

**Borough of Pitcairn Council
Regular Meeting
Agenda
July 13, 2020
7:00 pm**

Meeting called to order – President Dona Galia
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

John Bova
Kevin Dick
Debra Freeman
Dona Galia
Lisa Petrosky absent
Jim Rullo
Michael Tobias
Mayor Margaret Stevick
Solicitor Matt Kalina attended for Solicitor Michael Witherel

Mr. Bova motioned to approve Minutes from June 8, 2020 Borough Council Meeting and June 22, 2020 Council Workshop Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Galia announced Council held an Executive Session on May 28, 2020 to discuss a personnel matter and this evening at 6:00 pm to discuss a legal matter.

Citizen Comment on Agenda Items

Virginia and Doug Crothers requested a no parking sign be restored at the end of Rock Alley, pointing out if cars are parked there emergency vehicles will be blocked access. Mr. Rullo asked if that area is landlocked. Mr. Crothers: yes. Mrs. Freeman: they could park on 6th Street. **Mr. Bova motioned to post the No Parking Sign at the end of Rock Alley and Mr. Tobias seconded. Motion carried with Mr. Rullo voting no.**

Mr. Tobias motioned to appoint Mr. Dan Castagnero as alternate Zoning Hearing Board member. Seconded by Mr. Rullo. Motion carried with Mr. Bova voting no.

Mr. Bova motioned to approve Finance Committee Chair Lisa Petrosky as additional check signer. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Mayor Stevick thanked Fire Chief Tom Dick and his crew who helped to dispose of police department items from the old borough building.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mrs. Galia explained Council usually conducts only one public meeting in July and August to accommodate summer vacations. **Mr. Bova agreed especially in light of the pandemic, making the motion to convene the 2nd Monday only in July and August. Seconded by Mr. Rullo; motion carried unanimously.**

Streets – Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick reported that Jim Comunale is asking for a decision regarding the proposed Public Works pole building garage at 299 Second Street. He would like to schedule the work his department can accomplish in between their other tasks. Discussion took place. Mr. Tobias pointed out that the April 1, 2021 deadline to vacate the old garage is imminent, that a decision needs to be made. Mr. Dick asked Ms. Dietz to weigh in on how to fund the building. She suggested Council use one third of the estimated \$120,000 from each capital fund since the building will house and protect equipment and supplies for the electric, sewer and public works infrastructure. When the salt shed is relocated, everything will be in one location. **Mr. Dick motioned to approve a pole building funded as described. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Dick announced on June 26, 2020 Council motioned by telephonic vote to approve low bidder J.G. Contracting for the Center Avenue Project and authorized Engineer to issue partial notice to proceed.

Mr. Dick: Pitcairn was awarded an additional \$22,587 for the Second Street Reconstruction project reducing the borough's match to approximately \$6,000 and engineering costs.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Mrs. Freeman commended Public Works for their excellent work replacing the concrete steps and pads around the Park Building. She reported the Park Building AC/Heating system is no longer working or able to be repaired. Due to the pandemic, events were already cancelled. Mr. Comunale is recommending the building be converted to natural gas as part of the project. The Borough is obtaining quotes and Public Works will assist. Mrs. Freeman asked Council to revisit the discussion of raising the rental rates at a future meeting.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mr. Bova motioned to pay bills as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias reported Council needs to agree on final selection of demolition properties to submit for Blight Remediation Grant. The grant has a possible funding amount of \$300,000.

Mr. Tobias motioned to approve reapplication of a sanitary sewer project to stay within the \$34,000 grant award. The recommended project is in Wall Avenue East. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Electric – John Bova

Mr. Bova motioned to adopt a Return To Work Program for the Public Works and office personnel, the non uniform personnel. Seconded by Mr. Dick; motion carried unanimously.

Public Safety – Jim Rullo

Mr. Rullo recalled the request last Meeting from North Avenue residents for speed bumps. He knows of other streets that would like them, too. Discussion took place. Mrs. Galia remembered concerns about snow plowing. She asked Fire Chief Tom Dick in attendance, for his input regarding emergency vehicles. Not a big problem for a few. The more bumps, the more delay. Mrs. Freeman and Mayor Stevick voiced concern that many streets may request them. Mr. Rullo recalled the Police Chief thought the speeding in North Pitcairn was traced to one house in particular and could that be mitigated. Mr. Rullo suggested a stop sign at the end of North toward Ravine. Mr. Bova asked the Engineer if a study was necessary. He thought it would be a good idea. Mayor Stevick agreed with the stop sign instead of a speed bump. Engineer Don Black: a speed bump is raised, you have to stop to go over it, usually seen in school parking lots, slow down emergency vehicles. A speed hump has a more gradual slope, 20 feet long, doesn't slow down emergency vehicles, better for main thoroughfares, they are costly. Mr. Black: for every person who wants one, you will get complaints from those who didn't. Mr. Bova: we did a study before. Mr. Black: we talked about it years ago on Wall Avenue, very complicated, impact on emergency access. A speed bump on a small residential street would not have the same adverse effect. Mrs. Galia asked about the rubber ones. Mr. Black: they are higher bumps, for parking lots. **Mr. Rullo motioned to put a stop sign at end of North Avenue and Ravine Street. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.**

Tom Dick thought Council permitting residents to discharge fireworks on the playing fields was a good idea as opposed to people using them too close to houses.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Kalina had nothing to report in addition to agenda items.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Black reported he submitted lengthy reports for the paving program, various possible repairs of Jewell Way and Center Avenue. Bids were lower than expected. The design build Doug Beitko put in the specs, gives contractor freedom to design the build. Mr. Black: the 200 feet fix starting at the upper portion of slide and ending at the temporary guardrail will take up most of the \$525,000 grant, lowest bid came in at \$441,000. Mr. Black described the proposed repair and possibly extending it further down the road. It will need more testing for a solution. He recommends Council approve the geotechnical study through a \$4,200 change order. Within the bid is cost for paving that is high. If we back out the paving and guardrail, that frees up about \$41,000 and \$7,900 to extend the soil nail solution for Center. The paving might be timed with the paving program for a good price, or Jim Comunale could do it. If you commit to \$100,000 more, you can nearly complete the road. Mr. Dick: can we get more grant money. Mr. Black thought there may be a chance. Pitcairn was awarded \$525,000 for Center, \$300,000 for Hillside, have not heard back yet from the GEDF grant application. There are some grants awarded for projects in process. Mr. Dick: Jim Comunale said the decorative street lights on Broadway will need to be replaced. Mr. Dick suggested appointing a Councilmember as Main Street Committee to work with the Engineer, look for a grant. Mr. Black continued his report: the upper part of Hillside is getting worse. The \$300,000 grant would cover either the top or bottom – not whole thing. Mr. Black is monitoring it; it is safe for one lane travel for now. EADS getting ready to bid it out. As money is a concern, he warned Council to bear this in mind if they decide to fund an extension of the Center Avenue scope. Mr. Dick: we should make it one way down only, put a Do Not Enter sign at bottom for police to enforce. Mr. Kalina voiced concern that the Engineer should confirm backing out the paving and guiderail doesn't affect the low bid. **Mr. Bova motioned to approve a change order of approximately \$4,200 for additional test drilling. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Bova motioned to back out the paving and guardrail costs for the Center Avenue Slide project, contingent on review of the bids to verify it doesn't change the nature of the low bid. Seconded by Mr. Tobias; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Black continued: TCVCOG cleared the asbestos survey to advertise the demo props; bids opened August 18 for 601 and 637 Third, 604 Second, 721-723 Kay, 609 Fifth. The \$50,000 grant award will not cover all the structures. Code Officer Nick Turner brought up he talked to Engineer Dan Coffman about only do one of the buildings, submitting the rest to the Blight Remediation Program Grant. Mr. Black pointed out it depends on the house.

Mr. Dick motioned to make Hillside Avenue One Way going downhill. Seconded by Mr. Bova; motion carried unanimously.

Borough Manager's Report

Ms. Dietz referred to the motion earlier related to the Blight Remediation Program demolition grant application, that Council needs to give the Engineer the final list of addresses before the application deadline in July. Mr. Turner said he will give to the Engineer houses that are tax delinquent. Someone is paying taxes on a few of them. Mrs. Freeman: in those cases, can the structures be demolished? Mr. Turner: no they must be delinquent five years of unpaid taxes. Mr. Kalina asked if that was a requirement of the TCVCOG or the grant program, as the IPMC and emergency demos don't require that. Mr. Turner promised to look into that. Mr. Rullo asked if the Borough can lien the costs to the owners' other property. Mr. Kalina: you can turn a lien into a judgment against the person.

Ms. Dietz read aloud the current bank balances in each fund and the Tax Collector's report. She reported forwarding the delinquent real estate tax list to Jordan Tax. She submitted a year to date compared to budget with adjustments to specific line items in keeping with the decrease in revenues due to COVID.

Mr. Dick motioned to Adjourn at 7:45 pm. Seconded by Mr. Tobias. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Annette Dietz