

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
EAST STROUDSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 -7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Manager Brian Bond, Don Cross, Solicitor John C. Prevoznik, Maury Molin, Roger DeLarco, Bill Reese, Sonia Wolbert, Mayor Martinelli, Borough Engineer Nate Oiler, Codes Officer Marv Walton and Finance Officer Ken Konz

ABSENT: Ed Flory

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

November 5, 2019 Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin, to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Ordinance 1356 authorizing the Borough to enter into a Cooperation Agreement between Monroe County and East Stroudsburg Borough for the Fiscal Year 2019 CDBG Program Administration.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Cross to recess the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to convene a public hearing on Ordinance No. 1356. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to enter exhibit 1, Copy of Ordinance, exhibit 2, Proof of Publication, and exhibit 3, Sign in sheet, into evidence. The motion carried unanimously.

With no questions from the public, a motion was made by Ms. Wolbert and seconded by Mr. Molin to close the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve Ordinance No. 1356 authorizing the Borough to enter into a Cooperation Agreement between Monroe County and East Stroudsburg Borough for the Fiscal Year 2019 CDBG Program Administration, as advertised. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – Agenda Items

None.

SROSRC

Ms. Wolbert advised they are almost completed with the Trail Gap Analysis.

Veterans Park Update

Mr. Reese stated the rededication of Veterans Park will be held on May 23, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Reese thanked the East Stroudsburg University Veterans who volunteered their time at Veterans Park last Saturday; they spent their day trimming, edging, and setting stones. They recommended one flag pole be straightened, and one of the stones be repaired. Mr. Reese advised our maintenance employees can complete those tasks. Mr. Reese also acknowledged Brian Ace, who volunteered his time throughout the season by mowing and maintaining Veterans Park.

Police Report

The October SARP report was distributed.

East Stroudsburg Community Alliance

Ms. Wolbert requested to have a committee set up to discuss the ECA's 2020 budget. Mr. Reese and Mr. Bond will serve on the committee. Mr. DeLarco advised he sent Mr. Bond the ECA 2018 audit statements and asked him to forward the statements to the other council members for their review.

150th Celebration

Mr. Molin reported the next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Molin reminded everyone that volunteers are needed, and the logo contest is underway.

Engineers Report

The Engineers Report was distributed.

Willow Street Utility, Drainage and Road Improvements

Mr. Oiler requested council approve a Reconciliation Change Order to eliminate contract item quantities that did not need to be performed on the project. The Reconciliation Change Order results in a decrease of -\$75,609.26 to the contract value, as recommended by RKR Hess.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to approve a Reconciliation Change Order to eliminate contract item quantities that did not need to be performed on the project. The Reconciliation Change Order results in a decrease of -\$75,609.26 to the contract value, as recommended by RKR Hess. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Oiler requested conditional approval of payment application No. 13 – Final, in the amount of \$128,740.55, to Northeast Site Contractors, contingent upon favorable review of the closeout documents by the Borough Solicitor, as recommended by RKR Hess.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to conditionally approve payment application No. 13 – Final, in the amount of \$128,740.55, to Northeast Site Contractors, contingent upon favorable review of the closeout documents by the Borough Solicitor. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments – New Business

Elizabeth McDonald of 10 Kiwanis Street and neighbor, Glenn Morra of 8 Kiwanis Street, were present to express their concerns about the speeding issues in their neighborhood. They advised there are no speed limit signs on Kiwanis Street, or surrounding streets. They asked if council would consider changing the speed limit to 15 mph and post signs. They also mentioned the use of temporary speed humps, and added other communities use them with no issues. Additionally,

Mr. Morra recommended yellow paint stripes to get drivers' attention. Mr. DeLarco stated the police unions are lobbying against the use of radar, which is why our officers cannot currently use radar. Some issues with using speed humps are damages to equipment during snow removal, and when people still speed, accidents and problems with their cars can occur. He suggested maybe the police can set up their mobile speed limit sign to make drivers aware of their speed. The Mayor advised that he will contact the chief of police to request officers in the East Broad Street area more often. The current speed limit is set at 25 mph for Kiwanis Street, and advised the borough needs to post signs since there are none on that street. Lowering the speed can be recommended to the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee, however, a traffic study may be required.

Reports:

Fire Chiefs Report:

The Fire Chiefs report was distributed.

Public Works:

The Water Treatment Plant report was distributed.

Marv Walton:

The Permits, Violations, Inspections and Parking Enforcement Reports were distributed.

Ken Konz:

The October 2019 Borough Financial Statements were distributed.

Mr. Konz reported the recommendation from borough staff to utilize Tom Josiah, CPA, for year-end audit preparation at a rate of \$105.00 per hour, work not to exceed 100 hours. The service agreement was provided to council members for review. Mr. Konz advised the borough has used Tom Josiah for the past two years, and our audit reflects it. Also, multiple organizations in our area use the same firm, and come highly recommended by our auditors.

Mayor Martinelli:

No Report.

Sonia Wolbert:

Absent.

Don Cross:

No Report.

Maury Molin:

No Report.

Roger DeLarco:

Mr. DeLarco reported that he celebrated Jean Eden's 100th birthday at the Pocono Services for Families and Children, who named their East Stroudsburg facility the "Eugene S. Eden Early Learning Center" in Ms. Eden's honor.

Ed Flory:

Absent.

Solicitor John Prevoznik

Items for executive session. Also, the condemnation by PennDot of the drainage swale by the landfill on Forge Road is moving forward. The borough provided PennDot information and we are waiting for them to respond.

Manager's Report

Mr. Bond requested authorization to appoint Brian Ace as acting Director of Public Works, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to appoint Brian Ace as the acting Director of Public Works. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to advertise and set a public hearing to amend the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority for 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building, amending the motion from Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to advertise and set a public hearing to amend the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement with the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority for 7:05 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1354, approving the payment agreement with the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority for the 7th amendment of the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement, for 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building, amending the motion from Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. Cross to advertise and set a public hearing for Ordinance 1354, approving the payment agreement with the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority for the 7th amendment of the Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement, for 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the East Stroudsburg Borough Municipal Building. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bond requested authorization of Resolution 19-2019, Disposition of Specific Borough Records.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to approve Resolution 19-2019, Disposition of Specific Borough Records. The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Reese:

No report.

Bills Payable

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Ms. Wolbert to ratify bills payable through November 19, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Cross and seconded by Mr. Molin to reconvene the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prevoznik reported that possible land acquisitions, land condemnations, a current court order, and a property built over a storm water drain were all discussed and no decisions were made.

Discussion of the Middle Dam

Mr. Prevoznik led the discussion about the Middle Dam, stating the borough has four options, one being a temporary option and the other three involving various properties. Ms. Wolbert asked if the temporary option does not work, what is the solution. Russ Scott of RKR Hess stated we would have to live off our wells, possibly impose a water restriction and/or boil water advisory. After much discussion, Mr. Molin made a motion to choose Option C (willing property owner outside the borough), and if BCRA will not participate in that option, then go with Option B (temporary). The motion was seconded by Mr. DeLarco, but was then withdrawn.

A motion was made by Mr. Molin and seconded by Mr. DeLarco to table any decision on the Middle Dam. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prevoznik reported the request from BCRA for the Borough to reimburse BCRA half the start and stop costs associated with pursuing pump station locations. The request was verbal and no specific costs were available during the time of this discussion. Before council can approve the request, they need to know the amount to be reimbursed.

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin to request from BCRA the specific amount to be reimbursed. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. DeLarco and seconded by Mr. Molin at 9:52 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.