining about. Bill said they are complaining about the lumps on the pavements you can't do anything about that when you have ice and slush together. We used over 100-ton salt already this year. There is not much you can do. Chief Soberick said he was behind the trucks every time they were out, and they did not exceed 8-10 mph max. They were not driving fast that they were intentionally blowing snow. Bill said everyone wants it removed. Chief Soberick mentioned how the Police and the Borough Office were inundated with calls of how it was lumpy these people have no comprehension of what you are doing it was done to the best of your ability. The police towed 13 cars – ticketed 65 cars which is a low number as of that storm we got every nonfunctioning car off the street. On the unit block of E. Water St. there are some problems UPS, Heating Oil, Steve Shannon tried to get through on this block and were unsuccessful because of cars parking in a No Parking Area. The Chief mentioned how the police are going to start towing the vehicles away to tow a car the cost is \$220.00 and then the ticket on top of it you are looking at a total cost of \$300.00. They park to unload and never move. Officer Lilly ticketed 30 cars between Kline Ave. and Water St. We need someone to come in for a couple hrs. a week to track the tickets through the system. Chief Soberick said we need a parking enforcement officer and that the position would pay for itself. A License Plate Reader could be purchased under the COVID money because it is a camera mounted in the car and limits contact with people.

William mentioned that he did not hear anything back on the loader yet and nothing on the door. Also, I found a used bucket truck it's a 1997 F450 Super Duty in good condition it has a utility body on it. I have pictures of it \$6500 it has 103,000 miles on it. I am going to bring it up at the meeting. The turnpike truck caught fire Hope's Towing towed it. The started cable burned. The truck is a 1990. Bruce mentioned that we need an estimate. Bill said that because we have no heat at the garage last Saturday when they were called out, they spent 2 hours raking cinders because they froze on the back of the trucks. The black truck will need \$600 to \$700 worth of parts it does not start even when plugged in. We must put the heater on in it before it will start. Greg can do the work himself. Bruce said that a resident complained to Doyle Heffley's Office that we are using the old Borough Garage. William talked to Greg and whoever condemned the garage said it was ok to store salt up there because there was no basement underneath it. On shared services for Street Sweeping, we need to make sure we

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charge the other towns for the brooms on the sweepers since we go through a set in each town.

Municipal Administration:

The Committee is Bruce Markovich, Martin, and Gwyneth Collevechio.

Bruce mentioned that he had a list of projects that he was going to go over.

1. Powel Street sewer project (under contract) Radocha is waiting on pipes for the 2nd yr.
2. Handicap ramps Ashton Park (going to bid) (LSA Grant) its going out for bid in May
3. Brimble's wall (going to bid end of the month) 4 years ago there was a \$40,000. Grant to face off the wall. County didn't do anything with that grant for 2 yrs. By the time they did we had Lehigh Engineering here they looked at it and said it was a waste that the wall had deteriorated to much in the 2 yrs. Lehigh recommended we replace the entire wall they gave us an estimate of \$87,000. To replace. We did a Community Development Block Grant and added \$5,000. To it and the County gave us \$95,000. For it. They sat on it again for another year. The County finally got in touch with Bill McMullin about it. Bill came in with an estimate of \$160,000. Bruce said to the County we have a \$95,000. Grant for it can we use the entitlement money to pay the overage on the wall? Bruce has not heard back from the County yet. The wall may not get done this year. There is also the issue with the sitting on 3 ft. of Borough Property. Not sure what we will do about it yet.
4. Ridge St. sewer project (needs to be specked then bid) (covid funding?) April or May
5. Walkway in Ashton Park (shard services/previously approved) (Parks & Recreation budget)
6. Ridge Street, streetlamp project (under contract) (LSA grant) The \$120,000 grant is gone the \$40,000 will expire. The new box had to be done with a heater for condensation. PP&L will get the cost together for the Christmas Light drops.
7. Repairs to pool (under contract) (Friends of Pool)
8. Water street sewer project (shared service) (covid funding?) Deeper sewers and traps. William mentioned that is there is anyone that does not have traps in their homes they will need to put them in, or they will mind it after the project.
9. Route 209 drainage upgrades (shared service)
10. 300 block E. Ridge retaining wall and paving (Liquid Fuels)
11. Yearly Paving schedule/sewer replacement (to be determined by street committee)
12. New pool pumps and concession stand upgrades (LSA Grant)

We need to get a list together for COVID money projects. There is a drawing of the Borough Office inside this packet, and they will need to test for asbestos in the wall and ceiling before we do anything. We can pay for the work with COVID money. Page 3 is Opinion of Probable Construction Cost for Brimble's Wall we are responsible for the engineering costs we cannot use COVID money to pay for the fees. We can also use COVID money to tear down abandon buildings that are vacant. William Chuma mentioned that we need to take down 614 E. Patterson St. Bruce mentioned that we can do that, but we cannot do 616 E. Patterson St. because it is not vacant. We should also take down Horvath's House at 316 W. Patterson St. they both need to have specifications done.

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Speaking of Fire Escrow, we need to make some changes to our Fire Escrow Ordinance we have 6 buildings the 3 on W. Bertsch St. there is no reason for those to be still standing yet. Then you have the 3 on W. Ridge St. and there is no reason for those to be still standing yet. The Solicitor said to amend the Fire Escrow Ordinance to take enough money out of insurance to take the building down or give them the opportunity to hire a contractor and tear down the building and then they will get a check for what is left of the money. We need to authorize the Solicitor to make these changes.

Right to Knows should be given to everyone on Council along with their answer. We get multiple RTK requests I think everyone should know what's going in and going out.

Railroad Station I did not get to talk to Kenny Hill yet this week he does have the agreement he has not called so I guess everything is good on it. I am making changes to Committees we are going to restart the Zoning and Ordinance next meeting and form an Economic and Tourist Committee.

Park And Recreation:

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

Gwyn mentioned that she would like to get the basketball court by the Zoo blacktopped and have a fence put around it. Also discussed was Music in the Park the committee met with Marie Ondrus about Music in the Park. William Chuma mentioned that we need a status on the park benches at Kennedy Park that they are all chained together, and they will be an issue when it is time to mow grass. The next meeting for this committee is on 2/7/22 the committee is working on getting Food Trucks at Kennedy Park for Music in the Park. Gwyn also mentioned that she is trying to get picnic tables at the park. Also mentioned was the fact that next year they would like to have everything at the Pool and would like to do that this year, but the pool is not ready yet. William Chuma asked who was going to clean up all the garbage left behind. The Borough Workers are busy they do not have time to clean up garbage. Jennifer Staines asked about the project with the Boy Scouts Bruce confirmed the project is done except for installing a railing. Gwyn said that they are trying to get a handle on Music in the Park they told Marie Ondrus they didn't want any food except for the food trucks they continue to want to have other food. They just don't listen. Them cooking food they are not licensed to cook food if they get in trouble, or someone gets sick it will fall back on the Borough. They already booked bands and they take money from people sitting there to pay for bands. We need to get a handle on things.

Public Safety:

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

John mentioned that the Fire Chief and the Members of the Fire Company would like to come in and meet with Council they are having issues with the Aerial Truck it is 30 yrs. Old. They have been looking around it will cost around \$1,000,000. Plus. The Fire Company has always bought their own trucks they can't do it this time they are looking for the Borough's help. John mentioned the Officer Robert Lilly is working out very well as a full-time officer. We have 2 applications for full time 1 male and 1 female, but they are not Act 120 certified would the Borough be willing to pay for their tuition. The Chief mentioned that the State is being very aggressive with funding right now toward the hiring of police officers and that they are paying 75% of tuition and 45% of hourly wages but you must hire the candidate full time. The tuition for Allentown is \$6,000. So, you hire them first then send them to school and pay their wages when they are done with school they come and work for you for 2 years. The 2 apps. That we

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have are both County employees. The chief also mentions that there is a massive amount of funding for the regionalization of police departments. They have tripled the amount of money. The quote for the truck came back for the Police Dept. it came in at \$7,000. The police were dispatched on 5,622 calls for 2021. Bruce asked if someone could put together a cost on hiring the 2 candidates from the County for Council. John mentioned that there is a grievance for Executive Session for next Wednesday.

The meeting concluded.

Respectfully Submitted, *Wendy Butrie*, Secretary Treasurer

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