

Eagles Mere Borough

AGENDA

September 7, 2021
Regular Monthly Meeting
Time: 7:00 pm

William Feese, Louise Middleton, Dennis Craig, Cole Lee, Doug Smith, Jim Way and Richard Liebert. Mayor Richard Lobach. Also present may be Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Carson, and Street Superintendent: Jeremy Moore and Emergency Management Coordinator: Wendy Hastings.

In the Gallery:

Call to Order: Council President Bill Feese

Pledge of Allegiance:

Motion to Revise the Published Agenda: The previously published Agenda needs to be revised to include a moment of Silence for Betty Hayes and for discussion under New Business of the status of Wingert Lane.

Moment of Silence in Memory of Betty Hayes, Mayor of Eagles Mere from January, 2006 through December 2013.

Public Issues & Comments:

Minutes: Approve August 2, 2021 Meeting minutes (including Vacancy Board meeting) as included with Agenda.

Treasurer's Report:

- Interim reports sent with agendas. Reports are through August 31, 2021.

Open Records Officer: Request for information received after notice that a building was a public nuisance. Request later withdrawn.

Zoning & Ordinance Officer report:

- The Zoning Officer has provided informal information about buildability on a lot on Allegheny Woods Ave.
- The owner of a building on the corner of Fern and Allegheny Aves., who received our notice that building was a Public Nuisance, has now made arrangements to have the building removed this Fall. He plans to build a new garage in its place.

Street Superintendent Report:

- Street clean-up has been a major issue following the many rain and wind events in the recent month.
- The Superintendent has prepared his budget requests and recommendations for the Infrastructure Committee.
- Twelve traffic cones used to prevent parking along portions of Pennsylvania Ave disappeared following the Craft Fair. (Value about \$15.00 each)

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Mayor's Report:

Emergency Management Coordinator's report:

Points of Interest and Information from the Secretary:

- The Borough has received Realty Transfer taxes for July in the amount of \$4753.00 (Andrews > Braccia, and Huhn > Jansson)
- Our revised grant application, submitted with the EMA and Conservancy, for the Clay Ave. drainage improvements has been reviewed by the Sullivan County Conservation District and we have received verbal approval of an award of about \$40,000 for a phased plan to implement the improvements. We can submit a follow-up plan for another grant in 2022 to do additional work. The Conservancy has said they will withdraw from the collaboration because they are only interested in work on the Green and parking lot.
- The Eagles Mere Borough Authority hopes to close on its purchase of a parcel of land adjoining the Outlet Waste Water Treatment Plant in September.
- The Borough has received its allocation of \$5,913.81 of federal money from the American Rescue Plan of 2021. An identical distribution will be made at this time in 2022. Council needs to determine how they wish these funds to be used. This money was not budgeted. The amount is based on 2010 census of the Borough population. Information on these funds is attached to this agenda.
- We have received notice that our Liquid Fuels accounts and activities will be audited on September 29, 2021.
- We have received notice that the Conservancy is appealing its property assessment values for eight parcels in Eagles Mere Borough.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has reviewed the Authority's Annual Wasteload Management Report (known as a Chapter 94 report) and found it to be complete and accurate. Borough Council must be notified of DEP's findings.
- The Borough has received Comcast franchise fees for the period ending June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$854.87. This is approximately \$100 above the average from recent previous quarters.

Committee Reports:

Finance-

- Interim financial reports for the Borough through July 28, 2021 are attached to this Agenda.
- The Borough continues to operate soundly with adequate cash flow. The truck, ordered in 2020, has been delivered to Bradco for upfitting. The \$50,940.00 for the chassis has been paid.
- The financial reports have been corrected to show the approved revenue budget for real estate taxes. Previous reports included the budget amount before the tax increase was approved.
- Rick Lowe, CPA, who has audited the Borough's books for many years, has indicated he will not accept the engagement to audit 2021 activities during 2022 as he is reducing his workload.

Infrastructure- No report

Museum- The Museum is now operating daily through Labor Day weekend. The Operating schedule will be adjusted based on expected attendance and will likely be weekends only through the Fall.

Ordinance- The Borough will need to enact ordinances to authorize bonding and other procedures to protect our streets and roads and/or assure repair following planned timbering work by Eagles

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Edge Preserve, LLC. Our Solicitor is preparing recommended documents and language to implement the needed changes.

Personnel- The Committee has met to begin the budget planning process.

Website- Updates continue to be made by Kase Moore as needed.

Continued Business:

New Business:

- At the request of the Sewer Authority Board, Council is asked to appoint a member to fill the seat vacated by John Huhn. In response to announcements of the vacancy, Matt Andrews has volunteered to serve. As s Shrewsbury Twp. resident, he is eligible for the position.
- Letter received from Counsel for Dilks Lake Holdings, LLC contesting Borough Council's recent action relative to Wingert Lane. Mr. Dilks believes this is a private driveway and not a Borough Street as past actions of the Borough would indicate.
Note: Notice from Dilks Lake Holdings, LLC received by Certified Letter on Saturday, September 4, 2021. Agenda revised and posted on the next business day, Tuesday, September 7, 2021 on the Borough office door and revised agenda passed unanimously by Council at the beginning of the regular meeting at 7:00 pm, September 7, 2021

Workshops/Conferences-

- No programs are on the schedule.

Payment of Bills- Approval to pay the bills (as reviewed) for the Borough and Museum is requested.

Adjourn the meeting at _____ pm.

American Rescue Plan Act funds

Eagles Mere has received \$5,913.81 in *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)* funding. A like amount will be received in the summer of 2022. The award is calculated based on 2010 census figures and every municipality in the United States is included. For comparison purposes, Eagles Mere received the smallest amount in Sullivan County. Laporte Borough received \$15,599.50 and Cherry Township received \$84,206.38. Funds were distributed only to municipalities; Authorities and other quasi-governmental entities do not receive funds.

There are very few strings attached to these funds and the Borough is free to spend them as it sees fit. It is likely we will need to explain how much and in what fashion the money is ultimately spent. The following guidance is from the State of Pennsylvania:

"The COVID-19 ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will provide eligible state, local, and territorial governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs.

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Recipients may use these funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, funding for COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet”