

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Richland Borough Building. The President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Present were President Kelly Bricker, Vice President James Niethammer, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers, Travis Randler, Robert Rittle, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Interim Solicitor John Muir, and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. Absent were Councilmembers Matthew Johnson and Mark Brubaker.

President Bricker called the Richland Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Bricker announced that two late submissions were received within 24 hours of the regularly scheduled meeting, one from Peter Edelman regarding the signing of documents for the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority 2016 Bond refinance and one regarding the discussion of the Zoning Hearing Board appeal received from 29 N. Race Street. President Bricker explained that with the new amendments, Effective August 31, 2021, to the Sunshine Act that before any business can be discussed a motion is required to amend the agenda to add the signing of documents for the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority bond refinancing and the discussion of the Zoning Hearing Board appeal received from 29 N. Race Street. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to amend the agenda to add the signing of documents for the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority bond refinancing and the discussion of the Zoning Hearing Board Appeal from 29 N. Race Street. Motion unanimously carried. President Bricker advised the amended agenda will be posted within 24 hours following the meeting.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on October 12, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were three (3) persons present.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – Nothing to report.

Andrew Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – Nothing to report.

Loren Gerhart – 16 Georgie Lane – Nothing to report.

The following Committee reports were presented to Council: Water Report, Highway Report, Property Report, Finance Report, Safety Report, and Personnel Report.

Water Committee – President Bricker stated that a meeting was held with Joseph Kreiser to review water rates.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report.

Property Committee – President Bricker stated there will be an informational meeting November 22, 2021 regarding land development in preparation for the development of land previously owned by Hart Beaver.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker stated that work is continuing with employee reviews.

Finance Committee – President Bricker stated the committee worked to finalize the 2022 budget and that a meeting was held with Conrad Seigel to setup the Secretary’s defined pension plan.

Safety Committee – President Bricker stated that clear images were obtained of the kids messing around at the salt shed and once they are identified the parents will be notified.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle, to accept the Committee Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The following reports were presented to Council: Mayor Report, Road Supervisor Report, Office Report, Solicitor Report, Code Enforcement, and State Police Report.

Mayor Report – None submitted.

Road Supervisor’s Report – There were no questions on the report.

Water Report – Vice President James Niethammer advised that the gallonage for detected leaks be added to the meter reading report.

Office Report – Secretary Schnoke added that a resident requested a reminder be made regarding burning within the Borough, and that burning may only occur for the purpose of cooking and the burning of rubbish is prohibited. President Bricker advised that there have been two occurrences in the last couple months of residents burning rubbish and in both cases John Johnson and Dwight Belleman were able to address the resident to inform and educate them on the Borough Ordinance and resolved the issues.

Solicitor’s Report – There were no questions on the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – There were no questions on the report.

Police Report – There were no questions on the report.

MRJA Report – Electronic copy of monthly reports on file and available for viewing upon request. next meeting will be held December 6, 2021.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Travis Randler, to accept the Officials Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for November 2021 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Larry Hartman, to pay all the invoices submitted for payment with the exclusion of the bill from Core and Main pending further clarification; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler, to ratify the bills paid; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

September Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal (5.29 Tons); 1 Building Permit received from Kraft Code Services, John Zimmerman (solar panels); Lebanon County Commissioners 10/7/21 & 10/21/21 Meeting Highlights; Lebanon County Commissioners announcement of the 2022 Marcellus Shale Grant Program; Dauphin-Lebanon County Boroughs Association Meeting announcement and July minutes; 2021 PURTA distribution received \$510.58.

Old Business:

President Bricker provided an update on the Speed Limit Adjustment Project, Casey with Becker Engineering received notification that PennDOT declined the Speed Limit Adjustment Request. Casey's opinion is with the completion of a traffic study the results will not be the desired outcome the Borough is looking to achieve but instead the opposite and could potentially increase speed limits in certain areas. On the recommendation of Becker Engineering the request has been revised and resubmitted with more narrow parameters to achieve the Boroughs goal.

President Bricker provided an update regarding the request made by Liberty Environmental, Inc. to install 3 monitoring wells to assess the groundwater quality in the vicinity of the former Ron's Texaco. President Bricker, Vice President James Niethammer, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke and Assistant Road Supervisor John Johnson conducted a site visit with Liberty Environmental to discuss and illustrate concerns regarding the proposed placement of the monitoring wells with respect to public utilities located within these areas. President Bricker advised that this was a productive meeting and the representative from Liberty Environmental noted, documented and shared the same concerns with the proposed placement of the monitoring wells. Once the public auction of Hart Beaver's properties is finalized and the buyer information is available, Secretary Schnoke will forward the information to Liberty Environmental in hopes that they are able to obtain permission to place the wells on private property.

President Bricker provided an update regarding the group home at 3 Georgie Lane and that communication from Dixie Hoffman that the state has approved the permit for the Group Home, and to obtain a copy of the approved permit the property owner James Ojo must be contacted.

President Bricker stated that the documents for the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority bond refinance have been received and referred to Interim Solicitor John Muir for further explanation. Solicitor Muir advised that the documents have been reviewed and settlement is scheduled for December 7, 2021. The documents provided and reviewed for signing include the guarantee agreement, reimbursement agreement, continuing disclosure agreement, general certificate page one and six. Solicitor Muir advised that a motion to execute the documents is needed. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to execute the documents for the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority bond refinance, motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to accept the water system evaluation report as submitted by Becker Engineering, motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to approve a the 2022 proposed budgets and to authorize the Borough Secretary to advertise it open for inspection; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler to approve the 2021-2022 snowplow list to include Dwight Belleman, John Johnson, Larry Hartman, Matthew Johnson, Mark Brubaker, Travis Randler, Justin Yeiser, Richard Strickler and Hunter Hartman; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by James Niethammer to approve the management representation letter for the 2020 audit as submitted by Stanilla, Siegel & Maser; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the designation of the first six parking spaces along Moehlmann Field for employee & officials parking Monday through Friday from 5:00am – 5:00pm; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised regarding leaf collection, that Dwight Belleman stated to her that this is the best piece of equipment that the Brough has purchased, it is safe, fast, and efficient. President Bricker also expressed that the machine is very large at 12 foot wide in comparison to the Borough's alley's which are 14 foot wide and in the Borough newsletter the guidelines dictated there would be no leaf collection in alleys for this reason. There have been leaves placed in the alleys and possible mitigation methods to notify the property owner in these cases are being investigated whether it is a phone call, letter, knock on the door, or door hanger to provide notification. President Bricker advised as this is the first leaf collection season with this piece of equipment that the guidelines may have to be reviewed and adjusted based on feedback at the end of the season.

President Bricker stated that a concern with the current payment box is that moisture is getting in and impacting the integrity of the checks deposited. The solution to this dilemma is to install a waterproof through the door payment box so that the payments will enter a locked box inside of the Borough Office. Completion of this project is to occur this winter.

President Bricker stated that an inquiry was received from Lavern Zimmerman, the owner of 307 Millbach Road who recently obtained a permit for the construction of two green houses regarding additional consumption that he will need for the operation of his greenhouses. Mr. Zimmerman stated he will require approximately two thousand gallons per day in the morning hours and wanted to verify that the current water system could handle the additional consumption. President Bricker stated that the additional consumption can be supported by the current water system and advised that there had previously been a well installed on this property by Carlos R. Leffler that was discontinued after the connection to the Richland Borough Water System. Mr. Zimmerman requested permission to drill and utilize a well for the operation of his greenhouses. President

Bricker stated that per the Richland Borough Water Rules and Regulations that once connected to the system you can not opt to disconnect. President Bricker advised that Mr. Zimmerman was informed that he is unable to drill and connect to a well on his property. Mr. Zimmerman expressed some pressure concerns in addition to the additional consumption, President Bricker stated that Mr. Zimmerman was provided some suggested solutions to his concerns and was invited to attend the meeting as well.

President Bricker stated that a Zoning Hearing Board Appeal was received from 29 N. Race Street which could potentially require Borough participation. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to direct the firms of Kozloff Stoudt and Kraft Code Services to act accordingly if any participation is required on the Boroughs behalf.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. reconvening the Regular Session.

The President asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough, none presented.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary