

March 2, 2021

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING March 2, 2021

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Phyllis Metz

Don Sims

Jason Sarver

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Allen Bayer

Alecia Flood

Rodney Gasch

Frank Grannon

Robbie Gregor

Chief Jim Miller

Solicitor Matt Racunas

Engineer Tom Thompson

Alex Weidenhof

March 2, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 February 2, 2021 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that he is still working on the WBCA Revival Resolution. Matt drafted a Resolution for WBCA's 537 Plan; it will be discussed later in the meeting. Matt will be filing a lien for a zoning issue on the Highland Avenue property with the tree. Jason Sarver commented that it was not the Borough's goal to cost the resident money but to make a safe situation. Solicitor Matt commented that if it becomes a hazardous condition the Borough can correct the situation and then file a lien.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

EMA Coordinator:

Robbie Gregor is the EMA Coordinator with the Seneca Area EMA; they cover the same area that Harmony Fire District covers. Robbie is a current Safety Major at Slippery Rock University, and current Firefighter/EMT for the US Air Force stationed out of the 171st Air Wing in Pittsburgh and a Volunteer Firefighter for Harmony. PEMA requires all local government to have an active EMA Coordinator that can represent municipalities in the event of a local disaster; and under the National, it is a management system. A functioning EMA is required for municipalities to enforce certain rules during emergencies. Robbie (via the EMA jointly) represents all four municipalities: Harmony, Jackson, Lancaster & Zelienople. An active EMA Coordinator is required to legally authorize and establish shelters under a local or national disaster. There are three members, a Coordinator, Treasurer and President. Robbie would like to set up quarterly or biannual meetings with the municipalities, possibly before or after the Harmony Fire District biannual meetings. Robbie commented that the EMA is an underutilized agency, stating there is a lot of grant money out there and that the EMA fund the Borough pays into has about \$55,000 in a savings account. He would like to discuss capping that as the Borough is still paying into it. One project that he would like to do is replace ADDs in public areas.

Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the \$55,000 he believes is money that Zelic and Harmony raised with fundraisers they had. Robbie thought it was contributed by all four municipalities but could look into it. Greg Such commented that it would be good to see Robbie more often; at the Fire Department meetings would be fine. Robbie added the disclaimer that the EMA is a separate agency from the Fire District. Mayor Cathy Rape inquired if there are any people below Robbie for in the event of a disaster would come help Harmony as Robbie is busy with other things. Robbie replied that it is strictly volunteers; it is just him and John Kovacic. Cathy Rape inquired if Robbie would like the Borough to reach out to get volunteers. Robbie responded that they would love to have people who are genuinely interested in helping. Robbie added that he and John Kovacic are both in the First Airborne

EMA Coordinator Cont.:

and deploy at a minimum every 4 years for about 9 months. Mayor Cathy Rape inquired if Robbie was gone during a local disaster who would the volunteers get orders from. Robbie replied Butler County; they have a paid EMA Coordinator. Cathy Rape inquired about getting a sand pile with buckets for people to make their own sand bags in the event of flooding, similar to what Zelig has and EMA pays for. Robbie commented potentially, that he cannot commit to it not knowing the legalities of it but will get a follow up answer. Alecia Flood commented that she puts in articles for the Zelig Harmony.com and would like to put a blurb in about asking for volunteers and inquired who they should contact if interested. Contact Robbie at RGregor@HarmonyFire22.org

Appointments:

COG:

Greg Such reported that meetings are to restart on March 18 at 10:00am. Joe Dippold commented that he was unsure if he could join. Phyllis Metz and Cathy Rape may join the meeting.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there were two Certificates of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommended to Council.

Peter Donovan – 522 Main Street – New front porch stair railing.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 522 Main Street porch stair railings.

Sam Hopkins – Neff House 550 Main Street – Outdoor lighting.

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

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that they are having the Summer Concerts, but could not get the Allegheny Brass Band because of Covid and ABB being an elderly band. The first concert will be The Good Guys on July 1st, with fireworks, This, That & Other Things on July 15th, John Burgh Band on July 29th and KardaZ on August 12th. Susie also reported that she is meeting with the Lance from Butler County Parks and the Fish and Game Commission at the Canoe Launch on March 18th. Susie asked Frank Grannon or Frank Luek to join if they are available. Susie also reported that the Parks Board is in preliminary discussion on possibly doing an adventure race this summer. Greg Such commented that they are looking for sponsors for the concerts.

Library Board:

Frank Luek reported that the Library is now open with a 15 or 18 max capacity.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported on the ratification of the Act 537 Plan, Solicitor Matt Racunas emailed a draft Resolution, we have heard from the Planning Commission on the Act 537 Plan. Don Sims inquired if the Resolution could be broken into two different pieces, one for the Pump and Lift Station and the other for the upgrade of the existing facility. Solicitor Matt commented that he doesn't think that is possible as the Act 537 will be the plan approved by the DEP, it is all one part you can either accept or reject that plan in terms of how DEP reviews it.

A motion was made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz to accept the Act 537 Plan Resolution.

Solicitor Matt commented that this is Harmony's 537 Plan, if Harmony does not accept it, WBCA would need to come up with an alternative plan, or Harmony would have to come up with their own plan. It is Matt's recommendation to approve this plan as Harmony doesn't have an alternative in Matt's legal opinion. Don Sims commented that his concern is that it is an exorbitant amount of money and the way they are phasing it is not a smart use of the money; we are agreeing with something that looks like an unlimited price tag; there is no dollar amount on this resolution, it doesn't have a price not to exceed. Solicitor Matt commented that is correct, the way this works is that the Borough approves the Plan itself. The Plan itself goes through application and approval through DEP; it is not limited by a dollar amount. Don Sims inquired if the Borough would have a recourse if we approve this plan and get a bill that we do not like? Solicitor Matt replied if you sign off on the Resolution you are approving the plan. Don Sims commented that we are signing a blank check. Solicitor Matt commented that the alternative is that we supply our own sanitary needs. Don Sims commented that there is an alternative.

Jason Sarver inquired what would keep WBCA in check on what it cost, who oversees what is spent? Cathy Rape and Greg Such responded the Board members. Mayor Cathy Rape commented that one of the answers that came out from the letter from HRG states that assuming WBCA receives no grant funding for the project, 100% of the project cost will be paid by WBCA customers. Cathy would like to know how much bills will go up to pay for this, is it over a 50 year plan? Greg Such responded that right now it is a 30 year plan but it is conservative from a cost and grant perspective. Solicitor Matt commented that the WBCA Board outlined how to fund this plan, the rate increase is minimal. Greg Such commented that the increase has been published, increases over next 5 years then nothing for the next 5 years after that and in 10 years look to see where we need to go. Greg Such asked for a vote, Don Sims opposed. Greg Such commented 6-1, motion passed. Don Sims commented that he is holding the Board to managing the money.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon had nothing new to report.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

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Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch reported that the Museum is sponsoring the first Summer Concert. The Harmonie Fest will be held virtually on Saturday, March 13th; at that event they will announce their Heritage Award winners. The Heritage Award for Historic Restoration is going to Sam Hopkins for the Neff House at 550 Main Street. Shelby Rusch will also be given the Heritage Commendation for her years of service to Historic Harmony, and for documenting local history in two books.

The Antique Car Show will be March 27th through April 11th and will feature five cars, a 1922 Standard Eight, 1930 American Austin, 1939 Bantam Speedster, and a 1941 BRC 40 (original Jeep). Admission is \$3.00

There will be another restaurant raffle coming April 1 running through May 3rd featuring \$50 gift certificates to local restaurants with three chances to win. First place will win ten - \$50 gift cards, second place will win a Zelig Night Out with two \$50 gift card for the Strand and the Kaufman Tavern, and third place will win two \$50 gift cards. Raffle tickets will be available at the Museum Shop and on-line.

Rodney also reported that this Saturday, March 6th he and Bob McCafferty will be part of a podcast; the Jag off Podcast at the Harmony Inn, the podcast has 23,000 followers and is affiliated with KDKA. Greg Such commented if Rod wants to send a link out he will send it to Council.

HBA:

Cathy Rape reported that the Business Association and the Borough are working on a booklet. The printer recommended a map in the middle of the booklet but because of the cost they would put a list on the next page of all the businesses. Cath thinks they should spend the money and put letters or numbers on the map to match with the businesses, adding if anyone would know how to do that for free it would save some money; but they are working on the booklet. Cath also added that they plan on asking businesses if they want to advertise in this booklet.

Other Meetings:

Storm Water Meetings -- Greg Such reported that the Storm Water Committee meetings continue and the report is to be finalized. Two key actions are (1) reducing individual municipalities release rates and (2) getting the County to modify the release rates that are in the Act 167 Plan. The leverage to do that is a Resolution from the 10 communities that are supporting the Storm Water Study, that also entails the individual communities updating their ordinances that have release rates in them and the HRG final report will clarify those numbers and then ways to begin to implement some of the local projects. There may be some money available through PA DCED, once COG gets started, to help with some of the projects. Jason Sarver inquired if the consulting group will tell us the cost associated with the projects. Greg Such responded yes, he also asked them to add what regulations, Acts and/or applications that are needed to do these projects and a feel for where there might be grants available. Greg Such reported there is a Resolution in Council's packet to support the actions he stated.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Storm Water Resolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Greg Such showed the redesigned borough website; the pictures at the bottom of the page will change. Rodney Gasch stated he has some pictures of the Silvester race that he will send Greg. Susie Altemus suggested changing the picture to coordinate with events.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that this month's effort was snow and sidewalks. Frank contacted the Railroad and the discarded drain pipe was removed. The Handicap sign at 516 Main Street was removed, they will paint over the street markings when the weather is warmer. Frank also reported that George, the owner of 552 Main Street contacted the borough office stating Church Alley needed gravel from all the construction next door. Don Sims commented that alleys were brought up previously and it was decided that it is a resident's issue. Frank Grannon commented that maybe George and Sam can get together, he will let George know. Frank contacted Penn Sweeping, would like to get on the schedule for May, the cost will be \$960 - \$1,080 depending on how dirty the streets are. Frank inquired if he should schedule an evening for Rt. 68 with the possible Penn Dot construction. Greg Such recommended that Frank look into it.

In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved street sweeping the town with a price not to exceed \$1,080 with Penn Sweeping.

Frank Grannon reported they fixed the street lights that were out, still need to do the ones on Rt. 68. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired on the Sapienza light, remove or rewire it. Dave commented that the asphalt may need to be cut and patched. Dave suggested an agreement between the Borough and Mark. Jason Sarver commented there is nothing wrong, it gets shut off. Greg Such commented that Mark stated that if moisture gets in, Mark needs to reset the breaker. Joe Dippold will talk to Mark again. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested putting it on the agenda for next month.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted via email.

COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she emailed Nikki at Jackson Township and is waiting for approval for the Shamrock Shuffle to be held March 27th. Greg Such inquired if Phyllis received the Certificate of Insurance, Phyllis commented that she has everything.

Business Development:

Mayor Cathy Rape inquired if the letter was sent to the Railroad about the lot being turned back over to the Borough. Greg Such will send a letter. Cath inquired on the Penn Dot Study regarding Grandview and Main Street. Greg Such replied that a traffic study needs to be done to lower the speed limit. Penn Dot put out a schedule but it was not definitive. Cathy Rape also commented that Alecia Flood had a nice article on the ZelicHarmony.com website about the new Green Bookstore in town. Phyllis Metz commented that they will accept used books. Phyllis also commented that she fixed the tablecloths and skirts in the council room. Greg Such and Jason Sarver both thanked Phyllis. Cathy Rape inquired on the sand and bags for flooding, and that there was a group willing to do it from the charity concert. Cathy commented that we need to publicize the committee. Cathy Rape also reported that Mussig is making hanging baskets for the Square if anyone would like to donate, they're \$25 per basket and will have a thank you sign in the Square or on the light post for who donated; donations can be sent to the Borough marked flower fund.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver had nothing new to report.

Finance:

Joe Dippold reported the audit is finishing up.

Streets:

Don Sims reported on pothole patching.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi inquired on in-person council meetings. Greg Such replied to defer a couple of months until the vaccines are rolling out, maybe the end of May.

Grants:

Tom Thompson reported that they are finalizing the project scope and it should be submitted to RACP sometime in March. Cathy Rape inquired if Tom was anticipating starting this year. Tom responded the start can be whenever the Borough wishes once there is funding in place, and we can proceed to get the design facilities completed and out to bid; you can work independently of RACP's finances. Greg Such commented that we need a scope and agreement before getting finances. Tom Thompson commented that the Borough's scope won't be any different of what you're giving them; if you want to shop your finances out you can do so. Greg Such questioned if that would be with the local banks, Tom agreed.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

See Correspondence List.

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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 \$ **15,401.98** (After HBWA \$15,115.02)

Fire Tax Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **14.72**

Parks Board Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **549.00**

Silvester Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **506.95**

Payroll in the amount of \$ **7,180.46**

Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **8,618.44**

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.

Adjourned: 8:25pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the March 2, 2021 Zoom virtual meeting at 8:25 pm, motioned by Don Sims and seconded by Jason Sarver.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

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

February 2021

1. Stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Attended February HARB meeting.
4. Attended February Council meeting.
5. Spoke with a lady regarding having a dye test for a property in Jackson Twp. I referred her to Jackson Twp.
6. Received a complaint regarding icy sidewalks at Center and Pittsburgh Sts. I checked it out and then wrote three violation notices.
7. Spoke with a lady from New York regarding land for sale in Harmony Borough.
8. Inspected icy sidewalks at Center and Pittsburgh Sts. Violation has been corrected.
9. Spoke with Pat Murray regarding placing a lease sign on property at the corner of Robinson Dr. and Main St. I sent to Pat all of the zoning requirements for the sign.
10. Received final clarification of outstanding issues for construction at 562 Main St. Prepared building permit for building construction at 562 Main St.
11. Spoke with David from Palmetto Solar in San Francisco, Calif. 415-786-5957, regarding permitting requirements for installation of solar panels at 118 Old Little Creek Rd. Verified that address is in Harmony and referred David to Tom McCosby for building permit requirements.
12. Prepared missing address violation notice for 118 Old Little Creek Rd.
13. Sent to Matt Racunas notice to place lien on 421 Highland Ave. for the judgement amount, given that 30 days

have passed since the court hearing and we have not received any notification that Mr. Perdue has contested the decision on behalf of the borough.

14. Prepared January Time and Activity Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer