

Stewartstown Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 4th, 2022

Members present

Pam Almony
Donna Bloom
Polly Kreiss
Kimberly Carl
Roy Burkins
Bill Gemmill
David Elwell

Others present

Mayor Brittany Barnette
Craig Sharnetzka, Solicitor
Jason Brenneman, Engineer
Ira Walker, Jr., Sewer/Water
Stacy Myers, Recording Sec'y

Visitors

Kenton Kurtz
Ferd Dorn
John Barnette
Erica Rearich
Officer Smith, SRPD & K9 Ransom
James Downen

Linda Miller
Irv Betch
Jeff Carl
Kent & Lynn Billings
Felicia Markline

Lona Full
Gordon Wisnom, Sr.
Taras Vizzi
Jason Cole
Jason Roberts

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m. followed by the pledge to the flag.

2. **Visitors/Public Comment**

- **Officer Smith, from Southern Regional Police Department** was present to report on the K9 program which began in 2018 with approval to begin raising money for the program so the funds wouldn't come from taxpayer dollars. Total funds raised with the help from businesses, VFW's, & other donations was approx. \$30,000 which was enough for the dog, his training & a used vehicle. By July 2019, the K9 program was ready to hit the streets with a 1½-year old Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix from Slovakia named Ransom. Ransom made his 1st arrest in August 2019 when he tracked a felon while aiding PSP. He ended 2019 with 19 uses. Ransom had 30 uses in 2020 & 27 in 2021. His specialty is tracking narcotics & article searches & recovery (weapons) with a couple drug seizures to date this year. In the past 8 months, approx. \$41,000 was raised to go toward a new vehicle. There is currently a raffle & t-shirt sale going on to raise funds. All money raised goes back into the K9 program, as the program is totally self-funded by donations & fundraisers. Ransom made an appearance at tonight's meeting! As Ransom is one of only 6 or 7 Police K9's in York County, we appreciate all of his & Officer Smith's hard work & dedication!
- **Kent & Lynn Billings, 14 N. Hill Street** were present to discuss a problem with recycled trash pickup. Mr. Billings estimated that, in the past 7 months, approx. 50% of his recycling collections have been missed. His trash & recycling is sat out at the same place in his driveway and trash is never missed, but for whatever reason, the recycle truck misses his recycling. He phones the Borough Office, who notifies the Penn Waste Supervisor and that resolves the problem for a week or so until it's missed again. Earlier this year, Council was made aware of personnel & staffing shortages at Penn Waste, specifically the end of 2021-beginning of 2022. As allowed per the trash contract, deductions were made to the Borough's Penn Waste bill for mass violations (6 or more missed stops). Atty. Sharnetzka stated, if Penn Waste is consistently missing the Billings' recycling, the Borough can put them on notice to let them know more deductions will be made for every missed collection. Mrs. Carl made a motion authorizing Borough Staff to send written notice to Penn Waste regarding non-collection at 14 N. Hill Street and that, for each time it's missed, a deduction

will be made from the Borough's monthly bill; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Jason Cole, 213 Throttle Court**, was present to propose an idea to hold a Main Street 5K through the Borough. Jason is an avid runner, participating in several triathlons and while running all over town, thought of holding this event as a fundraiser for Stewartstown PTA & Eureka Volunteer Fire Department. He is willing to be the Race Director and coordinator for the event, as he has prior experience of holding motorcycle races in Baltimore. He presented a slide show to Council in the hope of obtaining their approval for the event, which he would love to be held annually. Although he currently has no specific date in mind, Jason said a Saturday or Sunday would probably get the largest participation. He will reach out to food trucks & vendors to make it an event the whole town could support & enjoy.

Minimal resources will be needed for the event, other than traffic control as Jason plans to have the runners come down Main Street as part of the route. Jason suspects the road to be closed for just 1 hour of the 3½-hour event. A PENNDOT permit will be required in order to close Main Street & signage will be hung so motorists are aware. Safety is key, so hazards such as potholes, etc. will be visibly marked, while slower runners or walkers can be on the sidewalk, if necessary. Each participant will be required to sign a waiver, so the Borough is not held liable for any injury that may occur.

Jason presented the proposed route he planned for the participants. Volunteers are welcome and Jason already has several people willing to help. An entry fee of \$35 will be charged per participant, but in an effort to raise additional funds for the PTA and Eureka, t-shirts and sweatshirts screen printed with "Stewartstown" wording will be sold in addition to 50/50 raffle tickets. Jason plans to ask local businesses (no large out-of-town businesses) to sponsor the cost of the shirts, then list their names on the back.

As this will be the 1st year for such an event, Jason is unsure how much profit will be raised & how many people will participate, but he included a worst-case & best-case scenario in his presentation, with worst-case raising \$3,486.50 & best-case raising \$10,864, of which Eureka VFD would get 66% & Stewartstown PTA would get 33% of all monies raised.

Council was very agreeable to Jason's idea. Mrs. Carl, who was passionate about creating an Economic Development Committee, stated these are the types of events that help grow pride in the town and she would love to see more take place.

Jason will come up with some tentative dates for the 5K & report back to Council.

- **Irv Betch**, from the Lions Club, stated that he & Mrs. Bloom had resolved a former issue between them prior to tonight's meeting. Mr. Betch also reported that on Saturday, June 18th, the Lions Club will hold a recycling/shredding event at the Presbyterian Church on College Avenue. Residents can drop off electronics to be recycled and have important documents shredded (by the Shred-It truck) at no charge.

3. **General Business**

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mrs. Carl requested this language be added under the Solicitor's Report, "Sidewalk Ordinance"--*We have to look at the timeframe for the grant application/award, because they may run on a spring to fall basis. So, if we want to obtain 2023 funds, the research & applying for those funds should begin now.*

With this correction, Mr. Burkins made a motion to approve the March 7th, 2022 Meeting Minutes; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Approval of Financial Statements**

- **General**—Ms. Kreiss made a motion to approve General Fund bills dated March 6th thru March 30th, 2022 totaling \$38,965.74; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Water**—Ms. Kreiss made a motion to approve Water Fund bills dated March 6th thru March 30th, 2022 totaling \$74,324.69; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Sewer**—Ms. Kreiss made a motion to approve Sewer Fund bills dated March 6th thru March 30th, 2022 totaling \$60,015.88; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
4. **Solicitor’s Report**—Craig Sharnetzka reported:
- **Bids for Real Estate**—sealed bids on the lot of the former movie theater (3 S. Main Street) were due by 3pm today. Only 1 bid was received from Daniel Stoltzfus/D.C. Stoltzfus Enterprises, LLC with a bid amount of \$3,000. Mr. Stoltzfus included the required \$300 cashier’s check (10% of the bid amount).
Mr. Gemmill made a motion to reject the bid; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
Mr. Gemmill suggested fencing off the property to prohibit parking from the nearby tenants until the Borough decides what they want to do with it. It can be advertised a 2nd time for bids with the hope of attracting a higher one, after which, if no bids are received, it can be listed “For Sale” with a realtor in the MLS system. Mr. Elwell suggested the Public Property Committee research what can be done with the lot for future reference. Ira Walker, Jr. suggested creating a “remembrance park” on the lot to recognize local veterans. As Council gains knowledge on funding/grant opportunities, ideas can be gathered & they can determine whether or not to advertise again for bids.
 - **Resolution 2022-02**—American Rescue Plan Act Resolution—elects the standard allowance & authorizes the Borough Treasurer to make the standard deduction & to complete the required reporting of the ARPA funds.
Mr. Elwell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-02; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **1 North Main Street sidewalk, Teton Homes, LLC**—Craig mailed a letter to the property owner (Teton Homes, LLC) as well as to the property management company regarding their sidewalk that is in disrepair. The one receipt card was returned signed so Craig’s office will monitor the deadline/timeframe for the repair.
 - **Municipal Night at the Ballpark**—CGA Law Firm invites Borough staff & all elected officials to the ballgame on Friday, May 20th, 2022. Invitations to be mailed.
5. **Sewer & Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. presented his report which will be on file with these Meeting Minutes. All expenses have been or will be presented to the Sewer & Water Authority for approval.
6. **Engineer’s Report**—Jason Brenneman reported:
- **Bid results for High Street & George Street** are being finalized. Discussion was held as Council was hesitant to move forward with paving these 2 streets until all nearby home construction is completed. Jason said a lot of High Street needs base repair which we could do this year, then wait to complete the top course until all construction is done. But then there could be more base repair necessary next year. If we wait until 2023, a full depth reclamation of the street can be done which will make a better surface & a longer-lasting street. Jason suggested waiting to do both High & George Streets until 2023, as there are still 4 lots available in the Cloverfield development (off High Street) as well as a 2nd building of townhomes not started on George Street.
Mr. Burkins made a motion to put the paving work for both George & High Streets on hold until 2023; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
Of note, ECS submitted their proposal for sampling & related inspections on George Street, as required by PENNDOT. This testing had already begun; however, since Council is waiting until 2023 for the road work, the proposal does not need to be approved tonight.

- **15 Springwood work**—coordination of contractor’s work to be handled by Bill Gemmill.
 - **Of note**—Jason stated if Council ever wants him to report on Sewer & Water items & ongoing projects, he can do so.
7. **Mayor’s/Police Report**—Mayor Barnette reported:
- She attended the Mason Dixon Library’s Board meeting last month & this month. They are back up & running & masks are now optional for visitors. Discussion was held on the library’s budget, so the Mayor suggested the Borough may want to increase their donation to MDL for 2023.
 - She, along with several Council members attending the recent York County Boroughs Association Dinner Meeting at Stewartstown Legion. The program was on ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) distributed to municipalities for relief stemming from the Coronavirus shutdowns. The rules for spending the funds have been opened to encompass a lot of different things now and anything under \$10million doesn’t need to be justified. Anything the funds are spent on needs to be reported on a Project & Expenditure Report by April 30th, 2022, even if none of the funds are spent to date.
 - Police Commission Meeting will be held this Wednesday, April 6th.
 - Speeding in town is a major concern to many residents & those on Main Street, Mill & Pennsylvania have voiced their concerns, while some proposed speed bumps on side streets. SRPD is doing what they can to monitor & control speed; however, they can’t be everywhere at once and without RADAR, it takes two officers to use the VASCAR system. Mayor Barnette stated the RADAR HB606 is still pending & has been for over a year. Everyone is encouraged to contact State Representative Mike Jones to ask for his support of the bill. The Mayor contacted Mr. Jones who said the bill is not moving, but if it would, he will support it. Mrs. Carl said, to make the most impact, concerned citizens should find out who’s on the House Appropriations Committee (where the bill is pending) and go to the PA Assembly website to contact those representatives directly.
The Public Safety Committee can meet to discuss ways to flood those emails asking them to act on HR606 because speeding is a huge safety concern. In addition, some information to contact the representatives mentioned above could be added to the Borough’s Facebook page.
 - A Town Hall meeting is scheduled in Glen Rock on April 27th @ 7pm (at 59 Water Street). Police Commission costs will be part of the discussion.
 - She spoke to Ira Walker, Jr. about the increase in caustic soda as Shrewsbury Borough saw a huge increase. Ira spoke to North Industrial Chemical who will try to maintain steady pricing.
 - Glen Rock Borough’s EMS will operate with volunteers for one more year before switching to paid EMS. This may affect the budget.
 - On March 31st, there was a strong-arm theft at the Rutter’s on Pennsylvania Avenue. The suspect did not have a gun but came across the checkout counter & stole cigarettes. SRPD caught the suspect less than 12 hours later.
8. **President/Vice-President’s Report**---nothing to report
9. **Treasurer’s Report**--Stacy Myers reported:
- Mr. Burkins made a motion to approve Fire Police for the following events; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - Springfield Township—Summer Quest Festival—June 4th, 2022
 - Glen Rock Borough—
 - Susquehannock HS Graduation—May 26th, 2022
 - Arts & Brew Fest—June 4th, 2022
 - Tree Lighting—November 27th, 2022
 - Glen Rock Carolers—December 24th & 25th, 2022
 - Ben Orlando/Lloyd Trust Properties had emailed pictures to the Borough showing damage to two of his buildings at 18 S. Main Street caused by tractor trailers traveling from Rutter’s (W.

