

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2024

MEETING was called to order at 7:08 p.m. with Council President Joseph T. Hoepp presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mr. Joseph T. Hoepp, Mr. Ivan T. Hofmann, Mr. Gregory J. Marlovits, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Genter, Mrs. Katie D. Larsen, Rev. Rebecca M. Cartus, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Mr. Brendan Lucas representing the Borough Solicitor.

MINUTES of the Budget Hearing and the Regular Meeting held on December 19, 2023 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Genter to approve the Budget Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2023. All present voted in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. After brief discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of January 2024 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$1,483,208.18 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$21,528.90 were presented to Council as per the following list.

<u>Scheduled Expenditures Account</u>			
158	Axon Enterprise Inc	Police Equipment	\$1,746.95
159	Markl Supply Company	Police Equipment	\$496.95
160	Tall Timber Tree Experts	Tree and Stump Removal	\$2,815.00
161	Vigilant Solutions	License Plate Readers	\$16,470.00

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mrs. Larsen that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$1,483,208.18, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$21,528.90. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

REAL ESTATE TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$323.38 to the Borough for the month. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of December 2023 were presented to Council. After discussion, the reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. Mrs. Mary Ferris asked what steps are taken regarding property owners who do not clear snow from sidewalks within a timely manner. Mr. Schwend stated that property owners should clear sidewalks within twenty-four hours of a snow event, and those who repeatedly fail to do so are contacted. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of December 2023 was presented to Council. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Minutes from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority meeting were received.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Hugh St. Martin – 609 Maple Lane	Mrs. Mary Ferris – 106 Woodland Road
Ms. Mercedes Burgh – 208 Quaker Road	Mr. Doug Donaldson – 202 Orchard Lane
Mrs. Melanie Moul – 311 Chestnut Road	Ms. Toni Lekandis – 304 Challis Lane
Ms. Rebecca Effert – 411 Chestnut Road	Mr. John Cartus – 302 Maple Lane
Ms. Felicia Powell – 422 Meadow Lane	Ms. Barbara Ross – 306 Maple Lane
Ms. Erin Gray – 300 Maple Lane	Ms. Liz Murphy – 303 Chestnut Road
Mr. Bill Lang – 607 Maple Lane	Mr. Joseph Meier – 218 Pine Road
Ms. Katherine Ke – 218 Pine Road	Ms. Esther Neft – 446 Leet Road
Ms. Dorothy Pastelak – 401 Edgeworth Lane	
Dr. Milton and Mrs. Lynn Klein – 307 Shady Lane	
Mr. Joe and Mrs. Susan McKenna – 415 Meadow Lane	
Ms. Susan St. Claire	
Mr. John and Mrs. Betty McDermott	
Ms. Patricia Flinn	
Ms. Martha Luzer	

OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING HIRING OF MR. LUCAS SICKAFUSE AS FULL-TIME PATROL OFFICER: Mr. Hofmann stated that the Police Committee interviewed Mr. Sickafuse, and after reviewing his qualifications and experience, the Committee recommended his hire as a full-time patrol officer with the Edgeworth Police Department. Mr. Hofmann commended his work ethic and philosophy toward public service. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Marlovits to hire Mr. Lucas Sickafuse as a full time patrol officer. All present voted in favor of the motion. At this time, Mayor Gary L. Smith administered the oath of office to Mr. Sickafuse, and he was presented with his badge. Chief Burlett and Council congratulated him and welcomed him to the Borough staff.

ACTION CONCERNING CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL SERVICES PROPOSAL FROM COHEN

LAW GROUP: Mr. Schwend stated that the Quaker Valley COG has received a proposal from Cohen Law Group to perform an audit and renegotiate cable franchise agreements for COG communities at a cost of \$7,920. He explained that the Borough's cable franchise agreement with Comcast was renegotiated in 2021 for a ten year term, and while the Borough's agreement with Verizon has expired, quarterly franchise payments have still been received. Mr. Hoepp inquired about the purpose of completing an audit. Mr. Schwend stated that for municipalities with similar street names, franchise fee payments could be allocated to the wrong municipality. However, the cost associated with the proposal may not be recouped by potential lost franchise fee revenue. After further discussion, Council decided to take no action on the matter.

ACTION CONCERNING ZONING HEARING BOARD ALTERNATE VACANCY:

Mr. Hofmann stated that the Personnel Committee met with Mr. Charlie Harris to discuss the Zoning Hearing Board Alternate II vacancy. The Committee felt that Mr. Harris' legal background coupled with his interest in serving the community made him an excellent candidate to fulfill the vacancy. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to appoint Mr. Charlie Harris to fulfill the Zoning Hearing Board Alternate II vacancy, with a term ending on December 31, 2024. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2024-01 – AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO APPROVE CERTAIN OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS PRIOR TO BOROUGH COUNCIL'S OFFICIAL APPROVAL:

Mr. Schwend explained that Resolution 2024-01 allows for regular recurring invoices, including utilities, waste removal, and payroll expenses to be paid online or in advance of Council's official approval, in order to avoid late fees and other charges incurred on some invoices. Mr. Schwend noted that the maximum allowances for disbursements need to be increased from Resolution 2021-17, where Council initially allowed for routine invoices to be paid between meetings due to increased payroll and increases in other operating expenses. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Marlovits to approve Resolution 2024-01, authorizing the Borough Manager to approve certain operating disbursements prior to Council's official approval. All present voted in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MANAGER'S UPDATE: Mr. Schwend provided Council with an update on various infrastructure projects throughout the Borough. The Beaver Road Bridge project will be placed out for bid in the coming weeks, and the Streets Committee will meet to review options and made a recommendation to Council at the February meeting. The East Drive sewer relocation project design is nearing completion, and should be ready to award at the March meeting. PennDOT is expecting to bid the Way Hollow Road repairs in the fall of 2024, with work to begin in the spring of 2025. The Beaver Road Wall right-of-way agreements have all been received, and the Borough Engineers are compiling the bid package. Additionally, the project received a \$452,770 grant from the Local Share Account. Council expressed gratitude to State Representative Valerie Gaydos for her assistance with securing grant funding for the project. After further discussion, Council thanked Mr. Schwend for the update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council entered Executive Session at 7:47 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, and returned to regular session at 8:10 p.m.

Upon returning to regular session, a motion was made by Mr. Marlovits with a second from Rev. Cartus to retain Lieutenant William Och at the completion of his probationary period, and to notify the Civil Service Commission of the decision. All present voted in favor of the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Marlovits to retain Officer Brian Tice at the completion of his probationary period, and to notify the Civil Service Commission of the decision. Mr. Hoepf, Mr. Hofmann, Mr. Marlovits, Mrs. Larsen, and Rev. Cartus voted in favor of the motion, while Mrs. Genter opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager