

January 2, 2018

# HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING January 2, 2018

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Phyllis Metz, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Greg Such, Joe Dippold, Don Sims, Jason Sarver, and Mayor Cathy Rape

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Council Meeting  
January 2, 2018

Joe Dippold  
FRANK CORHIVNON  
Cathy Rape

Ava John  
Don Sims

Jessie Aitken  
Greg Such

Phyllis Metz  
Jason Sarver

Frank Luek  
Harold Fisher  
MG Dodson  
Rodney Gasch

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President Greg Such called the regular meeting to order at 6:55 pm, following the Reorganizational meeting.

**MINUTES:**

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the December 5, 2017 and December 18, 2017 minutes.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Matt Racunas was unable to attend, Solicitor Kerry Fraas reported that Matt will have a full report at the February meeting.

Greg Such reported on the Act 137 Firemen Tax Credit Ordinance, the same ordinance is to be accepted by Zelenople, Lancaster & Jackson. The Resolution has criteria for receiving the credit. The Ordinance entitles the Borough to give a tax credit; the tax credit is \$250 to active firemen. Greg asked for a motion to advertise the Firemen Tax Credit Ordinance. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if the other municipalities are doing the tax credit. Greg Such responded that Zelenople definitely is, the others will. Joe Dippold commented that Chris Rearick helped write it, he believes Jackson is. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the advertisement of the Firemen Tax Credit Ordinance. Mayor Rape inquired how many firemen are in the Borough. Greg Such responded 8 firemen, it will cost \$2,000 (8x\$250=\$2000). It is expanded to Fire Police; however we do not believe there are any Fire Police in the Borough.

**BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

No appointments

**COG:**

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report, no meeting in December.

**HARB:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported they did not have a meeting. Cathy Rape reported the HARB meeting is next Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Water Authority Board:**

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

**Parks Board:**

Susie Altemus reported that the Silvester went well despite the cold, registrations were down about half; everything ran very smoothly. We have a lot of Silvester shirts for sale (\$5.00 each).

Susie reported that the Parks Board would like Council to support the Resolution for the Jackson Township's Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Recreation, Parks and Open Space Plan. Greg Such commented that he feels the Borough is in position to make that Resolution with the amendment to that Plan regarding the removal of the clause "emergency access to Creekside." Dave Szakelyhidi commented that his concern is approving the piece of property owned by the Developer, Jackson doesn't

**Parks Board Cont.:**

own the property yet, Harmony does not have Shared Services with Jackson like we have with Zelianople; Jackson would not come in and pick up the leaves on Pittsburgh Street that a Jackson resident put over there; Dave feels we should have a Shared Services Agreement with Jackson before we start this. Jackson is holding us hostage on the water for the development and we still do not have a signed contract for water, yet they seem to give the Developer approvals with no signed contract for where the water comes from. Greg Such commented not to conflate Creekside and Creekside Developer with Jackson. Dave responded that they do not own the property, the Developer is going to give the property to them at some point; wouldn't that be the appropriate time for the Borough to enter into this. Greg responded that the Regional Plan is much bigger than just that Trail. Greg Such would like to accept the Resolution with those phrases struck. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired how that gets recorded. Greg responded that they would have to reissue. Greg commented that maybe a better way to do that is to send a note over to Chris and Alan that we will agree to vote for the Resolution pending removal of those clauses. Don Sims inquired if we were going to wait until we have something that we can read before we can sign it. Don commented that he does not like to make an agreement with someone who does not own the property; if we could just wait until this summer when they take ownership. Susie Altemus commented that the problem with that is that they (Jackson) want to apply for large grant. Don Sims commented that we have concerns too and his concern is for Harmony Borough, whom he was elected to serve. Susie Altemus commented that regardless of who owns it, we are still going to own the Trail. Don responded that is what is trying to ensure, he would like to wait until Jackson owns the property. Dave Szakelyhidi asked Susie (Altemus) if she thought Harmony Borough could get more grants if we entered into this agreement with Jackson; Susie responded she thinks so. Jason Sarver commented that was his (Chris Rearick) whole point, anymore you can't get a grant individually. Greg Such commented that this Resolution supports the Regional Parks Plan. It's no different than the Resolution we passed for the Zelianople Pool, or Historic Harmony's grant. The Resolution can be repealed in a meetings notice. Susie commented that we are supporting them (Jackson) to get big grants and hopefully it will benefit us. Greg commented the grants Jackson mentioned are the DCNR and DCED Grants; Harmony Borough doesn't usually apply for reason being there are usually some overhead associated with those. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that Harmony Borough is adamant don't fill floodplain; if they acquire Zelianople's reservoir property and fill them, those reservoirs are in the floodplain, Dave does not support that. Greg commented that Andrew reported that Zelig has to fill it in per DEP. Joe Dippold commented that he sees this plan as the only way forward for us, he hears and sees the problems with the Plan but he doesn't see any alternative. Every year we have the exact same budget and our costs go up every year, this Plan at least shows us a way we can work with other people to get more money. Harmony needs to support the Parks Plan. Jason Sarver commented that Harmony Borough is not locked into anything that we have to do, he sees it more for the potential for gaining, and he does have the same concerns as other council members for the specific areas which he thought we were in agreeance with the last meeting. Greg Such will email Chris Rearick that Harmony Borough will support the Park Plan with the removal of the clauses regarding emergency access to Creekside. Cathy Rape inquired if all three Agreements will stay in place. Greg Such responded yes, they all stay.

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**Parks Board Cont.:**

Don Sims commented that he wanted to remind everybody that all this money is not free money, it comes with strings attached. There is going to be ADA compliances that were stated in the Resolution Plan, once they start they morph continually and you may find that you have less money. Jason Sarver commented that we are not locked into any cost. Cathy Rape commented that Susie Altemus and Greg Such have gone to other meetings, did they give any idea where they would start. Susie Altemus responded the soccer fields. Dave Szakelyhidi commented filling in the floodplain. Greg Such responded that Zelig has been ordered to do it. Don Sims would like to wait until Jackson owns the property, you make this agreement and the Developer could change things Jackson already told us that they are at his mercy. Greg Such inquired what if the Creekside Plan does not get approved, would we not pass any Resolution in support of the Regional Parks Plan. Don Sims commented that it is all tied together. Mayor Rape responded that the Plan has nothing to do it with; they want to continue the Trail. Greg rephrased it, if Jackson never owned the ground underneath the Trail, would we still not support the Parks Plan. Mayor Rape responded that it still does not matter, if these Agreements still up in court it does not matter if Don Rodger owns it or if he gives it to someone else, the Trail is still the Trail and the Trail can still continue. Joe Dippold and Greg Such responded that we would still support the Plan. Frank Luek commented that he thought it was cut and dry from the December meeting, remove the clauses and we'd support the Plan. Greg Such responded that he didn't want to push for a vote at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, he wanted to do it at this meeting, he knows the direction we want to go.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

**WBCA:**

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

**Shared Services:**

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

**Parking and Signage:**

Greg Such had nothing new to report. Jason Sarver reported that Cathy Rape spoke to the owners by the turn around on Wood Street; they (McCormick) agreed to remove the handicap spot to allow for the turn around. McCormicks will be allowed to load and unload their father at that spot. Greg Such inquired if it would be a parking spot, Jason Sarver responded no, it will be for turn around only. Don Sims inquired about the metal signs vs. kiosk being put back up by the Trail. Phyllis Metz commented why pay for a sign when we already have the kiosk. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if the kiosk looks decent. Greg Such responded that it needs a piece of Plexiglas which the Parks Board should do. Don Sims commented the beauty of the metal signs is that you can make 4 signs up and they can be put up in 5 minutes and they're done, if something happens to them they are easily replaced unlike the kiosk. Susie Altemus suggested put the kiosk back up when the ground isn't frozen. Greg Such stated that the Parks Board will put the kiosk back up; it is in the Borough garage.

**Historic Harmony:**

Rod Gasch reported that their numbers were down as well for the Silvester. January 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the Heritage Award applications. The HarmonieFest is March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day.

Rod also reported that they took over management of the Triangle to control signage; they spend a lot of money on mowing for the \$1.00 lease. Historic Harmony would like to increase the lease to \$100 and have the Borough staff do the mowing. Frank Grannon responded for \$100, what they spent on mowing last year. Greg Such responded that if Historic Harmony breaks the lease, the Borough is going to be mowing it anyway. Frank Grannon commented that the Borough would need to look at summer help; the Water guys will be busy training a new employee, time this summer is going to be very short for Water guys. Dave Szakelyhidi and Greg Such responded that we will have a new employee. Frank Grannon responded that you can't be training a new employee on Water by bringing them in here to mow and do stuff in town. Phyllis Metz commented that we will need to hire a part-time person to mow grass. Greg Such commented that it is a generous offer from Historic Harmony. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that it's not fair to Historic Harmony, it's not even fair for them to pay us \$100, leave the lease at \$1.00 they are doing us a favor by administrating the signage. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved amending the Lease Agreement for the maintenance (mowing) of the Triangle. Rod Gasch will have Phil Lope amend the Agreement.

**Harmony Business Association:**

No representative present.

**Other Meetings:**

Greg Such reported that the EMA meeting is tomorrow, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm at the old Zelig Fire Hall.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment.

Greg Such thanked Caleb for the nice article on the Silvester.

**BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:**

**Police Report:**

Report submitted via email.

**Office:**

Amy Brown had nothing new to report. Greg Such reported the audit will be in February, Maher Duessel will be the auditor, we reappointed, the rate went up 2.5%.

**Borough Director of Operations:**

Frank Grannon reported most of the month was snow removal. Greg Such commented that Frank has done a masterful job, there's been a lot of long days and thanked Frank. Don Sims inquired on the salt; Frank responded that we just got 25 in today and 25 more coming. Greg Such inquired how much we have used so far. Frank Grannon responded that we have gone through around 75 ton. Don Sims

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**Borough Director of Operations:**

inquired what our required purchase is a year. Frank responded that we have two suppliers, 100 ton each; he has fulfilled one contract and has moved over to the other supplier; have to take 60 ton and can take as much as 140%.

**Zoning and Codes:**

Allen Bayer report submitted.

**COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Public Safety:**

Phyllis Metz had nothing to report.

**Business Development:**

Cathy Rape reported the next HBA meeting is Thursday, February 1st at the Rodgers Brothers. Mayor inquired when the next Newsletter will be; Greg responded at the end of January, all articles need to be in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January.

Cathy Rape inquired if she puts money in up front to get the Cluster Box ordered if she could be reimbursed once donations come in for the Cluster Box. Greg Such responded yes, we would need to have a document. Greg suggested Cath write a letter or email stating on behave of the Beautification Fund she would like to “front the Borough x amount of money for the Cluster Box.”

**Personnel:**

Jason Sarver reported that we need an executive session.

**Finance:**

Greg Such reported that Joe Dippold will be the Finance Committee Chairman.

**Streets:**

Don Sims reported that we went over on the pipe repair on New Castle Street by \$137.25 In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the expenditure in the amount of \$137.25 for the repair drain pipe. Don Sims reported that Pittsburgh Street will be paved this summer and the new thing is to find summer help. Greg Such commented that we can continue to pursue the interns. Frank Luek and Phyllis Metz commented that it was a bust last year. Don Sims inquired on the age requirements, he assumes it is 18; Phyllis Metz suggested advertise ourselves, we tried the interns before and it didn't work out getting anyone.

Greg Such reported the large pothole on Main Street.

**Facilities:**

Phyllis Metz had nothing new to report.

**Grants:**

Greg Such reported that he is actively looking for ideas for the Butler County Tourism Grant. One idea was better parking signage; better directional signage. Rod Gasch suggested a historic marker/post for the George Washington Trail 1753

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**Grants Cont.:**

doing it with Historic Harmony. Greg Such reported that he's learned that doing it together – submitting a joint request is received well.

Jason Sarver commented that Penn Pantry is moving to Zelienople, one issue was parking.

Cathy Rape commented that she nominated the house on Main Street for the Heritage Award.

**BILLS PAYABLE:**

Greg Such reported that the following lists of bills were presented to Harmony Borough Council for approval:

**General Bills Payable** in the amount of \$ 6,915.91

**Bills Already Paid** in the amount of \$ 8,430.81

**Payroll** in the amount of \$ 6,949.18

**Fire Tax Bills Payable** in the amount of \$ 120.84

**Parks Board Bills Payable** in the amount of \$47.99

**Silvester Fund Bills Payable** in the amount of \$5,556.53

**Silvester Fund Bills Already Paid** in the amount of \$300.00

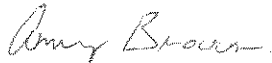
In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented on the lists.

Council President, Greg Such called an executive session at 7:45 pm to discuss a personnel issue, out of executive session at 8:01 pm.

**ADJOURN: 8:02 pm**

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the January 2, 2018 meeting at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown  
Recording Secretary

**Monthly Activity Report**  
**Harmony Borough Code and Zoning Enforcement and**  
**Residential Multi-Unit Dwellings Fire Inspection**

**December 2017**

1. Stopped by the office two times each week to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Attended December Council meeting.
4. Created November Time and Activity Reports.
5. Spoke with Dennis McGlen regarding a building permit. I referred Dennis to Jackson Twp.
6. Performed two sidewalk violation inspections. One was corrected, the other was not and will be scheduled for a hearing with the District Magistrate.
7. Spoke with Mr. McCrady regarding his sidewalk violation at 640 Wood St. scheduled hearing. He has corrected the violation and agreed to pay the borough's filing cost of \$70. I notified Matt to cancel the hearing.
8. Went to the District Magistrate's office to drop off a check from Matt Racunas. Stopped by the office to drop off Matt's check and a transcript to be mailed to Matt.
9. I took a photograph of the sidewalk violation at Sapienza's Service and requested Matt Racunas to file for a hearing with the District Magistrate.
10. Followed up with Matt on the status of two outstanding court decisions in the borough's favor.
11. Spoke with Bill Hart, Lyons Fire System, regarding a question of service size at Sign Innovation. I referred him Zelig.
12. I setup new delivery address of 444 German St., Apt. B, Harmony, PA 16037, with Zelig Post Master.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allen E. Bayer