PA Ave.) through his parking lot to Main Street. That area, including the driveway from Rutter's to Main Street is private property owned by Lloyd Trust Properties and Mr. Orlando must pay for the damage to the buildings, in addition to paving the parking lot that gets torn up by the heavy truck traffic. He has proposed installing signage & possibly putting a chain across the driveway to deter trucks from using the private thoroughfare, but he wanted the Borough's opinion. Mr. Sharnetzka stated that the Borough does not own or maintain either the Rutter's or Lloyd Trust lots or that private thoroughfare, so Mr. Orlando can install the signage and/or chain, if he wishes. It will be up to him to enforce the signage as the Borough will take no position on it. Mr. Orlando can possibly ask SRPD to sit in his lot to conduct the enforcement, as they may be able to do so under the Vehicle Code, but that will be his responsibility.

10. **Other Business**—

- **IGA Report**—Mrs. Bloom reported on the recent IGA Meeting where PPU's for SRPD are still being discussed as well as the cost-sharing for the municipalities. There has been some wavering from one of the municipality's on whether or not they want to be a part of the Intergovernmental Agreement with SRPD, so it continues to be an ongoing discussion. The next IGA Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 5th. Mrs. Bloom stated the IGA must be finalized by September 2022 or Southern Regional Police Department will disband.
- **Sidewalk Ordinance**—Mrs. Bloom reported that she, Mr. Elwell & Ms. Almony are reviewing grant opportunities for sidewalk replacement; however, they feel it's too premature to vote on a revised Ordinance until further research is complete. Mrs. Bloom & Mr. Elwell have visited & discussed grant opportunities with Delta & Dallastown Boroughs, and both have been a huge help with ideas. Mr. Sharnetzka reported that Delta Borough has never enforced their Sidewalk Ordinance because once a grant is obtained and they begin to repair the sidewalks, they would need to repair/replace **all** of them which is a huge undertaking. The sidewalk at 16 S. Main Street was mentioned; however, this is a commercial property and Mr. Gemmill doesn't feel it's a good idea to push only commercial properties on sidewalk repair when the current Sidewalk Ordinance is not being enforced on residential properties. Mr. Sharnetzka agrees that, if the current Ordinance is enforced & then next year, grant money is received to complete repairs, the Borough is liable to get backlash from those who were forced to adhere to the current Sidewalk Ordinance & repair theirs now. Council agreed more research & information needs to be gathered before moving forward.
- **Ferd Dorn/Dorn Electric**—as a follow-up to the meeting where Ferd presented a few different options of updating wiring for the Christmas lights, he reported tonight that he's unable to get the wire other than finding 1,900' feet in Georgia at a huge price increase. The Borough needs 6,100' of wire to make the necessary repairs. Ferd suggested waiting until next year, for the 2023 season and he will "band-aid" the existing wires to make the Christmas lights work this season. Borough staff will trim the trees back to enable Dorn Electric to do the work this year. Ferd stated his marketing people are predicting that aluminum costs will decrease by March 2023, so hopefully things will improve till then.

11. **Executive Session**—Mr. Burkins made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session @ 9:20pm to discuss a legal matter (Wierman case); Mr. Gemmill seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Mrs. Bloom made a motion to reconvene @ 9:32pm; Ms. Kreiss seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. In addition to the Wierman case, a personnel matter was discussed. No action was taken on either.

12. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, Mr. Gemmill made a motion to adjourn at 9:34pm; Mr. Elwell seconded. Motion carried; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary

