

**MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2023**

The meeting was held at the Seven Valleys Fire Hall, 35 Main Street, and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Stiles, followed by the pledge to the flag.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Zachary W. Stiles - President
Gregory Bonas
Gregory W. Kinard – Vice President
Deborah J. Ferree
Gary Landis
John J. Neal
William H. Stiles, II

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Douglas J. Wagner – Mayor
Makennah Stiles, Jr. Councilperson
Cheryl Bahn, Secretary
Todd A. Zeigler – Treasurer & Asst. Secretary
D. Michael Craley – Solicitor
Samantha Craley - Assistant Solicitor
Jeffrey Koons – Zoning Officer

Number of Visitors in Attendance – 2

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 6, 2023
 - Motion by Kinard, seconded by Ferree, and unanimously carried to approve the March 6, 2023, meeting minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jessica Valis, 22 Cherry Street, introduced herself as a new resident of the Borough since May 2022. She is the owner of Harford Designs, which is a marketing company, including website design. She told Council that she is offering to donate her professional services by redesigning a new website for the Borough. The Council graciously accepted her offer. She will work with Zeigler on its content, etc.
- Ms. Valis asked Council to consider placement of a lending “Neighborhood Library” somewhere in the Borough. Typically, the “library” is mounted on a post with a hinged door on a box measuring approximately 24” x 17” x17”. The concept is that anyone can borrow a book, and often in turn that person donates a book for someone else to use. Possible locations included Church Street at College Avenue and the Rail Trail parking lot. The estimated cost is approximately \$500. There was no action by Council.
- Scott Lackey, Seven Valleys Fire Company, expressed his continued concern with the number of trucks that strike the Rail Trail overpass because truck drivers are not observing

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the height restriction of the low bridge clearance. He is especially concerned should a truck carrying hazardous or flammable material hit the bridge. Mr. Lackey stated that he has met with PennDOT and state legislators in the past, but there have been no changes other than additional signage. To raise the bridge clearance, it would impact the Rail Trail and the rail line, not to mention the cost (Main Street is a state highway). There was further discussion on how to stop trucks before they reach the overpass.

- Ms. Valis also asked Council to consider additional signage for tractor-trailers and other large trucks that attempt to use Cherry Street. It was noted that trucks need to access the former sewing factory property on the east end of Cherry Street, which is occupied by five (5) different businesses.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **ORDINANCE NO. 1-2023: MAILBOX PLACEMENT & CONSTRUCTION**
 - A motion was made by W. Stiles, seconded by Bonas, and unanimously carried adopt Ordinance No 1-2023, which establishes rules and regulations for the placement and construction of sidewalks along a public sidewalk.
- **STYCSA RATE ISSUE – MEDIATION**
 - The agreement for a mediator is expected to be completed by the end of the week. Borough Council previously approved execution of the agreement. Zeigler will issue a \$2,000 check, the Borough's share of the mediation costs, which was also approved at a previous meeting.
- **WELLSPAN LEASE AGREEMENT**
 - It was reported that the lease agreement between WellSpan and Tri-Community Ambulance has been executed, and that WellSpan accepted all the changes proposed by the Borough. The lease agreement will be assumed by the Borough upon transfer of the Tri-Community Ambulance real estate to the Borough.
- **STATE POLICE REPORT**
 - Asst. Solicitor S. Craley commented that the police incident reports have not been updated by the PA State Police since the end of 2022.

ZONING/UCC/CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- **MONTHLY REPORT**
 - Koons reported that there was one (1) permit issued in March 2023.
 - 52 Main Street: The fine issued by District Court remains unpaid.
 - 10 Mason Avenue (Ray Kinard, owner): It was reported that the tenant was issued a notice to clean up the accumulation of junk and rubbish at his residence. Koons will follow up with a personal visit.
 - 12 Mason Avenue (Ray Kinard, owner): Koons reported that he spoke to Mr. Miller (tenant) and since that time he has made significant progress in cleaning up the accumulation of junk and rubbish. Mr. Kinard was copied on the violation notices for both 10 & 12 Mason Avenue.
 - 34 Church Street: It was noted that a deck was constructed on the rear of the house, over an existing concrete pad, without a zoning permit. Koons will follow-up with the owner.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

▪ **TRI-COMMUNITY AMBULANCE REAL ESTATE**

- Zeigler reported that it is anticipated that the property will be transferred to the Borough by mid-April 2023. Regardless, there was discussion on whether Council wanted to move its meetings to the Tri-Community Ambulance Building. A motion was made by Neal, seconded by Ferree, to advertise that the remainder of the Borough's 2023 meetings will be held at the ambulance building, 11 Main Street. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

▪ **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FIRE POLICE ACTIVITY**

- Zeigler shared a letter from Springfield Township that includes three (3) fire company events within the Township, which may require Seven Valleys Fire Police, on April 16, July 4, and September 4, 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORT

▪ **MARCH 2023**

- Motion by Landis, seconded by Kinard, and unanimously carried to approve, accept, and file the financial report for audit, and to authorize the Treasurer to pay regular bills.

REPORTS

▪ **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Zeigler stated that the April 2023 newsletter will soon be delivered. He asked anyone with corrections to let him know as soon as possible.
- Zeigler will coordinate the spraying of weeds along street gutters and sidewalks, prior to street sweeping.

▪ **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wagner reported that he, Landis, and two new Borough representatives (Amber Degros and **Emily _____**), attended a Trail Towns Action Committee meeting with the Economic Alliance at the Tri-Community Ambulance Building. Topics discussed included: directional signs to the Rail Trail parking lot, portable toilets at the trailhead on Church Street, as well as trash cans. After a period of discussion, it was decided that Zeigler will contact Penn Waste to see if the two (2) unused public trash containers included in the trash contract, could be utilized at the trailhead. There is one (1) already in use on Church Street, at College Avenue.

▪ **LIEN COLLECTION REPORT**

- There remain five (5) liens.

▪ **YCSTSA REPORT**

- There remain six (6) EDUs available.

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▪ **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Neal asked those present, who vote in Seven Valleys Borough, to consider writing in his name for Borough Council.
- Kinard noted that the property owner at 38 Main Street quickly responded to the Borough's request that his sidewalk be repaired. A section of sidewalk affecting two (2) segments collapsed. Kinard and the other members of Council were appreciative of his prompt attention to the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by President Stiles. The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at 11 Main Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd A. Zeigler
Assistant Secretary