

**PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING-APRIL 11, 2023 at 6:00PM**

Mr. Hogan – With tax season upon us, Mr. Hogan wanted to make residents aware of scammers. The IRS will not call you to get a credit card or for payment. They will always contact you via letter or if they have your email, that way. If anyone does contact you, please notify the police to make them aware that scammers are contacting our residents.

Mr. Kobusky – Added that the Social Security Administration will also only contact via letter and not a phone call.

Mr. Morehart – Hometown Heroes Project is back in full swing. You can get your application at the Borough Municipal office, VFW on Main St. or by going to the website. As with everything else, the cost has gone up. It is estimated that so far there are about 124 banners. I would love to get 124 more this year. The emergency responders are also eligible FOR Hometown Heros recognition. At the last County Council meeting Plymouth was awarded 2 million dollars. A bit short of what we applied for; however, the FEMA grant has not been awarded yet and it could make up the difference if we receive it.

Reminded all that when grants are applied for, they are for specific projects and amounts. Once awarded the money must be used for that specified project. He would like to try to look for a LSA grant to combat blight in the town.

The SPCA contract has expired or is about to expire, checking into that. A resident took a dog there and was denied. The contract is per capita but if it becomes too expensive, we may have to look at per animal. We do receive a quarterly report on how many animals are surrendered there. He will contact Todd Hevner at SPCA to discuss all of it.

Ms. Eroh – The Plymouth Planning Agency has an open seat and is accepting applications until April 23, 2023. Anyone who is a resident and would like to join is encouraged to apply. Forward your letter of interest to Gail at the borough office and she will forward it to Council. The council has to appoint the seat.

Last meeting, the Planning Agency began to look into grant opportunities like the Multimodal and Community Block grant. The multimodal grant submission is open now until the end of July. We are looking into upgrading such things as safer crosswalks etc. We did receive some money from a previous grant which we hope can be moved into the new grant and take us over the finish line on this project.

County Waste is no longer selling stickers for garbage. If you still have some, they will honor them. There are a few left in town for sale but once gone, they will only pick up trash in the green GFL garbage bags. A bag was shown to the audience and Ms. Eroh noted that they are 30-gallon bags. She met with them that morning at Turkey Hill and Turkey Hill along with Matus' Newsstand will have the bags. She is still waiting to hear which of the other businesses in town will sell the bags, but Plymouth Hometown Market will not be selling them.

Mr. Thomas has no report at this time.

Mr. Dixon – The borough started yard waste collection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April. The bags are still \$1.50 and can be purchased here at the borough building during regular business hours (Mon-Fri, 8:00 am-4:00 pm). Pick up days are Monday and Friday. You must call and be put on the list for pick up. Call before 10:30 on pick up day to be added to the list. If you call later in the day, you will be added to the next collection day. You may call the day before to be added to the list.

Received a letter from Deborah Madrack @ 73 Willow St who thanks the DPW and all involved for putting up the stop signs at Church and Enos Streets. Those signs make it much safer.

Mr. Kobusky added that a traffic study was done by our traffic committee prior and determined that these signs would alleviate the number of accidents. This is now a 3 way stop.

Mr. Dixon – The Lower South Valley Council of Governments (LSVCOG), which we are a part of, consists of seven towns (Hanover Twp, Nanticoke, Plymouth Twp, Newport Twp, Ashley and Sugar Notch) which work together to share services, look for grants and collaborate on different ideas, is purchasing a Tack Sprayer truck and the cost will be split between all seven towns equally.

Mr. Kobusky further adds that we share our resources. One town might have something the others don't and vice versa. This way we all don't need to invest in all kinds of equipment, and we can share.

Mr. Dixon – thanked Ms. Eroh for the job she did handling the garbage situation with Green for Life (County Waste) and the time and effort it took in managing it.

Also, congratulations to Mr. Morehart on his efforts in securing the 2 million dollars from the county.

Tom Hogan has helped immensely since coming on board. His expertise has helped very much. The borough road milling and paving project will start soon. We received a letter from UGI, they will be installing gas lines but not soon. This will not affect the paving project.

Mr. Kobusky – We were hoping to open bids on the Beade Street project tonight but there is a piece missing, the cost of the gate. There was a change in design midway through and so the cost of the gate is not in. This project now is at 50- 60 thousand but could go to 120-130 in a day. All kinds of modifications have to be done in order to fit the gate. Engineers are confident that we can open bids by the next meeting.

The generator replacement project should begin in late May, early June. The project was approved in December but there was a lead time on getting the generator. We'll be starting the paving, fixing potholes and storm drains, we are just waiting for the go ahead from PennDot.

Our sports fields in town are not used as much anymore but they are still recreational. We will be posting signs and fining people who walk their animals and do not pick up their waste. There are kids who still go to these fields, and it is disgusting to leave animal waste there. Fines will be given!

Mayor Coughlin – People complain all the time about trash and many who yell the loudest are the worst offenders. On April 22, Earth Day we will be having the annual pick-up trash event. Be here at 8:30 am. Vests and trash bags will be given to us by PennDot. People complain all the time about trash and many who yell the loudest are the worst offenders. problem. He referred back to a story, (told before) about the TV on Main St. Last year we gathered enough trash to fill 2 large PennDot trucks! We can't do it without you, so come out and help clean up the town!

At present we are short one police officer. If you remember the December meeting Judge Whittaker was here to swear in an officer and when 1 police officer was mentioned, he said we need 2. From

3/1 to 3/31 there were 306 police calls which is up from past months. There have been break-ins in town. Putting it all over Facebook does nothing. Please contact the police department and file a report. We are trying to catch the thieves, but please keep your doors locked.

Presented a proclamation to the Plymouth Public Library National Library Week is 4/23 to 4/29.

In closing, the mayor said we lost one of our borough family recently, Sue Bird. Asked everyone to remember her at the time of a moment of silence.

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Meeting was called to order by President of council, Ron Kobusky, the "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited and followed by a moment of silence.

Roll was called and all members of council were present except Mr. Cunningham, who was excused because he was at a fire in Honey Pot.

Present: MS. Alexis Eroh, Mr. Thomas Hogan, Mr. Adam Morehart, Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Bill Dixon & Mr. Ron Kobusky.

Not present and excused: Mr. Earl Cunningham

Citizens requests and comments regarding agenda items:

Ms. Heather Northrup – 111 Church St. – has concerns about Ordinance 3 of 2023, which is on the agenda for vote this evening. And asked that Ordinance 3 could have an exception added to it. The exception would be for vehicles that have been modified to accommodate people with disabilities and their wheelchairs or equipment.

Mr. Kobusky – We have gone round and round with this ordinance to write it with clarity. He thanked Ms. Northrup for bringing this to their attention. Spoke to Mike Thomas to add the exception.

Ms. Northrup – Suggested that the best way to say it is vehicles that have been modified because of a disability.

Mr. Kobusky – thanked Ms. Northrup said council appreciates the suggestion. Tow trucks and campers and the like are the target, not people with disabilities.

Ms. Northrup – Added that she did not feel that was the case (targeting disabled)

Mr. Kobusky – Explained that tow trucks that are brought home and campers that are parked on the street are what they are trying to target. If anyone needs to park this kind of vehicle overnight just contact us and we can work it out.

Citizens requests and comments regarding general items:

Ms. Deborah Gulvas asked if cardboard is no longer being picked up by hauler?

Ms. Eroh explained that all cardboard must be broken down and be placed in the garbage bags, as Green For Life will not pick up anything unless it is in the new GFL green garbage bags.

Mayor Coughlin added that cardboard can be broken down and bundled and put on the recycle truck parked in front of borough building.

Mr. Thomas added that recycle days are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7am to 10am.

Ms. Theresa Bradley of 222 Temperance Hill asked if the weight limit per bag is new, 30lbs? Ms. Eroh explained that the weight limit was always in place.

Ms. Northrup thanked the police for getting another drug dealer off of the streets. Also, there is a large pile of trash on Commercial Lane.

Mr. Dixon said he is aware and will show pictures to Brian Pall, Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. David Bronsburg, 565 Main St suggested that cameras be put up to catch people dumping trash. Cameras are a very effective way to stop crime. He states they were inexpensive and for \$1,000.00 he would put them up. Too easy to get away with stuff in this town. Use of cameras would allow them to be caught and prosecuted.

Mayor Coughlin said that project would have to go out for bid.

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**AGENDA VOTING:**

**MOTION**

Whereas, bids were received for the Ferry & Nottingham Streets; Smith & Marlow Lane, Girard & Gaylord Ave. Pave Project and opened for review by the Borough Engineer, Penneastern Engineers, at the Borough's March 14, 2023 meeting;

Whereas, after the bids were opened and publicly announced, Council made a motion to table the same for review by the Borough engineer for compliance with the bid specifications;

During the review process the Borough Engineer determined that it was second lowest bidder who complied in its entirety with the bidding specifications and requirements;

Whereas, after opening the bid documents and a review by the Borough engineer, the lowest responsible bidder is the second lowest bidder, Don E. Bower, with a total bid for the project of \$446,399.86;

Therefore, I move to award the contract for the Ferry & Nottingham Streets; Smith & Marlow Lane, Girard & Gaylord Ave. Pave project to **Don E. Bower, 1206 Salem Blvd., Berwick, PA 18603** for the bid amount of **\$446,399.86** who was the lowest responsible bidder who complied with the specifications and bidding requirements and this award is contingent upon the above named contractor complying with all requirements placed upon the successful bidder including but not limited to items 15 and 16 of the instruction to bidders within the time period set forth in the bid documents. The Borough Secretary is directed to provide written notice of this award of contract to the contractor specified herein above.

Motion made to award the pave project to Don E Bower, 1206 Salem Blvd., Berwick, PA 18603 for the bid amount of \$446,399.86:

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

\*Mayor Coughlin asked of there was a start date?

Motion made to approve Ordinance 3 of 2023: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING RESTRICTONS ON THE PARKING OF LARGE VEHICLES, MOTOR HOMES, TRAILERS AND OTHER TYPE VEHICLES.

\*Ms. Heather Northrop had concerns that Ordinance 3 or 2023 as currently written did not address modified handicap automobiles and asked that council add that exemption. Council explained that that was never their intention and voted yes to have the exemption added.

Motion: Ms. Eroh  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

A motion was made to approve Ordinance 4 of 2023: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH, COUNTY OF LUZERNE, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 173 PEDDLING AND SOLICITING ACT OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH TO BE NOW KNOWN AS CHAPTER 173 PEDDLING, SOLICITING AND TRANSIENT VENDOR ACT.

Motion: Mr. Morehart  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes for March 14, 2023:

Motion: Ms. Eroh  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Hogan  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to pay the Stu Krasavage invoice for \$2,800.00 for sewer repair work on Kuschke Street:

\*On the question: Ron explained that the lateral broke on the street at the main and we had to fix it and pay.

Motion: Mr. Thomas  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to pay the invoice for PennEastern Engineers in the amount of \$27,600.00 for the engineering fees for the CBDG Street paving project:

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to pay the invoice for PennEastern Engineers in the amount of \$4,845.00 for engineering fees for the Beade Street Valve project:

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to pay the invoice for ULine in the amount of \$1,477.49 for the cost of yard waste bags:

Motion: Ms. Eroh  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Dixon  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to pay the Lower South Valley COG invoice in the amount of \$4,171.43 for Plymouth Borough's share of the purchase of a TACK Machine. Total cost is \$29,200.00 and split evenly between seven municipalities:

\*On the question: It is cost prohibitive to rent the machine every time there was paving being done. The machine sprays a sub base of tar on the road before paving is done.

\* Mayor Coughlin added that this COG pave project is not part of the borough pave project that was awarded this evening.

Motion: Mr. Morehart  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to accept the February Fire and Police reports:

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh  
Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion made to pay the monthly bills:

GENERAL FUND:	23-250GF – 23-297GF
LIQUID FUELS:	23-048LF – 23- 058LF
RECREATION FUND:	23-011RF – 23-011RF

\*On the question: John Thomas voted to pay all bills except 23-297GF-his monthly insurance reimbursement which he has a personal interest.

Motion: Mr. Morehart

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh

Motion Passed: 6 Yes \* Mr. Cunningham excused

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Morehart

Respectfully submitted,



Gail Burdulis

Approved the regular May meeting May 9, 2023