

**PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**SPECIAL MEETING-JUNE 20, 2024 at 6:00PM**

Meeting was called to order, the "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited, and a moment of silence was observed.

Roll was called:

Present: Mr. Earl Cunningham; Mr. Thomas Hogan; Mr. John Thomas; Mr. William Dixon and Mr. Ron Kobusky

Absent and excused: Ms. Alexis Eroh and Mr. Adam Morehart

There were no citizens' comments or requests regarding agenda items

There were no citizens' comments or requests regarding general items

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**AGENDA VOTING:**

Motion made to open bids:

Whereas, sealed bids that were received by the deadline of June 20<sup>th</sup> by 2:00pm were received at the Plymouth Borough Building, located at 162 W Shawnee Avenue, Plymouth, County of Luzerne, PA, on or before June 20<sup>th</sup> by 2:00pm;

Whereas the bids were for a tax-exempt note in the amount of \$400,000 to finance the cost and installation of Gate to isolate the chamber on Beade Street in Plymouth Borough from the culvert which discharges into the Susquehanna River through the levee;

Motion: Mr. Cunningham

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Dixon

Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Mr. Kobusky instructs the Borough Solicitor, Mike Kostelansky to open the bids.

Attorney Kostelansky states that there is only one (1) bid that was received and that he would open it.

He states that the bid is from Community Bank N A as he opens the sealed bid, which was received on June 24, 2024 at 1:23pm.

Mr. Kostelansky finds the proposed amount of the bid is for a \$400,000.00 loan with an issue date to be decided at a later date. The loan would mature on November 30, 2034. The proposed interest rate is 5.78%. The loan payments would start on November 30, 2024 and annually on November 30 each year after until the maturity date of the loan.

The loan is contingent on the borough opening an account with a balance of no less than \$100,000.00.

With the conclusion of the reading of the proposed bid, Mr. Kobusky call for council to move to executive session to review and discuss the bid that was just opened.

When council returns, Mr. Kobusky is about to request a motion to accept the bid when he is interrupted by another council member wanting to make a motion to reject the proposal.

Motion to reject the proposal: Mr. Dixon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham

\*ON the question: Mr. Hogan asks the solicitor for his opinion and an explanation as to why they are rejecting the bid.

Mr. Kostelansky begins explaining the deposit relationship of the boroughs proposal which indicated that the borough was willing to create an account whereby the annual payment would periodically be deposited by the tax collector into that account which would be an interest-bearing account.

The disbursement of loan would be deposited into and kept in a non-interest-bearing account until at which time payments would be due to the contractor and paid from the loan account.

The proposal sent in by Community Bank N A proposed that the borough must move operating accounts to their bank with a minimum of \$100,000.00 in these accounts. This is a deviation from the RFP that was sent out.

In addition, the RPF requires that the Borough Solicitor gives a legal opinion on tax exempt status of borrowing, or the bank could have the Bank Solicitor do so. In addition, all paperwork that would be sent to DCED regarding the loan would be done by Attorney Kostelansky.

In the proposal sent by Community Bank N A proposes that these documents and all paperwork for DCED be done by the Bank Bond Agents. This would be considerable cost to the borough.

This is why Attorney Kostelansky recommends that the borough council does not approve the proposal.

Voting to reject proposal: 5 yes 2 members absent

Motion made to appoint PennEastern Engineers as the Borough engineers, beginning immediately, for an indefinite period to serve at the leisure of council, not to exceed one year.

\*On the question: PennEastern has been the Borough Engineer for a very long time, and we have not reappointed for this year, and some of our grants require us to do so.

Motion: Mr. Dixon

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Hogan

Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to hire Zachary Roberts as a part time summer worker with the street department as an at will employee and shall receive no benefits of any type, including but not limited to; sick time, vacation time, holiday pay or health insurance coverage. Said street department worker shall work no more than 29 hours per week and be paid an hourly rate of \$12.50 per hour. Appointment shall start immediately.

\*On the question: We will keep this young man on as long as we need to.

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion: I move to pay invoice to Brand Graphics in the amount of \$7,500.00, for installation of steel poles to hold the 2 gateway "Welcome to Plymouth" signs at each end of town.

\*On the question: In addition to the poles, this invoice includes the lighting.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Dixon  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to pay invoice to American Asphalt Paving Co. in the amount of \$3,104.29 for asphalt to have COG pave streets in town.

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to pay invoice to Paper Eaters in the amount of \$1,500.00 for the shred event held on June 8, 2024.

\*On the question: Luzerne County will reimburse the Borough for a portion of this cost.

Motion: Mr. Thomas  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to pay invoice to Scranton Craftsman Inc. in the amount of \$2,160.00 for purchase of inlet risers, drain frames and steel grates for repairs of storm drains.

\*On the question: These drain supplies are not included with the Manhole Replace/Repair Project currently underway. These are additional.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Hogan  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to pay invoice of 2,100.00 to PennEastern Engineers, for the Beade Street Project.

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to pay \$5,454.53 to PennEastern Engineers, for engineering work on the Coal Creek Wall Project.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Dixon  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion made to pay two invoices to John Halliday Trucking Co. (\$1,840.00 & \$1,450.00) for a total amount of \$3,290.00. These invoices are for use of trucks to move the paving machines throughout town during the COG paving process.

Motion: Mr. Dixon  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 5 yes \*2 members absent

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Cunningham

Respectfully submitted by:



Gail Burdulis, Plymouth Borough Secretary

Approved October 8, 2024