

Eagles Mere Borough

Minutes

October 3, 2016

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: VP Christelle Loftus, John Huhn, Dave Werner, Matt Andrews, Richard Liebert & Robert Spahr. Also Secretary/Treasurer Wilson. Mayor Werner was not in attendance. In the gallery: J. Moore, K. Smith, J. Wilkinson, B. Moyer, J. Ecker and C. Wise, Civic Club President.

Public Comments: no issues were presented. See Shade Tree Commission report.

Minutes- for the previous monthly meeting were approved as presented on a motion from Mr. Huhn seconded by Mr. Spahr.

Treasurer's Report – for the previous month was approved with the minutes.

Street Superintendent Report: written reports were emailed.

Open Records Officer: No RTO forms received or filed.

Ordinance & Zoning Officer's Report-

The certified letter sent to Wards was returned undelivered. A letter will be sent not certified to see if we can get their attention. Complaint regarding hedges overhanging the sidewalk at Robsons needs to be checked along with a tree that is planted there and notification given to rectify.

Business Conducted –

The regular meeting was recessed for an advertised public hearing regarding 2 amendments to the Borough Code. One relates to removing the 15 minute parking in front of the General Store and the other restricts the speed limit to 15 mph on Carl Rider Rd. There were no comments or questions regarding either amendment and the Public Hearing was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened. Ms. Loftus moved to accept both amendments as written and it was approved after seconding by Mr. Liebert. Both were signed by the president and will be done by the mayor at her earliest convenience.

Domain name eaglesmere.org is due to expire: It was decided on a motion from Mr. Liebert, seconded by Mr. Werner to discontinue the use of this domain name. A new agreement will be drafted to dissolve the old agreement. This domain name will be transferred to the Eagles Mere Inn as determined in the old agreement at the Website committee meeting scheduled for Oct. 12th.

Both Wooden Eagles Mere Signs and flower boxes attended to by the Civic Club for many years are in need of extensive repairs and repainting. Cathy Wise, Civic Club President, got informal estimates from a local contractor for repairs plus restaining and repainting the signs that she will share with the council. The Civic Club asked that the flower boxes be removed & replaced with shrubs or plants that

don't need so much work. The estimate looks to be around \$900 to stain and repaint just the signs.

The Civic Club asked that they no longer have the responsibility for these signs. The council agreed, and decided to remove the flower boxes using Borough employees. There is sufficient interest in restoring the signs and will be continued on the next agenda. Mr. Werner also asked that the Street Superintendent look at the situation and report back at the next meeting. It was noted that Richard Schafer has done this kind of work pro bono if he is provided with materials.

The banner posts located on Pennsylvania Ave in the village were placed there by the Civic Club. They are not used much and their removal will be considered by the Civic Club at their next meeting.

PLCB has decided they will be making future payments by ACH deposit and sent forms to provide banking and account information to do so. Their website will have all the information regarding payments. They will no longer send letters.

Procession permit application was granted to EMHVI for the Biplanes, trains and automobile event on Oct 8. It was ratified by council on a motion from Mr. Huhn, seconded by Mr. Liebert.

Borough Branch- A new printer needs to be purchased as the one that is there is obsolete, we can no longer get ink. Mr. Huhn moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Liebert. The funds will come from the Branch account.

The phone will be disconnected as per motion from Ms. Loftus, seconded by Mr. Huhn.

Pat Maloy has been "camping out" at the Branch and is making members a little uneasy. He is not a resident of the Borough, but says he paid the fee to get the code. He will be given the fee back and asked not to use the facility again. Ms. Wilson offered to accompany her to return the fee.

Community Christmas Party- The Country Club has agreed to let the community use the Club for the Annual Christmas party on December 18th at 6 pm.

Rip Hanley's note book found by his daughter was copied and given to Ms. Loftus who was given permission to frame and display it at the Borough Hall.

Upper Crosswalk at the General Store- it was approved on a motion from Mr. Huhn, seconded by Ms. Loftus to reinstate this crosswalk in the crosshatch pattern.

Committees:

Finance: BUDGET Mr. Werner handed out the 2017 draft budget compared to this year's budget. The Committee recommends increasing the Fire Tax by \$2400 after their treasurer made a presentation to the Finance Committee showing their operating costs have been running "under water" for several years. After reviewing that information and their audits Mr. Werner made the recommendation that will increase the tax by .02mils, an increase from .171 to .191 or about 37 cents per taxpayer per month. Employees will receive a 3% increase in wages. Health insurance numbers were not available, probably not until November meeting. Infrastructure asked for several increases. Tools would be increased by \$1200 for 2017 only to purchase power tools that are worn out or non-existent and another increase was for supplies. Other increases are slated to replace materials that are running out of stock from several years ago. Storm drains needs some funding (at least \$1500 per year. It was decided to leave \$2300 for next year. Paving is scheduled for Lake Ave and Fern Lane at \$30k. Equipment purchase includes a new truck @ \$85K and \$1500 for a blacktop saw. \$22K for other road & maintenance improvements which includes a ramp to dump trash into the compactor(cost \$12K)

and re-graveling Hayes Ave and tar and chip Carl Rider Road(\$8k). The tar and chip would have to be done several years in a row to equal paving.

Ms. Loftus suggested the Branch does not need a phone and could save \$540 annually by disconnecting it. There was also a \$4k cushion put in to cover extra costs. This puts the budget about \$105,000 over current income. Review of the timeline suggests the final budget be approved at the November meeting for publication and adoption to follow at the December meeting. Mr. Werner had some alternative options for council to consider including raising taxes (note \$191 per tax payer), decreasing expenditures to match income(don't purchase the new truck, install the ramp or tar & chip), or spend assets that were retained to purchase equipment and/or saved from general funds surplus. Council discussed the options on the handout and they agreed that 4-B, which was a combination of reducing spending and expending some assets, was the best plan. A suggestion was made that there would be funds coming from the sale of the old plow truck that might be equal to the cost of the ramp. So the only thing that would have to be left out would be the tar and chip on Carl Rider Rd. The draft budget will be revised to reflect the implementation of plan 4-B and will be distributed to the Council.

Museum : EM Foundation has sent the funds requested by the Museum for sound proofing panels. The museum has also submitted a draft budget that will be approved with the Borough's. A new shop attendant is being interviewed to cover Saturdays. Lisa Frey has been covering some of the gaps.

Infrastructure: Mr. Huhn met with Mr. Robson on a couple occasions and suggested that Mr. Robson contact the Milbergers to work out some solution to the parking and visibility issue at those residences along Rt#42. Mr. Huhn reported that an agreement is being worked out that will benefit both parties and improve conditions.

Eagles Mere Borough line @ the EM Park. Eric Hopkins is going to get together with Emergency Services to locate and GPS the borough line so they can issue correct 911 numbers on the houses in that area. The committee decided that **the upper crosswalk** at the General Store should be reestablished and painted to be more visible. They suggested the cross hatch design. Discussions are going forward regarding the speed limit at the beach area and re-evaluation of the parking there. The new truck can't be ordered until the budget is approved in December.

Website: There will be a meeting of the website committee on Oct 12 at 10am.

Shade Tree Commission: Tree City flag, hat and annual sticker were received. The flag was given to Jay Wilkinson to fly over the village as in prior years. It was noted by the president that there was no interruption in the Borough's membership with them. The commission viewed trees at Detwiler's and EMA property on Lewis Avenue and recommended that all 4 should come down. On a motion from Ms. Loftus, seconded by Mr. Werner letters will be sent to both property owners who will be advised they may proceed to remove the afore mentioned trees. Trees and bushes at Eagles Mere and Jones Ave need to be trimmed and the owners should contact the STC before this work is done. It was noted that Don's Trees service has been advised several times that he needs to contact the STC before cutting trees in the Borough's right of ways.

Secretary's Notes & Information:

- Annual NIMS report forwarded to Ms. Hasting for review and filed with the County EMS. President Feese has completed ICS100. We now have 4 council members trained for basic NIMS.
- Letters sent to Class, Beaugard & Blair regarding Shade Trees to be removed.
- Copy of a letter to Tina Picket was received from a new Fire Company member about the extensive hours and testing required to become an EMT.
- Letter to the EM Inn regarding domain name eaglesmere.org.
- Sent letter to Pendot regarding green handicapped sidewalk markers. Mr. Pochatko called to say he received our letter and will research who is responsible for these marker pads and get back to us.
- Checked on insurance for EMTs. They are covered under EMC insurance.
- Got previous salt prices for Mr. Moore.
- Checked Borough Code for expenses allowed. May appropriate funds for annual Holiday observances, centennials, anniversaries or borough celebrations or civic projects or programs. See Section 1202 Specific powers Chapter 41

The bills were ordered paid for the Borough and Museum on a motion from Mr. Huhn, seconded by Mr. Werner.

The meeting was adjourned by of the President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay L. Wilson
Secretary/Treasurer