

Milford Borough Council Workshop Minutes 4/13/21

Roll call/Pledge of Allegiance- Frank Tarquinio called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Present via zoom were: Borough Council President Frank Tarquinio, Vice President Adriane Wendell, Council members Peter Cooney, Joseph Dooley, Maria Farrell, George Lutfy, Mayor Sean Strub, Treasurer Greg Myer, and Borough Secretary Laurie DiGeso. Solicitor Anthony Magnotta and Council Member Rob Ciervo were not present. Mayor Strub left meeting at 7:30pm.

Motion to accept the agenda by Dooley/Wendell. AIF.

Public Comment: None

State of the Budget: Greg Myer- \$148,874 in real estate taxes collected March -April. Transfer tax \$25,959 against a budget for the year of \$25,000. Department of Community Economic Development would like to see Borough have between 3-4 months of cash on hand until RE taxes are collected. In the last few years, we used money at the end of the year for the general fund. Have used more than we budgeted. Cannot keep spending more than we budget. Dooley read a list of items the Borough did to raise revenue and save money. Suggested other items to help save money and raise revenue. Mention of EIT to help with this. Strub- asked if we have EIT, can we still get the additional 5 MILS every year? Dooley-yes. Myer- a lot of people would see a decrease in taxes. Cooney- not fair to give away 1% of income to EIT. Strub- what could we cut if we do not do EIT? Tarquinio- even if we got rid of garbage collection, we still have to pay for the truck. Dooley- Every senior would see a 10% reduction in property taxes. Wendell- we need to do a thorough education for residents and then continue the conversation.

Comprehensive Plan: Tarquinio- Milford Township submitted their comments and we are waiting on the County. Once Simone Collins presents the plan we can vote, and maybe adopt it by a special meeting the second week of May.

Traffic Study: Need to re- evaluate the members of the traffic study committee. The study includes intersections, sidewalk traffic, and this was a \$15,000 budget item voted on a few years ago.

537 Plan: Received all the comments from Milford Township. HRG Submitted a proposal to the federal government asking to cover the cost of plan. It's a long shot but opportunity came up to seek approval for funding to pay for the 537 plan. 537 Plan should be submitted to DEP this week.

Storm Water: Brian Snyder working on this currently, they have helped write grants for us to seek out funding for studies. Water authority met with us both of whom know all about the water in the Borough and CD Smith who does all the engineering for the water supply for the Borough They will give us an estimate of what it would cost to get engineering for the different stages. Looking for grants to pay for this as well. Wendell-considered infrastructure, right? Tarquinio- yes. Wendell- may be money coming up for this. Tarquinio- if council knows of anyone who would like to be a part of this committee, please let me know.

Mini Park Grant: \$25,000 grant for Ann Street Park Plan. Meeting with DCNR- suggested mini park grant due to the fact that we would probably not qualify for a master plan park grant. Dooley- should we inventory our parks? Check for safety issues, what is the size of the park, name, etc. Tarquinio- yes, we should inventory the street as well.

PA Museum approval of Certified Local Government: Grant application is moving along through the process. If granted we can review the Design guide.

Cupola: Cooney- Chimney should be fixed first. Cost is \$3800.00 to repoint the bricks. Still waiting on estimate for Borough Hall improvements and cleaning.

Street Paving: \$97,000 in liquid fuels money. Will ask Paul to inventory the roads to see what needs to be done.

No thru traffic signs: Harford Street is primarily done and Broad street will be continued next. Need to order another 25 signs to complete.

Street Line Painting: Line painting done 1-1 ½ years ago. Told it was to last about 5 years. Didn't last a year. A plus striping to come out to reevaluate but said it was not done under the right conditions and that we should just repaint the lines moving forward.

Mott Street and Cherry Alley Paving: Borough Secretary put calls out for three estimates. Has received one so far and is waiting on the other two. Will follow up tomorrow with remaining companies.

Sidewalks: We should survey sidewalks, specifically by craft show. Streetlights also need cleaning.

Committees: Tarquinio- in the past, three people on council would take care of each committee. Two committees dealing with 3 aspects of the Borough each. Farrell- believe this would be helpful to new council members. Tarquinio- we also need a grants committee to help the Borough identify grant sources and find grant writers. Strub- Yana Thatcher has been good at getting grants for MEC and Shade Tree, might want to consider asking if she would be interested.

Property Maintenance Ordinance: Wendell- some small changes- IPMC- International Code we currently follow is a 2015 version. 102.6- historic buildings. Dooley- How will this affect our historic district? Currently states the current version would not apply to historic buildings unless it was a health and safety issue. ARB does not deal with internal work, only outside repairs/renovations Will ask solicitor about this. Also asked about defining code official as appointed position for which he /she cannot be removed except for cause subject to due process review. We do reorganize every two years so we would reappoint someone for cause not simply due to wanting to get rid of them. Zoning Hearing Board could also act as an appeals board for any appeals to the Ordinance. Ordinance will allow us to impose a ticketing process for rules not being followed and to allow code enforcement officer or Police to enforce the ordinance and allow citations. Will also help to identify problems with the rental properties. Next step is to vote on ordinance at next council meeting.

Change to a Ticketing Enforcement: Enforcement to allow code enforcement officer or Police to enforce the ordinance and allow citations.

Parade: Discussion of celebratory parade for volunteers and essential workers to include a memorial for those lost to the pandemic. A proposed date of 9/25/21. Tarquinio mentioned if predictions look good otherwise wait until next Spring.

Mott Street and River Road Parking: Discussion of parking during the summer on Mott Street. Last year there was an issue with parking due to the use of the swimming hole etc. Proposal to make one side of the street no parking from May through September. Even if it is just on weekends. Cooney agreed to talk to residents on the street to see how they feel about no parking. Possible resolution to close one side of streets to be discussed at next meeting. Will also ask Paul from the Street Department to paint no parking yellow line at corner of Harford and Mott Street and put out trash cans again as well. On River Road there are currently 3 spots. They are not currently marked for residents only. Need to think of a way to limit that to residents.

Pike County Planning Commission Representation: Pike County is looking for a nominee to join their Planning Commission. Tarquinio- we should find someone and nominate them. Tarquinio said he would do it if council wanted to recommend him.

Wendell- not on the agenda but has anyone had a chance to look into the “doggie-do” receptacle? We should consider looking into these for the parks to help with the problem of dog waste. Tarquinio- perhaps a ticketing system to enforce that would work as well. Wendell will check with Shawn Bolles about cost.

Public Comment: Tim Haar- Thank you to Joe Dooley for letting him in to the zoom meeting. He stated that he walks River every day. He doesn't drive or park that way but would like to be able to.

Motion to Adjourn by Dooley/Wendell. AIF

Adjourned 8:15pm