

**MINUTES**  
**BROOKVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday February 1, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.**

The Brookville Borough Council met in the large conference room on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

<b><u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>STAFF</u></b>	<b><u>VISITOR/MEDIA</u></b>
Mayor Richard Beck	Manager Dana Rooney	L. David Richards
Phil Hynes	Police Chief Vince Markle	Bob Lewis
Karen Allgeier	Fire Chief Chris Henry	Shelley Sampson
Randy Bartley	Public Works Director -	
Todd Gumphier	Jonathan Rhoades	
David Taylor	Code Enforcement Officer -	
Lucy Ames	Vince Markle	
Sarah Gallagher	Recorder Christine Gunning	
	Solicitor Jim Dennison	

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Phil Hynes called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to approve the minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting as submitted; seconded by Member Todd Gumphier. Motion carried 7-0.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- A. Approval of Expenditures** – The current bills were presented for approval. President Phil Hynes asked if there were any additions or questions. Manager Dana Rooney stated there are three additions; Kessler Fencing for \$3,800.00 for a down payment for the fencing around the cemetery, Clarion Computer for \$2,374.00 for our IT in the office which will be reimbursed through the IT grant we got last year, and J's Custom Cleaning for \$2,460.00 for the monthly cleaning bill. Vice-President Karen Allgeier moved to approve the bills for January 3<sup>rd</sup>, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and February 1<sup>st</sup> as amended; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Fund Level Financial Statements** – President Phil Hynes stated the Fund Level Financial Statement Summary is included in your packet, and if anyone has any questions, the appropriate people are here.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. L. David Richards – A Street** – David Richards stated he has a problem and he hopes Council can help him. David Richards stated he grew up in Brookville on Hiawatha Street, was away for about forty years, retired, and moved back. David

Richards stated he lives at 166 A Street. David Richards stated half of A Street runs east-west, and the other half runs north-south. David Richards stated, as he understands it, the north-south portion has been abandoned. David Richards stated one day his wife got sick, and he had to call an ambulance. David Richards stated they could not find the street address because they did not see a sign for A Street. David Richards stated since that part of A Street has been abandoned, the GPS takes everybody that direction, but there is no street sign there, so it took them five minutes to find their house. David Richards stated another problem has developed. David Richards stated after the big snowstorm, he paid to have someone plow the abandoned portion of A Street up to his driveway so he could get in and out. David Richards stated that portion of the abandoned street is used daily by the USPS, UPS, FedEx, the police, garbage companies, and a lot of people in the community. David Richards stated if it continues not to be plowed, people will come up A Street to the corner, see there is nowhere to go, and they have to back down to Middle Street. David Richards stated he thinks it can be dangerous having all these trucks backing down A Street. David Richards stated the ideal solution would be to reopen that one section of A Street. David Richards stated some other solutions would be to block it off, make it into a one-way street, or put a street sign there. David Richards asked when that portion of A Street was abandoned. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated he does not think it was ever opened. David Richards stated growing up it was maintained by the Borough, and it has been tarred and chipped by the Borough. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated we have to look at the history of it. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley asked are we saying there was never an A Street? Solicitor Jim Dennison stated no, there is definitely an A Street, but we do not know if it has officially been opened or maintained by the Borough. After some discussion, President Phil Hynes stated you have a legitimate concern, and we will have the Public Works Committee look into this.

## **REPORTS:**

### **Chief of Police**

- A. Statistics for January** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated in January the Brookville Police Department had 168 calls for service, wrote 95 citations, 137 warnings, and 122 parking tickets. Police Chief Vince Markle stated there were 38 misdemeanors, 3 drug arrests, 8 summaries, 1 302 committal, and 16 PoliceOne trainings.
- B. Trainings** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated the guys did an emotional and psychological disorders training, and a driving safety for first responder course. Police Chief Vince Markle stated they were very good courses.
- C. Identifying Criminal Vehicles and Occupants Class** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated we are sending six officers to an identifying criminal vehicles and occupants class.
- D. Crime Rate** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated statistics for 2021 indicated our crime rate dropped sixty-seven percent the first half, and fifty percent the second half, so hats off to my guys for doing such a great job.

**E. Officer of the Month** – Police Chief Vince Markle stated Officer Mickey Stormer was Officer of the Month.

**Fire Chief** – Fire Chief Chris Henry submitted his written reports (attached). Fire Chief Chris Henry stated he wanted to comment that we had thirty-seven automatic fire alarms last year, and already we have had seven false alarms this year. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated we are starting to see that trend, and it is starting to become a little bit of an issue in town. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated we are going to work with code enforcement on this. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated it is an unnecessary use of our resources, time, money, and fuel. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated other than that, we are starting the year out okay. President Phil Hynes asked is the alarm issue because more people have alarms? Fire Chief Chris Henry stated it is failure either to have them properly installed, or properly serviced and maintained. Manager Dana Rooney stated they are primarily false alarms. Fire Chief Chris Henry stated yes.

**Public Works** – Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated in between the snow, they did start building some picnic tables to replace some at the parks that are getting pretty bad. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated they started maintenance on the mowers to get ready for summer.

**Code Enforcement** – Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle read his written report (attached). Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle stated he is working on the house on Valley Street along with Manager Dana Rooney and Solicitor Jim Dennison. Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle stated Solicitor Jim Dennison is going to send one the heirs a letter to try to get the process moving a little quicker, because she is at the point where she is going to let it go to tax sale, and that will take us until probably September. Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle stated the house up on Hastings Street, we are actually going to a hearing with that one. Code Enforcement Officer Vince Markle stated he spoke to the attorney, and the attorney asked what we want, and it is either sell the house or take care of it.

**Solicitor**

- A. **Executive Session – Real Estate** – Solicitor Jim Dennison requested an executive session for real estate with no action expected.

**Borough Manager**

- A. **CD Renewal/Rates** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we have a CD in the amount of \$300,446.30 that is maturing on February 4, 2022. Manager Dana Rooney stated S&T Bank has six months at point two two, and twelve months at point two seven. Manager Dana Rooney stated Farmers National Bank has six months at point zero nine, and twelve months at point one four. Manager Dana Rooney stated PLGIT's highest interest rate right now is point zero four. Manager Dana Rooney stated she recommends renewing the CD at S&T Bank for six months at point two two. Vice-President Karen Allgeier made a motion to renew the CD in the amount of \$300,446.30 at S&T Bank for six

months at point two two as presented; seconded by Member David Taylor. Motion carried 7-0.

- B. Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Annual Conference** – Manager Dana Rooney stated the PSAB annual conference is May 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 25th at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Manager Dana Rooney stated anyone interested in attending should let her know.
- C. Subdivision on Water Plant Road** – Manager Dana Rooney stated we do have a subdivision tonight. Manager Dana Rooney stated this is for Water Plant Road. Manager Dana Rooney stated this came out of our last Planning Commission meeting. Manager Dana Rooney stated it is known in town as the old Snook Richards property, which is now owned by Travis Bobik and Megan Turner. Manager Dana Rooney stated they have approximately thirty-three acres that were purchased right along the creek there, and across Water Plant Road that would be on the downhill side of what would be Franklin Avenue. Manager Dana Rooney stated they want to separate seven point eight four acres from the other thirty-three acres. Manager Dana Rooney stated it is zoned RC which is Recreation Conservation which means nothing can really happen to that property without first coming back to the Planning Commission or Brookville Borough for approval for that. Manager Dana Rooney stated it passed through the Planning Commission, and we are looking for a motion tonight to approve the subdivision of the seven point eight four acres of the Bobik Turner property. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley made a motion to approve the subdivision of the seven point eight four acres of the Bobik Turner property on Water Plant Road as presented; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. Motion carried 7-0.

## **Committee Reports**

### **A. Personnel Committee**

- 1. Probationary Pay** – Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated she has a motion coming from the Personnel Committee. Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated we received a request from Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades for one of his employees, David Reagle, who is an equipment operator. Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated David Reagle is currently still under his probationary period, but Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades has expressed that he has been doing above and beyond the call of duty. Personnel Committee Chair Lucy Ames stated the committee decided they would like to make a motion that the probationary pay period be lifted for David Reagle effective January 31, 2022. President Phil Hynes stated since this motion is coming from committee, no second is needed. President Phil Hynes asked all Members in favor of this motion coming from committee to say ‘aye’. Motion carried 7-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **New Council Committees** – President Phil Hynes stated Council has gotten my list of committee appointments and assignments. President Phil Hynes stated he has not heard any complaints. President Phil Hynes stated he tried to split it up as fairly as possible to give chairmanships and spread them around. President Phil Hynes stated we will provide a list of those committees, and they are on the website.

## **ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS:**

- A. **Mayor Richard Beck** – Mayor Richard Beck thanked all the departments for doing great jobs in 2021, and stated it sounds like they are doing great jobs in 2022 also. Mayor Richard Beck stated he is glad to see David Richards come up and present his issue, and hopefully we can get this straightened out for him.
- B. **Member Sarah Gallagher** – Member Sarah Gallagher stated she attended a Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) seminar, and it was very interesting and informative. President Phil Hynes stated he is glad she attended that because that is a very good seminar.
- C. **Member David Taylor** – Member David Taylor stated great job to all the departments. Member David Taylor stated looking at the plowing issues and all the citations, most of those streets do not have tree lawns, so the plow pushes all that snow on the sidewalks. Member David Taylor stated this is a question for Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades and Council to think about; is there a mechanism when we are plowing to maybe on some streets it would be going the wrong way, but to have the plow going the other way, and then come back, and push it more the other way where there is not sidewalk space. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated the problem with that is, there are only two plow trucks for the whole town, and one is for each side. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated if we plowed that to the center of the road, by the time we got back to do that, we probably would have caused an accident or something worse. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated sometimes when you get out there and your route is so long, when you come back down through, it might be twenty minutes until you come back down the other way. Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades stated there are some certain spots where you could do that, but most of the time you know you are turned around right at the end of that road and you are coming back, because then the next guy gets it all. Member David Taylor stated he appreciates that. Member David Taylor stated he wanted to throw this out so we are aware that this is an issue, and when Police Chief Vince Markle goes out and issues citations, sometimes that lack of sidewalk cleaning is through no fault of the property owners. Member David Taylor stated he is not saying you should not issue citations, but that is beyond their control. Member David Taylor stated he does not have an answer, but maybe this is something we should think about. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated somebody has to be responsible for keeping it clean, and he does not think it is out of their control either. Solicitor Jim Dennison stated it

is still the property owner's issue. Member David Taylor stated he and Manager Dana Rooney are working on another grant for the suspension bridge at the dam through Hometown Grants and the deadline is March 1, 2022. Member David Taylor asked Manager Dana Rooney where are we with MKSK? Manager Dana Rooney stated we approved it, and they are just waiting on warmer weather.

- D. **Member Lucy Ames** – Member Lucy Ames commended Public Works Director Jonathan Rhoades, Police Chief Vince Markle, and Fire Chief Chris Henry for their excellent work. Member Lucy Ames stated the road crews have been outstanding, and it is much appreciated. Member Lucy Ames thanked David Richards for talking to them about his problem, and for suggesting possible solutions to it.
- E. **Member Todd Gumpher** – Member Todd Gumpher commended the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company, the Brookville Police Department, and the road crew for doing great jobs.
- F. **Second Vice-President Randy Bartley** – Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated he was just going over Police Chief Vince Markle's crime stats. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated you were down sixty-seven percent in the first half, and fifty percent in the second half. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated which means we have a crime rate of about sixteen percent. Second Vice-President Randy Bartley stated it has got to be one of the lowest in the state. Police Chief Vince Markle stated especially when everywhere else is going through the roof.
- G. **Vice-President Karen Allgeier** – Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated she echoes everything. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated during the storm they were getting it all plowed, and getting ready for the next one by putting down anti-skid. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated Fire Chief Chris Henry the Brookville Volunteer Fire Company has their last two people in fire training. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated that is going to be superb. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated that way you have a full accompaniment to help with mutual aid. Vice-President Karen Allgeier stated she appreciates Police Chief Vince Markle being out all the time because it makes people feel safer.
- H. **President Phil Hynes** – President Phil Hynes stated when everyone has been complaining about winter, he wants to say that the Redbank Valley Trail cross-country skiing has been excellent, and he has been enjoying it every day. President Phil Hynes wished everyone a happy Groundhog Day.

**MEDIA COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATION:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Brookville Borough Council entered an executive session at 7:43 P.M. for a real estate matter with no action expected. Executive session ended at 8:01 P.M. with no action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Second Vice-President Randy Bartley moved to adjourn; seconded by Vice-President Karen Allgeier. Motion carried 7-0 at 8:01 P.M.

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Borough Manager