

September 1, 2020

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING September 1, 2020

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such
Phyllis Metz
Frank Luek
Dave Szakelyhidi
Joe Dippold
Don Sims
Jason Sarver
Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus
Allen Bayer
Sherry Cepek
Lindsey Granata – Harmony Inn
Frank Grannon
Sam Hopkins
Kathy Luek
Bob McCafferty – Harmony Inn
Chief Jim Miller
Gary Rodgers
Kelly Scott
Solicitor Matt Racunas
Alex Weidenhof

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. This meeting was held remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the August 4, 2020 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas did not have an update on the Main Street Bridge matter, Matt has notified the Railroad of the problem and has sent all the reports that we received from Penn Dot, the liability is in their hands. Matt also reported that WBCA was formed as a joint municipal authority, every 50 years the Authority has to be revived; every participating municipality must file a Resolution and paperwork to the Pennsylvania Department of State. Matt has drafted the Resolution and will cover it under WBCA section.

Dave Szakelyhidi commented about the Railroad Bridge, he would like a violation notice sent to the Railroad for the hole in the sidewalk stating that the sidewalk needs repaired and the paint on the railing needs scrapped and painted. It shouldn't be any different than a resident. Solicitor Matt agreed with Dave, it shouldn't be any different whoever the property owner is, if we are aware of a violation we should notice them and enforce those ordinances. Matt will talk to Allen about it. Dave Szakelyhidi added if they don't respond, fine them.

Dave Szakelyhidi also commented about the complaints about disparity between the water and sewer rates; with all the extra customers coming online in Jackson and Lancaster Townships that maybe more of the tap fee should be covering more of the upgrades. Solicitor Matt commented that there is increasing cost as far as DEP regulations; there is also a long-term plan for a plant expansion in the near future so they are also trying to pay off existing debt and to save money for the future plant expansion. There are more customers online but that is also leading to another problem of having to expand the plant because the plant isn't going to be big enough in the future to hold the capacity. Greg Such commented that there has been much more I & I in the last year than in the past because the rains have been much more erratic in nature and that is one of the drivers for the expansion as well. WBCA can only have three situations in a quarter where they are pushing more sludge out than they can process then DEP makes them go onto a program. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the chemicals and treatment and DEP are the same that the water has to deal with. Solicitor Matt agreed, and added that some of the equipment on the sewer seems to be more expensive. They are dealing with expensive fixes to come into compliance. Matt also commented that the plant expansion is another driving force. The Board tries to look at every angle to try to keep those rates down; it becomes very difficult. Greg Such commented that they are paying down current debt and not have huge rate increases; Greg also commented that there is a new Harmony pump station in the plan as well; which is needed.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that no appointments were needed.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS CONT.:

COG:

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report; no meeting.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there was one Certificate of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommended to Council.

317 German Street – Pat Murray – Paint exterior colors to match beige with maroon trim, same colors just freshening up.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 317 German Street.

550 Main Street – Sam Hopkins – Windows– Marvin wood windows 6 over 6 true divided light. Main House – Replace deteriorating brick with new brick to match. Paint house with elastomeric paint (color to be approved at later meeting). Install new steel “S” lateral bracing. Gables to be cedar shake (color to be approved at a later meeting), 1 gable attic vent on each side (centered), 2” tar strip to seal front sidewalk/house transition, remove screen door, new wood basement door (white), new HVAC vents to be routed to the side (PVC), new bathroom vent to be routed to the side, new half round gutters (white), repair existing dentil molding (white), remove telephone lines. Rear Historic Addition – New cedar lap siding (color to be approved at a later meeting). Move windows so there is 1 on each side and one on the rear. New wood doors to match existing door style (color to be approved at a later meeting). Site – Remove Pergola, new 8x12 concrete pad for bike share (railroad track side), 6’ concrete pad as you come off the path towards the house. Rear Patio of manufactured cobblestone (grey/brownish). Side sidewalk – concrete then transition to a treated wood and synthetic decking (brown) path. The decking path is to not disturb the root system of the tree in the yard then owner wishes to keep. Hide condensing unit with vine trellis or shrubs.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 550 Main Street.

Greg Such thanked Sam (Hopkins) for all his work on this. Sam Hopkins thanked Council for all their help and approval and guidance on things.

The Handicap Ramp at 259 Mercer Street – HARB discussed it and had no comment. Greg Such reported that a letter will be sent to the VA to let them know that their contractor was remiss in a couple of areas. We do not want to start any legal discussion between who has more authority the HARB or the Americans for Disability Act. Greg commented that it should be inspected by McCosby.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that they have been meeting, everything is good. They’ve been replacing lines, and infrastructure; everything is up to date. They are waiting for a filter plant review whenever DEP decides to come in.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that they are still waiting for the final pieces of equipment to come in for the Grant and then that will be wrapped up. Someone was supposed to come in and look at the Canoe Launch but that will not happen for a while.

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Parks Board Cont.:

Greg Such added that as part of the Grant, the Parks Board ordered some musical playground toys – a xylophone, set of bells and drums, fairly substantial in size and will go to Swampoodle Park. Cathy Rape inquired if the immediate neighbors would be disturbed by the noise. Susie Altemus responded no, they're not that loud.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek reported that there was no action.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported on the Resolution that Harmony supports the Authority revival. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Resolution 2020-9-1.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon had nothing to report.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing to report.

Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch reported that they commemorated Kathy Luek's retirement and 30 years of service to Historic Harmony. The new administrator is Katina Koontz, she has been volunteering and consulting at the Zelianople Historical Society.

Rod reported that the Hunt for History is going on now, there is a booklet they use. They have to find 5 historical locations in Zelianople and 5 historical locations in Harmony; there are discounts from merchants in both towns. The reaction has been positive, sold about 100 booklets.

Christmas Market has been cancelled. They are working with HBA to have an on-going event that is called Saturday Artisans in Harmony; starting September 12th several artisans will set up tents near the Museum, and the Weaver's Cabin and maybe some other locations in town. The idea is to bring people in and support our artisans who have been at the Christmas Market, this will be Saturdays starting September 12th through the middle of November.

HBA:

Sherry Cepek reported that MJ completed the Event Form for the Sleepy Hollow event and several Saturdays to close the Northside of the Square. This will be discussed in the Public Safety section.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported on the Storm Water Management meeting, he met with Jackson and Zelianople. Jackson Township talked about the projects they are nominating for the storm water study, which are Tollgate School Road, German Street trying to mitigate the flooding by looking at the creek that runs along Sysco and the sediment pond; Evergreen Mill namely a way to vacate from the nursing home or Jadco and Textor Hill Road.

Other Meetings Cont.:

Zelienople's projects are the Glad Run Water Shed area (the youth facility, Pine Street, and Hazel Street), Green Lane (Northview Drive, Grandview Avenue and Clay Street), and Spring Street (comes from 79 and runs through the Park).

Harmony's two projects are the Spring Street "valley" and the new building where the Veterinary facility used to be and the drainage under 79 and the other side.

Dave Szakelyhidi commented that Friday there was a storm event that system that drains under the interstate and comes out on the other side towards the Water Plant that flooded the street, it appears the drain has collapsed or is too small; they have pictures from Friday. Greg Such reported that HRG Engineers were on the phone during the Storm Water meeting, they want to do a walking tour, there is another group meeting scheduled for September 17th. Cathy Rape commented that we have Bob Ziegler, he knows a lot about Spring Street. Greg Such commented that they need Bob (Ziegler) and Cathy (Rape).

Cathy Rape inquired if the Monroe Street parking was resolved. Greg Such commented that they did not meet. Sam Hopkins commented that it is a tough situation there is a parking pad in the back that is well graveled, one of the tenants had her car float away the previous year and refuses to park back there. The other tenant parks out front because it is closer to his front door. The problem Sam has with the situation that stops him from doing anything is that it is a public road that allows parking, nothing he can do as a land lord can force them from parking on the street. Sam spoke to Dave and suggested graveling the alley and put up a street sign, they may get more people to park back there. It seems like it is the next door house's driveway. Sam inquired if the borough had an ordinance that allows parking in the same spot for so many days, if left too long it gets a ticket. Chief Miller commented that if they are legally parked on the street and there is a current registration they cannot fine them; cannot tell them that they can't park on a public street.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gary Rodgers – Lagerhaus Baker and Sapienza's old building – Gary is very supportive of Harmony and all the efforts to revitalize it and keep it going but he is much concerned about the idea that there is a proposal to close the Northern Square for six consecutive week-ends. They own the Lagerhaus Bakery and closing that and allowing outside vendors will have an impact on their business and probably have an impact on anybody who sells food in Harmony. Six weeks seems awfully extreme, they have endured one to two weeks here and there but six consecutive weeks he doesn't see it, he does not see a thorough plan, not well thought out, to allocate six weeks for something that is untested; he feels the prudent approach would be to take one week at a time. Gary also inquired who would be responsible for compliance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health regulations. This meeting is on a Zoom call but you're going to open up for a festival? The application states less than 250 people, Gary inquired who would police that; or tell the people they have to wear a mask outside? Who will tell the vendors they have to keep everybody six feet apart? Gary also commented that if an arts and craft fair is poorly organized that is going to reflect very badly on Harmony and it will not be very good word of mouth and suggested Council to think long and hard before approving a six week event. Greg Such inquired with Matt if the Borough is responsible to enforce social distancing in the Square and making sure people who are close to each other wear mask? Solicitor Matt responded that if Council is going to approve something they

PUBLIC COMMENT CONT.:

need to approve it contingent upon following those rules. Matt inquired who's having the festival. Greg responded HBA and Historic Harmony; Solicitor Matt commented if it is approved contingent upon them following those rules it falls on them not the borough but it still becomes enforcement issue. Chief Miller commented that a Police Department cannot technically enforce all of that. Solicitor Matt commented that the best protection he can give the borough is if the borough gives approval contingent that they follow those rules and if they do not, then their approval is rescinded and they have to shut it down. Matt added that the Police may get involved because they may need to be the ones to shut it down. Chief Miller commented if something does happen the first call from them would be to the Borough to see what you want to do. Jason Sarver inquired if the Police would step in if the Borough can't handle it or know what to do? Chief Miller responded that they can look at it, he will send the guidelines. Mayor Rape inquired if they could just go to HBA or Historic Harmony and tell them they need to disband. Chief Miller responded that they would go to the Borough first because the Borough authorized the event, the Borough has the power to pull their permit, and the Police wouldn't. Mayor Rape inquired if that is only if streets are closed. Sherry Cepek, President of HBA commented that HBA is the voice for local businesses and it is crucial for them to open the town with safety guidelines in mind and they will promote this event as wear masks; since it is spread out over so many weeks she doesn't see it being more than 250 people on a Saturday. We need to promote local businesses and bring in more customer support. Closing the North portion of the Square would allow a few more businesses to set up and drive more people to our town. Phyllis Metz inquired if there were any food vendors; let the restaurants in town handle the food. Sherry Cepek responded that the Museum with all have crafts, maybe a nut vendor, HBA would like to bring in ice cream truck, snow cone vendor that does popcorn and cotton candy. They are trying to keep anyone out that would compete with local business but they want to bring people in visit the town; you almost need the outside help. Gary Rodgers inquired why she needed it six weeks in a row to shut down his business. Sherry responded that it would not shut down his business. Phyllis Metz suggested keeping it away from the Lagerhaus Bakery. Gary Rodgers inquired if it had to be six weeks to be successful. Sherry Cepek responded that HBA's goal is Sleepy Hollow event but they would like to coordinate with Harmony Museum because they also need money as do all businesses in town. Rodney Gasch commented that their original idea was to have a couple vendors behind the Museum and the Wagner House, the six week closure was news to him. Original plan was to help vendors from the Christmas Market and bring people into Harmony. The original plan was to have 3 or 4 vendors each Saturday from September through November, normal Christmas Market. Rod suggested that he and Sherry meet regarding the concerns to see if they could spread vendors out in front of the Weaver's Cabin and the Ziegler Log Cabin to not involve closing the Square. Susie Altemus commented that Wood Street Park is available. Jason Sarver inquired if Gary's concern was the location or the location and the length, what if they moved it around? Gary Rodgers responded six weeks of closing the Square was unfair; six weeks of a rotating program is fine; close the Square 2 or 3 weeks, Kathy Luek commented that the 6 weeks is only Saturdays. Gary responded that Saturdays are their big day. Sherry Cepek commented that part of the problem is that the Bakery doesn't stay open until 5 for some of the events and HBA needs to bring people in

