

Mill Village Borough Minutes: Wednesday December 6, 2023

President Linda Falconer called the Mill Village Borough Meeting to order on December 6, 2023, at 6:57 p.m.

Those also present were Council Members: Edward Falconer, Steve Yovich, Kevin Babcock Ali Peters and Shawn McLaughlin. Also, in attendance were Solicitor-Tim Sennett, Mayor Joe Sam and Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Wise. Residents in Attendance: Henry McGuire, Sam H. McGuire, Sean Falconer, Mark Costello, Michelle Jaggi – EACOG, Brooke Morton, Paul Peters, Ed Bidwell, Tracy Etheridge, and George Abercrombie.

Edward Falconer motioned to accept the agenda, Kevin Babcock seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Steve Yovich motioned to pass the Consent Agenda including the Minutes from the Regular meeting – November 1, 2023, and the Treasurer's Report for November 30, 2023. Kevin Babcock seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

N.W. Saving Bank –November 30, 2023

General Fund: \$ 21,972.74

State Fund: \$ 7,781.63

Capital Reserve: \$ 51,978.15

Tornado Siren Fund: \$ 290.00

Petty Cash: \$ 28.50

ARPA Funds: \$26,136.26

Secretary Report: Three letters were sent to residents concerning illegal parking and a fence that was built too high. Mayor Sam will place a note on the car parked on the Mill Village Community Park property, that there is no overnight parking.

Borough Maintenance: Edward Falconer has been checking drains, The truck will be inspected. The truck will be readied for plowing. Shawn McLaughlin will order a front flap for the plow truck.

Public Comment:

Michelle Jaggi from the Erie Area COG spoke with the Council about the COG. The Mill Village Borough Council joined the COG in 2023. The Dues will stay the same in 2024. The COG has a joint bidding program and a Grant Assistance program. They are also working on County wide Broadband.

Resident Brooke Morton attended a few meetings ago to discuss her neighbor's property. A letter was sent by Solicitor Sennett.. Mayor Sam and Councilmember Yovich will speak with Mr. Bogert before additional action will be taken.

Resident Paul Peters stated that the Borough Building light is lighting up his backyard. He would like it turned off at night. Discussion was held on whether to install a switch or a motion detector or to move the direction of the light. George Cornwell will be called to check on a solution. Mr. Peters also complained about the Brake Retarders used on North Main Street. He submitted information concerning the installation of signs. PennDOT will be contacted to discuss it.

Resident Henry McGuire stated that he was following the ordinance when burning and there was a responsible adult present.

New Business:

Tax Collector Wynita Campbell has stated that she will be resigning her position at the end of December. Discussion was held on the appointment of a new Tax Collector. Tracy Etheride stated that she is interested in becoming the Mill Village Tax Collector. Tabled until the January 3, 2024 meeting.

Ali Peters motioned to advertise the Re-Organizational meeting for 6:00 p.m. on January 3, 2024. Shawn McLaughlin seconded. All voted yes.

Ali Peters motioned to sign a letter to the FLB School Board stating that the Mill Village Borough Council is not in favor of closing the Mill Village Elementary School and the Robison Elementary School and the building of a new Elementary School in Waterford. Shawn McLaughlin seconded. All voted yes.

The results from the 2023 Election have not been received. Linda Falconer and Steve Yovich still have 2 years left. Council member Edward Falconer has been re-elected. Council Members Ali Peters, John Letzo, Shawn McLaughlin and Kevin Babcock's positions are finished on December 31, 2023. The Courthouse will be contacted before the Re-Org meeting for a list of elected officials.

Unfinished Business:

Edward Falconer made a motion to pay payroll and monthly bills for November 30, 2023, seconded by Ali Peters. All voted yes.

Speed Sign Update: The Signs have been installed. Special Batteries have been ordered. They will be working within the next week. Council member Ed Falconer would like the speed sign along Route 6 changed to 35 mph.

Edward Falconer motioned to pass Ordinance #1 of 2023 – to set the tax rate to 1.20 mils for 2024. Kevin Babcock seconded. Linda Falconer, Edward Falconer, Ali Peters, Kevin Babcock and Steve Yovich voted yes. Shawn McLaughlin voted no. Motion Carried.

A LSA Grant was applied for in addition to the original grant from DCED, to help fund the construction of the Mill Village Community Park,

The Mill Village Borough Council discussed the Decorating Contest. 3 Judges will be chosen. The Mill Village Borough Council agreed to purchase 3 gift cards from Tops and present them to the winners at the January 3, 2024 meeting. First Place: \$100.00 gift card, Second Place: \$50.00 gift card and Third Place: \$25.00 gift card.

Edward Falconer motioned to pass the 2024 Budget as presented. Steve Yovich seconded. All voted yes.

General Comments from Council President: No Comment

General Comments from Solicitor: On November 8, 2023 the Sunshine Law put into effect that the Agenda cannot be changed once posted 24 hours in advance of a meeting, concerning any spending of funds or contracts.

General Comments from Council:

Mayor Sam – No Comment

Councilman Babcock – No Comment

Councilman Yovich – No Comment

Councilman Letzo Jr. – Absent

Councilwoman Peters – Last meeting.

Councilman McLaughlin – No Comment

Edward Falconer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57p.m. Steve Yovich seconded. All voted yes.

The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

Mill Village Borough Public Hearing: Wednesday December 6, 2023

President Linda Falconer called the Mill Village Borough Public Hearing to order on December 6, 2023, to order at 6:30 p.m.

Those also present were Council Members: Edward Falconer, Steve Yovich, Kevin Babcock Ali Peters and Shawn McLaughlin. Also, in attendance were Solicitor-Tim Sennett, Mayor Joe Sam and Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Wise. Residents in Attendance: Henry McGuire, Sam H. McGuire, Sean Falconer, Mark Costello, Michelle Jaggi – EACOG, Brooke Morton, Paul Peters, Ed Bidwell, Tracy Etheridge, and George Abercrombie.

The Public Hearing was held to discuss proposed Ordinance #1 of 2023 – an Ordinance to raise the Real Estate Tax rate from 1.07 mills to 1.20 mills. George Abercrombie asked why the Borough Council wants to raise the tax rate. Solicitor Tim Sennett explained that the raise in taxes will be used to replenish the Capital Reserve fund, which a portion was used to tar & chip roads in 2023 and to be used for higher operating costs. The Mill Village Borough council would also like to tar & chip Gillette Street and improve Woods Road. Residents Ed Bidwell and Mark Costello also asked about the purpose of the raise in taxes and what the justification and financial basis was in determining the raise. Council members explained that due to cost of living increases and a raise in general fund costs, that they have discussed for 2 years the raising of taxes is to cover the additional costs.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Catherine Wise
Secretary/Treasurer