

**Oakland Borough Council
General Business Meeting Minutes
380 State Street
Susquehanna, PA 18847
July 18th, 2024**

Announcement: The Oakland Borough Council held an executive session on July 18th from 6:00 to 6:53pm for personnel, contractual, and litigation purposes.

Meeting Call to Order

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence

1. Agenda:

- a. Ms. Senese added Resolution # 2024-7 to new business. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiter, to adopt the amended agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

2. Approval of minutes:

- a. Ms. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiter, to approve the June 20th, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Public Comment:

Ms. Senese opened public comment at 7:01pm. Susan Arthur, 5157 Prospect Street in the Borough, inquired if she could receive receipts for the taxes she remits to the Borough with the commission payment for those taxes collected rather than mailing them in two separate envelopes. Ms. Senese thanked her for her public comment.

4. Community Development:

- a. The committee did not meet
- b. Ms. Senese stated that committee member Nathan Stento had organized International Paper to do a volunteer event on August 11th to do work in preparation of the dog park at the Oakland Park. Work would include raking and clearing underbrush.
- c. Ms. Senese stated that the Vacancy Ordinance Committee had been unable to meet but would be holding a meeting on July 23rd. The committee will consist of Brad Krayeski, Roy Williams, Valerie Senese, and Larena Nickerson.

- d. Ms. Senese shared that Mr. Muiter had reminded Borough residents of the Pet Ordinance via the Facebook page and that if they have a pet-related issue they should fill out a complaint form. The ordinance may need to be re-vamped if problems continue.

5. Financial Reports:

- a. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiter, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gall, to approve and pay Bill List as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

6. Correspondence:

- a. By recommendation of the hiring committee, Ms. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Krayeski, to approve the hiring of Trish Hendrickson for the position of Borough Administrator at \$16.12 an hour with a 90-day probationary period rate of \$14.52 an hour. All in favor, motion carried. Ms. Senese stated that Ms. Hendrickson's first day of work would be July 29th.

7. Codes Report:

- a. Mr. Krayeski shared that the COG meeting was uneventful, but that they would be looking into solar panel ordinances since that is something that is becoming more prevalent in the area. COG will have draft ordinances to follow if the Borough ever finds the need to create an ordinance. COG also decided that it is going to create an appeals board for the IPMC and this will be discussed further at the next meeting. Mr. Krayeski further stated that a new letter was being drafted regarding the rental ordinance which would be going out soon and that they were watching a property on River Road for compliance with a driveway permit.

8. Mayor's Report:

- a. Randy Glover was not present and there was no report given.

9. Finance Committee Report:

- a. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gall, to agree to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Water Authority. All in favor, motion carried.

10. Food Pantry Update:

- a. Ms. Senese shared that Borough resident Marie Curtis was willing to become the food pantry manager so they would continue conversation with her.

11. Grant Update:

- a. **DCNR Park Update:** Ms. Senese shared that reducing the scope of the project was not an option but that they were advised to look into talking to the contractor and seeing if they would hold their bid price until next year. DCNR is willing to give the Borough more grant money, but that money would have to be matched. The current DCNR grant money is available until 2026 and even then, could be extended if need be.
- b. **Westfall Avenue Bid Openings:** There were two interested bidders on both phases of the sidewalk project. For Phase B, Bolands Excavating bid \$202,807 and Pioneer Construction Inc bid \$177, 319.75. For Phase A, Bolands Excavating bid \$92,229 and Pioneer Construction bid \$113,641.40. After some consideration and discussion, the decision was made to go back to KSG and to the funders and try to determine what could be done about there only being two bidders, and how to cover Phase A which exceeds the grant amount. The goal is that a bidder will be chosen at the August meeting.
- c. There was no update to share on the Comprehensive Survey.

12. Old/Tabled Business:

- a. Mr. Deakin shared that Charles Aliano was trying to nail down a meeting date for River Bounty.
- b. The appeals board update was provided under the Codes report.

13. New Business:

- a. Mr. Muiter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gall, to approve the Griffiths Engineering LLC proposal dated June 4th, 2024 for professional services to Oakland Borough to not exceed \$5,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Solicitor John Martin shared that when the Sewer Authority was created, it was created with a 50-year lifespan which expired in 2021. The Sewer Authority recently took notice of this and has asked Oakland, Susquehanna, and Lanesboro to revive the authority for 50 more years, retroactive to 2021. Mr. Martin had read the resolution and recommended that the Borough pass it. Mr. Gall made a motion, seconded by Mr. Muiter, to approve Resolution #2024-7 Reviving the Sewer Authority. All in favor, motion carried.

14. Adjournment: Ms. Gall, made a motion, seconded by Ms. White to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned.