

October 4, 2022

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING October 4, 2022

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 - virtually

Sue Collins

Frank Grannon

Sam Hopkins – virtually

Chris Kopacz

Josh Meeder - virtually

Chief Jim Miller

Matt Racunas, Solicitor – virtually

Tom Thompson, Engineer

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in-person and 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 September 6, 2022 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that Trick or Treat date and time need to be set.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved Trick or Treat to be October 31st from 6:00pm - 8:00pm.

Matt also reported that the bank loan for the RACP project has been finalized and closed.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that there are two appointments for the Zoning Hearing Board, Sue Collins and Jean VonHofen.

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the appointment of Sue Collins to the Zoning Hearing Board.

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the appointment of Jean Von Hofen to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Council of Governments (COG):

Phyllis Metz that the PA One Call, 811 was discussed at the COG meeting. Phyllis will pass the information on to Sean, Director of Operations for the Water Authority.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported there are four Certificates of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommends to Council.

Jeff Byko – 309 German Street – New basement access cover.

New front porch, porch width of the house, treated wood framing with white wood lattice, synthetic deck (green) and stairs (green), wood columns and gingerbread (white) and shingle shed roof. Paint existing foundation to match.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 309 German Street.

HARB Cont.:

Amy Polinsky – 206 Mercer Street – Front porch renovation – remove railing and install new wood lattice (white) below deck, paint to match existing.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 206 Mercer Street.

Neff House – 550 Main Street - New directional signage for fence and new Inner Smile signage for accessory structure.

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.

Weavers' Cabin – 245 Mercer Street – Install new front door to match.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 245 Mercer Street.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the waterline replacement on Second and Edmond Streets was finished. Frank Grannon reported five services were tapped into the new line today and five more services will be tapped in tomorrow. The old line has been capped at one end, it will be filled with concrete and abandoned once all services are connected to the new line. Frank stated that it needs to be paved before winter.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the Zelenople Historical Society borrowed lights from the Parks Board, the lights were purchased to go under the tent during concerts, and now Zelenople Historical Society is asking if the Parks Board would want to donate the lights. The Parks Board does not use the lights and is okay with donating them.

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the donation of lights to the Zelenople Historical Society.

Susie also reported that the Trail has been paved from Mercer to the bend. Greg Such reported that Jackson also put sand on it from the Meeting House down the hill. Susie Altemus reported that there was a report of an aggressive raccoon near the Trail that knocked a man down, keep an eye out while walking the Trail.

Susie also reported that the playground equipment at the Borough building is over 20 years old and is deteriorating. The Parks Board would like to apply for the DCNR Grant that opens in January, is due in April and will be awarded at the end of 2023. The project would not start until 2024. The estimated cost of the project is \$62,070.86. The first \$30,000 would be paid by the DCNR Grant with zero match from Harmony. The remaining \$32,070.86 would be split between DCNR and Harmony. The Parks Board could apply for the Butler County Grant to help with Harmony's match. The Parks Board would have three years to complete the project and raise money. The fall chips and old equipment needs to be removed.

Don Sims inquired how long the price on the quote is good for, it is passed the 30 days. Susie Altemus responded that she would need to get an updated quote before applying for the grant, once the award has been given the price of the quote would be locked in.

Parks Board Cont.:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Parks Board apply for the DCNR Grant.

Cathy Rape commented on the paving of the Trail and inquired if paving is allowed in a floodway. Josh Meeder responded that it is not allowed within 50 feet of the creek. Engineer Tom Thompson is to check it and get back to Council.

Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that the Director resigned August 15th and the library is searching for a new director. Staff and volunteers are taking care of things and making sure the library is staffed and is open regular hours. Amy Kellner is the Acting Director. Kathy requested the Borough donate to the library. In 2017 about 64% of Harmony Borough's population were registered borrowers of the library. In 2003 Harmony gave the library \$6,000. In 2004-2014 Harmony gave the library \$5,200 yearly. In 2015-2018 the donations stopped, Kathy requested Harmony give a donation of \$1.00 or \$2.00 per capita, also mentioning the American Recovery Act funds the Borough received, any donation would be appreciated. Kathy also reported that there is a fundraiser for the library on October 29th at the Steam Fitters. The Casino Cash Blast is a 21 and older event with casino games and costumes, the cost is \$45/singles and \$75/couples with food and drink included. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if Kathy had a figure of how much the Wine Walk brought in; Kathy did not have a figure.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek reported in the SALDO ordinance, page 22, section 306RA states for non-residential buildings, a change in existing use is a reason to come to Planning. Greg Such commented that this is referring to Division Street.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that the Harmony Pump Station is under continuing DEP review. They are looking at the Harmony Pump Station Plan as thoroughly as an Act 537 Plan.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon had nothing new to report.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report. Frank Grannon inquired on the location for the No Motorized Vehicle signs. Greg Such replied one at the Red Barn, one at the Meeting House and at the Y where the Trail splits off to Jackson. Frank Luek commented there were more stories of wild driving of golf carts on the Trail running people off the sidewalk out by the barn.

Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch was not able to attend. Greg Such reported that the Christmas Market is coming up. Phyllis Metz reported that was approved, and inquired if the Certificate of Insurance was submitted. Amy is to let Phyllis know.

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HBA:

Cath Rape reported the next meeting is Thursday, October 6th at 6:30pm at the Wunderbar. Sleepy Hollow is October 15th from 10am-4pm, Greg Such added that there is a Pet Fest at Wood Street Park.

Other Meetings:

Commissioner's Communication Meeting- Cathy Rape reported that we are hoping to get the Commissioners' support to get funding for the projects. Greg Such reported that Delta has reviewed the grants and will be sending those back to the Commissioners for recommendations. The grants are oversubscribed, more people were asking for money than what was in the pool, Delta has identified other grants that could be used to supplement. Cathy Rape reported the next meeting is October 17th and they're hoping to know by then.

Phyllis Metz reported that there is a Transit Center open at the Pullman Center. Kim Geyer attended a builders department meeting and an agricultural meeting, both meetings were very positive with good things coming out of them. They are looking for ways to spend the funding coming in from the opioid crisis. Covid symptoms are mild, there is a new vaccine that is out and available. There is one case of Monkey Pox in the county.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Chief Miller reported the person who broke into the Wunderbar will be held for court. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that there was also fireworks money missing.

Office:

Amy Brown reported that she and Phyllis Metz will do a training session to learn how to send announcements out for Swift Reach. Chief Miller commented that they will be switching to a new system in January, Rave Alert.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that the hiring wage for the part-time help during leaf pick-up needs approved.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to hire Wade Ion as a 1099 employee for two days a week at \$20.00 per hour for leaf pick up, and Bruce Ziegler as a 1099 employee for two days a week at \$20.00 per hour as an alternate if Wade is unavailable. Frank also reported that leaf pick up will be October 17th through November 18th, then bagged until December 16th. Frank reported that the sidewalk salt spreader will need to be replaced, the cost ranges from \$280 to \$800. Greg Such suggested a middle of the line spreader. Joe Dippold recommended purchasing it now if needed. Don Sims commented that a new lawn mower is also needed for next year, estimating a cost of \$600-\$700 for a mower.

Borough Director of Operations Cont.:

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the purchase of a sidewalk salt spreader and a lawn mower for a total of \$1,000.

Frank reported that the line strippers were in last night and painted stop bars on Harmony Way, the gore area and No Trucks.

Jason Sarver inquired if there was any thought about putting lighting behind the Visitors' Cabin. Greg Such responded that it has to be solar as there isn't any electric there; Murray was asked to supply electric to a light and said no.

Frank Grannon reported that the solar light is out at the crosswalk on Rt. 68, it needs a new battery. Frank had Walsh Equipment looking for a battery, Frank was online looking for a battery, he's having a hard time finding one that matches up with the configuration of the box. Don Sims commented that the battery cost is under Frank's limit. Don Sims reported that the trees need trimmed by the crosswalk. Frank Grannon said that would be a zoning issue. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that it is in the Penn Dot right-of-way. Chief Miller commented that it falls under the motor vehicle code, no letter is required the borough can just trim the tree. Cathy Rape will stop and talk to Zimmerman's.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted via email.

Greg Such reported on the requirement of a building permit fee for the repair of sidewalks. There was discussion on waiving the \$25 building permit fee for repairs with the exception of replacing a square, which would require some inspection from Allen. Allen Bayer commented that there has been some push back for a repair when there is no real cost to the property owner other than the permit fee. The permit fee does cover the cost of Allen going out, identifying the problem, and writing the notice which comes to about \$25, Council would have to be in consideration of absorbing that cost of those types of violations. Greg Such commented that Allen's follow up would need to go into that. Allen commented that the next phase would be the reminders, warnings, and going to court would be additional costs. Allen commented that if Council is going to consider changing the ordinance, he would like to give some considerations. Don Sims suggested Allen mark the ordinance with his corrections for Council to review and get it up for a vote. Solicitor Matt commented that the ordinance could be amended but he would caution because the borough does have costs that they're putting out. The whole purpose of having the permitting procedure was to make sure it was done right and up to specifications, part of that is having Allen go out; it is up to Council if they want to waive those costs. A permitting fee in general is supposed to be related to the administrative expense of that permit.

Solicitor Matt reported that he had talked to Tom Thompson regarding Frank Luek's comment about a change in existing use is a reason to go to Planning. That maybe a residential zoning property which if it is going from residential to commercial that would require it to go to Zoning and not Planning. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that it predated the zoning. Solicitor Matt will get more information from Greg. Jason Sarver inquired where they were talking. Greg Such responded the Xylem building on Division Street.

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Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson reported that the Borough needs to finalize details for the Square Project and talk fundamentals. Greg Such recommended reconvening the Square Committee. Tom also reported there are two funding programs, one is for small projects \$30,000-\$500,000 which is an 85% grant and 15% match; that grant is due in December. The other is a water program with 50% match for projects above \$500,000, the application cost is \$100. Tom stated a Resolution will need to be passed in December. Greg Such recommended to hold off until November.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that that MJ McCurdy updated the names for the street closures for the Sleepy Hollow to include Jackson Street. MJ also requested the electric to be on at Wood Street Park, it was stated that the electric should be on, Dave will check it.

Phyllis reported that she received an event form for the Reindeer Race 5K and 1 mile on December 18 from 9:30am until 10:45am. It is in Harmony and Zelenople.

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Reindeer Race 5K & 1 mile contingent on receipt of the Certificate of Insurance and Zelenople's approval.

Business Development:

Cath Rape reported that the bench at the Weaver's cabin was damaged, new sides for the bench cost \$640. The Rotary purchased the bench and donated it to the Borough and it is on the Museum's property. The Museum also had property damage.

Would the damage to the bench fall under the Borough's insurance or the Museum's insurance? It was recommended to talk to the Museum, Frank Luek will look into it. Cath also reported on the cluster mailbox for Liberty Street, the cost is \$2053. There would be 3 units at Sam's building, 3 at Main and German and Liberty Street residents, there are 9 people interested. Cath will fundraise to cover the cost, and will request a donation of \$100 for each box.

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the purchase of the cluster mailbox in the amount of \$2053. The borough will finance until they get reimbursed by Cathy and friends.

Personnel:

Greg Such reported that the 2023 Pension MMO's were presented to Council via email to be presented and approved by the end of September deadline. The DB 2023 MMO is \$63,196 which will be less with the Water Authority's reimbursement and the State Aid. The DC 2023 MMO is \$15,901.

Jason Sarver reported they need to have a committee meeting.

Finance:

Joe Dippold reported it is budget time and asked if there were any requests.

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Streets:

Greg Such reported that Charlie Krivanek called to ask about adding gravel to the street beside his house, the Post Office delivery person parks there and is causing a mudhole. Mr. Krivanek also agreed to send in his sidewalk fine.

Dave Szakelyhidi commented that a plumber dug up the line and didn't use modified gravel to replace the fill.

Facilities:

Greg reported that the furnace wasn't working at the borough building, Greg thanked Dave (Szakelyhidi) for getting the parts. Frank Grannon will install the parts.

Phyllis Metz reported that she contacted a painter to look at the bathroom and give a quote.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that the seconded part of the ARPA Grant funds was received, \$44,100.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Listed on the 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 **\$67,638.17**

Payroll in the amount of **\$7,691.19**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$31.47**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$240.68**

Silvester Fund Bills Payable in the amount of **\$1,508.75**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$19,711.16** (\$19,427.80 after HBWA)

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.

Greg Such called for an executive session called at 8:22pm to discuss a legal matter . Out of executive session at 8:40pm.

Autumn Crawford from WBCA will talk to bonding company about Harmony Borough employees handling their payments from the outside payment box. Solicitor Matt will call Autumn regarding the outside payment box.

Adjourned: 8:45pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the October 4, 2022 In-person and Zoom virtual meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary