

SELINGSGROVE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 7, 2022 – 7:00PM

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: President Marvin Rudnitsky, Vice President Richard Mease, President Pro Tempore Bobbie J. Owens, C/P Sara Lauver, C/P Sara Maul, C/P Christopher Kalcich, C/P Scott M. Frost

OTHERS PRESENT: Borough Manager/Secretary Lauren Martz; Assistant Borough Manager/Treasurer Sharon Badman; Mayor Jeff Reed; Solicitor Robert Cravitz; DH&L Ambulance Brian Hipple; Susquehanna Students: Isaac Leaf tonic, Joshua Day, Ben Shaffer; Land Discussion (Vacate Unopened Alley): John Hoover, Susan Scholl, Tom & Linda Hoover, Menno & Mariana Reiff, Michael Cavada; SEDA-COG/ARPA Representative Teri Provost and Melissa Matthews; REC Kelly Feiler

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President Rudnitsky called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Borough Manager/Secretary Martz called the roll and acknowledged a quorum, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON January 3, 2022:

C/P Mease made a motion to approve the minutes from January 3, 2022 with the amendment of minutes provided in the packet stating C/P Viker motioned to adjourn the meeting. C/P Kalcich made the motion to adjourn at 8:12PM and C/P Owens seconded. C/P Kalcich seconded the motion to approve the minutes with the amendment.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

DH&L Fire Company: Jason Kaufman called in to give the 2021 yearend report and the January monthly report and will email it to Sheri Badman. The next fundraiser will be a silent auction on March 4th.

DH&L Ambulance League: Brian Hipple presented the monthly ambulance report for January. There were 54 total emergencies in the Borough and 157 total company calls.

Selingsgrove Projects Inc: Minutes were provided from the December 21, 2021 meeting.

Selingsgrove Chamber of Commerce: Minutes were provided from the annual board election meeting on January 16, 2022 as well as minutes from the November 23, 2021 general members meeting.

Selingsgrove Area Recreation Inc: Minutes were provided from the December 13, 2021 meeting.

The REC: Minutes were provided from the January 17, 2022 meeting. Kelly Feiler was present to address any questions concerning a grant she wrote to purchase the Selingsgrove Inn at 214 N. Market Street. Assistant Borough Manager/Treasurer Badman asked if the grant was on her own. Kelly stated she had to submit the grant as a non-profit but if she were invited to continue to apply, she would have to complete a full application and would have to get the Borough's or another municipal agency's assistance to proceed. President Rudnitsky explained he had spoken with Senator Gordner who stated if the grant is successful then it must come through a government agency. This is a grant which requires a 50% matching funds requirement. Bob Casey's office is looking into finding the matching funds. C/P Owens advised Kelly she should meet with Deputy Zoning Officer Lindsey Mull to be aware of zoning and flood maps. Assistant Borough Manager/Treasurer Badman asked if Kelly could provide a copy of the original grant application to the Borough Administrative office.

Selingsgrove Flood Task Force: No report. Next meeting to be held February 18, 2022.

SEDA-COG, Melissa Matthews: Melissa addressed Council to present and ask for approval on Resolution

2022-05 for Revised Revenue Loss Reimbursement Allocations per the final rule of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The final ruling was given on January 6, 2022 with an effective date of April 1, 2022. SEDA-COG recommends using the total allocation of ARPA funds of \$617,757.68 toward Revenue Loss. Resolution 2022-05 elects to allocate the ARPA funds to Revenue Loss using the “Standard Allowance” as per the Final Rule issuance on January 6, 2022, and guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury. The Revenue Loss may be allocated for general government purposes. C/P Owens made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-05. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Revised Borough Council Committee Listing: The three Core Council Committees would be advertised meetings. The Core Council Committees consist of:

1. Public Facilities, Services, and Safety Committee – Chairperson, C/P Maul; C/P Kalcich; C/P Frost
2. Administration/Finance Committee – Chairperson, C/P Owens; C/P Lauver; C/P Rudnitsky
3. Community Development/Constituent Ombudsman – Chairperson, C/P Mease; C/P Kalcich; C/P Lauver

7:15 PM – Recess Selinsgrove Borough Regular Meeting and Opening Public Hearing

AGENDA FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON SELINGSGROVE BOROUGH AND THE DAUNTLESS HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY OF SELINGSGROVE, PENNA., REGARDING A NEW AERIAL LADDER TRUCK ON FEBRUARY 7, 2022

Solicitor Cravitz: I don't see anyone here from DH&L, so I will take the lead on that. There is an agenda been placed for everyone. If you need one, let us know. Basically, what this is about is we have to hold a public hearing underneath section 150 of the Internal Revenue Code so that when DH&L takes out its loan for purchasing the ladder truck the interest paid by DH&L Fire Company would be treated as tax free meaning that the Northumberland National Bank which is the lender in this particular situation would not have to pay federal income tax with regard to the payment of that interest. What that does is good for the bank, but it is also very good for DH&L in that they get a lower rate. If they no longer qualify for that rate, it would go back to current rates but this particular rate is more than competitive. That's why we go through this to have the hearing and then from the hearing we go into resolutions. Now, according to the agenda, even though back in April of 1998 when they bought the first ladder truck the first ladder truck cost \$463,154.00; by way of inflation the new ladder truck is going to be \$1.5 plus million dollars. Back on April 6, 1998, the Borough, and DH&L Hook & Ladder Company Selinsgrove Pennsylvania entered into a service agreement which has been in effect since then and that is the first agenda item. That agreement provides for DH&L to be the fire fighting emergency services organization for the Borough. That gives them the designation of being a non-profit, I don't want to say entity, but non-profit service provider for those services to the people of Selinsgrove Borough which underneath the IRS code gives them a designation that they can go ahead and borrow money and have that loan treated as tax free for the lender. So, that is the first point of discussion why we say well why don't we just keep April 6, 1998 in place. We are except that underneath the new regulations we have to have a current agreement and a current agreement fairly mirrors the one we have from 1998 but they need one more coincidental with the loan they are taking out. So, that would be the first order of business when we come back into session is to have the Borough pass a resolution with regard to that agreement. So, is there any questions about the agreement for firefighting and emergency services.

President Rudnitsky: So, this is resolution 2022-4.

Sharon Badman and Solicitor Cravitz: 06.

President Rudnitsky: 06?

C/P Owens: We have a couple of resolutions. Yeah.

Solicitor Cravitz: There's a couple. We're all over the place with resolutions.

C/P Owens: Yeah.

Solicitor Cravitz: So, there is no questions with regard to that or any comments with regard to that first agenda item, I'll move on to the second one which is sort about initialing the purchase of the new aerial ladder truck by Dauntless Hook and Ladder of Selinsgrove Penn. The need and purchase price I already said is \$1.5 million and the need was that the present ladder truck given its years is no longer viable with regard to insurance, things like that. It still can be used but it is seeing its age and it isn't going to be as high as the new ladder truck. I mean they can get up fairly close to most of the buildings in town but over at Susquehanna some of the larger buildings can't reach the upper floors. The new truck will so that is one of the reasons why they want to get it. They would also be serving in Shamokin Dam over in Sunbury so there is a need for the new ladder truck and that is why they are trying to enter into a contract to have that built. This isn't something like you just go up to Selinsgrove Ford and drive it off the lot. This is going to be an 18-month order to build and deliver situation. So, they have entered into a contract to buy the ladder truck and the Borough will be entering another resolution again as required by the Internal Revenue Code approving that purchase. By way of background, even though DH&L Hook and Ladder Company and DH&L Ambulance League are separate legal entities they are non-profit entities and underneath the Pennsylvania law if they would go out of business and no other entity non-profit firefighting or ambulance service came into being their assets would come into the possession of Selinsgrove Borough together with their debt so that is why they have this procedure where the Borough at least gets a say somewhat as to the purchase of this kind of equipment and then their number 3 with regard as to how it is going to be funded. Any questions on item number 2? Any comments? Hearing none, before I forget, this part of the meeting is being recorded because these minutes, these will become minutes of the hearing which will be submitted with our lending package to the lender to qualify for the Internal Revenue Code treatment for tax free. The funding for the purchase and new aerial ladder truck the price is \$1.5 million as I said. The Dauntless Hook and Ladder Company is only going to borrow \$1.1 million so they are hoping and have a good chunk of the \$400,000.00 through fundraising efforts so far. They are going to have future endeavors to raise money to pay for this truck but initially they are going to put \$400,000.00 towards it. They are, as I've indicated before, they have ordered this, the reason why they ordered this by not having this in place yet if they placed this order by the beginning of the year, they saved approximately \$37,000.00 which ya know we'll catch up with the paperwork but that is one of the reasons why we are putting the cart before the horse. Local government contributions, wish the guys were here from DH&L, they have commitments from Penn Township. They are enacting or have already enacted a fire tax where they are going to be contributing a significant amount of money every year. I believe the Borough, Sheri correct me if I'm wrong, we've committed to pay a significant amount of money every year.

President Rudnitsky: Through a fire tax.

Sharon Badman: Uh-huh.

Solicitor Cravitz: And then the next step then would be borrowing and from the borrowing they will be paying interest only for the first three years and then after that they will start principal and interest payments to help them get started. Hopefully they will be able to have a plan where they think they can cover everything with the tax contributions and also with their fundraising activities. Any questions on item number 3?

The next agenda item number 4. Private borrowing from Northumberland National Bank for the purchase of the ladder truck. As I said before, the loan is for \$1.1 million. The term is over 15 years. It's going to be tax free borrowing and you're saying what does private borrowing mean? Private borrowing just means we didn't go out and solicit bids and have various lending institutions offer to purchase this obligation. They went and did private inquiries and low and behold the only the really one they thought was the best given the circumstances was the Northumberland National Bank. Any questions about that? The resolution there is the Borough is approving that private borrowing obligation because underneath the IRS code the fire company loan is to be considered similar to a bond of the Borough for tax treatment of the interest income tax for the bank. That is why Selinsgrove Borough is involved approving the private borrowing from Northumberland National Bank. And then, any questions with regard to agenda item number 4? Any comments?

Agenda item number 5. The Council must approve the purchase of the new aerial ladder truck and of the borrowing from Northumberland National Bank. And that again is by resolution which Marvin referred to earlier. That is resolutions 3, 4 and 6. Any questions with regard to the Borough's participation? That's one of the reasons we have this open hearing is so the citizens can comment. This was advertised for tonight. We did give some of the details which was the purchase price of \$1,525,000.00 for the new ladder truck and again their going to borrow \$1.1 million. It also mentioned Northumberland National Bank as being the lender.

President Rudnitsky: So, we are inviting anyone who is here a resident or businessperson within the Borough if you'd like to make comment during this hearing part concerning DH&L being designated, the purchase of the truck, the cooperation of the Borough to help the interest rate be tax free. This would be the time to step forward with your comments.

Solicitor Cravitz: We can't do this for everybody. This is strictly limited to, like we did do one for DH&L Ambulance League several years ago for the improvement of their building. So, it has to be a non-profit, governmental entity providing governmental services, put it that way.

President Rudnitsky: I see no comments or hear no comments. I think we are ready to close the public hearing.

Reconvene meeting at 7:28PM. No action was taken during the Public Hearing portion.

Resolution 2022-03 A RESOLUTION OF SELINGSGROVE BOROUGH AUTHORIZING THE DAUNTLESS HOOK AND LADDER CO. OF SELINGSGROVE, PENNA. TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,525,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW ARROW AERIAL LADDER TRUCK.

C/P Maul made a motion to approve the purchase of the new aerial truck. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7)

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2022-04 A RESOLUTION OF SELINGROVE BOROUGH AUTHORIZING THE DAUNTLESS HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY OF SELINGROVE, PENNA. TO APPLY TO NORTHUMBERLAND NATIONAL BANK FOR A LOAN OF FUNDS (\$1,400,000.00) TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW ARROW AERIAL LADDER TRUCK.

C/P Kalcich made a motion to authorize the Borough to cooperate in the purchase of the truck with other municipalities. C/P Mease seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

Resolution 2022-06 A RESOLUTION OF SELINGROVE BOROUGH APPROVING THE BOROUGH'S ENTRY INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR FIRE FIGHTING AND EMERGENCY RESCUE SERVICES WITH THE DAUNTLESS HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY OF SELINGROVE, PENNA., AND AUTHORIZING ITS OFFICER TO EXECUTE THE SAME.

C/P Owens made a motion to adopt resolution 2022-06 along with the attached service agreement. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

1. Linda Hoover from 611 Bridge Street spoke on behalf of her husband, Tom Hoover, and herself as well as neighbors, Menno and Mariana Reiff (609 Bridge Street) and Michael Cavada (1002 Sunrise Drive) requesting the unopened alley next to their properties be vacated by the Borough to absorb into the properties of: Tom and Linda Hoover, Menno and Mariana Reiff, and Michael Cavada.

Solicitor Cravitz explained that the Borough can vacate the unopened alley by way of an ordinance. Solicitor Cravitz explained that this is a process which includes advertisement to the public. This gives anyone in the Borough a chance to explain why the unopened alley should remain closed.

C/P Mease made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an ordinance to vacate the unopened alley. C/P Lauver seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE COMMITTEE – BOBBIE OWENS, CHAIR

1. C/P Owens made a motion to pay and ratify the bills. Seconded by C/P Kalcich.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

2. Statewide Tax Recovery, Inc./Berkheimer – none

3. C/P Owens made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-02 exonerating the tax collector of the \$23,912.42 which was not collected and will therefore be sent to the county courthouse. C/P Frost seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

4. The Gelnett Trustee Meeting was held Monday, February 7, 2022. It was estimated the monthly distribution from Fulton Bank to the Borough would be \$29,404.00 for 2022.

5. C/P Owens made a motion to authorize the request for proposals for Spring Cleanup on April 4th and 5th. C/P Mease seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

6. C/P Owens presented information on the operating revenues and expenditures by utility.

7. C/P Owens made a motion to award the 2021 audit to Herring, Roll & Solomon, P.C. for the municipal audits for a 3-year agreement: year 1 - \$9,975.00; year 2 - \$10,225.00; year 3 - \$10,475.00. C/P Kalcich

seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

8. C/P Frost made a motion to approve Susan Bolig as the Deputy Tax Collector in the event the Tax Collector, Michael Bolig, is unable to fulfill his duties. C/P Mease seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

B. PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES & SAFETY COMMITTEE – SARA MAUL, CHAIR

1. C/P Maul made a motion to approve the street closure for the Susquehanna University Panhellenic Council Bid Day on February 13, 2022 contingent upon approval of the fire police, police department and a copy of the insurance for the event. Seconded by C/P Frost.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/CONSTITUENT OMBUDSMAN – RICHARD MEASE, CHAIR: none

D. PLANNING COMMISSION – JANET POWERS, CHAIR: none

E. ZONING HEARING BOARD – CYRIL RUNKLE, CHAIR: none

F. CIVIL SERVICES COMMISSION – DALTON SAVIDGE, CHAIR: none

G. SHADE TREE COMMISSION – VACANT, CHAIR: Next meeting, February 16th at 5:30PM

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. MAYOR – JEFF REED:

1. December 2021 report presented
2. President Marvin Rudnitsky was sworn into office at the Kind Café over coffee and witnessed by Mike Coyne and staff of the café.

B. BOROUGH SOLICITOR – ROBERT CRAVITZ: Local share account statewide grants are now available through the state in amounts ranging from \$25,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00. The grant must be awarded prior to use of the money.

C. BOROUGH ENGINEERS

1. Stahl Sheaffer Engineering –
2022 Street Program – Proposal for the design of the Susquehanna Avenue stormwater and roadway improvements.

C/P Owens made a motion to approve the design bid \$28,400.00. C/P Kalcich seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

The letter designed to notify the homeowners on Susquehanna Avenue of the upcoming stormwater and roadway project was presented. The letter notifies the homeowners of the need to update curbs and sidewalks according to ordinance prior to the roadway improvements. There was discussion of how trees in the right-of-way will be handled. C/P Owens ask if there could be a review of the trees by an arborist prior to the decision of what size of tree works in the space and whether trees should be removed. Borough Manager/Secretary Martz stated the engineer has looked at the trees and they will meet with Shade Tree to explain the project and options the Borough would like to provide to residents to either keep their tree or have it removed.

2. Larson Design Group – none
 3. CES Engineering – The monthly report from February 2, 2022 was presented as well as the professional service agreement.
- C/P Owens made a motion to approve the professional services agreement for 2022. C/P Frost seconded it.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

D. BOROUGH TREASURER – SHARON BADMAN

1. Treasurer’s report presented for December 2021.
2. Treasurer’s report presented for January 2022.
3. Discussion of continuing to waive utility penalty:

C/P Frost made a motion to continue the waiver of utility penalties through March 31, 2022 with penalties being reinstated in the second quarter utility billing. C/P Owens seconded the motion.

AYES: SIX (6) NAYS: ONE (1) C/P Lauver MOTION CARRIED

4. Reminder: Statement of Financial Interest due May 1, 2022.

E. BOROUGH MANAGER/SECRETARY – LAUREN MARTZ

1. The monthly Manager Report was provided via email.
2. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Grant was awarded a C2P2 grant and wants to restart their Rivertown Program. They would like to use Selinsgrove as the PILOT community. More information will be forthcoming.
3. The DCED CFA Multimodal Grant in the amount of \$300,000.00 for the West Pine Street Decorative Street Lighting Project. An agreement was signed, and the project will be resurveyed to rebid to include the additional funding.
4. Little Norway II: DH&L and Shane Hendricks are keeping an eye on the status of the ice. There are a lot of volunteers this year to help keep the building open and warm for those wanting to skate.

F. ZONING – LINDSEY MULL

1. The sign permit report was provided.

G. EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY REGIONAL AUTHORITY (ESCRA)– SHANE HENDRICKS, DELEGATE

1. Meeting minutes provided from December 15, 2021 and January 19, 2022.
2. C/P Lauver made a motion to appoint C/P Richard Mease as a second delegate to ESCRA. C/P Maul seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

H. NORTH-EASTERN SNYDER COUNTY JOINT AUTHORITY – SHANE HENDRICKS AND DIANNE MENGEL:
none

I. SELINGSGROVE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – TIM CHARLES, CHAIR: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. COUNCIL MEMBERS:** none
- B. MAYOR:** none
- C. OTHERS:** none

ADJOURNMENT:

C/P Mease made a motion to adjourn at 8:43PM. C/P Lauver seconded the motion.

AYES: SEVEN (7) NAYS: NONE MOTION CARRIED