

**PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING-MARCH 12, 2024 at 6:00PM**

**WORK SESSION:**

Mr. Kobusky – liquid fuel audit – no findings for the year 2022. Two sets of books are kept for the street department because some funds come out of the general fund. Good job by the admin and street department.

Update on new generator – will be onsite this week. It will be put on pad and electrical work will be completed. It will be tested to make sure all is as it should be.

Beade St. project – manhole project is ongoing. The hole needs to be enlarged.

Coal St. Project – will be going out for bids this fall. We received 2 million dollars from the county. That will bring the project amount to 2.1 million dollars. One hundred thousand came from COVID money.

Main St manhole project – will begin soon. The contract is signed. There is three hundred thousand dollars in the project. We got permission from the state to extend the date and to add more work.

Right to Know – explained what this was. The office receives the request and has 5 days to respond. Lately, there have been a lot of requests from out-of-state companies looking for invoices, purchase orders etc. These requests add to the workload of the office personnel. We need to talk to legislators about this law as it is a burden on smaller municipalities, towns and boroughs, like ours, who have small admin offices. We don't want to close the office, but it may be necessary in order to complete these requests in a timely manner.

Council has to start thinking about hiring another person for the office, full-time. No date for Gail Burdulis' departure but it will take at least one year to properly train someone to supervise the Borough office and complete all duties of the secretary position.

We will be calling a special meeting to vote on Ordinance 1 of 2024. It has to be submitted to the DCED as a part of the loan process.

Mr. Cunningham – Happy Easter.

Mr. Hogan – Happy Easter. Speak to your children about safety on Main Street.

Mr. Morehart – Hometown Heroes project will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please do not submit before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Happy to receive the ARCA funds. He would like to get together with Mr. Kobusky and Darryl, the engineer, to discuss further.

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Meeting was called to order. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited followed by a moment of silence.

The Roll was called:

Present: Mr. Earl Cunningham, Ms. Alexis Eroh, Mr. Thomas Hogan, Mr. Adam Morehart,  
Mr. John Thomas, Mr. William (Bill) Dixon & Mr. Ron Kobusky

There were no citizens requests and comments regarding agenda items.

Citizens requests and comments regarding general items:

Mr. Rick Karloski, 64 Pierce St, inquired about the yard waste program. Who picks it up and where does it go?

Mr. Kobusky explained that once the yard waste recycling bags are collected, DPW takes them down to Earth Conservatory in Newport Twp. He added that this counts towards the annual recycling report for the county.

Ms. Mary Ann Meeker, Beverly Drive, wanted to know what the status of the building that burned on the corner of W. Main & Coal Streets.

Mr. Kobusky explained that the owner is in court with the insurance company and that is all he can comment on that. Should be soon.

Ms. Meeker asked what will become of the mess created behind Family Dollar from Verizon?

Mr. Kobusky agreed with Ms. Meeker and hopes it is soon.

EIO garbage & recycling, she provided the phone number. Could we get them in here for garbage & recycling?

Mr. Kobusky explained that the borough secretary has already reached out to them and is waiting for a response.

The mayor asked Ms. Meeker to tell everyone about the book she is in.

Ms. Meeker said she is featured in a book written about cancer survivors, which she is. She wrote her story and is now in the book. She went on to say that she donated a copy to the library, and said if anyone recently diagnosed with breast cancer and wants to talk, she would be glad to listen.

Ms. Laura Keller, Plymouth Library, reported that she has been working on the annual report for the state aid the library receives each year. Ms. Keller further announced that the library will be hosting a fundraiser called BBQ for Books at Uncle Bucks BBQ on Saturday, May 4th. Tickets will be \$10.00.

#### AGENDA VOTING:

Motion made to open account at Wayne Bank and deposit the Coal Street Creek grant award money of \$2,000,000.00 into the newly opened account. All monies from this grant award are designated only for any costs associated with the Coal Creek Project.

\*On the question: Mr. Kobusky said we must include engineering fees, as they can run 15-20% of total cost, therefore we need to be sure the bid cost includes the cost of those fees.

Mr. Morehart added that this money is in a non-interest-bearing account.

Motion: Mr. Morehart

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

Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to dispense Covid ARPA funds in accordance with the SLFRF regulations in the following manner:

1. New Fire Truck:	\$100,000.00
2. Coal St. Creek Project:	\$100,000.00

3. New Generator: \$140,000.00  
4. Beade St. Flood Gate Project: \$150,120.86  
5. Police Equipment: \$50,000.00  
\$540,120.86

\*On the question: This is the American Rescue Funds the borough received in 2021.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to accept and approve regular meeting minutes:

January 9, 2024 February 13, 2024  
Motion: Mr. Thomas  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Ms. Eroh  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Mr. Kobusky asked that they direct Mr. Mike Putnam to the table located in the front of the room. He is the representative from Seagraves.

Motion made to approve and accept the fire truck contract for \$1,007,085.00, between Plymouth Borough and Seagraves for the purchase of a new fire truck.

\*On the question: Mayor Frank Coughlin wanted commend council for all the hard work put into securing this purchase. Long overdue.

Mr. Kobusky added that State Representative Alec Ryncavage helped with procuring the LSA Grant for the purchase of this fire truck. He also thanked the Firemen's Relief who donated \$400,000.00 towards it as well. He added that Plymouth Borough is making up the difference. It will take 1100 calendar days before we see this truck.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion to issue a check to David Smith, Real Estate Magnate for \$13,333.33 from escrow monies the borough currently holds from a fire at the property of 17 Templeton Lane, Plymouth, PA.

Whereas, in accordance with Ordinance NO. 4 OF 1998, insurance monies in the amount of \$13,333.33 were escrowed with the Borough to ensure that the fire damaged property at 17 Templeton Lane, Plymouth, PA was repaired;

Whereas, on February 28, 2024, Neil Popko of BHW Consultation Construction, inspected the property and verified the structure was repaired to satisfactory condition;

Now therefore, I move and approve that the escrowed funds be distributed in the aforementioned manner fulfilling the borough's obligation of the escrowed monies.

Motion: Mr. Morehart  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to approve payment of two invoices to North End Electric for work performed for the new Generator. One is in the amount of \$27,000.00 and the second invoice is for \$24,720.75, for a total of \$51,720.75.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Ms. Eroh  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to accept the proposal from Rutkowski Fencing, Inc. in the amount of \$12,200.00 to replace the fencing on W Main Street around the Wadham Creek. This fence was damaged from a car accident. The borough will pursue payment from the insurance company of the motorist, but wants to have the fence replaced for safety.

Motion: Mr. Morehart  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Cunningham  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to pay the invoice from Brdaric Excavating, Inc for \$16,500.00 for emergency Demolition of a property of Gould Street.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Ms. Eroh  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to approve Brdaric proposal to demolish the blighted property at 46-48 Peirce St. The house is leaning and poses a threat to the property next door. The Borough has reached out to the owners with no response, so find it necessary to raise the house for the safety of the surrounding residents. I further move to approve payment of \$17,200.00 to Brdaric on completion of the demolition of said property.

\*On the question: The borough can put a lien on the property for cost.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made move to convey two parcels of land owned by the borough to the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority:

Whereas, the Borough owns two parcels of land near Old Flat Road, which are adjacent to land of the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority and levee;

Whereas, the aforementioned land cannot be developed and of really no use to the Borough;

Whereas, the land is a drainage on the Borough as a result that the Borough has to cut the grass during the summer;

Whereas, the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority is interested in obtaining the land as part of its flood protection objectives;

Whereas the Borough has no use for the land and the fact that the Borough can't develop the land;

Whereas the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority has paid to survey the parcels in question and will pay all recording costs for the two parcels;

Now therefore, I move to convey the two parcels, copies attached, to the Luzerne County Flood Protection Authority for One (\$1.00) Dollar;

I further move to authorize the President of Council, Ron Kobusky to sign the deeds on behalf of the Borough and Gail Burdulis, Secretary for the Borough, to attest to his signature on the aforementioned Deeds, copies of which are attached hereto.

Motion: Mr. Morehart  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to approve proposal from Brand Graphics for installation of two Gateway Signs (on at each end of town) in the amount of \$7,500.00. I further move to approve payment of the invoice once signs are installed.

\*On the question: Plymouth Alive bought and donated the signs. The borough will pay for the installation. The quote includes lights for the signs.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Ms. Eroh  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion made to accept the February Fire and Police reports:

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Mr. Thomas  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

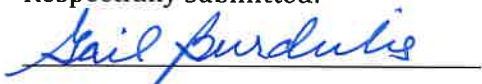
Motion made pay the following monthly bills:

GENERAL FUND: 24-145GF - 24-245GF  
LIQUID FUELS: 24-122LF - 24- 139LF  
RECREATION FUND: 24-008RF - 24-010RF

Motion: Mr. Cunningham  
2<sup>nd</sup> : Ms. Eroh  
Voting: 7 yes-motion passed

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cunningham.

Respectfully submitted:



Gail Burdulis, Plymouth Borough Secretary

Approved March 12, 2024