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PUBLIC COMMENT CONT.:

that will keep people in town. Mayor Rape suggested use the Main Street Parking Lot for the firemen on those Saturdays and have the vendors set up in the parking lot between the Wagner House and the Museum and behind Bottlebrush and keep the parking in the Square for those businesses; don't close the North side of the Square. Greg Such suggested that HBA and Historic Harmony work together to work this out with rotating locations. Greg would like to vote on the Event Form for Sleepy Hollow and then wait to hear back on the plan and do a vote on the Event Form for what comes next before the Council meeting and ratify it during the meeting.

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Sleepy Hollow Event on

October 10 from 10:00am until 5:00pm closing the North side of the Square.

Greg Such commented that we need to be vigilant when we are out and about from a safety perspective.

Bob McCafferty – Harmony Inn – Bob thanked Council for alerting them about the music's loudness towards 10, with the COVID response that they did at the Inn, their main concern was being compliant and safe for all the guests that come into the restaurant. The music going up on the patio was a way to distance and come up with room that people could congregate and hear the music in the yard and underneath the tent. The regulations aren't easy and they change, there's not a business out there that can survive on 25%, they're still paying the loans that got them the seating that they have. He appreciates the borough's patience on the tent in the front yard, he didn't approach HARB, he didn't approach anybody; he was trying to make things right and hire people back. Having the music up on the patio did project further into the town and they didn't realize that until somebody alerted them. Bob stated they did have a rock star band that would not turn down the music and they are not welcome back. They are aware of the problem and are working on them. Bob also commented that they are working on getting more parking for the Harmony Inn. Cathy Rape commented that someone said the music was so loud on a Sunday that they couldn't listen to their church video. Cathy inquired why anyone would want to sit on the patio and not be able to converse with people they are with. Bob McCafferty stated that music is from 4 – 7 on Sundays, they did have a band that would not turn it down, they were asked six times to turn it down; they are not welcome back. Greg Such suggested going to duos vs. a 4-piece; adding that people in the community aren't traveling and are home bound. Jason Sarver inquired if acoustic would be a possibility.

Lindsey Granata – Harmony Inn – Lindsey reported that the LCB inspectors have been in; they've passed – they are in compliance.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Cathy Rape inquired if the hump on Jackson Street was painted. Greg Such responded not yet. Cathy Rape will paint it.

Cathy also inquired about gunshots she heard, there were 12 before she called 911 and more after. Chief Miller stated that he heard the call, he did not hear if Jackson found anybody. Cathy stated she would like to know what it was.

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Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Joe Dippold reported that we need to renew the copier contract, ran through a couple of bids. Greg Such reported that the lease on the existing copier expired, we had a couple of quotes on new copiers, Ricoh came out potentially \$20 a month less than for a slightly better machine with more features, we would like to release it for another five years.

In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Don Sims, Harmony Borough Council unanimously agreed to lease a new copier with Ricoh for five years.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that Spring Street has been paved, there were a lot of low spots in the road, and they were a little less than 34 tons over on the quote from Penn Dot. Don Sims had some concerns, Frank emailed the paver and he will take care of those spots. Dave Szakelyhidi had mentioned the flooding spots on Meadow Brook Lane on the other side of 79, Frank looked at the retention pond at Harmony Place, it wasn't up to the overflows but the drain pipe under Old Little Creek is not flowing. That is something we need to look into with Jackson Township, the drain under Old Little Creek that runs down Seneca looks like it may be plugged and the bottom collapsed in it. Greg Such suggested alert Jackson, it is one of our study projects. Frank reported that the paint for the crosswalks is to be delivered Thursday, will get the crosswalks finished and the stop bars. Frank inquired if white lines should be painted on the edges of Spring Street to show the sides of the road. Mayor Rape, Phyllis Metz and Don Sims commented that it would be a good idea. Frank Grannon reported that the disposal of the leaves at Lake Forest is the same cost as last year, \$750.

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the \$750 leaf disposal at Lake Forest.

Chief Miller reported to Mayor Rape that Jackson Township and Zelig did not find anything regarding the gun shots she had heard.

Frank Grannon reported that the pavement on the Northern end of Charles Street is deteriorating, it is crumbling; may want to look at and address pretty quickly. Greg Such stated to get a quote. Frank inquired if Council would want to do that end or go up to New Castle. Don Sims suggested getting a quote on both.

Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that the Library is celebrating 100 year anniversary this year. It started in the old Zelig High School as a desk in the corner of one of the stairways by the Women's Club. There will be a car parade to celebrate on October 17th. Kathy stated since several of their fundraisers have been cancelled, if Harmony could give a donation it would be much appreciated.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted.

COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported on an Event Form for a Food Truck Festival at the Harmony Zelenople United Methodist Church on October 17th between 11:00 – 3:00 in the parking lot, no street closures; social distancing will be followed. Phyllis Metz inquired if Council needed to vote on it. Greg Such commented that it is private property. Allen Bayer commented that Zelenople does not want to incur any liability and does not vote on them – the Borough does not sanction them. Phyllis Metz thanked Amy (Brown) for turning her onto the webinar that the state gave on records; it was very informative and she got contact information for the guy who runs it for the state. It is very important to get rid of records we don't need, it is a liability, a fire hazard, and it is hard to find things.

Business Development:

Cathy Rape reported there is some straw on the sidewalk up against the Museum building; they will be taking flowers down and putting fall decorations up. Cathy also recommended an in-person meeting for October stating that the public needs to be involved in person and not on the phone; line it up with the Museum or the Church. Greg Such commented that we did that but the math did not work, only allowed to have 25 people in a room, if we get more than 25 we are to immediately terminate the meeting. Solicitor Matt commented that any indoor gathering can only be 25 people, it doesn't matter the space size. If the 26 person comes and you have to turn them away then you have to terminate the meeting that is a first amendment violation issue. Mayor Rape suggested renting a tent and have it outside. Solicitor Matt commented that you can't guarantee the weather. Rodney Gasch commented a tent with 2 or more sides is considered indoor. Jason Sarver commented that he is all for getting back to normal meetings but sitting with a mask on for three hours is too much of an inconvenience. Phyllis Metz commented that anybody who wants to talk to Council can call in or use their computer. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he has been pushing for a real meeting so we can deal with the Grant. Zelenople doesn't know what to do with that money because we can't give them an answer. We have voted to hire Tom Thompson to administer our portion of it and we haven't gone forward with that. It's not fair to Zelenople to leave them hanging. We could get the infrastructure loan at the lowest rate right now and we haven't dealt with it. Greg Such commented that Council could form a committee and move forward on the RACP work; Greg suggested a committee of 5; no more than 3 Council members, the Mayor and someone from the business community or Historic community. The Infrastructure Bank is not open and will not be open until the spring time. Mayor Rape commented that she would like to get moving on it, she inquired about the hazardous waste study that was to be done on the Square. Greg Such commented that he relayed that to Tom (Thompson) but he did not execute that, not Tom's fault it just didn't get done. Greg Such suggested forming a committee and meeting very distantly or virtually. Cathy Rape and Greg Such are to be on the committee. Joe Dippold suggested Dave Szakelyhidi be on the committee. Rodney Gasch volunteered to be on the committee, Jason Sarver suggested Joe Dippold to be on the committee as a numbers guy. Dave Szakelyhidi reported that we had an offer from Zelenople to explain the process; he went to one of the meetings he was the only one there, they did a beautiful job. Dave feels the rest of

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Business Development Cont.:

Council needs to be lead through the process especially the financing portion of it. Dave feels forming a committee is delaying it until the committee comes up with a plan forward and they will have to sell it to the rest of Council. Harmony Council and Zelig Council needs to get together, in Dave's opinion and Zelig's opinion it can be done in executive session but there is some push back in doing that. It is just to understand the whole process and then present it at a Council meeting and vote. Don Sims commented that the push back from him is because he wants it presented to the public, he doesn't want it to be something done in a closed door session and then come out of it and vote on it. Dave Szakelyhidi commented to present it at a Council meeting before they vote on it; it is nothing to hide from the public it is just to get less than 25 people together to understand the mechanisms of the whole thing and the finances of it, we can't go into this blind and he can't sell it to Council because he doesn't understand it. Tom Thompson needs to be there because he understands the mechanisms of it. Greg Such commented that Tom needs to be on the committee. Cathy Rape commented that she would like someone on the committee that knows materials, what is out there and what is best. Greg Such responded that would be Tom. Jason Sarver suggested Rodney from the Museum to be on the committee. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested someone from the Rodgers Brothers and Grace Church should be on it. Jason Sarver commented that he was hoping that could funnel through Joe.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver had nothing new to report.

Finance:

Don Sims reported on the 1.5 mill increase for the Fire and the 1.5 mill increase for the Borough Don wanted it to go out to a vote. Don spoke to the Director of voting in Butler and Michael Foreman, Local Government Policy Specialist for PA regarding a ballot referendum. Don sent out for distribution the email he received from Michael Foreman. If there was a 2 mill increase for the Fire Department then it would have to go for a vote. Phyllis Metz commented that she thought it was only if we went over the cap that it had to go to a vote. Don Sims responded that her understanding was correct. Don continued that if we wanted to do a vote it could be placed on the ballot. Don inquired what the timeframe was to have it on the ballot, the Director in Butler was checking with his attorney and hasn't gotten back to Don as of this meeting. Don Sim commented that Constituent Jim Hulings had submitted and it was distributed amongst Council his comments, Don feels they should be entered into the minutes (attached) and that is something of concern before we even look at passing any more money, some of the items Jim mentioned about the construction site; all of these could lead to excessive costs and he would like to think that Mr. Hulings nor Don would want the Fire Department to overextend themselves financially and inhibit their ability to perform their function. This needs to be looked at before any additional funds are approved. Joe Dippold commented that when Council does vote on this there should be a Fire Department member present to answer questions. Jason Sarver inquired if anyone presented the concerns to the Fire Department. Don Sims responded that he has not. Cathy Rape commented that at the Fire Department meeting they said it was going to be 1.5 million for site preparation; they said it going to be excessive. Cathy commented for 1.5 million they could go

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Finance Cont.:

to a different location. Joe Dippold suggested taking it to the Fire Department. Jason Sarver will forward the email to the Fire Department and ask them to be present at the meeting.

Greg Such reported on the Municipal Minimum Obligation for 2021. The MMO for 2021 on the DB Pension (original pension) is \$61,423 and the MMO for 2021 on the DC Pension (new pension) is \$8,055. These MMOs are off set with some amount of State Aid.

Streets:

Don Sims reported that streets have been covered in Frank's report.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if the tax money has come in, the Borough was doing 3 or 4 lights per year after the tax money comes in. Greg Such commented that most of the real estate tax money has come in. Don Sims commented that we are spending money for the grant, he thought the light were with it. Dave Szakelyhidi responded that we have been this for the last couple of years to get caught up, the lights are burning out, there are burned out lights and inquired if Council wanted to leave the lights burned out until we finish the study in a couple of years. Greg Such inquired if Frank was able to look at the lights that are out. Frank Grannon responded that he hasn't had a chance. Greg Such commented that financials haven't come out yet because it is the first of the month, let's look at the financials and have Frank identify which lights are working and which lights have vibrated loose. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that there are 4 more in the Square that should be matched and a bunch the lights out; at a minimum we should plan to do 4 or 5 per year like we have been doing. Dave also reported on the bricks on the borough building, the new bricks on the front of the building by the steps are soft and breaking; not sure if they need sealed or if we need to change the way we salt. Sam Hopkins commented that the mortar needs to match the hardness of the brick. Frank Luek commented that they need cut out, replaced and sealed. Frank Luek will look at it, Dave suggested repairing them before winter. Frank Luek commented that the light by the Bottlebrush is flashing, inquired if Frank Grannon was aware. Frank Grannon will look at it.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that we submitted materials for COVID Disaster Reimbursement. We hope to recover overtime for the water staff, some supplies which most of that will go back to the Water Authority; we also submitted for Police and Public Safety payments; the total for all of that was \$32,000. Greg thanked Amy and Frank for pulling it together, they worked on it on a Friday afternoon around 3:00 and then Greg did a spreadsheet and submitted the application to the Grant Administrator.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

See Correspondence List.

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Training & Conferences & Correspondence Cont.:

Greg Such reported that Amy will attend a webinar on the Executive Order to defer payroll taxes; some of the Water employees had questions about it. Joe (Dippold) referred an opinion but Amy is going to get some more information about it. Solicitor Matt asked Amy to pass the information along to him. Joe will send his opinions to Matt as well.

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 \$ **4,249.57**

Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **11,882.91** (\$11,595.95 after HBWA reimbursement)

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **4.11**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **75.00**

Payroll in the amount of \$ **6,169.56**

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

Adjourned: 9:14pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the September 1, 2020 Zoom virtual meeting at 9:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Creekside Area News
HARMONY and others TAX INCREASE
August 10, 2020

The NEW Fire Station -

The sad truth is there are less volunteer fire people today. This is a tough and dangerous job requiring lots of personal time to train and participate at a momentents notice.

The Harmony Fire District was created to consolidate several municipalities, reduce redundant equipment, centralize resources, share personnel, and streamline operations. For example, Zelenople was able to shut down its fire stations on RT 68 west.

Alas there is one problem, the facility in Harmony is overcrowded and outdated.

The search for a good site to build the new facility has gone on for years and finally settled on land on RT 19 north, between the Connoquenessing Creek and Northgate Plaza. You can see the sign as you travel on RT 19 North.

Unfortunately, this site has a few problems. Protected Wetlands, and the site in the 100 year Flood Plain. To resolve these issues, there the need for a DEP permit and perhaps Jackson TWP will need to do a bunch of waivers. What this means to you is the site prep will be very expensive. Before any concrete is poured, a lot of money, (perhaps half the cost of the project) will be spent bringing the site into compliance. Hopefully it will meet PA Flood Plain Management Act 166 of 1978, PA Storm Water Management Act 167 of 1978 and Jackson TWP Flood Plain Management Ordinance.

You will be providing between 1.0 and 1.5 mills in taxes to finance the multi million dollar facility.

Meanwhile, the Hochenberger Motors property sits empty. The Rt 68 west Zelenople Firehouse is being used for storage. It is worth asking a few questions about this project before it is too late because, it is sad that we will loose another environmentally valuable wetland and another flood plain property is allowed to filled.

We will soon pay for the dwindling flood plain in life and property.

Harmony Residents - On Tuesday August 1, 2020 you can join the Harmony Borough Council meeting via the internet. As soon as the Borough publishes the link to the meeting in the Butler Eagle Legal Notices, we will let you know. In the meantime you can write the Borough as follows:

Harmony Borough Council
217 Mercer Street
Harmony, PA 16037

Zelenople Residents - August 31, 2020 you can join the Zelenople Borough Council meeting via the internet. As soon as the Borough publishes the link to the meeting in the Butler Eagle Legal Notices, we will let you know. In the meantime you can write the Borough as follows:

Zelenople Borough Council
111 West New Castle Street
Zelenople, PA 16063

Jim Hulings

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

August 2020

1. Stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Completed August monthly Activity Report and Time Report.
4. I spoke with Ms. McCandless at Berkshire Hathaway regarding home occupancy permits. I referred her to Lancaster Twp.
5. Completed 2 building permits. House demolition at 838 Edmond St. and wall a sign at Fox Pizza.
6. Prepared tree and gutter violation notice for 421 Highland Ave.
7. Spoke to Nina regarding a wine store on Main St. at the George Rapp house.
8. Spoke with someone regarding a solar system at 616 Wood St. This is HARB approved.
9. Prepared a letter for Dawn Ptak that her property at 709 Spring St. was in a residential zoning district.
10. Completed building permit for a storage shed at 112 Parkway St.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer