

DELMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2019

77 Greensburg Street
Delmont, PA 15626



ELECTED OFFICIALS:

<i>Alyce Urban, Mayor</i>	Present	<i>Ann Lantz</i>	Present
<i>Andrew Shissler, Council President</i>	Present	<i>Becky Matesevac</i>	Present
<i>Bill Marx, Vice President</i>	Present	<i>David Piper, CBO</i>	Present
<i>Stan Cheyne</i>	Present	<i>Pam Simpson -</i>	Absent

EMPLOYEES:

Bill Heaps, Public Works Supervisor	Present
Kellie Miele, Secretary/Treasurer	Present
T.J. Klobucar, Delmont Police Chief	Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

Daniel J. Hewitt, Esq. Solicitor, Avolio Law Group, P.C.	Present
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ENGINEER REPORT:

LSSE Representative Not Able to Attend

RESIDENTS ATTENDING: (ORDERED BY SIGN IN LIST)

Barb Blazek	
Tim and Linda Schmida	Ed Moranduzzo

Non-Resident Citizens

Ed and Matt Rebitch	Georgia Boring – Penn Franklin/Delmont
Apple Festival	Salem News

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Shissler calls meeting to order and join in the Pledge.

STANDARD MONTHLY BUSINESS

Mr. Hewitt announced that there was an Executive Session after the June 11, 2019 Council Meeting to discuss the retention of Mr. Daniel Hewitt as Borough Solicitor after his move to a new law group – Avolio Law Group. Council voted - All Approved.

MEETING MINUTES:

Council reviewed the June Council Meeting Minutes, David Piper made the Motion to Accept the June Council Minutes after the clarification was made to the window company waiting to hear from the DCNR about the French drains. Stan Cheyne Seconded the Motion. All Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Prepared and submitted by Council President, Andrew Shissler, on display, but not read. Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report made by Becky Matesevac. Motion Seconded by Bill Marx. Motion Passed unanimously.

BILLS:

Bills on display but not read. David Piper asked that Comcast bills should be looked over since they seemed high. Bill Marx said he will look into it. The pump station water bill was higher than normal. Bill Heaps said it was due to the trucks and tanks being flushed out. Stan Cheyne made the Motion to Pay the Bills. Ann Lantz Seconded Motion. Motion Passed unanimously without further discussions.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Anna Marie Stackiwicz – 222 Aurora Street

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail fundraiser was a big success. They raised over \$6,000.00. The monies raised will be used to purchase the properties needed to keep the trail going. The Murrysville to Export section will be finished August 17th.

The Delmont Visionary Committee will be conducting a survey via Facebook/email to get a feel for the projects they should focus on. Mrs. Stackiwicz asked Council if it would be permitted to go door to door with flyers for the people that are not on Facebook to submit their ideas. Mrs. Matesevac suggested to put the return address on any flyers so they can either be dropped off at that location, or mailed back if they want. She also reminded Anna Marie that the Library has computers if they wanted to remind residents that they could use them to submit ideas.

Mrs. Stackiwicz will have copies made for the Council members of the IUP recommendations for the expansion of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail, after Mr. Shissler enquired what became of that display at IUP.

Michael Sable – 257 Apple Hill

Mr. Sable told of how the Delmont Fire Department helped with the overflow of water during the past torrential downpours. He asked Council if they were planning to do anything with the swales that are located in the back yards of many of the Apple Hill residents' homes.

Mr. Hewitt asked the property owners provide their contact information to the Borough. He stressed that there is a difference between private property and public piping and ponds.

LSSE will look into the provided names and addresses to determine if they are private property or if there was an easement granted for the Borough to access the properties.

Mr. Bill Marx stressed that the Borough was not 'passing the buck', but the difference between private property owners' responsibilities or Borough issues.

Apple and Arts Festival

Mr. Corey Neil told the audience that the permit has been submitted and they are looking forward to a successful 2019 Apple and Arts Festival at Shields Farm. He thanked the Borough for having the ruts from the trucks and trailers smoothed out from the past festival due to all the mud. With that still in mind, he said there is a scheduled Public Safety meeting on August 3rd at 9:30 a.m. with the bus company, Fort Allen, the local fire departments and EMS support. This is to stay up to date on any help with response to any issues that were encountered with last year's Apple and Arts Festival after the torrential storms moved through the area.

Vicki Walters spoke about the need for volunteers to help the festival be a success. They have 30 vendors and expect 180+ trailers and tents for the crafters. The festival will be setting up starting the Wednesday before and getting everyone out of field by Sunday evening. She asked if the walkways would be able to be widened, but understands that it is a planned walking path. It is not wide enough for trailers.

Barb Blasik – 20 Greensburg Street

Mrs. Blasik spoke of the issue she encounters at her home with all this rain. She is 80 years old and had to clean out the bee-hive drains that get clogged and overflow into her basement. The water is run-off from Route 66 and Agway parking lot. The gravel washes down into the catch basin. She thanked Bill Heaps for his help with trying to keep the drains and catch basins cleaned out, but cannot understand why it is happening. Mr. Hewitt explained that once the water leaves Route 66 and enters into Delmont areas, it becomes the municipality's problem even though it is the pavement causing the issue.

Ed Moranduzzo – 100 Rose Court South

Mr. Moranduzzo wanted to make sure that Council was aware of the dumping issue at the retention pond in the Apple Hill plan.

Ed Rebitch – Rock Springs Road - Salem Township

Mr. Rebitch enquired if there was any news from the DEP? Mr. Hewitt said that there was no new updates. Mr. Rebitch then asked Council if they thought there was a sewage issue in Delmont. He followed up by asking if the Council thought there was a comprehensive plan in place to help with the issue. Mr. Rebitch insisted that Delmont Borough has a storm water issues – not a sewage issue.

Barb Blasik – 20 Greensburg Street

Mrs. Blasik wanted to know if there was a reason that such large trucks are using the Borough roads. She remembered there used to be a weight limit on Greensburg Street. There was a trucker that was 'lost' and had an issue with trying to turn around.

Mr. Hewitt said there is no weight limit on Greenburg Street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENGINEERING REPORT – Representative Not Present

No Changes

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Daniel J. Hewitt, Esq., Avolio Law Group, P.C.

Truck borrowing loan is moving forward.

Mr. Hewitt expects to hear from DCED regarding the paving loan for the Borough the week of July 17, 2019.

Properties in violation of Borough ordinances for maintaining their properties at 210 East Pittsburgh Street and 275 Rose Court North will be cut this upcoming week. The Borough will back bill the property owners for the cost of the maintenance. If they do not reimburse the Borough, they will have a municipal lien placed on their property.

PUBLIC SAFETY/POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Mayor, Alyce Urban

Mayor Urban told Council that she stopped by the new Ace Hardware store. They are hoping for a 'soft opening' the week of July 21, 2109. September will be the Grand Opening. The Farmer's Market is going really well. There will be a Sock Hop in the Parklett on the 24th of August. More information will be provided next meeting. The Fire Department has been attending the required monthly Safety Meetings. The Mayor thanked the VFD for helping residents with the flooding from the torrential rains.

Chief Klobucar provided the Delmont Borough Police Department June Report. Copies were made available for the attendees. 146 Total Calls – 80 Traffic Citations, 6 Criminal Arrest and 2 Non-Traffic Citations.

Tyler Strini, part-time officer, gave his two weeks' notice. Becky Matesevac Made the Motion to Accept Tyler Strini's resignation letter – David Piper Seconded the Motion – All Approved. Chief Klobucar asked Council for approval to hire Elizabethann Sage to fill the open part-time officer position. Becky Matesevac Made the Motion to hire Elizabethann Sage as part-time Delmont Police Officer – David Piper Seconded the Motion – All Approved.

Chief Klobucar spoke on how it is getting harder to find candidates for police officers. Civil Service participation is down. This is becoming an issue for not just local municipalities, but on the state level.

BUILDING AND RENTALS Ann Lantz and Bill Marx, Council Vice President

Mr. Bill Marx told Council that they received one (1) bid on the Borough Building roof shingling. The bid was \$136,800.00. That was far above the previous bids of under \$25,000.00. Bill Marx Made the Motion to reject the-bid on the roof. Ann Lantz Seconded the Motion – All Approved. Mr. Marx will check with LSSE if they could explain why the bid came in so high and why there was only one (1) bidder.

The windows were delivered for the Borough Building. They will be installed – starting in the upstairs daycare area first since those are deemed in the worst shape. The work will have to be done during the weekend since they have children in all the rooms during the weekdays.

Mr. Marx expressed concern with the newly finished basketball courts. The decking can lift up easily. Mr. Cheyne is going to check if that is the final way they will be finished. Mr. Marx suggested checking into surveillance cameras. Maybe 2 trail cams that would be on a 24-hour loop. He will also look into a security company to see what the options may be for watching that the new basketball area is protected against vandalism.

STREETS/ROADS/STORM WATER Stan Cheyne and Ann Lantz

Stan Cheyne asked Council if bidding for the 2 intersections (Apple Hill and Valley Stream) can move forward. Mr. Cheyne Made the Motion to move forward with this issue. Bill Marx Seconded the Motion – All Approved.

PERSONNEL – Becky Matesevac and Pam Simpson

Mrs. Matesevac said there was nothing new to report regarding Personnel or Insurance.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Andy Shissler, Council President, Becky Matesevac

The “Big Picture” monthly report for the General Funds shows that the Borough is on track with revenue and expenses. Numbers reflect being 50% through the fiscal year. There was a little higher revenue reflecting the \$40,000.00 restitution of which \$22,000.00 will have to be sent to the insurance company. Expenses were a little higher due to the last payment on the new basketball court in Newhouse Park.

Sewage Fund Report is showing the revenues and expenses are on track for the time period.

SEWAGE COMMITTEE Stan Cheyne and Bill Marx

No additional information was given.

Mr. Cheyne Made the Motion to move forward with the upgrade for the computer with touchscreen and new programming at the pump station, SO 0398-02. The original touch screen will be re-flashed and used as a spare. The cost is \$600.00. Bill Marx Seconded the Motion – All Approved.

SHIELDS FARM – Andrew Shissler, Council President

Mr. Shissler spoke on the Log Cabin restoration effort. He heard of a cabin in Ohio that was being reclaimed. The oak logs are a match for the log cabin here in Delmont. The logs were used on the interior of the Ohio cabin – so they are in good shape. He has not heard a date as of yet to see if the work can be completed before the Pilgrimage this year. Mr. Shissler will check with the person from whom he purchased the other logs (now under tarps at the Borough Garage) to see if he will buy them back for his use.

GRANTS – David Piper.

Mr. Piper did not have any new information on any grants. He was checking into the plaques for the historic sites in the Borough, but the Visionary Committee has already followed through on that.

CONTRACTED TRASH – Stan Cheyne

Mr. Cheyne reminded all that the new rates for trash removal will be in effect September 1, 2019. This was in the contractual agreement with Republic.

Reminder - no glass in recycle bins! Westmoreland Cleanways is a good web site for references to all available recycling in the county.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS: The Borough received a ‘Thank You Note’ from the Library for helping make the fund raiser – Between the Stacks – a success.

The Borough had the computer from the Shola matter returned from evidence. Mr. Cheyne Made the Motion to donate the computer after it is wiped clean to the Delmont Library. Mr. Marx Seconded the Motion – All Approved.

Mr. Cheyne said the Recreation Committee received a grant from the Westmoreland Community Foundation for \$800. This will be used to purchase 2 benches for the new basketball court area.

Mr. Piper asked Council if they would consider revisiting the cost of the Sewage Lateral Tests for seniors in the Borough. This will be discussed at a later date. Mr. Hewitt stated that many older homes do not turn over. Some would not meet the DEP Standards which will be getting stricter in time. Mr. Rebitch asked how the Borough can enforce the tenants and landlords in the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT: Mrs. Matesevac Moves to Adjourn. Mr. Marx Seconds. Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kellie E. Miele
Secretary