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Borough of Rosslyn Farms

July 9, 2018

Regular Meeting

Executive Session – At 6:45 PM, Council convened an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. The Executive session was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The regular meeting of Council was called to order by President Steve Tassarò on Monday July 9, 2018 at the Rosslyn Farms Community Center. The following members of Council attended: T. Stacy; G. Ragazzino; S. George; and N. Prepelka. Also present were Mayor Stover, Solicitor Conlon and Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone.

Minutes:

Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 11, 2018 regular meeting of Council as presented. Ragazzino/Prepelka, unanimous.

Bills:

After review of current bills to be paid, Councilperson George asked if the costs of the Bocce Court construction were authorized and approved. President Tassarò explained that all of the costs will be reimbursed through contributions already committed by residents of the Borough and who also assisted in the construction.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the bills in June and to-date in July. Prepelka/Stacy, unanimous.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone gave the June financial report.

Opportunity for Citizens to Speak:

Sandra Pack of 4 Winthrop was recognized to address Council. She proceeded to voice her dissatisfaction with the appearance of the Borough focusing on the property located at 318 Rosslyn Road and the Penn Dot property. She distributed copies of her meeting with a Penndot official. Rick Houser of Penndot offered the following actions:

Penndot will mow the field 4 times per year but will not accept responsibility for the area being used for the Community Garden. Garden members will need to maintain the property from the garden to the Madigson property line.

Penndot provided a map of the area.

The unsightly condition of the property at 318 Rosslyn Road was discussed. Ms. Pack was advised that the Borough is in the process of taking the required action that will lead to the improvement of conditions. This action will follow appropriate zoning legal steps the

Borough must follow. The owner of the property died and the property is now the responsibility of the mortgage holder.

President Tassarò thanked her for her comments but reminded her that the Borough does not own the property and is limited as to actions that can be initiated.

Penny Jones of 5 Revere Road asked to address Council. She stated that approximately 20 homes have sold since the garden was established and that it is her opinion that new incoming residents appreciate that the municipality has a community garden.

Tony and Bonnie Staab of 401 Rosslyn Road asked to address Council about the physical appearance of the Penndot property. It was their opinion that the wild flower garden created by Penndot is not objectionable but an asset to the Borough.

Jim Strutz will be working with Penndot to coordinate the grass cutting.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Daniel Conlon was welcomed by Council as the new Rosslyn Farms Solicitor replacing Peter Molinaro. President Tassarò asked Solicitor Conlon's opinion of the letters sent out by BIUI addressing Code violations i.e. construction vehicles, property condition, etc.

Mayor Stover commented on his investigation of the property at 318 Rosslyn Road. He contacted the Bank enforcing the Fannie Mae takeover of the property who explained that is not legal to go on the property until after the scheduled eviction on July 23, 2018. After the eviction, the bank will correct the problems.

Solicitor Conlon shared his review of the enforcement procedures offered by the bank. He stated that both owner and tenant are responsible for complying with the code. At council's request, he will immediately send out letters of enforcement that will require compliance including assessing the owner with the costs of cleanup including lien of property if necessary, or, filing criminal action with the magistrate.

Council discussed the options. Councilperson Prepelka said the simple way would be to send out notice giving a three day cure period and have Road Dept. clean up yard if owners' have not complied.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Solicitor to prepare and send letters serving notice to 318 Rosslyn Road tenant and owner. Prepelka/George, unanimous.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Stover gave the Police report which included domestic violence, mental issues, PFA Served. Respond to a smoke alarm, and utility lines down.

Report of Borough Council Committees:

COG – Councilperson George reported on the COG meeting discussions which included:
Allegheny Green Web Collaboration discussing developing of trails.
Stowe Township having Budget Problems
Ingram – receiving assistance from CMU in addressing blight issues.

COMMUNITY CENTER – Councilperson Stacy responded that Borough Council and the Community Center Fund will share equally in the replacement cost of the Bell Tower.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$10,000 to replace the Bell tower. Prepelka/Stacy, unanimous.

President Tassarò stressed that these projects and others need to be addressed to maintain the assets of the Borough.

WEB SITE – Councilperson Ragazzino reported that about 90% of the set-up of the web site has been completed. We may be able to go live within the next week.

ROADS/SEWERS – see President’s Report.

PARKS – no report

TENNIS COURTS – no report.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – a motion was made and seconded to hire Carolyn Bucci to fulfill the duties of the Secretary of the Borough of Rosslyn Farms on a part time basis of approximately 20 hours a week but less than 1,000 hours per year at a salary of \$2,000 per month. George/Prepelka, unanimous.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT - President Tassarò reported on the following:

Borough Garage Construction – almost completed. Garage doors to be installed and complete the punch list.

Road Project due to commence around the second week in August and should take about two weeks to complete. This project will consider and include all aspects of consent order or storm sewer compliance.

Roving speed monitor device – statistical reporting is becoming more accurate as we learn the software system. The location A. shows an average speed of 20 MPH and a high of 35 MPH with a sampling of 347 vehicles per day. Location B shows an average speed of 31 MPH and a high of 55 MPH with a sampling of 493 vehicles per day.

Truck Traffic- President Tassaro informed Council that the truck turning radius report is now available and should help determine the signs that can be placed limiting truck traffic. We will need to discuss this information with Robinson Twp. and Penndot before moving forward.

Tax Collector - Solicitor Conlon advised that due to a vacancy in the Tax Collector office, it will be necessary to appoint a tax collector. This should be done at the August meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Prepelka, unanimous.

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Maccarone.

Steve Tassaro - Council President

Samuel A. Maccarone - Borough Sec./Treas.