

January 5, 2021

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING January 5, 2021

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Phyllis Metz

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Don Sims

Jason Sarver

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Allen Bayer

Autumn Crawford

Frank Grannon

Chad Hanley

Sam Hopkins

Chief Jim Miller

Solicitor Matt Racunas

Engineer Tom Thompson

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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 Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the December 1, 2020 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported there will be a hearing at the end of next week at the Magistrate's for a zoning issue.

Western Butler County Authority:

Greg Such reported that he sent out the links for WBCA Act 537 Plan as presented to the Planning Commission, as well as the Fact Sheet. Autumn Crawford reported that another recording will be added to WBCA's website, and the presentation, slides and FAQ will continue to be updated with relevant information as they get feedback from meetings. A new "Project" tab has also been added to the website. Mayor Cathy Rape inquired on the FAQ comment that states "At the conclusion of 2020 the Authority's debt has been eliminated and development tap fees will be utilized to pay for required capital projects, and new customers connected due to development will support the operational expenses; what is the difference between the development tap fees and the customers connected due to development? Autumn Crawford responded that new customers have two sources of revenue for WBCA. First being the tap fee which goes into the capital account which is used for capital expense, the other source of revenue is the monthly billing. The monthly billing is intended to cover operational costs. Existing customers are not paying tap fees. Cathy Rape also inquired if any of the data on the graph was from manholes? Autumn Crawford responded that graph was derived from 14 flow meters placed at manholes throughout the system that is where the data was collected from. Mayor Rape inquired if manholes that get covered with flood waters are being monitored? Autumn responded they were, originally the flow meter study was done for three months and then was extended a month; during those rain events they will capture up to a certain point of flooding. The flow meters were not placed in an area where the manhole was susceptible to being covered with flood water, they had to be careful in selecting a manhole that would get good data inflow but not damage the flow meter. They were strategic points to isolate different branches of the system is how they were selected. Cathy Rape also inquired on what developments in Jackson and Lancaster run through the Harmony Station? Autumn Crawford responded none of the new developments in Jackson are connected to the Harmony Pump Station, it serves in Jackson Sysco, Seneca Valley School District, Evergreen Nursing Home, all of Harmony, and Lancaster Township feeds into it, as well as the Steam Fitters and Jackson Manor. Cathy Rape commented that she has some questions from a taxpayer that was in the Creekside Area News. In the 8 months from November 2019 thru July 2020 the cost jumped 16 million dollars, how does that happen and then in 7 more months it jumps again; same with the Harmony Pump Station.

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Autumn Crawford responded that was the Water Pollution Control Plant which is the main plant, in the preliminary stages they would give a range of numbers for the project, they were in the Act 537 Plan planning not into the design or selection of a process. When you are in the beginning stages it is hard to give a number because you do not know what all it will encompass. Originally when they were looking at the scope of the Harmony Pump Station project they were looking only at the Harmony Pump Station but as they got into the flow study monitoring they realized a lot more work needed to be done than just upgrading the pump station. They needed to upgrade the interceptors leading to the pump station, one was undersized, the Scholar's Run interceptor needed upgraded and a second high-flow forced main needed constructed for high wet weather and the receiving interceptor needed upgraded due to being undersized. They are dealing with high wet weather flows which means a lot of flood waters get into their system. They need to upgrade pipes and pumps and electrical components because of capacity; the scope of the project changes and increased the cost. Chad Hanley from HRG commented that the scope of the work increased over 18 months increasing the cost and that the effluent limits from DEP really threw a wrench in it. The F-fluent are the treatment standards that they treat the effluent to, they were more stringent than expected which caused a Phase 1 and a Phase 2 which caused them to design a facility that would meet limits now and easily upgradable to meet future limits, their intent is to design a facility that is easily expandable in the future. Don Sims inquired how many lineal feet of pipe they are planning to replace in the upgrade. Chad Hanley responded with the Harmony Pump Station they are replacing about 15,000 feet of pipe. Don Sims also inquired if all other sanitary facilities in Butler County or in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have to meet that standard? Chad Hanley replied that the effluent limitations for each water course in Pennsylvania are different. The limits of DEP on effluent discharges are set by the quality of water and the size of the receiving stream. Don Sims inquired how many other treatment plants discharge in the Connoquenessing. Autumn Crawford did not know. Don also inquired if there were other treatment facilities that were doing massive upgrades due to the new regulations in Butler County. Autumn Crawford responded there are many plants doing massive upgrades, Cranberry Township, Breakneck Creek Regional Authority, and Hermitage. Chad Hanley commented what DEP looks at in an effluent dominated stream is Q710. Q=Flow 7=7 day average 10=over a 10 year period. They are looking at the lowest flow over 7 days over a 10 year period. Don Sims commented what he was looking for was if other treatment plants in the area had to do massive upgrades due to all these additional stringencies. Autumn Crawford responded the answer is no because nobody has crossed the threshold where their plant is going to make the stream effluent dominated. Don Sims inquired at what capacity is the sewer plant at to service existing customers. Autumn Crawford replied that the average daily flow is monitored by organic capacity and hydraulic capacity. If you exceed the organic capacity for 1 month you will get in trouble with DEP; if you exceed the hydraulic permitted capacity 3 months in a row you will get in trouble with DEP. During wet weather months when there is a heavy rain event they are at 1000% of capacity, on normal flow or dry days they have enough capacity.

Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if the Water Authority replaced the water line on Edmond Street if WBCA would be interested in replacing the sewer line. Autumn Crawford responded that it would be better to work with the municipalities, it benefits both

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that the following appointments are needed:

WBCA Board – Greg Such

Parks Board – Ron Goehring and Greg Such

Vacancy Officer – Karen Scharrar

Harmony Water Authority Board – Bob Ziegler

Planning Commission – Lori Welsh

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Jason Sarver, the

Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the listed appointments.

Greg Such also reported that the contract for the building inspector, Tom McCosby needs to be renewed.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Jason Sarver, the

Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to renew the contract for TW McCosby.

COG:

Greg Such reported there was no meeting.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that advice was offered to someone but nothing to vote on. Greg Such reported that the meeting dates were revised and Amy will update and advertise all meeting dates. Greg Such inquired if there were any dates modified for Council meetings. Amy Brown reported the November meeting will be the second Tuesday due to election.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus could not attend the meeting, Greg Such reported that last month Council approved a \$1500 limit to remove the dead tree and the other half that is standing in Wood Street Park and the two dead pine trees at the Canoe Launch; Greg asked to increase that limit to \$2,000.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the \$2000 limit for tree removal.

Greg Such reported that there were 56 virtual participants for the Silvester race. We don't have a profit breakdown yet as there were some publicity cost and 4 signs lost that will need replaced. Solicitor Matt Racunas stated that he would sponsor an event; he needs a sponsor form. Greg Such reported that the Parks Reno Grant application will be out in February.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek reported that there was a meeting with WBCA regarding the plant/pump expansion.

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Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that the Library is operating by virtual programming and curbside service due to COVID. They are also offering mobile hot spots and Wi-Fi around the building.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon had nothing new to report.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch reported that the Museum is closed for tours; the Museum Shop and Post Office are open. They had about 100 people for the Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner on December 31st. The Grant application was approved for \$4,000 for the interior of the Visitors' Cabin they have 15 months to complete the renovations.

HBA:

No Representative present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that this month was snow removal and vacation. Frank inquired if he should get cold patch to fill in potholes, he would need to buy bags as he has nothing to haul it in. Don Sims inquired how much would be needed. Frank Grannon replied a couple of bags. Don Sims suggested that Frank use his preapproved limit and come back if he needs more. Frank Grannon reported that Dave's lights were delivered; they should be up this week. Frank Luek thanked Frank Grannon for taking good care of the streets. Frank Luek also commented there was a big pin and some washers down by Sapienza's, inquired if Frank lost something off the plow. They're at Webb's antique shop.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted.

COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that the Rotary would like to have the Shamrock Shuffle, the plan seems good. No spectators, runners will be staggered; approximately 420 people, mask and gloves are required. Solicitor Matt commented that with the State laws 420 people may be too many and asked if they contacted the Health Department. Joe Dippold inquired if there were any street closures. Phyllis Metz commented that they haven't gotten that far, they did not complete an Event Form, the Rotary was asking permission to hold the event first.

In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council tentatively approved the Shamrock Shuffle pending submission of an approved Borough Safety Form which includes coordination with Zelienople Police Department as well as meeting all then current State and Federal COVID regulations.

Business Development:

Mayor Cathy Rape commented that the Borough donated property to put the railroad station on (it was in a book about Harmony). Cathy inquired if the Borough could go to the Railroad and ask to donate the property back since we donated it to them and now they are charging us for it. Solicitor Matt commented that it is worth trying. Greg Such suggested Cathy send him the document from the book and he will email the railroad. Jason Sarver inquired if the County would have record of it. Solicitor Matt inquired what year. Sam Hopkins commented in the 1900's and inquired if it was the one that the deed stated if the station was removed the Borough would get it back. Cathy Rape thought it was the one. Cathy Rape also commented that the Franklin Township building has a brochure that gives the history of Franklin Township, Officials, the Police Department, Zoning Hearing, meeting dates, a map. They have advertisers the whole way around the map. Cathy would be willing to get some advertisers if Council would like to do a brochure. Greg Such commented that HBA had something like that. Joe Dippold commented that HBA is to do another one this year; Joe suggested to check with HBA. Cathy Rape also reported that there is a new book store going in on Main Street where Patricia's store was. Sam Hopkins commented that it works out great next to the Lagerhaus. Cathy would also like to have a yearly calendar for Borough staff and council to have when leaf season is to start, branch pick up, street/line painting and the flags to be put up. Frank Grannon commented that there are too many variables for the calendar to work. Greg Such commented we can try it and see what happens.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver reported the employee evaluations/reviews and raises are done.

Finance:

Joe Dippold reported that the audit is coming up.

Streets:

Don Sims reported that our borough streets are looking good and thanked Frank for working on Christmas Day. Jason Sarver complimented Frank for his hard work and added the concern of Frank not having enough sleep. Greg Such thanked Frank for doing a good job.

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Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that the Environmental Study is about to start, he received a phone call asking if he was aware of any pollutant material buried, and past uses of buildings. The RACP administrator is to send paperwork to move forward with the grant. Tom Thompson reported that they are working with the RACP administrator to define the scope that will go to the PA Office of Budget and will get an Agreement that all parties will need to sign to move the project forward. Greg Such inquired if the Borough could look for financing. Tom Thompson replied the Borough could look for financing but would not want to start the project. Greg Such also stated that the Borough needs something from Gannet Fleming that states we have their continued services. Tom Thompson commented that they have a Master's Service Agreement they gave to the Borough awhile and once we define the scope they have the Grant Administration and once they define the design aspects of what you want to do they can put it to paper and act on those probably at next meeting. Greg Such commented on the Infrastructure Bank is 10 year loan and the RACP will not accept that.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

See Correspondence List.

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 \$ 8,680.45

Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ 12,881.69 (After HBWA/\$12,594.73)

Payroll in the amount of \$ 11,766.32

Fire Tax Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ 377.37

Silvester Fund Already Paid in the amount of \$77.00

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

Adjourned: 8:48pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the January 5, 2021 Zoom virtual meeting at 8:48 pm, motioned by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

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

December 2020

1. Stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Attended December Council meeting.
4. I spoke with Jessica Miller, Navy Federal Title Service, regarding if an Occupancy Permit is required to refinance 128 S. Division St.
5. Created US Liner fence violation notice.
6. Spoke with Bob, 156N Charles St., regarding zoning and code for constructing a replacement garage.
7. Emailed with Michael Smith, 504 Main St., regarding noise coming from Murphy Tractor. I referred Michael to Jackson Twp.'s Code Enforcement Officer and Manager.
8. Spoke with Jean Von Hofen, 759 Spring St., regarding setbacks for an in ground pool. S
9. Spoke with Dillan, Eckert Architect, regarding the C1 setbacks at 562 Main St. for a site plan he is drawing up.
10. Spoke with Emilie Pickelino regarding repairs to US Liner fence.
11. Spoke with Spencer, 325 Monroe St., regarding zoning for an above ground pool.
12. Prepared December Time and Activity Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer