

STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

A regular meeting of the Stroudsburg Borough Council convened at 7:00 P.M. on November 16, 2021 in the Council Chambers of the Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building with the following members present: Council President Matt Abell, Council member Joanne Kochanski, Council member Victoria DeVries, and Council member Jim Evanisko. Also present were: Mayor Tarah Probst, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Borough Solicitor Joseph McDonald, Executive Assistant Mary Pat Quinn, Zoning and Codes Officer Ron Kimes, and Street Superintendent Brian Ace. Council members Boyd Weiss, James Smith and Erica McCabe were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Hearing and Consideration to adopt An Ordinance of the Stroudsburg Borough Council to Revise Chapter 15 Entitled, “Motor Vehicles and Traffic”.

Adequate notice of the public hearing was provided by publishing notice in the legal section of The Pocono Record in the issue of November 6, 2021 and by providing notice to the Monroe County Law Library on November 4, 2021. Mrs. Kochanski asked about the speed limit for Scott Street; why is it only listed between North 5th Street and North 8th Street instead of through North 9th Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Evanisko, seconded by Ms. DeVries to continue the public hearing to the next Council meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. to allow the staff to look in to the matter. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

After looking at the existing Ordinance, there are three notations in connection with Scott Street:

<i>Scott Street</i>	<i>between North 5th Street and North 8th Street</i>	25 mph to be removed
<i>Scott Street</i>	<i>between North 5th Street and North 9th Street</i>	15 mph correct
<i>Scott Street</i>	<i>between North 8th Street and North 9th Street</i>	15 mph to be removed

Approval of Council Meeting Minutes for the Regular Meeting, November 3, 2021.

The minutes of the Council meeting on November 3, 2021 were approved as circulated on a motion made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Mr. Evanisko. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Monthly Administrative Reports

The following administrative reports were approved on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain): Permits Issued Report, Parking Report, Fire Department Report, Right to Know Report, and Stroud Area Regional Police Department Report.

Accept the Unaudited October, 2021 Treasurer's Report

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the October 2021 Treasurer's Report to include the reconciled bank account balances as of October 31, 2021 and the budget to actual report. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

OLD BUSINESS

Jason Fitzgerald and Phil Trometter of Penn Strategies will continue to discuss available grant programs that may be available for various proposed projects.

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Trometter were not present; however, Mr. Kopp reported that Penn Strategies is working on a FEMA/PEMA grant application on behalf of LaBar Village for funding to repair stream bank erosion. A grant application is also being prepared for Assistance to Firefighters for new air packs that will cost approximately \$200,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. for an Inter-Municipal Liquor License Transfer from Shuk, Inc. of 934 Memorial Blvd., Tobyhanna, PA (License #R-21299, LID 69457) to 1650 West Main Eatery, LLC.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to schedule a public hearing for Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. for consideration of the aforementioned inter-municipal liquor license transfer. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Stroudsburg Borough Council to Authorize the Release of Fire Escrow Funds to Jason Schneider, the named insured of 520 Brown Street, Stroudsburg.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to adopt the aforementioned Resolution. Mr. Kimes advised Council that the sidewalk repair was completed and that the escrow funds could be released to the insured, Jason Schneider. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve a Developer's Agreement between AKS Realty and the Borough of Stroudsburg.

Solicitor McDonald advised that he reached out to the applicants engineer to remind him that the Borough is waiting for his client to post the financial security.

Consideration to adopt a Resolution of the Stroudsburg Borough Council to Approve and Adopt the Monroe County 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko to adopt a Resolution approving the 2021 Monroe County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Discuss the Monroe County Courthouse generator/right of way/sidewalk area.

Monroe County Commissioner John Christy and William Schaeffer, P.E. of Lane Engineering were present to discuss the proposed placement of the generator in the Courthouse expansion. The lead time for the emergency generator is 40 weeks. In order to continue with the project, the County is requesting the Borough Council's approval of the following plan: enlarge the North areaway along Sarah Street to create more space; the stub wall will be filled later with CMU to brace the retaining wall; enlarge the louver rough opening and fill it in later with CMU; lower the generator into the areaway; and maneuver the generator into the building onto its pad.

The enlarged areaway will require extending it into the walkway and covering the opening with a sidewalk grate that is similar to the one over the areaway at the Annex. The temporary shoring will be driven as close to the sidewalk as possible leaving the curb and Sarah Street untouched. The metal grate is not permitted by the Borough's curb and sidewalk specifications. Mr. Schaeffer reviewed the drawings with Council. A discussion ensued about the appearance of the metal grate vs. precast concrete.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko to approve the request with precast concrete in the sidewalk area and a metal grate next to the building. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to reappoint Mayor Tarah Probst as one of Stroudsburg Borough's representatives on the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission for a term running January 1st, 2022, to January 1st, 2025.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko to appoint Mayor Tarah Probst as a representative on the Stroud Area Regional Police Commission for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve financial percentages for a cost sharing agreement with the Stroud Township Sewer Authority for the Ann Street Sewer Main.

Mr. Kopp referred to the letter dated October 22, 2021 from Todd Holmes, P.E. of Reilly Associates to the Stroud Township Sewer Authority Supervisors regarding the suggested contribution from Stroud Township toward the proposed Ann Street Sewer Project as follows: the manholes between 31 and 21 will be a 30% contribution; the manholes between 21 and 17 will be a 25% contribution; and the sewage conveyance below manhole 17 will be 20%.

A motion to approve the proposed contributions was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Mrs. Kochanski. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

An intermunicipal agreement will be prepared to memorialize the contribution plan.

Consideration to approve the reimbursement of \$45,489.55 from the Stroud Township Sewer Authority for the June, 2018 emergency repair of the sewer main on Ann Street at 5th Street (represents 20% of the cost of the repair).

Mr. Kopp referred to a letter dated October 25, 2021 from Reilly Associates to the Stroud Township Sewer Authority Supervisors regarding the June, 2018 emergency repair of the Ann Street sewer interceptor MH 14 and MH 13. The total repair cost was \$227,447.77 which was paid by the Borough of Stroudsburg. The Stroud Township Sewer Authority Supervisors will pay 20% of the repair, or \$45,489.55.

A motion to approve the stated contribution was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve signing the Conveyance System portion of the Sewage Collection and Treatment Facilities Planning Module, Form 3800-FM-BPNPSM0353, in regard to a proposed connection at the Stroudsmoor Development in Stroud Township.

A discussion ensued about the request, and Council asked for additional information. Mr. Kopp will ask Russell Scott, P.E., RKR Hess, to come to the December 7 Council meeting to answer the questions and address Council's concerns.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to table the matter until the December 7 meeting. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority 2022 Budget.

Mr. Kopp referred to the November 3 memo from David Horton, Manager of BCRA. The debt service and capital reserve will not change for 2022, the O & M Reserve will be \$150,000 (up \$3,000 from 2021), the I & I Reserve is new (a total of \$80,000 which will be split evenly between Stroud Township and Stroudsburg Borough), O & M Expenditures increased 2.8% (or \$60,563) from 2021 to \$2,260,030. Stroudsburg Borough's 2022 financial obligation is \$947,976 (an overall increase of 11.1%).

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the 2022 BCRA Budget. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve Payment Request #1 in the amount of \$214,762.80 from Northeast Site Contractors for the 8th Street Paving and ADA Ramps Project.

Payment Request #1 in the amount of \$214,762.80 from Northeast Site Contractors was approved for payment on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve purchasing Smoke Testing Equipment from Superior Signal Company, LLC, not to exceed \$12,500.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve purchasing Smoke Testing Equipment from Superior Signal Company, LLC. not to exceed \$12,500.00. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to discuss an amendment to Chapter 27, Section 805 and Table, to include Electronic Message Boards as a scheduled use.

Solicitor McDonald confirmed that the continuation of the public hearing for the Sign Ordinance amendment is carried to the December 7 meeting. One item needs to be considered and that is the location that digital message boards are permitted to be located. He will be discussing the Adams Advertising litigation in executive session with Council.

Consideration to approve a request from SROSRC to schedule the Levee Loop Trail Run and Walk for Saturday, June 4th, 2022.

TrudyAnn Buckley and Ceil Yost were present. A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the request of SROSRC to hold the annual Levee Loop Trail Run and Walk on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Ms. Buckley asked if the Borough could be sure to mow the grass on its side of the trail just before the run. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to schedule a hearing to approve an Ordinance vacating two unimproved streets, the extension of Bryant Street East of Huston Avenue, and an unnamed street between 238 and 296 Huston Avenue.

Solicitor McDonald noted that a survey of the unnamed street was provided by one of the adjacent property owners. There is a stormwater line and a grate that the Borough will need to preserve the right to for maintenance and repair if necessary.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to schedule a public hearing for consideration of an ordinance at the December 7 meeting. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Meet with Daniel Bickart about the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board.

Mr. Bickart was not present at the meeting; however, all of the Council members know him and thought he would be a great addition to the Zoning Hearing Board. A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to appoint Daniel Bichart as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board to fill an unexpired term; his term will expire December 31, 2024. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consider the application of Alexander Mansour, as recommended for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the HARB, for replacement of siding, new front steps, new vinyl fence with arbor, new shutters, and new porch railings at 29 North Tenth Street.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to Alexander Mansour for the described work at 29 North Tenth Street. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consider the application of Ralph Krieger, as recommended for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the HARB, for the replacement of siding at 314-318 Main Street.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to Ralph Krieger for the described work at 314-318 Main Street. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consider the application of Cazim & Naima Selmanovic, as recommended for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the HARB, for the replacement of the front porch decking and railing, installation of rear decking, railings, and steps at 503-505 Sarah Street.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Mr. Evanisko to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to Cazim and Naima Selmanovic for the described work at 503-505 Sarah Street. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consider the application of Wayne W. Vanderhoof, as recommended for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the HARB, for the repair of siding, removal of the chimneys, replacing the roof, replacing the front porch, repairing the windows, and repairing the shutters at 712-714 Scott Street.

Marv Walton, Land Bank Administrator of the Monroe County Redevelopment Authority, was present to introduce himself. The Land Bank is in the process of scheduling environmental testing at the subject property to include asbestos, lead, and radon. They are still looking for a contractor.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to Wayne W. Vanderhoof for the described work at 712-714 Scott Street. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consider the application of Joseph Mihalick, as recommended for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness by the HARB, for the repair of the exterior wall, and adding two new windows at 20 N 5th Street.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Mrs. Kochanski to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness to Joseph Mihalick for the described work at 20 North 5th Street. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Consideration to approve a Budget Transfer Resolution for the purchase of Motorola radios for the Stroudsburg Borough Fire Department.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to adopt the Budget Transfer Resolution. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Committee Reports

Codes Committee – Mr. Abell advised that the Committee is looking at an ordinance to regulate “POD” containers.

Budget Committee – Mr. Kopp reported that the proposed 2022 Budget is 90% complete. He will be meeting with the Budget Committee to see what projects should be budgeted and what the millage rate will be.

Parking Committee – There was no report.

Recycling Committee – The Recycling Committees of Stroudsburg Borough and East Stroudsburg Borough met on November 10. The Stroudsburg Borough Council approved the sale of the following Twin Boroughs Recycling Equipment: 1996 GMC 3500 4x4 truck; 1999 C.S. Bell Electric Conveyor, Proveda Electric Conveyor, and the 1988 REM Electric Conveyor. Mr. Kopp checked with PA DEP, and none of that equipment was purchased with grant funding. He suggested that if the East Stroudsburg Borough Council also approves the sale of the equipment, it could be offered for sale on MunicBid. Brian Ace, Sr. and Brian Ace, Jr. will come up with proposed values.

Stroudsburg Borough is taking steps to address the single stream recycling pick up by trash haulers that has been going on in the Borough by creating a flyer that will be going in the January 2022 newsletter. After the newsletters are sent out and notices are given to the haulers who pick up trash and recycling in the Borough, anyone who violates the recycling ordinance will be cited.

The draft 2022 Twin Boroughs Recycling Budget was reviewed and discussed. The appropriation for advertising and printing will include bulk mailings of information about recycling and curbside pickup for East Stroudsburg Borough and Stroudsburg Borough residents. An appropriation for property insurance will be added. The Twin Boroughs Recycling property is insured by East Stroudsburg Borough which is an expense of the recycling program. The proposed budget will be provided to the Councils of each Borough for consideration.

A discussed took place again about the new truck. Mr. Abell explained why the Borough Council did not approve contributing to the truck. The Stroudsburg Borough Council was not part of the buying decision, and that is why Council did not approve a contribution. He further stated that the Council felt that the truck was not the right vehicle and that it was a poor choice as it is not optimal for the task.

The chain of command was clarified. The Recycling Supervisor will report to the Street Superintendents of each Borough.

Also discussed was the payment of bills. Evidently, several years ago one person from East Stroudsburg Borough and one person from Stroudsburg Borough signed all of the checks for Twin Boroughs which is what the intermunicipal agreement states. The authorized signers on the Twin Boroughs account will be updated after the first of the year.

Sewer Committee – A meeting was held on November 3 with BCRA, Stroud Township and Pocono Township to discuss I&I issues after the two hurricanes in August and September. A comprehensive identification and mitigation plan was developed and the Borough is moving forward with looking at the lines with the sewer truck, and the Street Department will begin smoke testing when the equipment is purchased. The next Sewer Committee meeting is December 1 at 2:00 P.M. Mr. Scott is also working on a Tapping Fee Study which will incorporate the definition of Equivalent Billing Unit (EBU) instead of an Equivalent Discharge Unit (EDU).

Street Committee – Mayor Probst reported that the Committee will meet on December 1 at 3:30 P.M.

Personnel Committee – Mr. Kopp had one item for executive session.

Public Relations/ Media Committee – Mayor Probst reported that the rebranded Stroudsburg Borough logos will be put on the Borough Facebook page for 48 hours and on the website to get public input on the designs that Council is considering.

The plaque to identify the location of the “Underground Railroad” was presented to Council, and the Street Department will install it in a few weeks between the Panda Kitchen and Kitchen Chemistry. The plaque reads, “At this location stood the home of Sydenham (1812-1872) and Hannah Walton (1815-1893), Quakers, abolitionist and self-described conductors on the Underground Railroad, they, along with other Monroe County citizens, helped slaves escape north to freedom. Sponsored by the Borough of Stroudsburg and the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau.” She advised that the plaque was made possible with the support of the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau, Go Collaborative, and the Monroe County Historical Society.

The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is coming up on Friday, November 26 between 5:00 and 8:00 P.M. in Courthouse Square. Small business Saturday will be on November 27. Strolling Christmas carolers will be downtown on December 3 and December 10. The portable ice-skating rink will be placed at the Helen Amhurst Third Street Park in the next couple of weeks.

The Committee is developing a business directory. The next meeting is December 21 at 5:30 P.M.

Redevelopment Committee – Mr. Abell reported that the proposed Open Space Ordinance was reviewed and approved by the Monroe County Planning Commission; however, the Stroudsburg Borough Planning Commission reviewed the proposed ordinance and did not approve it. Dave Parfitt was the only member who reached out the Mr. Abell with questions. The other members will be asked to attend the public hearing or contact Council members with their individual concerns.

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to schedule a public hearing for Council’s consideration of the proposed ordinance on December 21. Mr. Abell noted that their will be a companion resolution to establish a fee structure.

The next meeting of the Committee is at 3:30 P.M. on November 17 via Zoom.us.

I-80 Expansion Task Force Committee – Someone from the Champions Institute-Smart Growth will meet with Mayor Probst and Kris Battle on November 19.

Stroud Region Open Space and Recreation Commission – Ms. Yost thanked the Council for approving their 2022 Budget. She complimented the job that TrudyAnn Buckley is doing for the Commission.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Probst asked Mr. Kimes about the status of the Bentzoni house on Thomas Street. Mr. Kimes spoke with Attorney Jeff Worthington who assists him with Code Enforcement issues, and he was told that the adult sons of Mr. and Mrs. Bentzoni, who are deceased, are the owners of record. The property has since gone back to the bank although the transfer of title has not been recorded at the County yet. The bank filed a Vacant and Abandoned Registration. A property manager has been assigned by the bank, and the manager advised Mr. Kimes that the grass will be cut.

She asked Mr. Kimes about the status of the old jail and its use. Mr. Kimes and Attorney John Dunn, who represents the Monroe County Commissioners, will be speaking about that.

She asked whether the “Drug Free School Zone” signs could be put up again in the area of Ramsey School. She expressed concern about that since children are still using the playground equipment. Mr. Ace will check with the Stroudsburg Area School District to see if they still have the signs. They were taken down when the District removed the school crossing signs.

The “hugging” lanes were painted on Lower Main Street by PennDOT and seem to be calming the speeding problem.

She said that people have been asking her why there is no follow up after some of the fires that have occurred in the Borough. Mrs. Kochanski answered that there is always an investigation, and if there were any problems, they would have been reported.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor McDonald met with Fire Chief Charles Frantz and Knox Box Coordinator John Stevens earlier in the day to further discuss a Knox Box Ordinance. Other comparative ordinances are being reviewed. Chief Frantz and Mr. Stevens will check to see if Knox has any tutorials that are available so that people can see the value in using these devices.

He will discuss with Council in executive session potential or pending litigation in connection with Dew Gap Associates, Adams Outdoor Advertising, and VFG LaBar. After executive session, he will likely recommend that Council authorize scheduling a public hearing to amend Chapter 27, Article 8, Table 1 as it relates to electronic message boards.

Borough Manager's Report

Classes/Training

DCNR Grant Workshop November 4th

Meetings

BCRA/Significant Violations/I&I Meeting	November 3 rd
Downtown Stroudsburg Business Association	November 9 th
Twin Boroughs Recycling Meeting	November 10 th
Arete October Report & Meeting	November 10 th
Meeting w/Fire Dept/Knox Box	November 16 th
Veterans Celebration/ESU	November 16 th
American Rescue Plan Funding	November 18 th

Financial/2022 Budget

Received assessed values of properties from the County on November 10th. 2022 Draft Budget complete minus insurance costs not yet received from our carrier. Next step is to put together a 10-year Capital Improvements Plan for the Borough listing all major capital projects and purchases through 2031.

Software for Codes/Zoning and Parking

Established Implementation Plan with MyGov; initial meeting on Tuesday, November 30th at 11:00 am. Plan is to be up and live with the new system the week of 1/17/22. Billing will not occur until the new FY (after 1/1/22) (See attached Implementation Plan/Timeline).

Sewer Collection System/Notice of Violation

Met with BCRA (along with Stroud & Pocono Townships) on November 3rd in regard to I&I issues after the two hurricanes in August/ September. Developed and implemented comprehensive identification/mitigation plan with Brian & Russ. Plan is underway. Next meeting is December 1st at 2:00 pm.

Also, BCRA increased O&E annual expense by \$40,000 for us and Stroud Township until the problem is abated. This is funding for additional I&I measures.

Infrastructure/Streets/Capital Projects

Sidewalk Replacement Project/Multimodal Grant. DCED/CFA will grant an extension after January 1, 2022 if needed. Out to bid this fall, project completed next spring into summer. Will add ramp at corner at 6th and Monroe (SW Corner) as part of the project that Monroe County requested the Borough improve.

Ann Street Sewer Replacement. Will use ARPA funding. This is an approved use of funds (I&I mitigation of sanitary sewer system) and requires no approval from the state or federal governments. Met with BCRA & RKR Hess to coordinate water main replacement as part of the project. We will include water piping and the additional excavation/aggregate replacement as part of the cost of the project; BCRA will reimburse us for the costs.

Thomas Street Paving Project. Environmental review complete and was approved for use of CDBG Funds. Will begin bid process this fall/winter.

Recycling Center

Committee Meeting was held on November 10th at 11:00 am. Issues are surfacing about the Twin Boroughs Recycling agreement not being followed over the past years. WE are trying to work through them and keep a positive

Five Points Intersection North 5th Street

Survey work underway. Once survey is complete Ben can go forward with other elements of the study.

McMichael Creek Flood Protection Project/Levee Repair/DEP Grant

Project is being managed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Award date for the contract has been pushed back, and we are now looking at Spring 2022 for the project to begin. Will keep Council updated. Grant Agreement is complete for DEP to provide 100% of the share of the Borough's cost of the project. We will be responsible for the upfront match costs and then will be reimbursed, up to \$80,000, by DEP, and will include in the 2022 Budget.

Sewer Fund Delinquent Accounts/Liens

BCRA wants to meet in regard to delinquent accounts; this has been put onto the back burner until plans to address I&I are underway. I have talked to three different collection agencies and given the experiences so far with the shutoff notices, there may be a place for collection agencies when a rental property has water due to be shut off because of nonpayment by the property owner/landlord. BCRA found a 20-year-old agreement on how billing was to be done for sewer accounts.

Pocono Plaza Inn is being sold, and attorney contacted us about fulfilling the liens as part of the sale. Past due sewer balance is \$56,471.40.

Ann Street Sewer Replacement – Cost Sharing Formula

Met with Stroud Township after BCRA Meeting on October 20th. Agreed to a draft cost sharing formula for the Ann Street Sewer; this was to be approved at the Township's Sewer Authority Meeting on October 25th. On November 16th agenda. Also looking at reimbursement of costs from 2018 emergency repairs (\$227,447.77) to the Ann Street Main; gave our costs to the Township for approval at the same Township Authority Meeting.

Levee Conduit Inspection

In 2021, all conduits on our Levees must be inspected by camera. Since we have our own camera truck, we are able to do this work "in house" and save costs. Working on getting more guidance from the Corps of Engineers/DEP.

Borough Pool

Water level settled at normal level from in past years. That means that any leaks are probably not from the discharge pipes buried underground, which is a good thing. The bad news is that it leaves us back at square one again.

Garbage Concerns on Main Street

We have had an ongoing problem with tenants with apartments on Main Street depositing their household trash curbside. We have been closely monitoring and checking trash for any possible evidence of the location of the offenders. There is provision in our Code that allows the Borough to require property owners to supply the Borough information within 72 hours on their trash haulers. Instead of going after tenants who may not even realize what they are doing is wrong, this way we can force some of the property owners, who do not have trash haulers, to comply with our Ordinances. Letter going out next week (October 25th – 29th).

Parking Garage

Working on getting bids from contractors to do work to repair our parking garage. Will be used for a potential grant request for repairs. Also, contacting concrete contractors to determine costs for a new garage.

2023 CDBG Funding

Provided to the County Redevelopment Authority about what project we will be undertaking with those funds. North 7th/Courthouse Square will be the project for 2022.

Bicycle Racks

Three racks remain to be installed: 745 Main, 401 Main & 33 North 7th Streets. North 7th Street was approved with a slightly changed location. Waiting to hear back from the remaining two property owners. One property owner (1172 Main Street) declined to have the rack on their property.

Upcoming Focus

2022 Budget
Sewer Liens and A/R
Sewer Delinquencies

I&I Mitigation & Smoke Testing
Capital improvement Plan
Day to Day Activities

Code Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Kimes did not have any additional information to report.

Street Superintendent's Report

Mr. Ace did not have any additional information to report.

Approval of Bills on Warrants 211116

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to approve the payment of the bills on Warrants 211116 with the exception of the PP&L check. The Boroughs of East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg have been asked PP&L for months to fix the streetlights on the Interboro Bridge. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

Public Input for Non-Agenda Items

Ceil Yost asked if the Borough is aware of the two campers that are in South Stroudsburg; one is in an alley near the Happy Hour Restaurant, and the other one is on Morningside Avenue. Mr. Kimes answered that his department is aware of the camper near the Happy Hour, and he sent the owner a cease-and-desist notice because the camper was hooked up to the owner's sewer

illegally. The owner did disconnect the camper from the lateral. He will be getting a copy of a survey that was done by the owner of the Happy Hour which will help his department to continue with enforcement. They will look in to the other camper on Morningside Avenue.

Mr. Walton advised that Mr. Kimes sent an application to the Land Bank for the unfinished units at LaBar Village; however, the Land Bank will need to wait until the litigation is resolved between the Borough and VFG LaBar before it considers the application.

Executive Session

A motion was made at 8:43 P.M. by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to go in to an executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and pending or anticipated litigation. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

The executive session was concluded at 10:06 P.M. on a motion made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Mrs. Kochanski, seconded by Ms. DeVries to schedule a public hearing for another amendment to the sign ordinance that would formally recognize electronic message board displays as a permitted use in the Industrial Zone. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

A motion was made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Mrs. Kochanski to accept the resignation of Ronald Kimes as the Zoning and Codes Officer and the Building Officer effective December 3, 2021. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. DeVries, seconded by Mrs. Kochanski. The motion was carried. (4-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain)

