

RIEGELSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Municipal Building

APPROVED March 13, 2024

President Thomas Stinnett called the regular meeting of the Riegelsville Borough Council to order at 7:03 pm March 13, 2024. **If anyone makes inappropriate comments, tries to sell something, is attacking someone, etc. you will be removed from this meeting.**

The Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call: PRESENT: Ed Bartosiewicz, G. Chase, Michael Pulsinelli, Rodney Scott, Thomas Stinnett, and Mayor Boenzli.

Motion to approve February 14, 2024, Council Meeting minutes, **E. Bartosiewicz motioned to approve, G. Chase Seconded. Unanimous.**

CORRESPONDENCE: Borough office received a voicemail today at 4:30pm Met-ed. Thursday March 14, 2024, Met-Ed will be doing emergency repairs that will affect Linden Lane north of the borough 10am-2pm.

REPORTS:

President: Nothing to report.

Mayor: Nothing to report.

Report: Sherry Masteller appointed Open Records Officer (ORO)

February 2024

No RTK's received in February.

0-Denials.

No new appeals.

YTD total received: 0.

Open Records Officer Hours: ORO YTD pay: \$3.91. ORO-Appeals YTD pay: 0.

Treasurer: YTD pay: 0.

Zoning officer: YTD pay: 0.

Solicitor fees: YTD pay: 0.

S. Masteller reported that the State Workers Insurance fund for the volunteer fire company has now been merged and in the name of PRFR (Palisades Regional Fire Rescue). The Borough will receive funds back. The new policy for the Borough will be approximately \$1300.00 less than the last renewal.

COMMENTS OF CITIZENS: Please state your name, you have 3 minutes to speak.

Three members of the Community were present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Affairs: Ed Bartosiewicz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on February 21, 2023.

If anyone makes inappropriate comments, tries to sell something, is attacking someone, etc. you will be removed from this meeting.

Members Present: Ed Bartosiewicz, Michael Pulsinelli, Gary Chase and Tom Stinnett.

Others Present: Mayor Boenzli, Jim Kopchak-Zoning officer, Frank Preedy- Borough EMC, Sherry Masteller-Borough Secretary and 3 Borough residents present.

Comments from citizens: Please state your name, you have maximum 3 minutes to speak. No one spoke.

Discussions:

Zoning: Jim Kopchak, Borough Zoning Officer, reported to Council his February 2024 report. Jim suggested the Zoning fee schedule should be updated to include escrow for floodplain.

2- Building Permits: 1-Window replacements, 1- porch and roof.

1 -Zoning permit- 1- reroof.

Enforcement Activities:

808 Durham Road update: The property has sold, and Jim contacted DCNR to make them aware of the sale.

702 Durham Road update: No update as of February 21, 2024.

Property Maintenance Violations:

BOCA Board should be called (Local UCC Appeals Board): Complaint was received November 16, 2023, for 914 Fairmont Road regarding dog waste and yard waste being piled up along the fence located between 914 and 924 Fairmont Rd. Jim visited the property and observed that there is dog waste and tree trimming along the fence on the side facing 914 property. Jim sent an enforcement letter on November 29, 2023. Deborah Perkins filed an appeal to the Property Maintenance Appeals Board (Local UCC Appeals Board). The hearing was held on December 28, 2023. Evidence was presented by the Code Official, by Tammy Macaluso, the complainant and by the appellant Deborah Perkins. The board heard all the evidence and statements from residents. The board voted unanimously and denied the appeal. Upon receipt of the written decision, Jim will re-visit the property to see if the debris along the fence has been removed. If Ms. Perkins fails to comply then Jim will file non-traffic citations with the local magistrate.

ZHB (Zoning Hearing Board) meetings: No scheduled meetings.

821 Durham Rd: Complaint was received January 10, 2024, regarding conditions of property. Jim visited the property and observed that the dwelling needs paint and that there are tires and debris that needs to be cleaned up. There are also two accessory storage buildings that need to be cleaned up and weather proofed. A violation letter was sent February 15, 2024, 90 days to comply. The compliance date is on or before May 20, 2024.

Other issues: Jim will be looking at trying to close out "Open Permits" and ask Randy to help also. Rodney discussed the possibility of adopting an ordinance to do annual apartment inspections.

RIEGELSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Municipal Building

APPROVED March 13, 2024

Library News: The Council received the director report from February 2024. Ed read the report. Envelopes have been ordered for the annual letter. A new copier was installed. "Better World Books has changed the way they will accept leftover books from the used book sales. Other options are being checked to dispose of the left-over books. Storytime will resume February 13th. Summer program theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library". Gary reported that they are working with Denise on a "T Mobile Hometown" Grant application that is due March 30, 2024. Gary is gathering the support letter for the Grant. Sherry reported the large ceiling fan in the library is not working correctly, Ken Banko will look at it and report back to the office.

PRFR (Palisades Regional Fire Rescue) News: E. Bartosiewicz reported that they have been busy with alarm calls and Riegelsville Inn had a chimney fire on February 14, 2024. Gary reported that during the March 6, Streets & Properties Committee meeting Pete Cox-PRFR President and Jeff Mease- PRFR Commissioner will be attending to answer any questions Borough Council and residents may have.

Riegelsville Enhancement Committee: Viana reported that during the March 7, 6pm meeting they will finalize their events for the year. Viana reported that PCI (Pennsylvania Correctional Industries) is working on the final draft of the new parking lot sign and the quote. Viana will update the Council when the draft is received.

UBREMS (Upper Bucks Regional EMS) News: Ed reported that the finances broke even in January. They have received grants and donations. They are hiring more so the overtime pay is lower.

Rec Board News: Sherry reported that the Palisades Girls softball league has started sign ups and we should have 2 teams again this year using our field as their home field. Men's Baseball team and hopefully a boys Baseball team too.

Riegelsville Emergency Management: Frank thanked the Riegelsville Road department for all their hard work during the past two storms. Frank reported that the Bucks County 911 system and the Pennsylvania Court System were hacked but they were still able to use the old method with pen, paper, and pagers for emergencies. Frank discussed with the Council that he would like to use the Zoning office as the command post during a Borough Emergency/ Disaster. The council agreed that would be a good office to use.

Riegelsville Planning Commission: Tom reported that Denise- Grant Writer is working on the grant application for the Comprehensive plan. Tom asked if Sherry could make sure Denise has the resolution that the council approved.

Draft Dog Ordinance: Is currently on hold.

Meeting adjourned 7:29pm Next meeting is March 20, 2024, at 7pm.

Utilities: Gary Chase called the Utilities meeting on February 21, 2024, at 7:52pm.

If anyone makes inappropriate comments, tries to sell something, is attacking someone, etc. you will be removed from this meeting.

Members Present: Gary Chase, Ed Bartosiewicz, Michael Pulsinelli, and Tom Stinnett.

Others Present: Mayor Boenzli, Frank Preedy- Borough EMC, and Sherry Masteller-Borough Secretary.

Concerns from Citizens: Please state your name, you have maximum 3 minutes to speak.

3-Borough resident present.

Discussions:

There was a power outage 2/6/24 10:15am North end/some south end of the Borough, well #3 automatically went on the Generator. Power came back on the south end around 4pm 2/6/24 North end & well #3 power on approx. 3:30pm 2/7/24.

The Verizon communication line was replaced at Well 1 & 2 down to Well 3 due to weather conditions.

EPA/PADEP Service Line Inventory update: Gary reported that the property owners inventory surveys continue to come in.

GLG Grant Application Update: Gary reported the grant application is due 2/29/24. Denise, Mark-Pennoni traffic engineer, Rodney and Sherry will have an online meeting 2/27/24 and send the application in the portal. Senator Coleman would like the Borough Council to prepare and approve a resolution requesting the GLG grant. Senator Coleman will then send a letter of support for the GLG grant application. This resolution will be added to the March 13, 2024, Borough Council agenda.

Stormwater Drainage System update: Frank will be attending a PEMA training that will discuss funding grant possibilities.

Michael discussed with the Council that the current electric contract expires 4/1/2026, our rate is locked in at 5 ½ cents per kwh but they are taken a huge increase of up to 12 cents. Our Renewal Specialist has shopped the account out with all the suppliers and the cheapest rate is 8 cents. Her suggestion is to sign the agreement now that will start April 2026. Rates are on the rise due to supply and demand, there are 4 more power plants in Pennsylvania that are shutting down by the year 2027. This renewal will be added to the March 13, 2024, Council agenda.

Meeting adjourned 7:50pm Next meetings: next meeting is March 20, 2024

RIEGELSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Municipal Building

APPROVED March 13, 2024

Streets & Properties: Rodney Scott called the Streets & Properties meeting to order at 7:00 pm on March 6, 2024. **If anyone makes inappropriate comments, tries to sell something, is attacking someone, etc. you will be removed from this meeting.**

Members Present: Rodney Scott, Ed Bartosiewicz, Gary Chase, Michael Pulsinelli, and Thomas Stinnett.

Others Present: Mayor Boenzli and Sherry Masteller-Borough Secretary.

Comments from Citizens: **Please state your name, you have maximum 3 minutes to speak.**

16 Borough residents were present. No comments.

Discussions:

Guest Speaker, Jeff Mease-Palisades Regional Fire Rescue (PRFR) Commissioner. Jeff introduced himself, he has been a fireman in Springtown for 48 years. Riegelsville FC 42 and Ottsville FC 49 and Sub Station 94 decided to consolidate, the advantage would be more funding opportunities, manpower. The funding is lacking, and manpower is getting older. Then Springtown FC 40 asked if they could join the consolidation too. All the fire companies have been doing mutual aid during calls, so it made sense to join together as PRFR. October 2022 the consolidation was official. Jeff answered questions.

- Gary asked what was being done about the lack of drivers during the day at Station 42. Jeff stated they are pulling drivers from other stations. Station 94 is also full station. Jeff mentioned the BCPC (Bucks County Planning Commission) prepared February 26, 2021 for BC Emergency management/services, "The Future of Bucks County's Fire Services", this document states how the fire departments volunteers are getting older, and we need new recruits. Jeff said they discussed this during the PRFR Municipal Advisory Board meeting that Rodney attends to get the BC Tech school/ Palisades to add programs for Fire Fighting and EMS training. This would help recruitment.
- Gary asked about the possibility of a paid fire company. Jeff discussed that some Bucks Municipalities do have paid and hybrid- part paid/part volunteer. Jeff does not see this in the near future for us.
- Jeff has meetings set up with State Rep Staats and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick to discuss the needs for PRFR.
- PRFR member/Resident asked did anyone talk to the previous drivers from Station 42. Jeff stated that he did reach out to one of them.
- PRFR member/Resident stated that she has volunteered with Station 42 Auxiliary/Fundraising for 30 years and would like to know if functions will be set up again with Riegelsville. The Community is missing the dinners and asking why we didn't have the fish fry's. Jeff stated they did price out the cost of the fish fry food, manpower, electric and they would need to charge \$20.00. They are looking at other fundraisers that do not need a lot of manpower and make a profit. Jeff stated they are not closing Station 42; we have a New Engine there.

Borough Building Safety Score & Cert. of Occupancy: Rodney reported no update at this time, he is meeting with Jim Kopchak-Zoning officer to go over a few things.

Parking lot Borough Sign update: Viana reported that the manufacturer sent the proof back and the quote. The quote will be added to the Borough Council agenda on March 13 for vote.

Mayor Viana reported that the Riegelsville American Legion Annual Memorial Weekend Ceremony is set for Sunday May 26. Rich Wilson, Legion Commander would like permission from the Borough Council to proceed with the planning. The Borough Council approved.

New Borough sign concern on corner of Delaware/Fairmont Road: Rodney reported this discussion is tabled until Community Affairs committee meeting on March 20.

Emergency lights need to be replaced or the battery changed in the library: Matt is charging the battery, will update the Council and Library on the outcome. **Remark: Matt will be putting in a new one, battery will not charge.**

GLG (Green Light Go) Draft Resolution as requested from Senator Coleman. The draft will be added to the March 13, Borough Council agenda for a vote.

Completed Water System Tapping Fee Analysis update: The analysis is completed. The next step is to get the Ordinance updated by Scott McNair- Borough Solicitor. The council agreed to move forward.

The Borough Council will sign the support letter for the T-Mobile Grant application for the Library during the Council meeting on March 13.

Meeting adjourned 8:06 pm Next Streets/Properties meeting will be held on April 3, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Finance: Michael Pulsinelli called the Finance meeting to order for March 6, 2024, at 8:06 pm.

If anyone makes inappropriate comments, tries to sell something, is attacking someone, etc. you will be removed from this meeting.

Members Present:

Michael Pulsinelli, Gary Chase, Ed Bartosiewicz, Rodney Scott, and Thomas Stinnett.

Others Present:

RIEGELSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Municipal Building

APPROVED March 13, 2024

Mayor Boenzli and Sherry Masteller-Borough Secretary.

Comment from Citizens: Please state your name, you have maximum 3 minutes to speak.

16-Borough residents were present. No comments.

Discussions:

IT, Outlook, Website: Viana went over the monthly data that was collected from Google Analytics on the Borough website.

Durham Road small parking lot: Michael reported that the parking lot title is clear. Rodney reported that we may need to do a level 1 testing since it had vehicles on it if we decide to sell it. The Council will vote on March 13, during the Borough Council meeting. Rodney reported that he is going to talk to the property owner of the old bank building in reference to his large parking lot, we could really use extra parking downtown.

Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan update: Tom reported that the grant was put in on February 29.

Solid Products Vest order update: The vests are ready, and the invoice will be added to the March 13, bills. Rodney or Matt will pick them up.

2 AEDs for Borough Hall update: Michael reported they will add the purchase of 2 AEDs to the 2025 Budget, approximately \$4484.00. Viana and Michael will continue to gather information on training/certification to operate them.

The Borough Council received a quote from Cowan Associates to survey Court Lane, this will be added to the March 13, Council agenda for vote.

The Borough Council received Denise Whitley/Grant writer invoice, this will be added to the bills on March 13, Council.

TCC (Bucks County Tax Collection Committee): Gary reported that he attended the last TCC meeting and was talking to the representative from Keystone, they collect delinquent per capita tax. The Borough uses Berkheimer. Gary would like to compare the companies. Tom was elected to the appeals board.

Borough resident reported that there is a truck that hasn't moved for many years on Wayside way, Rodney said we look into that.

The Borough Council looked over the finances.

Meeting adjourned: 8:35

Next Finance meeting will be held April 3, 2024, immediately following Streets/Properties

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: If anyone has any questions please comment prior to the vote.

Approval of Borough Council support letter for Riegelsville Public Library T-Mobile Grant application. **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Bucks County Board of Health (BOH) to treat the existing mosquito breeding area in the Borough. **E. Bartosiewicz motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Resolution R-03-24, Authorizing the submission of the Green Light Go (GLG) grant program. **G. Chase motioned to approve; M. Pulsinelli seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of quote \$1,058.28 for Pennsylvania Correctional Industries (PCI) for Parking lot sign at Borough Hall. **E. Bartosiewicz motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Check \$458.15 to LDR ProSolutions, LLC (Denise Whitley/Grant Writer). **M. Pulsinelli motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of quote \$1600.00 for Cowans Associates, Inc. (Field Survey for Court Lane). **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Rodney Scott made a motion to sell the Borough Small Parking Lot on Durham Road. **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Bob Ryan stated that Deborah can't attend tonight's meeting and is unsure why she isn't getting her \$750.00 escrow check back. Sherry reported that Ms. Perkins will receive a document explaining that half of the Stenographer \$162.50 and the ad \$154.44 are taken out of escrow.

Approval of Check \$ 433.06 to Deborah F. Perkins (Escrow Balance refund IPMC Violation hearing). **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

RIEGELSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Municipal Building

APPROVED March 13, 2024

Approval of Check \$683.98 to Diamond Communication Solutions (Per capita Bill/printing & postage) **E. Bartosiewicz motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Check \$701.36 to Durham Twp. (2024 Road Maintenance agreement Sunnyside Road). **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Check \$368.00 to Delaware River Basin Commission (Annual). **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Check \$1176.00 to Gunners Meters & Parts, Inc. (1 1-1/2 meter/reader & 10 readers). **R. Scott motioned to approve; G. Chase seconded. Unanimous.**

Approval of Check \$1469.10 to LB Water Services, Inc. (Curb stop supplies). **G. Chase motioned to approve; E. Bartosiewicz seconded. Unanimous.**

Bob Ryan asked about the new rate, Sherry explained that during the February 21 Utilities meeting the rate was quoted on February 20, \$.08194. Today March 13, the rate is \$.08394, that is the contract amount the Council is voting on.

Approval for Electric contract with Direct Energy Business, LLC at \$.08394 kwh starting 4/1/2026 Term 34 months. **G. Chase motioned to approve; E. Bartosiewicz seconded. Unanimous.**

NEW BUSINESS: No New business.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: **G. Chase motioned to approve; E. Bartosiewicz seconded. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned 8:00 PM.

Next Council meeting: April 10, 2024, at 7:00pm.

Sherry Masteller
Borough Secretary