

EDGEWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 2023

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 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. David T. Aloe, Mr. Ivan T. Hofmann, Mr. Gregory J. Marlovits, Mr. Daniel S. Wilson, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Genter, Borough Manager John F. Schwend, and Mr. Brendan Lucas representing the Borough Solicitor.

Mr. Hoepp announced that there would be a change to the order of the agenda, and Council would first consider the hiring of two full-time police officers, followed by the presentation from Borough Engineers concerning Beaver Road Wall.

ACTION CONCERNING HIRING OF MR. WILLIAM OCH AND MR. BRIAN TICE AS FULL-TIME PATROL OFFICERS: Mr. Hofmann stated that upon the completion of the Civil Service process, the Police Committee interviewed Mr. Och and Mr. Tice and recommended that both candidates be hired as full-time police officers. He commended each of them on their thoughtfulness, enthusiasm, and dedication to public service. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mr. Marlovits to hire Mr. William Och and Mr. Brian Tice as full-time patrol officers. All present voted in favor of the motion. At this time, District Magistrate Robert Ford administered the oath of office to both officers, and they were presented with their badges. Chief Burlett and Council congratulated them, and welcomed them to the Borough staff.

PRESENTATION FROM BOROUGH ENGINEERS REGARDING BEAVER ROAD WALL

ANALYSIS: Mr. Kevin Brett of Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc. began discussion on the Beaver Road Wall by reviewing gabion basket repairs previously made, and explained that monitoring has been ongoing since 2009. Mr. Joseph Boward of Garvin Boward Beitko Engineering Inc. began his presentation on the current geotechnical status of the wall and recommendations for repair. He explained that the current wall is bulging past its center of gravity, and in a state of failure. Approximately 256 feet of wall sections are in need of immediate repair, and approximately 650 feet of a contiguous section is recommended for repair. Upon reviewing repair options, a soil nail wall was determined to be the best solution for permanent wall repair. Soil nails would be inserted through the wall to secure the earth, after which a steel mesh would be affixed, and finished with shotcrete. The soil nails would be filled with grout to reinforce the wall and ensure its stability. Mr. Boward noted that the project would be a design-build, meaning that the contractor would design the project in accordance with the parameters set forth by the Borough, and also complete the work. A twenty-five-foot temporary construction easement, and an approximate three-foot permanent easement, would be required from adjacent property owners. The estimated construction time would take approximately five weeks for a complete repair, in addition to restoration work. Mr. Boward then reviewed finish options for the shotcrete, including staining the shotcrete to a specific color, or dying and sculpting the shotcrete to resemble the current face of the wall. The estimated cost to complete the 650-foot repair ranges from \$1,236,000 to \$1,650,000 dependent on finish options. Finally, Mr. Boward then detailed the factor of safety measurement. On a structure with a factor of safety of 1, forces tending to cause failure and forces resisting failure are equal. The generally accepted engineering standard for a factor of safety is 1.5. However, Mr. Boward explained that the factor of safety of the Beaver Road wall is 0.13, which is extremely low, and the wall could experience complete failure at any point.

Mr. Hoepp asked what type of equipment would be utilized during construction. Mr. Boward explained that most work could be completed from Beaver Road, however some small equipment will be necessary to access the wall from below. Mr. Aloe asked about the longevity of the gabion basket repairs, and

questioned the permanency of a soil nail wall. Mr. Brett stated that gabion basket repairs are typically expected to last for about twenty-five years, and are considered temporary. The gabion baskets were each installed as emergency repairs as sections of the wall failed. The technology for soil nail walls was first used in the 1970s, with much success over the past fifty years. Mr. Aloe stated that continuing gabion basket repairs could be considered until the whole length of the wall is repaired in this fashion. Mr. Brett stated that the gabion baskets do not extend beyond the top few feet of the wall, and therefore do not address the core structural failures. Mr. Hofmann asked whether the rebar used in the mesh and soil nails will corrode and lead to eventual failure, to which Mr. Boward replied that it would not, due to the grout used in the process. He stated that the standard of care required in engineering is met with the soil nail wall design. Mr. Schwend inquired about the location of existing utilities and protecting them during construction. Mr. Brett explained that the contractor will be responsible for determining the exact depth and location of each utility prior to and during construction.

Mr. Hoepf then opened the floor for public comment. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson asked if the current wall will be removed as part of the project scope, and if any additional water runoff could be expected. Mr. Boward stated that the existing wall will be incorporated into the new construction, and reinforced to mitigate future issues. The wall will also have weep holes to ensure drainage, and no additional water runoff is expected. Mrs. Marcia Gordon asked what impact the construction will have on trees and other landscaping on their property. Mr. Boward explained that some trees adjacent to where the work will take place must be removed, however preserving existing plantings is a priority where feasible. Mr. Marlovits asked whether trees that are removed will be replaced. Mr. Brett stated that a separate restoration plan will be developed. Mr. David Gordon stated that in the opinion of adjacent property owners on Oliver Road, the finish of the wall is a priority, and stressed that the dyed and sculpted option should be completed in order for the wall to resemble its current design. After further discussion, Mr. Hoepf reiterated the urgency of the matter, and stated that the Borough has a responsibility to permanently repair the wall. The matter was directed to the Property Committee for further evaluation.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held on January 17, 2023 were presented to Council. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second by Mr. Hofmann to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2023. All present voted in favor of the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT for the month of January 2023 was presented to Council. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed. Mr. Hofmann then asked about short-term investment options, such as certificates of deposit or treasury bonds. Mr. Schwend stated that he would look into interest rates and report on options at the March 2023 meeting. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second from Mrs. Genter to authorize Mr. Schwend to invest funds as deemed appropriate in accordance with municipal law. All present voted in favor of the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the month of January 2023 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend noted that in the approved 2023 budget, funds were not allocated in the part-time police wages line item, however some part-time wages will be an expense due to the timing of the hiring of two full-time police officers. The line item for full-time police wages will be lower than projected. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

BILLS PAYABLE for the month of February 2023 were presented to Council as follows: General Expenditures, in the amount of \$182,606.43 and Scheduled Expenditures, in the amount of \$53,047.60 were presented to Council as per the following list.

Scheduled Expenditures Account

75	CW Electrical Services	Panel Box Upgrade	\$13,203.99
76	Teresa Dusch	Engineering Retainer Refund	\$889.77
77	Garvin Boward Beitko	Engineering Fees	\$24,287.25
78	Lennon Smith Souleret	Engineering Fees	\$9,601.64
79	Mayer Electrical Supply	Electrical Supplies	\$183.20
80	Penn Landscape and Cement	Culvert Repair	\$1,986.00
81	Universal Information Systems	Battery Backup System	\$2,005.00
82	WB Mason	Police Dept. Desk Chairs	\$890.75

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hofmann with a second by Mr. Marlovits that a voucher be drawn on the General Account in the amount of \$182,606.43, and a voucher be drawn on the Scheduled Expenditures Account in the amount of \$53,047.60. The motion was unanimously carried by all members in attendance.

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

DISTRICT JUSTICE REPORT for the month of January 2023 was presented to Council. District Justice Robert L. Ford, for District Court No. 05-03-02, reported remitting fines in the amount of \$916.74 to the Borough for the month. After review and discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

POLICE REPORT for the month of January 2023 was presented to Council. Chief Burlett expressed his gratitude for the hiring of the two full-time police officers. This report was ordered received and filed. Additionally, Mr. Schwend stated that the 2023 police vehicle order approved by Council at the September 2022 meeting, in the amount of \$39,000, is unable to be filled by Whitmoyer Ford due to supply chain issues. However, Tri-Star Ford has a 2023 vehicle with the same specifications as the original order currently in stock. The cost is \$38,343.80. Mr. Schwend recommended placing the order with Tri-Star Ford. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Aloe with a second from Mrs. Genter to authorize the purchase of the 2023 police vehicle in the amount of \$38,343.80, and to cancel the previous order from Whitmoyer Ford. All present voted in favor of the motion.

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

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

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

MS4 UPDATE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION for the month of January 2023 was presented to Council. After discussion, the report was ordered received and filed.

QUAKER VALLEY COG REPORT for the month of January 2023 was presented to Council. Mr. Schwend stated that the Edgeworth Police Department has agreed to host the jointly purchased fingerprint scanner for COG communities to utilize. After discussion, this report was ordered received and filed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A. Minutes from the Edgeworth Municipal Authority meeting were received.
- B. Minutes from the Leetsdale Municipal Authority meeting were received.
- C. Correspondence was received from the Borough of Sewickley Heights regarding the Way Hollow Road closure. Mr. Schwend stated that Sewickley Heights Borough is coordinating with PennDOT to reach a solution that is favorable to all parties.
- D. Correspondence was received from the Pennsylvania Auditor General regarding the 2021 Liquid Fuels Audit. Mr. Schwend noted that the auditor found no adjustments.
- E. Correspondence was received from the Allegheny League of Municipalities regarding the Banner Community recognition. Administrative Assistant Ellen Politi explained that the Borough has received this recognition for six consecutive years.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS CONCERNING NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Hugh St. Martin - 609 Maple Lane
Rev. Rebecca Cartus - 302 Maple Lane
Ms. Jan Morrow - 415 Maple Lane
Mrs. Marilyn Crawford - 436 Oliver Road
Mr. David Pavlokovich - 425 Oliver Road
Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon - 426 Oliver Road
Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson - 430 Oliver Road
Mr. Charles Harris - 526 Irwin Drive
Ms. Toni Lekandis - 304 Challis Lane
Mr. Andrew Southwood - 317 Nicholas Place
Mr. Joseph Boward - Garvin Boward Beitko Engineering
Mr. Kevin Brett - Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering

Terry Anne Vita	Karen Vita
Kerry Och	Ryan Och
Madelyn Och	Dylan Och
Michele Och	Alison Holsinger
Pat Bryson	Amanda Bryson
Amanda Snell	David Snell
Tina Snell	Sharon Tice
Brian Tice Sr.	Anthony Ficarro
Tamara Och	Braydon Houck
Bill Houck	

Mr. Hugh St. Martin asked whether the Borough had received any correspondence regarding the train derailment accident in East Palestine, Ohio, and its potential effects on the area. Mr. Schwend stated that the Edgeworth Municipal Authority has not identified any impacts within the Ambridge reservoir, where the Borough receives its water source. Additionally, the Allegheny County Health Department monitors air quality, and no indication of harm has been identified. Mr. Schwend stated that any pertinent updates received will be relayed to residents.

Mr. Andrew Southwood and Ms. Toni Lekandis came before Council to discuss traffic and parking congestion at the intersection of Challis Lane and Chestnut Road. They explained that during school drop off and pick up times, parents will idle their vehicles and park up to the intersection, causing site visibility issues and safety concerns. Mr. Southwood suggested placing a rounded mirror or crosswalk at the intersection, Ms. Lekandis suggested no idling signs or resident only parking. Mr. Schwend explained

that the Borough's Traffic Engineer assessed the area and recommended that pedestrians utilize existing crosswalks at the intersections of Beaver Road and Chestnut Road, or Meadow Lane and Chestnut Road. Mr. Schwend noted that both intersections have crossing guards during school hours. Chief Burlett stated that officers monitored the area for several weeks and while the area is congested, no vehicles were illegally parked. After discussion, Council thanked Mr. Southwood and Ms. Lekandis for their concerns, and the matter was directed to the Property Committee for additional review.

Mr. Charles Harris asked whether the Borough expects a significant impact to real estate tax revenue due to ongoing litigation regarding the Allegheny County common level ratio. Mr. Lucas explained that there should be no significant impact this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

PENSION RFP UPDATE: Mr. Wilson stated that seven proposals were received and reviewed by Mr. Chris Englebert, the Borough's pension consultant, and the Finance Committee. After thorough review, the Committee has selected five firms to interview in person, which will take place in mid-March. Mr. Wilson stated that the Committee will provide additional updates after the interviews are complete. After brief discussion, Council thanked Mr. Wilson for the update.

OTHER BUSINESS:

2023 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: Mrs. Politi stated that submissions for the 2023 Local Government Academy internship program were due in mid-February, and the Borough submitted a proposal for an intern to assist with the 2023 sidewalk repair program. The intern would be responsible for logging and maintaining a database of all affected properties, and would present a compilation of their work to Borough Council upon completion of the project. Funds were included in the 2023 budget, and the Local Government Academy is providing an option for municipalities to pay higher rates for qualified intern candidates. Internship placement sites will be announced prior to the March Council meeting. Mr. After brief discussion, Council thanked Mrs. Politi for the report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered executive session to discuss a legal matter at 9:05 p.m., and returned to regular session at 9:37 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting on motion duly made and seconded was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

John F. Schwend – Borough Manager