

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2019

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Joseph T. Hoeppe presiding and the following members of Council and officials of the Borough present: Mr. Joseph T. Hoeppe, Mr. David T. Aloe, Mr. Ivan T. Hofmann, Ms. Carrie A. Morris, Mr. Daniel S. Wilson, Mr. Gregory Marlovits, Mrs. Elizabeth Genter, Mayor Gary L. Smith, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Mr. Brendan Lucas, Esq., representing the Borough Solicitor.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on November 19, 2019 were presented to Council. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second by Mr. Aloe to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2019. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Following the approval of the minutes, Mayor Smith and Sergeant John Burlett presented Edgeworth Police Officer Nicholas A. Adrian with a Life Saving Award medal for his efforts in saving the life of an Edgeworth resident. After the presentation, Chief John English and Borough Council thanked Officer Adrian for his dedication to Edgeworth and its residents.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM QUAKER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT: President Hoeppe stated that Council will hear from representatives from the Quaker Valley School District before continuing with the Agenda. Ms. Tammy Andreyko, Quaker Valley School District Superintendent, began the presentation by showing Council the Blueprint QV website, where the school district will post updates regarding the proposed new high school. She then gave an overview of issues at the current high school, including parking, a lack of resources for special education, and the location in a flood plain. She explained that these issues are difficult to overcome, and the chance to build a new high school that meets today's needs will be more sustainable for current and future students. Ms. Andreyko stated that the school district is currently working with a program management firm to build a Request for Proposal, which will go out sometime in the spring.

Mr. Scott Antoline, Director of Finance and Operations, stated that the school district is in a strong financial position, and wants to limit the burden on taxpayers. He explained Act 1, which limits school district millage increases each year, and stated that the school district intends to stay within those limits while still funding the proposed building. Mr. Charlie Gauthier, Director of Facilities and Administrative Services, stated that the needs assessment is currently focused on educational programming, and needs for the physical building will be determined later. Ms. Andreyko addressed the basis for a referendum, explaining that a referendum is only needed to go beyond the Act 1 millage limit if the school district does not receive an exception from the state. Ms. Andreyko stated that the question of whether or not to build a new high school would not be subject to a referendum.

Mrs. Genter asked what the current debt limit is, and how much debt the school district plans to add with the new high school. Mr. Antoline stated the district currently has \$67 million in debt, and said that they plan on extinguishing and restructuring current and future debt with a new bond issue. He stated that the school district does not have an estimate on the total cost of the new school at this time. Mr. Aloe and Mr. Hofmann asked about the difference in square footage of the new high school compared to the current high school. Mr. Gauthier stated that the current high school is 140,000 square feet, and the proposed high school will be 189,000 square feet. Mr. Aloe asked if there is any room on the current site for the additional 40,000 square feet, and Ms. Andreyko said there is not.

Mr. Hoepf and Ms. Morris expressed concern with the school district's plan of incrementally funding the new high school without an estimated total cost. Mr. Marlovits stated that neighborhood schools are an important aspect of the Quaker Valley community, and expressed concern with the location of the new school. He asked about the geography, workability, and accessibility of the site, and whether those factors were taken into consideration prior to the purchase. He also stated that spending over seven million dollars on a controversial location prior to having a budget in place seemed problematic. Mr. Hoepf asked whether the school district had a cost estimate for site stabilization. He also asked if there was a contingency plan in place for the property if a tax referendum failed. Ms. Andreyko stated that she would address those concerns in future video updates. She also stated that the school district has assessed the opportunity to renovate the existing high school, but found numerous problems with the building and renovation process.

Mr. Aloe stated that a renovation of the existing high school would be an opportunity for the school district and municipalities to work together, and he feels that the school district is not maximizing opportunities with their existing space. Mr. Hofmann expressed disappointment with a lack of transparency from the school district with respect to the whole process, and a lack of consideration concerning the burden to taxpayers. He also stated that there were surveys completed that asked taxpayers about whether or not a referendum would pass, and he wanted to know the results. Ms. Andreyko stated she was not aware of this. Mr. Hofmann said if they had cost estimates, survey results, and design information, they need to make that information public, and if they don't have the information then they need a new team to work on this project. Ms. Andreyko offered any concerned citizens to attend school board meetings and express their opinions. Ms. Morris asked if the school district had officially decided, via resolution, to abandon the existing high school and to build a new high school, which is required by the Public School Act. Ms. Andreyko stated that they had not. Mr. Hofmann stated that the land for the new high school was acquired prior to zoning approval from the municipalities where it is located, and asked whether the school district has a plan to receive land use variances. Ms. Betsy Rengers, Leet Township Manager, stated that she suggested obtaining necessary variances to school district officials prior to the purchase of the land, however they have not yet begun the zoning process.

Mr. Hoepf opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Mary Ferris asked whether the public would have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to build a new high school. Mr. Hoepf explained the process of Act 1 and tax referendums to all in attendance. Ms. Michelle Veeck expressed her opinion that the school district did not complete due diligence on the location of the new high school, considering the amount of money spend on the land. Mr. David Genter stated that Camp Meeting Road is poorly maintained, difficult to navigate, and unsafe for students. He asked the school district to consider student safety above all else.

After further discussion, Mr. Hoepf thanked the representatives from Quaker Valley School District for their time.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

INVESTMENT REPORT as of December 17, 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of December 2019 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$176,827.85 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$33,819.36 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

6377	Home Depot	Refridgerator	\$543.00
6378	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$8,565.03
6379	Markl Supply	Handle Mounts	\$2,449.83
6380	Matthews International	Memorial Plaque	\$114.00
6381	Penn Landscape and Cement	Fall Tree Planting	\$11,710.00
6382	Tall Timber Tree Experts	Tree Removals	\$6,375.00
6383	Urban Forestry	Arborist Consulting	\$4,062.50

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second by Mr. Hofmann that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$176,827.85, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$33,819.36. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. After some review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$756.52 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

FIRE REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT for the month of November 2019 was presented to Council. Public Works Director Fred Gregorich stated that the fall leaf collection was very successful, and the leaf truck would be cleaned and stored for the winter prior to the new year. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BUILDING PERMIT AND ZONING PERMIT REPORTS for the month of December 2019 were presented to Council. After discussion, these reports were ordered received and filed.

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: President Hoepf opened the floor for public comment on the topic of stormwater by reviewing the November 2019 MS4 report. Mrs. Mary Ferris stated that a pipe along Shields Spring has been blocked and water has begun to build up along the street. Mr. Gregorich stated that the area would be cleared of debris. After further discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QVCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT for the month of December 2019 was unavailable.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Minutes from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority were received.
- B. Minutes from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority were received. Mr. Schwend stated that the Sewers Committee and the Borough Engineer will be meeting with representatives from Leetsdale Municipal Authority to discuss the proposed Act 537 plan. He explained that in order for Leetsdale Municipal Authority to incorporate Sewickley Borough, Edgeworth Borough Council would need to pass a resolution agreeing to the plan. Mr. Schwend stated that the Sewers Committee will make a recommendation to Council regarding the proposed plan after their meeting.
- C. Correspondence was received from Ms. Deborah Beiber, Address Management Administrator for the Allegheny County Department of Real Estate requesting a property address change for 25 Ohio River Boulevard. Mr. Schwend stated that the property is the site of the future Taco Bell restaurant, and the current street number is not logical, nor corresponds to the block numbers along Ohio River Boulevard. He stated that Allegheny County is recommending the new address to be 155 Ohio River Boulevard, and the property owner is agreeable to the change. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Genter with a second from Mr. Hofmann to approve the request made by Allegheny County Department of Real Estate to change the property address of Parcel ID 507-K-163 from 25 Ohio River Boulevard to 155 Ohio River Boulevard. All present voted in favor of the motion.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

William Lang	617 Maple Lane
Mary Ferris	106 Woodland Road
J. Judson Brooks	331 Shields Lane
Ruth Hofmann	108 Woodland Road
David Genter	110 Woodland Road
Michael Hart	210 Orchard Lane
John Bunce	102 Spenser Lane, Leet
Michelle Veeck	129 Backbone Road, Bell Acres
Betsy Rengers	Leet Township
Tammy Andreyko	Quaker Valley School District
Scott Antoline	Quaker Valley School District
Charlie Gauthier	Quaker Valley School District

OLD BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING FINAL 2020 BUDGET: President Hoepf stated that Council held a public hearing on the proposed 2020 budget prior to the Council meeting. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mr. Wilson to adopt the final 2020 budget. All present voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2019-10 – FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020: Mr. Schwend explained that due to a change in advertising requirements, boroughs do not have to set the tax rate by ordinance if the rate is decreasing or remaining the same. Mr. Hofmann stated that for the seventeenth straight year, the tax rate in the Borough would remain at 4.15 mills. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to approve Resolution

2019-10, fixing the tax rate for the Borough of Edgeworth at 4.15 mills for fiscal year 2020. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2019-11 – ELIMINATING CONTRIBUTIONS BY PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN: Mr. Schwend stated that this resolution eliminates police officers’ contributions to the pension plan under Act 600, and that the elimination is effective for one year. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Wilson to approve Resolution 2019-11, eliminating contributions by participants under the Borough police pension plan. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING RESOLUTION 2019-12 – APPOINTING GREAT-WEST TRUST COMPANY, LLC AS CUSTODIAN OF THE BOROUGH’S EMPLOYEE 457(b) PLAN: Mr. Schwend stated that the Borough has entered into an agreement with Henderson Brothers Retirement to manage the employees’ 457(b) plan., and this resolution allows the Borough to terminate MetLife as the custodian of the plan. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mr. Aloe to approve Resolution 2019-12, appointing Great-West Trust Company, LLC as custodian of the Borough’s 457(b) plan. All present voted in favor.

ACTION CONCERNING RESIDENT APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Mr. Wilson stated that the Personnel Committee had reviewed and recommended the listed appointments to the following boards and commissions:

Building Code Board of Appeals:	Mr. Dennis Campbell	Term Ending 12/31/2022
Shade Tree Commission:	Ms. Ann Gensheimer	Term Ending 12/31/2024
Edgeworth Municipal Authority:	Mr. Ronald Casper	Term Ending 12/31/2024
Edgeworth Municipal Authority:	Ms. Kristi Yager	Term Ending 12/31/2020
Zoning Hearing Board:	Mr. Robert Weinberg	Term Ending 12/31/2022
Zoning Hearing Board:	Mr. David McCormish	Term Ending 12/31/2021

A motion was made by Mr. Wilson with a second from Mr. Marlovits to approve the list of appointments and their terms. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF THE LEETSDALE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY TO ACT AS THE BOROUGH’S BILLING AND COLLECTION AGENT FOR 2020 SEWER CHARGES: Mr. Schwend presented a letter from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority requesting written consent to act as the billing and collection agent for sewer charges in the Borough for 2020. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Aloe to appoint the Leetsdale Municipal Authority as the Borough’s billing and collection agent for sewer charges in 2020. All present voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING APPOINTMENT OF THE BOROUGH ENGINEER FOR 2020: Mr. Schwend presented Council with the Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering Inc. fee schedule for 2020, and highlighted areas where rates would increase. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to appoint Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc. as the Borough Engineer for 2020. All present voted in favor of the motion.

ACTION CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2020: Mr. Schwend presented a list of proposed meeting dates for 2020, with all Borough Council meetings taking place on the third Tuesday of each month. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Morris with a second from Mr. Marlovits to establish the following meeting dates for 2020, with a start time of 7:00 pm. All present voted in favor of the motion.

January 21, 2020
February 18, 2020
March 17, 2020
April 21, 2020
May 19, 2020
June 16, 2020

July 21, 2020
August 18, 2020
September 15, 2020
October 20, 2020
November 17, 2020
December 15, 2020

OTHER BUSINESS:

2020 LGA INTERN PROGRAM: Administrative Assistant Ellen DeWeese stated that the Local Government Academy (LGA) is seeking projects for their yearly intern program. She explained that if Edgeworth's project is selected, an intern would be responsible for assisting the professional staff in developing policies and programs to meet the Gold level of Sustainable Pennsylvania's municipal certification program. Ms. DeWeese stated that LGA will cover 50% of the intern's wages, with an estimated total cost for the Borough of up to \$2,250. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Aloe to authorize the professional staff to submit the proposed project to LGA for consideration. All present voted in favor of the motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:45 p.m., and returned to regular session at 9:15 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager