A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 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 7:04 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Robert Rittle, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 10, 2023. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Michele Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – No Comments

Dana Moyer – 107 Walnut Street – Dana Moyer advised she is here regarding the feral cat TNR Program, President Bricker stated that the Ferral Cat TNR program will be addressed under old business.

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 asked Dwight Belleman to provide an update on the meeting held with Becker Engineering regarding current water projects. Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman explained that on N. Race Street the existing four fire hydrants currently have no shut off valves and are from 1907, he advised that they should be replaced before the PennDOT resurfacing project takes place, it is a good time to do this as the road will already be torn up. Dwight Belleman advised he obtained quotes for the hydrants and valves from two costar participating vendors, one from L/B Water $28,814.91 and Core and Main $26,016.91. Kelly Bricker advised that herself and secretary Schnoke will investigate possible grant funding that would be obtainable prior to the PennDOT project. President Bricker advised that the quote received from A.H. Moyer to perform the hydrant replacement is $9,900.00. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Travis Randler to approve the purchase of the hydrants and valves from Core and Main; motion unanimously carried. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve A.H. Moyer to replace the four hydrants and install valves on N. Race Street; motion unanimously carried. Dwight Belleman advised that 15 exterior antennas were installed on meter pits and that 10 more have been ordered to be installed on the remaining pits. Councilmember Matthew Johnson clarified with Dwight Belleman that the valve covers in the street will be replaced at the time of the hydrant and valve replacement.

Highway Committee – Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman advised that the crack sealing is almost complete, they ran out of material and will be back to finish Richland Heights. Dwight Belleman advised that with the mild winter the Borough has only purchased 40 ton of the 200 tons ordered as part of the state salt contract, we are obligated to take 60% of the ordered amount and we are unable to store the remaining 80 ton that we are required to take. Dwight Belleman stated that he spoke to Costars and they are entertaining the idea of canceling the contract due to the small quantity of salt used this year, but if the contract is not negated the Borough will have to pay to store the salt which is approximately $3.00 per ton. Dwight Belleman advised that the 2023-2024 salt contract order must be submitted by March 15, 2023, Council advised that we try to get more definitive answers and decide at the next meeting.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker advised that the Richland Borough employment advertisement has been prepared and will be reviewed under new business.

Finance Committee – Nothing to Report.

Safety Committee – Travis Randler inquired whether the rental inspections were complete because the fire company was called for a smoke detector in the basement of the pizza shop going off and when the smoke detector was checked it was from 2009, he asked if this should have been discovered through the rental inspection. Secretary Schnoke advised that the rental program is residential only and that the upper units still need to have the reinspection completed. Councilmember Travis Randler advised the smoke detectors are being replaced.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Travis Randler, 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 – No questions on the report.

Water Report – Councilmember Travis Randler stated that the Rigidply water meter is still detecting a leak. President Bricker advised that Dwight Belleman believes he has identified the area of the leak at that a letter will be sent to notify them that corrective action is required to resolve the leak.

Office Report – No questions on the report.

Solicitor’s Report –No questions on the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions on the report.

Police Report – January report submitted.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held February 6, 2023, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held March 6, 2023.

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

The Financial Reports for January 2023 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Travis Randler to approve the Financial Report, and have it placed on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember Matthew Johnson. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Robert Rittle, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

• December 2022 Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal- 8.43 Tons.

• 4 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received

o James Brubaker – 7 Walnut St (Shop/Machinery Shed 70’x160’)

o John Philip Barry – 210 Church St (Boiler Conversion)

o Christopher Snyder – 818 E Linden St (Deck)

o Legacy Cash Offer – 104 E Main St (Electric Upgrade 100 to 200 amp)

• 2 Zoning/Building Permits Issued

o Daren & Kendra Ernfield – 305 Poplar St (Solar Panels)

o James Brubaker – 7 Walnut St (Shop/Machinery Shed 70’x160’)

• Lebanon County Commissioner Meeting Highlights 2/2/23

• United States Postal Service – postage rate increased to .63¢ on 1/1/2023

• PA State Association of Boroughs Drug & Alcohol Testing Fee increased by 3%

Old Business:

Ferral Cat TNR Program Update – President Bricker advised that there will be a seminar held by Nobody’s Cat Foundation on February 18, 2023, at the Neptune Fire Company, and that the flyer was mailed with the 2022 fourth quarter water bill. Dana Moyer thanked the Fire Company for the use of the banquet hall and the Borough for mailing the flyers with the previous water bill. Dana Moyer advised that she spoke with Gray’s and Stray’s, and they will spay/neuter for $15-$30 per cat depending on the weight and that they can bill the Borough directly until the $300 contribution is reached if desired. Dana Moyer stated she will be urging residents to contribute any amount they can to help fund the program and maximize the number of cats altered with the Borough’s contribution and going forward she is hoping to get enough volunteers to help with the program and fundraising. Dana Moyer advised she was able to speak with the Lebanon County Human Society Board to see if they could assist the program in offering low cost spay and neuter appointments, the Human Society was thankful for the implementation of the program but were very apologetic that they are unable to help as they are short on vets and are struggling to keep up with the animals that they have at the shelter. Dana Moyer advised she has setup with Grays and Strays in Fredericksburg to go three times in March with the ability to take 5 cats each time, but she is hoping to have a better feel for the number of strays in the Borough after the seminar. Dana stated other options are No-nonsense Neutering in Reading $40.00 per cat and York SPCA which is too far for her to drive. Dana advised the next step is that she needs traps and stated that the No Body’s cat foundation provided the name of two places that would rent traps to her. Dana Moyer asked how the Borough would like to be billed for the cats paid for from their contribution. President Bricker asked if individuals taking cats will be required to show ID for proof of residence, Dana Moyer confirmed that they will. After discussion Council requested to be billed directly and Dana Moyer to keep records of the cats being taken. President Bricker thanked Dana Moyer for her efforts and heading the program.

President Bricker announced that through the DCNR grant submitted that Richland Borough was awarded $515,300.00. President Bricker stated she is extremely excited about this opportunity and that herself and secretary Schnoke will be meeting with Chuck from YSM Landscape Architects to discuss the next steps of the project.

President Bricker provided an update regarding the water projects. President Bricker advised she spoke with Dan Connoly and Mark Homan from Becker Engineering and that all we are waiting on is the easements for the water line, to connect Well No. 9 to the Reservoir. President Bricker stated that Mark Homan stated he felt it would be in the Boroughs favor to take care of the clearing of the easement area and that Dwight Belleman contacted a company regarding the matter. Dwight Belleman advised he spoke with a company out of the Denver area to come look at the project and that there is approximately 1.5 acres to clear. Dwight Belleman stated that we need signed agreements for the easements and to speak with the residents regarding the clearing of the easement area. Solicitor George stated that the Borough will need a temporary easement for access to clear and a permanent easement. President Bricker stated she will be in contact with Becker Engineering to keep the process moving. President Bricker advised that Becker Engineering is working on the stormwater management details for the new storage tank location.

President Bricker advised that Jessica Weaver was kind enough to volunteer to step into the secretary and board position for the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the appointment of Jessica Weaver to the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority Board as the Secretary; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker stated that the water committee will be meeting to discuss future water rate increases regarding the current water projects.

President Bricker advised that the North Race Street PennDOT project is moving forward and noted they are surveying and marking the street in preparation for the project.

New Business:

President Bricker advised that the Borough received the PennDOT contribution agreement for the North Race street project, and requested Solicitor George provide a summary. Solicitor Andrew George stated that the contribution agreement states that PennDOT will be doing work relating to excavation, digging, concrete curb and some sidewalk, the cost estimate being $56,770.50. Secretary Schnoke advised the cost estimate is for the alley entrance aprons and handicap ramps. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle, to approve Resolution 2023-11 to execute the PennDOT contribution agreement; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised the street sweeping dates provided by Martin Paving are Wednesday, April 19, 2023 and Thursday, April 20, 2023. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to approve Martin Paving to perform street sweeping on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 and Thursday, April 20, 2023; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle, to approve to use County Liquid Fuels Aid to pay for the 2023 street sweeping; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised the 2023 road and alley repairs include tar & chip Poplar Street from Main Street to Linden Street, tar & chip Birch Alley from Church Street to Linden Street, and single layer sealcoat & patching where needed on Linda Lane, Judy Lane and Georgie Lane. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Travis Randler to approve Secretary Schnoke to prepare and bid the 2023 road and alley repairs; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that Council has a copy of the employment advertisement to review, and that the advertisement will run on Thursday, March 16, 2023, and cover letter’s and resumes must be submitted by Friday, March 3, 2023. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the road laborer/water technician employment advertisement with the additions that applicant must be able to pass the DOT physical and drug screening in addition to pre employment drug testing; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that Council should discuss the Boy scout lean-too’s on the reservoir property. Dwight Belleman advised that the other year a tree fell on the structure and one of the boy scouts was going to fix the structure to earn his Eagle Scout. Dwight Belleman stated that the repairs were not done properly and the roof is buckled, there are sheets of plywood laying with nails sticking up, shingles laying on the ground everywhere, and mold growing inside the structures. Dwight Belleman stated that the facility was previously used for summer and winter camping by the Boy scouts however we have heard the Richland Boy scouts are disbanded due to lack of upcoming members. Solicitor George stated that the idea of a facility in disrepair and a potential nuisance situation is not in the best interest of the Borough. After in depth discussion, a motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Robert Rittle, to approve the removal of the lean-too structures, and a letter to be mailed to the Boy scouts notifying them of the Borough Council’s decision; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker stated no Executive Session is needed.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented a motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Robert Rittle, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,

Richland Borough Secretary