

Borough of Pitcairn Council
Workshop Meeting
Minutes
June 22, 2020
7:00 pm

Meeting called to order – Vice President John Bova
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

John Bova
Kevin Dick
Debra Freeman
Dona Galia
Lisa Petrosky
Jim Rullo
Michael Tobias
Mayor Margaret Stevick

All present with the exception of Mrs. Galia.

Mr. Tobias presented a commemorative plaque to officers of the Pitcairn Italian Club in honor of their 100th Anniversary. He summarized their community service including sponsoring a baseball team, donating to Camps B and G, active participation in the Borough's 125th Anniversary. Mr. Bova thanked them, recalled their history and commitment to the community. Council and Mayor Stevick congratulated them.

Citizen Comment

Mr. Bova invited those in attendance to comment. Mr. Tom Dick complained of unsightly trash and old gas pumps in the parking lot of the Sunoco Station on Broadway. Their restrooms aren't open; people have been seen urinating behind it. The taxes go to Monroeville but the appearance hurts our town. Mr. Bova suggested Monroeville be contacted. He asked Chief Farally to take action regarding the public urination. Chief promised to contact Doug Cole.

Mayor Betsy Stevick

Mayor Stevick encouraged residents to welcome the new Postmaster, Jody. Mayor Stevick recalled years ago Pitcairn residents successfully petitioned the post office to stay in the Borough.

Personnel – Dona Galia

Mr. Bova began discussion of future public meetings under Green Phase restrictions. Some boroughs are meeting in community centers or fire halls, conducting Zoom meetings or permitting up to 25 attendees with social distancing and masks. After input from other Council members, it was decided to open meetings to public up to 25 people following guidelines.

Streets – Kevin Dick

Nothing this evening.

Parks and Recreation – Debra Freeman

Mrs. Freeman: Public Works/Utility Foreman Jim Comunale is asking Council for approval to replace broken concrete pads on Park Building driveway for \$3,500. Due to the pandemic, if finances are strained later in the year, she suggested reimbursing the General Fund from the Park and Recreation Special Events Fund which currently has \$6,500. Mrs. Petrosky said she would like to see the area first. Mr. Tobias described the conditions which he observed. Mrs. Freeman felt it was a safety issue, complete the job since the steps have also been repaired. Mayor Stevick agreed. Mr. Dick asked if a motion was required; couldn't the repair be done without a motion like other repairs. Mr. Bova felt it should be voted on if the Special Events Fund was needed. **Mrs. Freeman motioned to replace the pads now, utilizing Special Events Fund if necessary. Seconded by Mr. Rullo. Roll Call vote resulted in Mr. Dick and Mrs. Petrosky voting no, Mr. Bova, Mr. Tobias, Mr. Rullo and Mrs. Freeman voting yes. Motion carried.**

Mrs. Freeman: a complaint of fireworks smoke at Sugar Camp Park was received. Chief Farally summarized the rules, making it illegal at Sugar Camp and near houses. Mr. Tobias recalled a resident asking to use fireworks at ball field. Chief: it would be permitted on the ball fields. Mr. Bova cautioned they should not be near the substation. Chief: yes, and we can patrol. Mrs. Freeman asked about Summers Field. Chief: if they are far enough from structures. Fire Chief Tom Dick: they need to clean up the fields after and if a user starts a fire, they are liable.

Finance and Economic Development – Lisa Petrosky

Mrs. Petrosky: due to the pandemic affecting finances, the Manager is asking Council to consider the following to protect the General Fund: using Public Safety Fee Fund to reimburse General Fund for Fire Marshal inspections only. Nick Turner, who is authorized by borough code to perform residential inspections as Code Officer, explained the normal inspection fee covers his time. If a structure has two or more units, the borough uses Plans Examiners. Mr. Hussey is paid \$25 by the borough per inspection. Mr. Bova: how often? Mr. Turner: rarely and for fire related issues. Mr. Turner suggested raising the inspection fee to \$100 but did not personally feel the Public Safety Fee should be used. Mrs. Petrosky explained it would only be for fire inspections as a way to offset the revenues lost to the pandemic. It was decided to consider it on the next Meeting's agenda.

The Manager is asking Council to request MOUs with union and non-union employees to increase their contribution to health insurance due to adverse financial effects of pandemic. Mr. Bova asked that the specific amounts be provided for the next Meeting and the draft MOU. Mr. Bova pointed out some boroughs have laid off employees and Pitcairn is attempting to avoid that. The Manager is also asking borough departments to revisit their 2020 budget and reduce if possible by 20 % as specific revenues such as EIT and RAD taxes are down 25% to 45% and will most likely not be recouped. Ms. Dietz promised by next meeting to amend the portions of the budget not related to the police department, to reflect the loss in revenues.

Health and Welfare – Michael Tobias

Mr. Tobias reported Code Enforcement Officer Nick Turner is proposing two Ordinances: Fire Safety Ordinance and Dumpster/roll-off Ordinance. Mr. Turner has invited Fire Marshal Alvin Hussey and Fire Chief Tom Dick to participate in the discussion. Mr. Turner explained the safety benefits of an interconnected fire alarm system for buildings of four or more units, the presence of a Knox box on the building to allow police and fire departments access to common areas and a fire escape inspection every five years with a fee. Mr. Bova: are these common in other boroughs? Mr. Turner: yes, many. Mr. Bova: the cost would be borne by the building owner? Mr. Turner responded yes, and suggested a year to comply. It was decided that Mr. Turner would have the model ordinance for consideration at the next Meeting.

Mr. Turner described a dumpster ordinance with related fees. Other boroughs have them; puts the responsibility on the property owner to use and remove in a timely manner, insure it doesn't block emergency vehicle access. Discussion took place between members of Council, Mr. Turner and Mr. Hussey regarding a specific address and POD arranged by the County, has been on site for quite some time making it difficult for fire trucks to pass. It is not in the property owner's driveway or in front of their own home. Mr. Hussey and Mr. Turner offered to contact the County. It was decided Mr. Turner will submit Wilmerding Borough's dumpster Ordinance to the Solicitor for his review.

Electric – John Bova

Mr. Bova announced that oil testing at the electric substation will take place this Thursday.

Mr. Bova distributed to members of Council a quote for a new metering system that is smart with many features including the ability to turn on and off electric service from the utility office, as opposed to physically sending an employee to do that. With many rental units in town leading to frequent turn-ons and shut-offs, employees would be free to accomplish more complex projects and the borough would have more efficient control over delinquent accounts. We could pass the approximate one-time cost of \$122 per meter to the property owner in order to purchase the system. Discussion took place. Mr. Bova offered to ask Mr. Comunale if the lower half of the borough be done first and other half over time, would that affect the total cost.

Mr. Bova mentioned spending time with Nick Turner to catalog abandoned and unoccupied buildings in town for a variety of reasons: the process of conservatorship which allows a resident or non profit to take ownership of a structure following required guidelines, to submit the list to the Fire Company, and to work towards turning structures into assets. Mr. Bova was struck how knowledgeable Mr. Turner is about the structures and owners. He spends all day interacting with them representing the borough. Mr. Dick suggested implementing the rental registration, asked Mr. Hussey if he could explain in more detail at a future meeting why it is beneficial. Mr. Hussey said that he would; he administers the process in Wilmerding and Wall.

Mr. Bova referenced the recent Community Clean-Up Day which is supposed to be related to Earth Day and in the past groups organized teams to clean up the Borough. He felt it had devolved into a free dumpster day for people and landlords to clean out their multiple properties which really doesn't benefit the borough or meet the original Janie Summers Clean-Up Day goal. He encouraged Council to prepare for next year's clean up by considering how to limit commercial usage of the dumpsters, to return to the spirit of the day.

Public Safety – James Rullo

Mr. Rullo met with residents of North Pitcairn who submitted a petition asking for speed bumps. They asked for a speed limit sign, or slow children at play, so police can charge the person. Chief Farally said you could post children sign or speed limit sign. Mr. Rullo and the Mayor also spoke with some residents about the required engineering study and speed bumps. Discussion took place between Council and Chief Farally regarding the three strikes at one address law; the calls must be within 90 days. Chief also reported that vehicle speeding and dirt bikes were related to other properties. Mr. Bova: we have discussed speed humps and bumps, the cost, difficulty of plowing. Mr. Rullo recalled the fire company was also concerned. Removable speed bumps on Wall Avenue were discussed as costly, perhaps not legal, that some towns found painting lines that looked like speed bumps were a deterrent. Mr. Bova suggested Council research it and finally decide at a future meeting. Mr. Dick: there is another speed bump request petition circulating for Ninth Street due to speeders.

Mr. Rullo reported that Tom Dick gave him something to look over comparing the County dispatch system with Monroeville's, issues, potential cost savings and better back up. He will look it over and make some recommendations at a future Meeting.

Mr. Tobias motioned to Adjourn at 8:05. Mrs. Petrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Dietz