

A workshop meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 6:30 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 Workshop Meeting to order at 6:30 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 Robert Rittle, Richard Strickler, James Niethammer, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, Road Laborer & Water Technician Benjamin Becker, and Mayor Owen Landes.

Old Business:

Water Project – President Kelly Bricker provided the following updates regarding water projects. On 9/23/24 Kelly Bricker, Matthew Johnson, Dwight Belleman, and Benjamin Becker met with members of Becker Engineering to address concerns and questions. Well No. 9 Bid was advertised 9/19/24. The Well No. 9 bid can be awarded 11/12/24, and settlement to occur 12/19/24. Final construction for Well No. 9 is expected to be October 2025, Becker Engineering will be handling the construction and installation inspections to limit Borough's liability. The Borough can reimburse itself 15% for engineering and legal costs for the project from the PennVEST funding. PennVEST is holding the interest rate of 1.75% for the tank financing which is very beneficial. Plans have been received for the elevated water storage tank for review, permitting and environmental clearances are complete and the pre application meeting with PennVEST is to occur 9/25/24. The Borough has applied for an additional million-dollar LSA grant. Completion of the new water storage tank is anticipated to be October 2026. Discussion occurred regarding the stormwater pipe concerns with Main Street, Becker Engineering is communicating with the state regarding the ownership of the stormwater pipes on Main Street.

Playground Project – There was a pre-construction meeting last week with YSM and the contractor. One item discussed was the removal of the three trees along Pine Street and that they should be removed prior to construction to avoid any damage. A quote was received from Stoltzfus Professional Tree Service Inc., the price of \$3,500.00 includes cutting, removal and stump grinding. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by James Niethammer to approve Stoltzfus Professional Tree Service Inc. to cut down and remove the three trees along Pine Street in the amount of \$3,500.00; motion unanimously carried.

Electric Supplier – Secretary Schnoke advised the Borough's current electric supply rate is 0.08990, she worked with Integrity Energy to shop electric supply rates, the contract offered was a fixed all-inclusive rate of 0.09552 for 35 months, she contacted Kelly Bricker and James Niethammer who were good with the rate, the contract was signed. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to ratify the signature of the electric supply contract for 35 months at a fixed all-inclusive rate of 0.09552; motion unanimously carried.

Richland Beautification Committee – President Bricker advised that Shirley Landes with the Richland Beautification Committee received and provided a quote for the installation of a new receptacle. Discussion occurred, James Niethammer and Robert Rittle requested a simple wiring diagram of the work to be performed for review before considering contribution to the cost of this project. This matter was tabled for further review.

New Business:

Pension MMO's – Secretary Schnoke presented the 2025 MMO's for the employees' pension plans, Dwight Belleman's plan through PMRS and Rebecca Schnoke and Benjamin Becker's plan through Charles Schwab. The 2025 PMRS MMO amount is \$13,445.00 and the 2025 Charles Schwab MMO amount is \$14,800.00. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve signing the 2025 MMO's; motion unanimously carried.

Myerstown Borough Request for Fire Police Services – Secretary Schnoke advised a request for Richland Borough Fire Police services was received from Myerstown Borough for the annual Holiday Parade to be held Saturday, November 30, 2024, with a rain date of December 1, 2024. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the Richland Borough Fire Police to provide services for the annual Holiday Parade to be held Saturday, November 30, 2024, with a rain date of December 1, 2024, pending the availability of the Richland Fire Police; motion unanimously carried.

Kelly Bricker advised that there was a mulch fire at the Hursh Property located at 675 E. Linden Street, the mulch business knew the pile was hot but they thought they had more time to resolve the issue. Additionally, she advised that during this event there was some turbulence between the Borough (Borough including an employee & Council President) and the Borough's EMC regarding the handling of a fire hydrant at which time the EMC stated the Borough can find a new EMC, President Bricker stated she advised it was not the time for conversation on the matter. President Bricker stated this matter will need to be addressed in the future, and directed Secretary Schnoke to inquire with Lebanon County DES on what training and qualifications are required for the EMC position.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary