

May 2, 2023

# HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING May 2, 2023

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Greg Such

Phyllis Metz

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Don Sims

Jason Sarver

Mayor Cathy Rape

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Allen Bayer

Frank Grannon

Chief Miller

Andrew Orient - virtually

Matt Racunas - virtually

Tom Thompson

Joe White

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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 Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the April 4, 2023 Council meeting minutes.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that he worked with Tom Thompson on the SALDO changes that Butler County recommended. Matt will put those into a purposed ordinance and send that to our Planning Commission and to Butler County Planning Commission for a 30-day review period. After the review period we will have a short public hearing, hopefully before our July meeting, and then we'll adopt it at that time. Matt will work with Amy to get that taken care of.

The second item is the Armstrong fiber optic cable proposal. We received an email from Armstrong that they would like to run a new fiber optic cable to the borough. They are aware of our ordinance requiring new utilities to be run underground, they are asking that we don't enforce it this time, but they will work going forward to move those lines underneath the ground. Joe Taylor dropped off a piece of the cable to show council what they intend to install. Greg Such commented that this provides increased bandwidth to residents in the borough. Armstrong has agreed to help us move cable underground when the time comes and recommends that we should go ahead and grant this request. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he would be in support of that but would like to know that the borough is covered as far as their promises. Solicitor Matt responded that their email makes it very clear that they are aware of our ordinance requirement and if they would refuse in the future to move those lines, the borough would have legal rights to be able to enforce against them to force them to do that; the ordinance is still in place. In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved waiving the underground ordinance at this time.

**BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:**

**Appointments:**

Greg Such reported that no appointments were needed.

**Council of Governments (COG):**

Phyllis Metz reported that there was not a meeting. Greg Such reported that they are looking for a new leader.

**HARB:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there was discussion on 257 Mercer Street porch repair and repaint, but no certificate submitted. Jason Sarver suggested doing an email vote and ratifying at the next meeting if paperwork comes in before the next council meeting.

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**Harmony Water Authority:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Water Authority repaired a water leak on Seneca Drive.

**Parks Board:**

Greg Such reported that we received the signed contract for the fireworks on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The portapotty is at the Canoe Launch and Lance from Butler County submitted our grant request for playground equipment.

**Library Board:**

Frank Luek had nothing to report. Mayor Cath Rape reported that former Mayor Ron Zinkham passed away and suggested the Borough donate \$75 to the Zelianople Library for a book in Ron's memory. In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Phyllis Metz and Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the \$75 donation to the Zelianople Library in memory of former Mayor, Ron Zinkham.

**Planning Commission:**

Frank Luek had nothing new to report. Frank inquired if the Planning Commission would have the SALDO changes for their May meeting, Solicitor Matt responded that he should have it to them by then.

**WBCA:**

Greg Such reported that the Charter still needs one community to act for Authority renewal. There wasn't a meeting last month as the manager was ill.

**Shared Services:**

Frank Grannon reported that limb pick will be this Thursday (May 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Parking and Signage:**

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

**Historic Harmony:**

Greg Such reported that Rod couldn't make it tonight but sent a note. The first acoustic Mic Night at the barn will be held Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Free admission. Any donations will be used for barn maintenance.

**HBA:**

Cath Rape had nothing to report, no meeting.

**Other Meetings:**

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners' Municipal Outreach meeting is May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, and the Stormwater Meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>. Cath Rape reported that she will be attending the Trail meeting before the Stormwater meeting as well. Dave Szakelyhidi reported that DEP and Conservation District will be at that Stormwater meeting. The contracts need to be out for bid by the end of the year, our Engineer was concerned that the contracts wouldn't have DEP's approval before they go out to bid. Mark Gordon made some phone calls and DEP and Conservation District will be at the Stormwater meeting. Zelie wants to do lunch for them, Dave would like to Harmony to contribute to lunch. Don Sims commented that he didn't think you were allowed to buy lunch for any state representative.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:**

**Police Report:**

Report submitted via email.

**Office:**

Amy Brown reported that we received a check for the damaged Welcome Sign from the driver's insurance company. Cath Rape commented that she would like to hold off getting a new sign until the work in the Square is done, we may need to change the design to match the Square; possibly an iron sign instead of a wooden sign. Greg Such commented that it may be 9 months without a sign. Frank Grannon inquired if it would be considered fraud since we received money from the insurance company. Solicitor Matt responded that it is not a fraud issue. Tom Thompson commented that the project should start this year. Don Sims suggested Cath bring to Council what she wants and the original and take a vote on it, either A or B. Jason Sarver suggested Cath talk to Ray at Sign Innovations to give some design suggestions.

**Borough Director of Operations:**

Frank Grannon reported that we started grass cutting season and inquired about getting some help because he can't keep up with it. Jason Sarver will advertise for 15 hrs./week or 2 days a week to cut grass, push mowing and riding, and weed eating. Greg Such suggested not to list a rate, see if we get any responses and see what they will do. Frank Grannon also reported that the drain pipe on Main Street is done, Dave (Szakelyhidi) donated the pipe, we will need to pay Barbish's labor to install it. Frank reported that a thank you needs to go out to Tom Haus for putting in the ADA ramp sidewalk pads, he did not charge the Borough for the three that he did, they are about \$300 each. Greg Such will send a thank you letter. Frank Grannon also reported the new street lights will be shipped Wednesday or Thursday. The flags and banners are up. There is a big pothole at the end of Bluff Street, will probably use half a box of blacktop patch. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if Sean coordinated with Voelker to have the Water Authority's work site patched. Frank responded that Sean did contact Voelker. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved another hot box for patching in the amount of \$2,500. Frank also reported that Council needs to ratify the drain pipe vote for Barbish's bill in the amount of \$3,300. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the drain pipe repair up to \$3,300. Cath Rape inquired on where the lights are going. Dave Szakelyhidi responded they're starting in the Square and going out. Cath inquired if Frank could straighten the pad under the one light on Grandview Ave. Cath reported that Bob Ziegler requested the Canoe Launch and pit of death needs to be cleaned out. Frank Grannon is to remove the debris. Frank inquired where he is to take it. Don Sim suggested the dump, Frank responded that he cannot take the dump truck without a Dot number. Don Sims responded to get a dumpster. Don Sims also inquired who helps Frank with limb pick-up, Frank responded nobody, it is Zelig's truck and machine; they drive the truck and Frank loads the chipper. Don inquired on the expected time of return of the water operator who has been out. Frank Grannon responded about three weeks. Don

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**Director of Operations Cont.:**

Sims commented that if Frank can survive three more weeks, he should have someone come available from the water plant that can come in to help. Frank Grannon commented that someone needs to send a message to Sean to let him know that the guys need to come in to help. Don Sims commented that he's sending a message to Dave. Dave commented that he's tried. Greg Such commented that he doesn't mind hiring someone for the first half of the year. Don Sims commented if we have people available, he would like them to do it; adding that he doesn't understand the hierarchy.

**Zoning and Codes:**

Allen Bayer report submitted via email.

**Engineer Report:**

Engineer Tom Thompson reported that surveying for the Stormwater was done last week, they did not do the Opera House area. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the Square was also surveyed. The Stormwater at Little Creek Road seems to be more Penn Dot-related than Borough related, he will reach out to Penn Dot. Bids for the Square for the RACP Grant will be going out, they are working out the details of where to stop the project to have underground utilities line up. Greg Such commented that a meeting is needed with Sam and the owners of the Center of Harmony. Jason Sarver inquired if we had a solution, Greg Such responded let's have a solution after we survey it. Tom commented that they already have a survey of that area; there's no easy way to route it.

**Public Safety:**

Phyllis Metz reported that the Library needed an approved Event Form for the PLCB; Amy and Phyllis are taking care of that.

**Business Development:**

Cath Rape reported that there is an article in the Business Matters about the Butler County Infrastructure Bank with a mention of Harmony Borough and Zelig Borough from Mark Gordon. There is also an article about the Harmony Inn receiving a \$40,000 grant to do painting, glazing of the windows, and new signs. Cath Rape attended the Harmony Inn's ribbon cutting ceremony. Cath Rape reported that there is a shredding event at the Mars High School parking lot May 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-11:30am, donations accepted. Mayor Rape also reported that the Seneca Middle School students will come on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:30am-1:30pm as part of the Community Grown Project. Tools and supplies are needed. Cath would like three cases of water to be provided. She inquired if safety vests were available, the Parks Board has some vests. Cath will work on a list of projects and supplies/tools needed.

**Personnel:**

Jason Sarver reported that there will be a meeting this week.

**Finance:**

Greg Such reported that the Butler County Infrastructure Bank loan was approved.

**Streets:**

Don Sims reported that the paving bid openings were at 11:00am today, low bidder was Shields in the amount of \$44,685.00 next was Voelker Paving in the amount of \$44,963.84;

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**Streets Cont.:**

Wiest Asphalt in the amount of \$46,136.34 and Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$52,162.47.

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to award the milling and paving project of Center Street and Mercer Street to Shields Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$44,685.

Frank Grannon inquired on the catch basins and suggested making a list of ones that need repaired/replaced and put it out to bid as part of the MIP Grant. Frank would like to do the three in-house prior to paving. Frank also reported that Council needed to ratify the vote for the catch basin repair on Seneca Drive. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the catch basin repair on Seneca Drive.

**Facilities:**

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

**Grants:**

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

**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 **\$14,686.19**

**Payroll** in the amount of **\$7,300.07**

**General Bills Already Paid** in the amount of **\$17,116.99**

**Fire Tax Bills Payable** in the amount of **\$12,678.36**

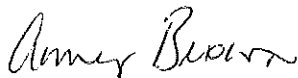
**Parks Board Bills Payable** in the amount of **\$150.00**

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

**Adjourned: 7:52pm**

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the May 2, 2023 In-person and Zoom virtual meeting at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

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

**April 2023**

1. I stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. I spoke to Mike Manteo, US Liner, regarding building permits for roof top exhaust reconstruction following the February fire. I referred Mike to Tom McCosby.
4. I attended April's HARB meeting.
5. I attended April's Council meeting.
6. I received a call from Jeff Bollnd saying he was told his daughter would need a permit for a friend to take engagement pictures in Harmony. I see nothing in the ordinance to that effect. Rodney Gasch advised that there is no ordinance disallowing this. Only if professional photos of the Meeting House on Wise or the Barn on Mercer are to be taken then by HHD policy is permission required by HHD.
7. I completed a Building Permit for a rear deck at 552 Main St.
8. I spoke with Hugh regarding fence zoning requirements.
9. I completed a driveway building permit for the rear parking lot at 562 Main St.
10. I spoke with Anna Mahart who is interested in purchasing a house on Charles St. and wanting to know the zoning district, if a home-based business is allowed and the variance hearing process.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer