

March 19, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the New Milford Borough Council was called to order by President Teri Gulick at 6:30 p.m. at the borough building. Members in attendance were: Teri Gulick, Kerin Welch, Lawrence White, Donna Cosmello, Dan Totten, Simon Frailey, Don Button and Mayor Scott Smith. Others in attendance were: Amy Hine, Secretary; Chuck Welch and Eleanor Lempke.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Teri said we are going to just take care of what absolutely needs to get done tonight. Teri said the borough office will remain open but the inside office will remain locked and only employees will be allowed in.

COMMUNICATIONS

The council received a copy of a letter sent from DEP to Suburban Propane approving their Environmental Covenants.

The council received a letter from Susquehanna County Interfaith just letting us know how they are doing.

The council received a letter from Joseph Collura that our 2019 audit is complete and everything was in order.

The council received a letter from New Milford Township regarding the Lakeside Outing Club. They requested that any letter of support for the Page Lake project be withheld until the Township finalizes its studies and the information is shared with us.

CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Teri said there are no updates other than a letter going to the property owner at 725 Main Street and Greg is waiting on the courts about the trailer on Delaware Street.

A motion was made by K. Welch and seconded by D. Cosmello to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried with L. White abstaining.

A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by D. Totten to accept the treasurer's report as presented and pay the bills as listed. Motion carried.

PRESENT TO SPEAK

Eleanor Lempke said she had something to say that will probably be unpleasant to some. Eleanor said she feels that every level of government try to rely a level of goodwill and respect. Eleanor asked council if it's appropriate for any sign or flag to be saying no more bullshit. Eleanor said this flag, which is across the street from her residence, has crossed the line of civility and good manners. Teri said everyone has a right to their own opinion; we can't tell anyone what they can or can't do on their own property. Eleanor said she also doesn't think it's appropriate for one of our elected officials to have that. Eleanor said that is just her opinion.

MAYOR'S REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ordinance: Council received the revised cable agreement with Adams Cable. **A motion was made by K. Welch and seconded by S. Frailey to authorize the signing of the revised cable agreement with Adams Cable. Motion carried.**

Finance: Teri said the committee met with members of the Municipal Authority and they are asking the borough to help with the portion of the grant that they owe for new pumps and water meters, \$45,000. Amy said the thinking behind this is that it would fall under the Act 13 money the borough gets every year. **A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by D. Totten to give the Municipal Authority \$45,000. Motion carried with D. Button abstaining.** Teri said the Municipal Authority has also asked that the borough consider designating a certain percentage of the Act 13 money that they get for the Authority on an annual basis as long as they received that money. Teri said that is something that we definitely have to discuss around budget time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Teri said we need to schedule another Midtown Festival meeting.

Teri said she asked Amy to contact Briechele about the Bradley case because he has run out of all options to appeal, he was sentenced by the Judge of Susquehanna County and it was withheld until he did his appeal. Teri asked Amy to find out where we stand with that.

Donna said Jonathan Fritz's office doesn't do water gauges.

Donna said Alex at Jonathan Fritz's office contacted her about the SR 492/SR 11 project. Alex said he spoke with Brian Small at PennDOT and this intersection warrants a signal. Donna said when we all met about this project we informed them that we did not want a light; it was a no. Donna said she is working with Jonathan and Alex to straighten this out.

NEW BUSINESS

Teri said the Census is supposed to be starting on April 1st. Teri said it could cost us dearly with federal and state funding if people don't fill it out.

Dan said he has been speaking with Scott Ellsworth, Susquehanna County EMA, and they have declared disaster relief. Dan asked if the borough wanted to declare disaster relief as well. Dan said it doesn't hurt us negatively if we do this; it just covers us if something happens; we are being proactive. **A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by D. Button to declare disaster relief for the borough per the EMA. Motion carried.**

Kerin said Oakland Borough's EMA made them shut down their parks. Kerin said she was asked today what we were going to do. The council agreed that we would keep going as we are keeping the parks open but leave the bathrooms closed.

A motion was made by D. Cosmello and seconded by K. Welch to adjourn at 6:51 pm. Motion carried.