

Eagles Mere Borough Minutes

**March 1, 2021
Regular Meeting**

The Eagles Mere Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7 PM on the above date by President Feese with the following Council members in attendance in the room: Lee Middleton, Dennis Craig, John Huhn, and Matt Andrews and with Rick Liebert via conference phone. Mayor Richard Lobach was present in the room. Street Superintendent Jeremy Moore and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Carson were also in attendance.

In the Gallery: Marian Klopp representing the Fire and Ambulance services.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Public Comments: Marian Klopp reported on the 2020 statistics for the Fire Company and the Ambulance Association. She was thanked for the services of both the Fire and Ambulance crews. The statistics she provided will become part of the minutes for this meeting.

Minutes- A motion to approve the minutes of the previous Regular Meeting of February 1, 2021 was made by Lee Middleton and seconded by Dennis Craig. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report – A motion to approve the interim financial report through February 25, 2021, as distributed with the minutes, was made by Lee Middleton and seconded by Dennis Craig. The motion was approved. It was noted that the Borough has received its Liquid Fuels and Turnback allocations for 2021 and these funds have been deposited in the appropriate PLGIT account.

Open Records Officer:

- No requests

Zoning & Ordinance Officer report:

- The Zoning Officer has been working with a potential property owner who wishes to build a house on an extension of Linwood Ave in the Park. This involves 1)approval of the siting of the building on the lot, which will require consolidation of two lots into one, 2)extension of the sewer main to reach the property, 3)creation of a gravel driveway on an easement granted by the Conservancy, 4)discussions with the Eagles Mere Park Homeowners Association, and 4)coordination with the Eagles Edge Preserve group who potentially have a person who wishes to do the same thing on the other side of the driveway! The first property owner has paid \$500 for the Zoning Permit to construct the house and \$3000 to tap into the sewer.
- These two lots on an extension of Linwood Ave in the Park will need an address and street number assigned to the property. Addresses are generated by the Sullivan County Office of Emergency Services. Since this lot will be on a “new” section of the street, Borough permission to assign a house number in this area is required. Therefore, Council is asked to adopt a letter and resolution from the Borough approving

the extension of Linwood Ave right-of-way as a private lane for purposes of assignment of a house number/911 address number. The lane will be on property owned by the Conservancy and is subject to an easement for properties adjoining the lane. This approval will also permit the issuing of an address for Kathy Holmes and other future potential property owners along the Linwood Ave Extension. This action is only related to addresses and in no way encumbers the Borough with responsibility for Linwood Ave. Access rights are specifically NOT extended to Eagles Edge Preserve, LLC or to properties marketed by them. Along with all other Park streets, this extension will be maintained by the Park Association or the adjoining homeowners. The resolution was moved by Dennis Craig and seconded by Matt Andrews. The motion passed.

Street Superintendent Report:

- Streets have been plowed and cleared during February. The Streets Helper was called in to assist, as needed.

Points of Interest and Information from the Secretary:

- The Borough has received Realty Transfer taxes for January in the amount of \$2797.90. (Walheim > Little, Dunham > Ellis Ventures, LLC)
- The SulCo Chamber of Commerce has an annual spring time raffle “Spring has Sprung”. They are seeking County organizations who wish to participate as a “sponsor” of a raffle item. The Chamber will reimburse the cost of the item. The Secretary suggests participation with one or more Eagles Mere related items (i.e. a gift certificate for ice cream at the Sweet Shop, a gift certificate for the Museum gift shop or similar branded items) since there is no cost to us. Approval was moved by Lee Middleton and seconded by Dennis Craig. The motion passed.
- Council persons wishing to run for reelection should be circulating petitions to get on the ballot. They are due by March 9, 2021.
- Stiffler McGraw has begun work on engineering the Clay Ave project. They are waiting for snow pack to reduce or disappear before surveying for the elements of the project. The grant request is due by March 26. The Lake Association and the Conservancy are still active participants in this project.

Mayor’s Report:

- The Mayor has been appointed to a sub-committee of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region to develop content for information signs funded by the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau. These signs, including one for Eagles Mere, will be erected at locations where they can provide guidance to tourists.
- Mayor Lobach is also working with the Visitors Bureau to generate opportunities for small meeting and retreats to be held mid-week and during the shoulder seasons when existing visitor traffic is not great.

Emergency Coordinator’s Report: None

Committees:

Finance: Finances for the month and year appear in good order. The Borough is in overall good financial condition. Revenue from 2021 real estate taxes will begin to arrive in March and April and billings for trash will be sent shortly.

Personnel: No report.

Borough Branch: No report

Museum: The Museum ended the year in the black, partly with the aid of a grant to offset the results of Covid impacts and the accompanying loss of revenue. The Museum hopes to begin regular hours in April.

Infrastructure: - Liquid Fuels and Turnback funds for 2021 have been received and placed in the Liquid Fuels account for use on budgeted street projects in 2021. Jeremy Moore received praise for his outstanding work keeping the streets clear of snow.

Ordinance: No Report

Website: Updates continue to be made as needed.

Shade Tree Commission: No Report

Continuing Business-

- The Clay Avenue drainage project includes an outfall where the waters collected by the installed system will ultimately drain into the Lake after an opportunity for natural settlement and nutrient removal in a dissipater pit. Unlike the existing outfall, where muddy water flows into the lake under the Edgemere canoe dock, a new outfall must receive a permit. The original engineering quote from Stiffler and McGraw was based on a General Permit (GP-4) for the outfall. The PA Dept of Environmental Protection has now determined that a Joint Permit is required because Lake waters eventually drain into streams designated as "Exceptional Value Waters". Their quote to complete a Joint Permit, if required, was an additional \$10,000. Council did not consider or approve this amount or this section of the quote because it was not believed to be necessary. Since it is now necessary according to the PA-DEP, *Council is asked to approve an additional \$10,000 for engineering expenses to assemble and submit a Joint Permit for the Clay Ave. outfall* and a motion to that effect was made by Dennis Craig and seconded by Lee Middleton. The Clay Ave project is a cooperative effort of the Borough, the EM Conservancy and the EM Association and the three parties have agreed to fund the project costs not covered by grant revenue.
- The Clay Avenue drainage project grant application will be due before the next Council meeting. *Approval to submit a grant application based on engineering plans and estimates is requested* to avoid calling a Special Meeting. The grant application will be to the Sullivan County Conservation District for their Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Roads program from the state. (This group funded our Casino Lane project in 2020.) Council will have additional opportunities for involvement as bids are advertised, individual contracts let, etc. The grant will be in the name of Eagles Mere Borough, as the municipality involved, and will cover 90% of the specific costs of the project including an allowance of 10% of the total award toward the engineering fees. The municipality must contribute in-kind value of 10% which may include the unreimbursed portion of the engineering fees. Approval to submit the grant by the due date was moved by Denis Craig and seconded by John Huhn. The motion carried.

New Business-

- The Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs is offering Borough Elected Officials a program that offers guaranteed issue term life and accidental death insurance for elected officials. The maximum coverage is \$10,000 and benefits reduce based on

participant age. The cost to cover all EM elected officials is about \$500 per year. This can be established as a Borough program in recognition of the volunteer work of Council members or could be an individual decision of each member with a minimum participation is 75% of Council members. After discussion there was no motion for approval offered. PSAB will be notified that Eagles Mere will not participate.

Workshops/Conferences-

- There are no events or programs on the schedule. The annual PSAB Conference in Hershey has been cancelled for 2021. There will be a no-charge virtual Conference with on-line programs on June 7 and 8, 2021.

Payment of Bills- Approval to pay the bills, as reviewed by Dennis Craig, for the Borough and Museum was moved by John Huhn and seconded by Dennis Craig. The motion passed.

Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David R. Carson
Secretary/Treasurer