

BOROUGH OF LEESPORT

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

The meeting of the Council of the Borough of Leesport was called to order by Vice President David Reimer., on the above date for the Leesport Borough Council, 27 S. Canal Street, Leesport PA, 19533, in the Leesport Borough Hall, Leesport PA 19533, at 6 P.M. Present were Reimer, Maderia, Moyer, Walborn, Strause (on Zoom) and Orr. Moquin was absent. Also present were Mayor Thomas Fronina, MST Sandra L. Pascavage, Engineer Jason Newhard, Code Enforcement Officer Brad Pflum and Solicitor Chris Hartman, Esq.

A motion was made by Moyer and seconded by Orr to accept tonight's agenda as advertised, all voted for the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 31, 2023

GENERAL

CHECKING	666.71
MM	459,126.95
CD	32,932.09

WATER

CHECKING	672.95
MM	134,216.10
CD I	48,622.07
CD II	42,889.31

STATE

CHECKING	194.59
MM	47,816.19

CODE ENFORCEMENT

DISTRICT JUSTICE	899.00
	1,287.20

SPECIAL FUNDS

Sesquicentennial Fund	14,228.57
Recreation-Rec Board	112,901.28
Payroll fund	902.36
Pension	343,278.44 (7/31/2023)

A motion was made by Maderia and seconded by Walborn to approve the August 2023, minutes, all yes.

BILLS PAID

20-Sep-23

STATE

09/22/2023	1604	Met Ed	2000 · Accounts Payable	4,150.00
09/22/2023	1605	Telco Inc.	2000 · Accounts Payable	1,067.52
				5217.52

WATER

09/22/2023	4265	American Continent ...	2000 · Accounts Payable	2,773.23
09/22/2023	4266	Elite Opps	2000 · Accounts Payable	2,000.00
09/22/2023	4267	Exeter Supply Inc.I	2000 · Accounts Payable	570.00
09/22/2023	4268	Highmark Blue Shiel...	2000 · Accounts Payable	5,435.06
09/22/2023	4269	Kris Wholaver	2000 · Accounts Payable	360.00
09/22/2023	4270	Longhorn Landscaping	2000 · Accounts Payable	2,500.00
09/22/2023	4271	M.J. Reider Associat...	2000 · Accounts Payable	444.80
09/22/2023	4272	MET-ED	2000 · Accounts Payable	1,070.00
09/22/2023	4273	Promax Inc.	2000 · Accounts Payable	3,286.00
09/22/2023	4274	Southern States -Mas...	2000 · Accounts Payable	4,813.49
09/22/2023	4275	Spotts, Stevens and ...	2000 · Accounts Payable	3,317.80
09/22/2023	4276	Summit Valley Outd...	2000 · Accounts Payable	7,089.00
09/22/2023	4277	T.A.Duffey	2000 · Accounts Payable	9,335.50
09/22/2023	4278	United Concordia-De...	2000 · Accounts Payable	327.96
09/22/2023	4279	USAbLe Life Ins.	2000 · Accounts Payable	117.00
09/22/2023	4280	Well Care	2000 · Accounts Payable	428.40

GENERAL

43868.24

09/22/2023	8489	Affordable Pest Cont...	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	616.00
09/22/2023	8490	Berks County Solid ...	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	500.00
09/22/2023	8491	Cougles Recycling Inc.	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	1,356.62
09/22/2023	8492	Frontier	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	324.81
09/22/2023	8493	Hartman, Valeriano, ...	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	2,425.50
09/22/2023	8494	JDR Contracting, LLC	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	844.11
09/22/2023	8495	Kantners Tire Service	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	1,392.00
09/22/2023	8496	Kistler & O'Brien Inc.	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	241.32
09/22/2023	8497	Kuzans Hardware	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	7,958.20
09/22/2023	8498	Lift Inc.-Reading Tra...	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	233.79
09/22/2023	8499	LTL Consultants, LT...	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	3,527.79
09/22/2023	8500	MET-ED	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	380.00
09/22/2023	8501	Northern Berks Regi...	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	38,685.02
09/22/2023	8502	Rhoads Energy	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	1,618.51
09/22/2023	8503	RTC	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	1,550.00
09/22/2023	8504	Tompkins Financial	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	32,000.00
09/22/2023	8505	Truckco Inc.	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	200.00
09/22/2023	8506	Waste Industries Inc.	200.20 · Accounts Pay...	18,027.40

111881.07

A motion was made by Moyer and seconded by Maderia to approve the September bills, all yes.

A motion was made by Walborn and seconded by Moyer to approve the August financial report, all yes.

A motion was made by Madeira and seconded by Walborn to approve the August budget, all yes.

Correspondence

- 1. our engineer's monthly report**
- 2. NBRP monthly report**
- 3. code enforcement report and copies of letters sent to residents**
- 4. our trash and recycling totals**
- 5. our chlorine totals for the month**
- 6. our water report**
- 7. minutes from the NBRP**
- 8. a letter from Epting extending their project approval/rejection until December 20, 2023**
- 9. a letter from our pension actuary informing the borough that our MMO for 2024 is \$6092**
- 10. a copy of a letter from DEP to Epting developers regarding their last submission to them for the Arsenic remediation**

Guests

1. Jordan Becker of 465 Miriam Avenue regarding his driveway issues after the road resurfacing ...the engineer will look into the issues of the driveways on Miriam Avenue after the resurfacing
2. Stephanie Schrubber and Marissa Loeb representing the SVCL thanking the borough for their support in the past and hoping for continued support in the future
3. Elaine Strause of the Historical Society sharing that Community Days was a success and the new stage donated by Rocky Santilli for his wife Virginia is great
4. Wendy Griffith of 115 Main Street asking clarification of recent violations and for an extension to complete all the tasks....she was given a 30 day extension
5. Chris Waskco of 37 Railroad Avenue, also asking clarification of recent violations and for an extension to complete all the tasks...he was given a 30 day extension also
6. Mary Landis of 29 Railroad Avenue experiencing parking issues on Railroad Avenue

Mayor – Mayor Fronina reported the following:

1. our stage is coming along great
2. we need to have the homes on Centre Avenue cleaned up -
3. the Kleffel tournament is soon
4. the planters placed by the Lockhouse look nice
5. we have too much speeding throughout the borough..we need speed bumps

Committee Reports

Sewer - Madeira reported the following:

- 1. Monthly Report**
- 2. Work is underway**
- 3. Bern Twp has not contributed**
- 4. our project is on schedule**
- 5. our temporary treatment is on site and running well**

Code Enforcement – Brad Pflum reported the following:

1. our monthly report is on file

Personnel – Reimer reported the following:

1. we will be considering hiring a part-time road maintenance worker...we are working on the qualifications to share with our committee and council

Police- Chief Keiser reported the following:

1. our monthly report is on file
2. the borough's electronic speed sign was struck by a school bus on Main St...the bracket is bent...we will have it checked and repaired or replaced if necessary

Fire Company – Ken Quell reported the following:

1. our monthly report is on file
2. the fire company is asking council to prepare and adopt an ordinance that allows the fire company to begin billing for calls
3. a gun raffle and corn hole tournament will be this weekend

Recycling – Orr reported the following:

1. our totals are on file
2. we are discussing bringing our recycling yard back to our area and applying for a grant through the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for equipment and fencing
3. we are discussing the renewal of our contract with Berks Soil and Stone

Engineer- Jason Newhard reported the following:

- 1. we discussed the DEP letter sent to the Epting developers**
- 2. we may not need a traffic light at Shackamaxon St if the Epting project goes forth**
- 3. we should meet with Ontelaunee Twp sometime in October regarding the Epting agreement conditions going forth if the development materializes**
- 4. we are having some issues with the driveways on Miriam Avenue after the resurfacing**
- 5. the contractor gave us a price of \$40,000 to make improvements to Scott Drive to eliminate water runoff onto Centre Avenue**
- 6. we should have an appraisal shortly for the Emery property on Water Street**
- 7. well #5 electric is being installed today for the new generator**

Solicitor – Chris Hartman, Esq., reported the following:

1. we were unable to purchase the lot on Main Street at the sheriff's sale due to the owner paying the delinquent taxes

Building and Properties – Moyer reported the following:

1. Monthly Report
2. we are looking into purchasing a piece of land from Frontier Communications
3. our solicitor attended a sheriff's sale recently to purchase a piece of land for the borough but the owner paid the taxes, and the land was pulled off the sale docket

Recreation – Moyer reported the following:

1. **Monthly Report**
2. **Our stage is almost complete..we will be naming it shortly for our donation benefactor's wife, the Virginia Santilli Memorial Stage**
3. **We recently received an offer of picnic tables from a church in Reading**
4. **We will have our stage door knobs keyed to our master keys and have keys made for the stage rental**
5. **We are preparing a list of projects for the future**
6. **We have made many improvements at the recreational area this year**
7. **We have plans to have the playground bathrooms refinished**
8. **we recently had a tree at the playground that split and had it removed**
9. **the pool will be closed up September 25**
10. **Steve Moyer's employees cleaned up the trash at the playgrounds for us recently.....**

Water and Municipal Authority – Walborn reported the following:

1. **Monthly Report**
2. **Our totals are on file**
5. **Elite Ops, our water operator, has suggested we purchase chlorine detectors and alarms for our three wells..a motion was made by Walborn and seconded by Moyer to purchase the chlorine detectors and alarms for our three wells for \$6402 from Hydro Instruments, all voted for the motion**
6. **French drains will be dug at our Wells #3-4-5 as soon as our generators and LP tanks are placed before our chlorine analyzers and RAFA systems are installed**
7. **We have awarded the LP tank project to Suburban Propane**
8. **We have received an extension from the Epting development for approval or rejection of their plan until December 20, 2023**

Roads and Lights – Madeira reported the following:

1. **Our truck was recently repaired and after front end work, we were told that our Boss plow is too large for that truck and is causing damage, discussion of replacing Boss plow with a Western plow of the correct size for this truck..we can get a quote and purchase from Storks on Co Stars.....we will get a quote**

2. We are having 2 street lights repaired on Degler Avenue
3. We have a Co Stars quote from Plasterer for \$141,500 for a new backhoe
4. Our backhoe has become unusable because of needed costly repairs and old age...we are able to rent/lease a new backhoe from Fishers Rental for \$17,982 (\$2997 a month) for 6 month, which includes, repairs, maintenance, glass, tires ..we have three quotes.. Kuzans was least expensive, but when they delivered one to us, it was found to be damaged, and they did not have another one....a motion was made by Madeira and seconded by Moyer to extend the time lease for the backhoe from Fisher Rental for 6 months, all yes
5. Hopefully, we are able to apply for and be awarded a grant for a backhoe and fencing if we start up a recycling yard again

Unfinished Business

1. We are waiting for the appraisal for the Emery property on Water St
2. council was asked to consider celebrating Halloween on the weekend before Halloween....after discussion, it was decided to keep the Halloween celebration on October 31....a motion was made by Moyer and seconded by Walborn to advertize Halloween Trick or Treat for October 31, from 6 pm to 9 pm, all yes

Old Business

We are still discussing the remedy for the poor drainage at the Lockhouse property

New Business

1. We have a new draft contract from the ARL for \$2.50 per capita for one year then the cost will go up to \$7 per capita following years.. We have contacted a resident in town that is very involved with feral cat care and they said there is not too much out there anymore for service and that the ARL might be expensive, but they are the only ones offering any service and we do need a contract with someone...a motion was made by Moyer and seconded by Madeira to accept a contract with the ARL for \$2.50 per capita for 2024, all yes
2. Our MMO for our Pension plan is \$6092 for 2024
3. Our Christmas tree lighting will be December 2.
4. Our upcoming Harvest Moon event will be November 4
5. We have our draft 2024 budget for review....we should have a motion in October to advertise to pass in November
6. We also have our 2024 Tax Rate Ordinance to have a motion to advertise in October and pass in November

EMC – Reimer reported the following:

1. we have just completed some training
2. we are currently conducting the five year review of the Ontelaunee Dam Emergency Plan..we will be posting signs

Good and Welfare

1. Brad Pflum thanked the fire company for refreshing a memorial for this brother Tom at the fire company lawn between the engine house and the post office

A motion was made by Madeira and seconded by Orr to adjourn at 7:23 P.M., all yes, meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Attested _____