

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 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.

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 completed roll call, Present were President Kelly Bricker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers, Travis Randler, Matthew Johnson, Robert Rittle, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker.

President Bricker announced that two late submissions were received within 24 hours of the regularly scheduled meeting, one to authorize an amount to be spent on crack sealing and one to discuss the replacement of the tractor and lawn mower. 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 include the late submissions. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by James Niethammer to amend the agenda to include the late submissions to authorize an amount to be spent on crack sealing and for the discussion of replacing the tractor and lawn mower; 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 James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on July 26, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 9, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were two (2) persons present.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – No Comments.

Andrew Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – No Comments.

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 advised that on September 8, 2022, that Dwight Belleman and herself met with Mark Homan and Dan Connoly of Becker Engineering to discuss current projects. For the Well No. 9 project, the PennVest application for financing is due by November 2022. President Bricker stated it was recommended that she reach out for an update on the status of the previously submitted funding requests for the LSA Grant and the THUD funding and is waiting for a response which is expected tomorrow. President Bricker advised that the Borough has received the approved DEP and DRBC permits required for Well No. 9. The plan is to starting bidding the project in the Spring of 2023, and that Dwight Belleman and Dan Connoly visited the Well No. 9 site to determine how to disturb the least amount of land possible so that an E&S permit is not required by DEP. Additionally President Bricker stated that Mark Homan is looking at all of the

documents forwarded by Secretary Schnoke and then working with Solicitor George to setup all the necessary easements for the project. President Bricker advised since the work will be performed in Millcreek Township, Mark Homan of Becker Engineering would like to speak to the township as a courtesy to go over the project. President Bricker stated that the new storage tank was discussed with Becker Engineering and Casey Kerschner looking into what stormwater management will be required and the setbacks for the project to determine the size amount of land needed, and once this is determined the Borough can approach the farmer to determine an agreement to acquire the land. President Bricker advised there was an issue with the home on S. Race Street when they were performing their annual inspection and testing of their fire suppression system. Dwight Belleman stated that this is an annual inspection they perform, and during this inspection this year the pressure of the Borough's water system dropped to twenty pounds and that this could have adverse effects on the system. President Bricker advised that through conversation with Becker Engineering this situation should be reevaluated because the impact on the water system could be detrimental, they will be requesting a site visit with the home to determine a solution for the issue. President Bricker advised that Dwight Belleman and Secretary Schnoke will be looking at the DEP inspection report to update procedures and make any necessary corrections based on the recommendation from DEP which will then be provided to Becker Engineering to review.

Highway Committee – Larry Hartman advised that Dwight Belleman and himself received an emergency call regarding a tree at the Well No. 9 site that had fallen against some wires and was at risk of damaging a nearby house. Larry Hartman advised that a boom truck was needed to safely take the tree down and that they contacted Stoltzfus Tree Service who resolved the situation very timely. Larry Hartman and Dwight Belleman observed there are a few more trees that are not in good shape and should be taken care of soon. Larry Hartman stated that Dwight Belleman and himself drove around to determine areas that requires crack sealing this year. Additionally, Larry Hartman advised that Dwight Belleman and himself took the leaf truck apart and replaced the impeller, bearings, and belts so that it is ready for fall leaf collection.

Property Committee – Larry Hartman advised that Dwight Belleman and himself attended the auction in Grantville and purchased an SUV with 160,000 miles for an amount under the price authorized at the previous meeting. Larry Hartman stated that he drove the vehicle back to the Borough and it runs great, drivers very nice and is currently being inspected.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to Report.

Finance Committee – President Bricker advised that budget is coming up and that Council needs to begin working on the budget.

Safety Committee – Travis Randler reported that on Wednesday September 7, 2022, at approximately 8:30 p.m. a complaint was received regarding burning on Curtis Street. Travis Randler advised that he visited the location to find a gentleman standing out by the fire and that the fire was about the size of the meeting room table. Travis Randler advised that it appeared the gentleman had burned items such as a couch and mattress and advised the gentleman that there is no burning of rubbish in the Borough to which the gentleman stated that he was not aware he was in the Borough. Travis Randler informed the man that he was in the Borough and that there is no burning of rubbish, and the man stated that he knows but will continue to burn. President Bricker advised this matter will be forwarded to Kraft Code Services and that additionally there has been

more activity at the salt shed and playground and that the security camera footage will be reviewed to try and identify the individuals so that action can be taken.

A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Larry Hartman, 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 – There were no questions on the report.

Office Report – July and August reports were submitted, there were no questions on the report.

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

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

Police Report – June and July reports submitted; August has not been received.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held September 12, 2022, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held October 3, 2022.

Secretary Schnoke advised that the Sewer Authority hired a billing agent but is still looking for a replacement for Maybelle Morgans Secretary and Board position.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to accept the Officials Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for July 2022 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for August 2022 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember James Niethammer. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

- July 2022 Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal- 6.48 Tons.
- 2 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
  - John Weiant (411 Oak St – Fence)
  - Scott Smith (209 N. Race St – Attached Garage)

- 1 Zoning/Building Permit Issued
  - Trinity Solar (13 Judy Ln – Solar Panel Installation)
- Lebanon County Commissioners 8/11/22 & 8/31/22 Meeting Highlights.

Old Business:

N. Race Street Update – President Bricker advised that on August 23, 2022, Casey Kerschner from Becker Engineering, Solicitor George, and herself met to discuss current matters. President Bricker stated that PennDOT agreed to covering the curb replacement to be bid out in May of 2023 and completed in 2023, however the milling and paving will not be bid out until approximately May of 2024. President Bricker advised that PennDOT stated that they will need to cut into sidewalks to complete the curb replacement and advised that homeowners not replace their sidewalks until after the curb replacement has been completed. Kelly Bricker advised that we are still working with Dan Lyons from CBDG to collect the remaining income surveys.

Speed Limit Adjustment Update – President Bricker advised that Council is looking to redo the traffic ordinance to update the state roads that were approved for speed limit reduction and is determining whether to change all Borough streets to 25 miles per hour. President Bricker stated the Borough will be responsible to replace all the signage and that she is looking into possible grant opportunities to assist with the expense. Solicitor George advised that Becker Engineering will identify the locations of all signage.

Water Project Update – President Bricker advised she provided updates on the current water projects earlier with the committee reports but reiterated that the Borough will begin working on the PennVest application for financing.

Playground Update – President Bricker advised that copies of the proposed master plan for the Borough playground was provided to the Councilmembers at the previous meeting for review, one plan including the baseball field and the second plan without a baseball field. Kelly Bricker the following information for consideration; ELCO Youth Baseball stated that they have other fields they can play on, but the Borough baseball field is one of their favorite and nicer fields that they play on, and Chuck Strodoski confirmed that if the baseball field remains that additional fencing and netting will need to be implemented which is costly and limits the space for the remaining area. President Bricker stated that one of the plans needs to be selected to presented at a public meeting. President Bricker advised that a public meeting will be held to gather public feedback, which is vital in the grant application process. President Bricker stated that her opinion is that she would like to present the proposed plan including the nice pavilions with the enhanced memorial that excludes the baseball field and maximizes the play area. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to present at the public meeting the proposed playground master plan without the baseball field; motion unanimously carried. President Bricker advised she is going to reach out to ELCO Youth Baseball and the Neptune Fire Company to see if the ballfield behind Speedway could be utilized as an alternate solution to eliminating the Borough's baseball field. Andrew Voydik commented that he thinks youth baseball plays on a grass infield which could mean that the Fire Company field may not be an applicable alternative. President Bricker said that the Borough will continue to investigate the idea and discuss with youth baseball.

President Bricker advised that a 2017 Ford Police Interceptor was purchased for \$9,156.00 including tags and transfer.

New Business:

President Bricker advised that the Borough received a copy of the amended Lebanon County Stormwater Management Ordinance and that it was reviewed by Casey Kerschner of Becker Engineering, and everything looks good.

President Bricker advised that she received communication from Dan Becker of Becker Engineering regarding Pennsylvania Senate Bill #597 which is the Water Quality Accountability Act. A Senator is trying to pass a bill that would introduce a ton of requirements that financially would not be affordable for a small water system, essentially small private water systems would be forced to go under one of the larger water companies such as Pennsylvania Water. The bill would eliminate small private water companies, and everything would go to and be part of large water companies. President Bricker stated that her opinion is to go on record and oppose this bill. Solicitor George stated that the requirements of the bill would not make financial sense for a small water company and would leave small water companies such as Richland more susceptible to take over. President Bricker stated Dan Becker provided a sample resolution to oppose the bill and that most municipalities with water systems are doing the same. Solicitor George advised that by approving the resolution there is no obligation, the Borough is simply going on the record expressing opposition to the bill. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve Resolution 2022-18 opposing Pennsylvania Senate Bill #597 the Water Quality Accountability Act; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker stated that the SUV should be lettered with proper reflection so that the vehicle is identified and to code to use as a municipal vehicle. President Bricker presented a proposed design for the lettering and mention there is a small rust spot above the windshield that should be repaired to prolong the life of the vehicle. The approximate cost of the lettering and rust repair should be below one thousand dollars. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler to approve the lettering and rust repair on the Ford Interceptor; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that the 2023 Police Pension MMO Worksheet indicates a \$20.00 administrative fee, however there is a surplus on the plan resulting in a zero-dollar obligation for 2023. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve the 2023 Police Pension Plan MMO Worksheet; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that the 2023 Non-Uniform Pension MMO Worksheet reflects a minimum obligation amount of \$28,539.00 due in 2023. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the 2023 Non-Uniform Pension Plan MMO Worksheet; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker stated that as previously stated by Councilmember Larry Hartman there was a tree that needed to be taken down at the Well No. 9 site because it had partially fallen and was only being held up by the phone wires and had the tree fallen would have damaged a neighboring house. President Bricker advised that there is some additional tree maintenance that will be required at the Well No. 9 site located on Woods Lane and that Dwight Belleman will mark the trees in questions and obtain pricing. President Bricker stated that the previous job required a boom truck to remove a very large tree and that Stoltzfus Tree Service took down the previous tree in an extremely timely manner, they did an excellent job for a great price of \$375.00 and was thankful for their service. Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman stated that the time for crack sealing is approaching and that an amount to be spent needs to be set and authorized by Council. Dwight Belleman stated that they charge for time and material and cannot come in and measure every inch of crack beforehand and that instead the Borough identifies the areas to be completed and Council authorizes an amount to be spent, for example perform crack sealing up to but not to exceed ten thousand dollars. Dwight

Belleman advised that the areas identified and their priority to be crack sealed will be provided and they will complete the work, they will complete as much as they can, if they complete it for less that's great but if not, they will complete what they can but will not exceed the authorized amount. Dwight Belleman stated that the areas to be crack sealed include Richland Heights, Poplar Street and Birch Alley. After discussion it was determined that the amount authorized should be up to \$19,999.00, and that they should complete the designated areas and stop at whatever cost is accrued not exceeding \$19,999.00. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to spend up to and not exceeding \$19,999.00 on crack sealing to be performed by Martin Paving; motion unanimously carried.

Matthew Johnson advised that there have been some issues with the zero-turn lawn mower and that Dwight Belleman obtained pricing on a new zero turn mower from Binkley and Hurst and Ebling's. Both prices were very fair however Binkley and Hurst came in lower for a 2022 Ferris 28-horsepower van guard EFI with a 61-inch deck, with trade in for a price of \$4,326.00 in comparison to Ebling's price of \$6,089.00.

Matthew Johnson advised that there have been issues with the Tractor and snow blower attachment which is approximately ten years old. Dwight Belleman obtained pricing from Binkley and Hurst and Ebling's. Both prices were very fair however Binkley and Hurst came in lower for a 2022 Massey Ferguson 25-horsepower four-wheel drive compact tractor with a 60-inch mid mount mower deck, 50-inch blower quick hitch attachment and no bucket attachment with trade in for a price of \$10,990.00 in comparison to Ebling's price of \$18,874.00.

President Bricker advised this was in the budget last year but was pushed back due to the purchase of the backhoe. Dwight Belleman advised that if the items are to be purchased the Borough needs to move quickly, there is currently one of each in stock and there will be no more available until October of 2023 and prices will be going up. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to purchase from Binkley and Hurst the 2022 Ferris 28-horsepower zero turn mower in the amount of \$4,326.00 and the 2022 Massey Ferguson 25-horsepower tractor in the amount of \$10,990.00; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. after discussing personnel matters and reconvening the Regular Session with no action taken.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented a motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary