

April 4, 2023

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING April 4, 2023

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Phyllis Metz

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Don Sims

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Allen Bayer

Officer Melanie Dodson

Rodney Gasch

Frank Grannon

Mary Hess

Sam Hopkins

Matt Racunas

Tom Thompson

Austin Uran

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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 Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the March 7, 2023 Council meeting minutes with the correction of the word pellets, not pallets under the Director of Operations section.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that he and the Borough Engineer are working on the SALDO changes and expect to have something for next month's meeting. Solicitor Matt also reported on the paper street on Liberty, stating after 21 years if the paper street was not opened, the ownership of that paper street is divided in half and the adjoining landowners take ownership and there is no action required from the Borough because that paper street has never been open. Frank Grannon inquired on the utilities, Solicitor Matt responded that there is a right-of-way for the utilities and have a legal right to keep them there. Mary Hess commented that they want to encapsulate the capped waterline in concrete to avoid any damage to it.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that no appointments were needed.

Council of Governments (COG):

Phyllis Metz reported that Kim Geyer reported on a plan to have city meetings to get input from municipalities to find out what is going on in different areas. The Penn Dot Representative reported on their 12-year plan for projects. Steve Bicehouse talked about the train derailment stating that the EMS did a good job in an overwhelming situation. They have not seen any impact from the train derailment in Butler County but continue to do testing. Steve reported that the region has 13 partners that can be called anytime for help and stated they have a strong partnership with FEMA and added that the Act 165 have certified hazardous material representation. Kevin Boozel mentioned that the Governor's budget has money coming for infrastructure but more funding will go to the larger municipalities first and then to smaller ones.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported there is one Certificate of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommends to Council.

Jodi Correll – 614 Wood Street – new asphalt shingles on two story house portion, Owens Corning Designer shingles in the color Merlot.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 614 Wood Street.

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Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Water Authority finished the new waterline under the sidewalk between German Street and the railroad, the sidewalk has been replaced. The old waterline at Spring and Second Street was severed, the line was replaced last summer; it will need to be black topped but will piggyback with Frank's paving. Dave also reported that the Water Authority is down an operator, the night operator, the other employees will need to step up to fill in.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that Harmony received the Butler County Reno Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 and plan to use part of that grant to go towards the DCNR Grant for the playground revitalization, if we are awarded the DCNR Grant.

Susie inquired if Greg sent the contract in for the fireworks for the June concert, Greg will get it in. Letters are being sent out for donations for the summer concerts. Susie also reported that the Parks Board helped with the Shamrock Shuffle and met a guy with the US Olympic committee, he would like to do a cycling event from Harmony to Moraine.

Library Board:

Frank Luek gave a reminder about the Comedy Night at the Steamfitter's on April 29th that benefits the Library.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek reported that the Planning Commission met with Mainolfi's and explained that their neighbor can do whatever he wants with his property as long as he follows the codes/ordinances.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that the Charter still needs renewed. There was a BCIB award made to WBCA to extend South down Rte. 19. Harmony Borough's application was also approved by BCIB.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon reported that limb pick will begin May 4th, then June 8th, July 13th, August 3rd and September 7th will be the last one.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch reported that the Community Collections Event is still going on at Stewart Hall, Saturday is the last day. April 21st & 22nd there will be a flea market/barn sale, some items were left over from the antique sale, there will also be some building supplies and household items. The Museum is hoping to start acoustic music in the barn with open mic on Tuesday nights in May, it will be free but will be taking donations. Greg Such commented that the collection of peddle cars was pretty fascinating. Rodney commented that one dated back to 1913.

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HBA:

Cath Rape reported that tonight was the start of shops being open from 4:00-7:00pm along with the Wundbar's Taco Tuesday which is the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30-9:00pm; and the Neff Haus Ice Cream will open on April 15th.

Cath also reported that Burgh Bits and Bites came to Harmony and loved it. They have tours in Pittsburgh and different places and will bring a tour to Harmony on April 21st from 11:00am – 1:00pm.

The Harmony Market Plant Exchange & Sale is on June 3rd from 10:00am-2:00pm in the municipal parking lot, volunteers are welcome. The next HBA meeting is this Thursday, April 6th at 6:30pm at the Harmony Laiden.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners' Municipal Outreach meeting is April 6th at 10:00am. Greg reported that Stormwater Group won the 2023 Governor's Award and there is a presentation in Harrisburg on Wednesday, April 12th that he and Dave (Szakelyhidi) will attend to represent Harmony. Greg also reported that as a result of the Stormwater Grant, easement letters were mailed out. There were a lot of questions and request for meetings, Greg will arrange follow ups on that; and added that we will need an easement form from Solicitor Matt.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rodney Gasch –Harmony Museum – Rodney reported that the Museum had an event that overlapped with the Shamrock Shuffle, he tried to get into town and roads were closed and there weren't any signs of where there is parking. He knows the race people know where they can park but it's kind of like the race takes over the town. Rodney suggested signage for non-race parking.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Chief Miller was unable to attend, Officer Melanie Dodson had nothing to report.

Cath Rape inquired if Zelig PD have a sign that shows the speed of a vehicle. Officer Dodson reported that they do but the signs are rented. Cath had information on a twin pack of signs for \$6,199 and wanted to see if Zeligople wanted to share the signs with Harmony. Officer Dodson will give the information to Chief Miller.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that Voelker will honor the same price from the last couple years of \$2,500 per hot box to patch potholes, two boxes will be needed for a total of \$5,000. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved \$5,000 for Voelker to patch the potholes. Frank reported that he worked with Phyllis and got rid of all the e-waste and the old files in the borough building, except for what needs shredded. Frank got a price for street sweeping for some time in May from Penn Sweeping, the cost is \$136/hour and it will take about 10 hours, the cost will be approximately \$1,360. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave

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Borough Director of Operations Cont.:

Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the street sweeping in the amount of \$1,360. Frank also reported that Amy's been following up on the Welcome Sign, and a claim has been filed with the insurance company. The new flags are in, Frank thanked Matt for his donation and stated that he will put the new flags and spring banners up after the wind storms.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted via email.

Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson reported that they will come in at the end of April to survey the Storm Water Project, it would be nice to have any particulars of interests from the property owners before that in order to get everything pinned down.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she received an Event Form for the Wine Walk on June 10th from 4:00-9:00pm, Police Request Form and the Certificate of Insurance were also received. In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Event Form for the Wine Walk. Phyllis also reported that Nicole Sloka, Director of the Library inquired if she could get a list of names and addresses of Borough residents in order to personalize a mailing for the Friends of the Library. Solicitor Matt researched it and we cannot give out addresses, it breaks the right-to-privacy. Phyllis reported that she gave Officer Dodson a Police Request Form for Chief Miller regarding the I Love CVE Fun Run on April 29th.

Business Development:

Cath Rape reported that Penn Power sends out storm reports, there is about 15 people still without power. Bucket trucks cannot go up in winds more than 40 mph. Cath also reported that the Toast to Tourism dinner is May 9th at 5:00pm at the Steamfitters, the theme is Butler's Building Blocks, rsvp by May 2nd. Cath reported on the students coming in either on May 8th, 15th or 22nd, only 1 day. There will be about 110 kids. Greg Such suggested curb scraping and painting, and mulch spreading. Cath stated she is checking with other businesses for list of jobs. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested the railroad railing that needs scraped and painted. Sam Hopkins volunteered to help manage the bridge project. Susie Altemus suggested park benches that need painted. Greg Such suggested making a list and prioritize what needs done.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver was unable to attend, no report.

Finance:

Joe Dippold reported that the audit report came back, we really made strides regarding the Management letter.

Greg Such reported that the new PLGIT account has been set up with the Mars Bank loan funds for the Square project (RACP Grant).

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Streets:

Don Sims inquired on the salt, Frank Grannon replied that he is holding off on the last 50-ton, COG is trying to come up with a storage place for the salt. Frank also reported that he will be taking the salt box off tomorrow.

Don Sims reported that they are looking to mill and pave Center Street from Division to Pittsburgh Street and Mercer Street from the bridge to the Jackson Township line. Don would like to advertise to bid, he would like each street bid separately and a combination of both. Frank Grannon reported that three catch basins on Center Street need to be replaced, the cost for the three catch basins, risers, and grates is approximately \$3,382.60 in materials plus \$9,000.00 in labor. Greg Such commented that the catch basins can be part of the Stormwater grant. Frank Grannon inquired if it would be part of the grant or part of the paving. If part of the grant it would be prevailing wages. Don Sims would like to discuss the drainage later. The last day of school is June 7th paving can be scheduled after that. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved advertising to bid the paving project. Bid openings will be May 2nd. Frank Grannon commented that Center Street will take a lot of coordinating as it is a one-way street with street parking on the one side. Frank Grannon also reported that he received a call from a resident regarding flooding in their back yard between Center Street and Beaver Street, it is private property.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

Phyllis Metz thanked Frank for helping her clean out the office, the desks are now facing frontwards, Frank wired it and built a half wall, it looks good. Frank inquired what to use to cap the half wall, real wood or paintable. Greg Such responded that he was thinking real wood. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested letting Amy decide. Phyllis Metz inquired on the color to paint the half wall, and suggested light yellow. Greg Such suggested letting Amy and Cathy decide what they want.

Grants:

Stormwater Grant Status: Greg Such reported that there were a lot of questions on the easement letters that went out, we need to work on those. Greg will also meet with Sam (Hopkins). Greg reported that the Borough did get the Butler County Infrastructure Bank (BCIB) loan to cover the gap with the MIP Grant in the amount of \$500,000.

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 **\$23,377.82**

Payroll in the amount of **\$7,762.72**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$4,172.07**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$3,912.91**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$289.30**

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BILLS PAYABLE CONT.:

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

Adjourned: 7:53pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the April 4, 2023 In-person and Zoom virtual meeting at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Brown".

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary