

Milford Borough Regular Council Meeting Minutes 12/15/20

Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance- President Frank Tarquinio called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Present: President Frank Tarquinio, Vice President Adriane Wendell, Councilmembers Rob Ciervo, Luke Turano, Joseph Dooley, Peter Cooney, Susan Lyddon, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta, Treasurer Greg Myer, and Borough Secretary Laurie DiGesio.
The meeting was advertised and open to the public.

Meeting was called to order by Frank Tarquinio with a reminder that the following day was the public comment meeting on the Comprehensive Plan, and Thursday 12/17 was the second public comment meeting on the Act 537 plan. Roll call and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Agenda adopted by motion of **Ciervo/Wendell**.

Minutes from 11/2, 11/17, 12/1, adopted by **Dooley/Turano. All in favor**

Tarquinio asked to make a change to the order of the agenda so that correspondence was addressed first.

- Correspondence

Laurie DiGesio read letter from Dori Tighe and Milford Borough residents concerning the proposed bandshell at Ann Street Park.

Dori Tighe mentioned that she felt strongly that this would be destructive overdevelopment of the park and that it devalues the surrounding properties.

Mark Stevens said the existing gazebo is in keeping with the parks look and agrees with the letter and Dori.

Deb Stevens asked who the bandshell would benefit. She felt it would not benefit the local residents but maybe the commercial district. She wanted to address Luke Turano's comments from last month about that part of the park being a mud pit – she watches children play there all the time. Mentioned she has had drunk people jump in her yard and vomit etc. during events at the park. In 2016 her daughter was struck by a car on Ann Street. How will the Borough control all this traffic and people?

Turano said that what he actually said was the grass was growing in that section and that he frequents the park with his children every day. Noted that there would be more to come. The next step was to go the community. We were looking for hard stop first. There were none but we were going to discuss this with the community next. Thanked the residents for their input.

Tarquinio mentioned that the Council would send a letter to Simone Collins who is working on the Comprehensive plan so that the residents could express their vision for the Borough parks. Eugene Murphy spoke about the community coming to the Borough Council and nobody has said that they thought a bandshell was a good idea. Fence around the park should not be taken down. Taxpayers funding other people's enjoyment of music is bizarre to him.

- Public Comment:

Nancy Hanna commented that she owns the big red brick house behind the ball field of Ann Street park. What would be seating and ticket arrangements for concerts at the park. People have parked along her property and used her property during these concerts. The music in her living room has been so loud in years past. Too loud. Always sees the park being used by young people for recreation. She would be upset if a bandshell was put in its place.

Eugene Murphy said the opera in the park was very nice. People went around the community to ask people not to use mowers, blowers etc. while the opera was happening and feels the same respect should be given to the sound coming out of the park as well.

Mayor Strub commented that how this Council operates is that ideas are developed at public meetings and discussed collaboratively. They do not do things simply to gain commercial interest. This is open for discussion and the residents are encouraged to be a part of these committees. Deb Stevens said she would like to be a part of the parks committee.

Melinda Storey also grew up in the red brick house with Nancy Hanna. Stated that the music is very loud during concerts and not everyone enjoys the music. Parking is an issue and there are a lot of people. Hopes the council will consider that when deciding.

- Treasurer's Report:

Greg Myer- \$663,523 of RE taxes collected. Need \$4,476.00 to meet the budget. Doing very well with RE Transfer tax. Collected \$27,150 over budget.

Many line items are right on target. In good shape. Wendell asked if we can get a different version of the report or in a spreadsheet or landscape view. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by **Dooley/Turano. AIF.**

- Certificates of Appropriateness:

405-407 Broad Street- Sean Strub- Redo roofing. Recommended by ARB to Council as presented.

112-114 West Harford Street-Milford Mart PA, Corp.- Gas Station signs, paint, stucco, and stone façade recommended by ARB to council for approval.

Motion to approve both by **Ciervo/Turano AIF.**

- New Business:

Solicitor Magnotta explained resolution for small borrowing. This would be used for the garbage truck purchase. Commitment letter from Dime Bank to fund the purchase at a 2.97% interest rate for about \$65,028 for a jointly owned truck with Matamoras Borough. Dooley noted that we already budgeted this for the new year. Cooney asked what the payment amount would be? Myer- \$14,000 a year fixed interest rate. Tarquinio noted this comes out of debt service.

Motion to authorize small borrowing for capital purchases under section 8109 of the LGEEA by **Dooley/Turano. AIF**

Wendell- Estimate from General Code to update ordinances- includes replacement pages and additional copies at around \$2,555-\$3,195.

Motion to approve the estimate by **Wendell/Ciervo. AIF**

- Susan Lyddon proposed to starting a communications committee. Wants to get more community members on board. Looking to update the website as the center of communication. Tarquinio- we can advertise on our website that we are looking to put together a committee. Deb Stevens- this is a great idea. Should publish this so people know what's going on.
- Tarquinio- a few years ago a company came to the Borough looking to put up small cell towers that go onto your existing poles and it was a concern back then because several poles went up in a historic district. Towns can put in restrictions on what they look like and where they could be located. We do have wording about this in our zoning ordinance (mini cell towers, 312-43) Cooney- do we have to provide an area for them to put these up? Magnotta-yes, we do.
- Tarquinio-we are also looking to put together a grant committee so we can keep track of grants we applied for. We should try to find groups who can help with grant writing.
- Social media policy- Solicitor Magnotta just put something together for council to look at for review. Dooley took a webinar. Thinks we should discuss this at the workshop meeting. Need to be aware of issues that could arise with social media.
- Tarquinio- Next council workshop is the second Tuesday of January
- Old Business: Office computers are still not functioning perfectly. Laurie spoke to someone regarding the possibility of doing a peer-to-peer network and coming off of the police server altogether. That way we can work independently. Chief McCormack spoke to a rep at TOPP copy who will come out and do an estimate to see if we can get this all fixed. They will be coming in next Friday. Will follow up after estimate done. Tarquinio- we need to do this. If no objections lets move forward with estimate.
- LST Resolutions- Solicitor Magnotta went over each resolution. The first to appoint Berkheimer as tax collector and to enter agreement with them. Second resolution to appoint a liaison with Berkheimer and the Borough. This will presumably be Greg Myer, treasurer. Third resolution is to impose cost and collection of delinquent taxes by Berkheimer with schedule of collection costs. Fourth resolution to appoint Berkheimer to hear any appeals from tax payers. Dooley spoke to Berkheimer and clarified the fee is 2.5%- that means \$375.00 in fees to Berkheimer based upon a tax collection of \$15,000.
Motion to approve all four resolutions and to allow Frank Tarquinio to sign contracts by Dooley/Turano. AIF
- Magnotta- Petition to court for 5 mil tax increase to continue to provide existing level of services. Seeking court to to allow us to increase from 30 to 35 mils. Dooley- this 5-mil petition has been in place for more than a decade. Required to be advertised once in legal journal by court request. **Motion to approve the tax rate increase by 5 mils for a total of 35 mils by Dooley/Wendell. AIF**
- Tarquinio- McGoey Hauser returned plans to renovate the cupola. Mike Marusewski looked them over and had some questions for the engineers. He will be doing this as his last project.

Commented [LD1]:

- Lease agreement- Cooney- We made a few amendments to the lease and Scott Wilson asked if he can lease the building once it is up to code. Looking at the lease it looks like he cannot. Magnotta- yes you can.
- Cooney- furnace needs to be looked at the Borough Office. Tarquinio- you can try Hoehman plumbing if Clear Choice is not available.
- No thru traffic signs need to be put up. Snow has slowed it down. Tarquinio offered to go around with the Street Department so they know where to put them Ciervo will ask the department to get it done soon.
- UGI- Tarquinio stated three letters from correspondence were about UGI issues. Claiming delays in paving due to COVID-19. Provided us with four areas they are working on. Wait to pave until there is “enough work” for a large company to do it all at once. Magnotta said this is a problem in neighboring towns also. We may be able to get a comprehensive agreement from them with date certain of when restorations will be complete. Maybe Rob can get a list of the most concerning areas so he can draft a letter to UGI.

Solicitor Magnotta left the meeting at 7:35pm to attend another meeting.

- PCLP rate increase. Tarquinio spoke to Bureau of Consumer Advocacy- filed a 6-month extension. They seem to be taking the lead regarding the complaints. Everyone is entitled to write letters on their behalf.
- Stormwater Committee- Rob Ciervo, Nick May, Tim Gartner, Pete Cooney, Brian Snyder. A lot of work to do. **Motion to form that committee by Turano/Ciervo. AIF.**
- Cherry Alley- Mr. Souza said UGI made a makeshift berm. Still not fixed. Not worse, but not better. Appreciates the Borough’s help. Will the storm water study help with this? Tarquinio Study should show where the water is coming from.
- Mayor’s Report: Mayor Strub- Mileage close to where we were pre-pandemic. 29 parking tickets, 1 arrest, 7 assists to other Police Departments. The police department would like to hire new candidate, Vincent Scipione, provided proper documents and a background check. Previous candidate did not provide paperwork and background checks. **Motion to proceed with hiring Vincent Scipione as a part time police officer provided, he passes background checks and clearances by Dooley/Wendell. AIF.**
- Chief McCormack wanted to thank the Borough Council and the Borough for their overwhelming support in such a difficult and challenging year. Tarquinio wanted to also thank the Chief and the department. Turano asked Chief McCormack to mention about a bike giveaway from TC Crawford of Action Bikes. Every year he gives away bikes that are donated and repaired to give away to children and adults who need them. Already gave away 65 bikes.
- Law and Zoning- Shawn not present. Wendell noted there is not much going on at the moment
- Finance and Insurance- Nothing to report at this time.

- Parks and Recreation- Ice skating in discussion phase amongst subcommittee.
- Streets and Lights-Ciervo mentioned that leaves will no longer be picked up by the truck. Must be bagged or placed in barrels.
- Shade Tree- dale Thatcher- Trees were supposed to start trimming but snow slowed that down. Should start next year.
- Appointments- Tarquinio- we will expand on all appointments during workshop meeting.
- Correspondence- all letters were about UGI complaints and already addressed. Pike County Planning Commission looking to appoint someone on their planning board.
- Public Comment- No additional comments.
- Tarquinio- thanked all residents, business owners in the Borough. Health care workers, road crew, office staff, Zoning Officer, Sewage Officer, Police, Fire and Borough Council. All were stressed in many ways and it was not always easy. Proud to work with everyone.

Motion to Adjourn by Wendell/Turano AIF

Adjourned 8:03pm