

**THORNBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

**Meeting Time:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Location:** Pace Pavilion, adjacent to the Thornburg Community Building

**Attendance:** President Sigo Falk (2021) and council members Vinnie Coppola (2021), Mary Ditmore (2023), Mark Perrott (2021), Sam Runyon (2023), and Tony Szmul (2021) were present. Council member Zane Long (2023) was absent. Mayor Tom Mackin (2021) was absent. Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Falk and Solicitor Emily Mueller were present.

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**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

Mr. Runyon made a motion to dispense with reading the Minutes of August 11, 2020. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Runyon made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 11, 2020 as amended. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Julie Simelis (Harvard) informed council that she put together a petition requesting safe updated equipment for the playground in order to gauge interest within the community. The petition currently has approximately 50 signatures. President Falk indicated that council is in discussion with an architectural firm to look into developing a master plan for the community building and playground. The process will include looking at how the facilities are used and talking to interested stakeholders, which includes members of the community.

Celia and Mike Bauer (Hamilton) told council about conversations they have had with Duquesne Light and ACRT, one of its tree subcontractors. Many healthy trees on private and borough property have been identified as being scheduled to be removed and property owners are being asked to sign a form giving ACRT authorization to remove the trees. A discussion followed. Solicitor Mueller will set up a meeting in Thornburg with representatives from the borough, ACRT, and Duquesne Light. The Bauers will write an article for distribution through the Community Club letting residents know they do not have to sign the Duquesne Light/ACRT paperwork.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Crafton Children's Corner grant - President Falk reported that Crafton Children's Corner has been awarded a state grant to run a homework group for students through the end of 2020. They would need access to the auditorium and stage in order to have enough room for social distancing. Solicitor Mueller has prepared a lease addendum that will give them access to those spaces for an additional \$900 per month, with an option to rent the additional space through the end of the current lease, which expires on February 28, 2021. Thornburg residents will get one week of advance notice when the program is ready to begin. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council approve the amended lease, which was seconded by Mr. Perrot and approved unanimously.

ALCOSAN delinquencies – Ms. Falk reported that there are two borough residents with unpaid delinquent sewer bills in excess of \$1,000 and that the typical action of shutting off water service cannot happen due to the winter and Covid-19 shut off moratorium. A discussion followed. Solicitor Mueller indicated that the borough can lien the delinquent properties. Ms. Falk will update council at the next meeting of any response to the most recent communication.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

Hillside stabilization project update and resolution: Mr. Perrott got an update estimate from borough engineer Clint Reilly for the cost to replace all 472’ feet of deteriorating Hamilton Road sidewalk. The new estimate is \$158,420, which meets the multimodal grant minimum of \$100,000. A conversation with State Rep. Dan Deasy’s office indicated that Thornburg should consider covering some of the engineer’s fees. A discussion followed. Mr. Coppola made a motion that council pass a resolution authorizing President Falk and Ms. Falk to apply for the DCED multimodal transportation fund grant for the full cost of the project, subtracting the engineering fees and adding 2% for administrative costs and 5% for contingencies. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

Mayor Mackin was not present. Ms. Falk informed council that he will meet the roofers next week to discuss roof repairs for the community building.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Ms. Falk presented council with a list of deposits made since the last council meeting, a profit and loss report, and a current balance sheet.

Disbursements: Ms. Falk presented the monthly Disbursement Report. A discussion followed. Mr. Runyon made a motion that council approve the disbursements for September. Mr. Szmul seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Ms. Falk indicated that she will be beginning to work on the draft 2021 budget and asked council to provide input. She will send a worksheet version to Mr. Runyon.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Administration** (Mr. Szmul): No report.

**Budget and Finance** (Mr. Falk, Mr. Runyon): No report.

**Public Works/Sewers** (Mr. Coppola): Ms. Falk reported that public works director Rob Murphy has requested to keep one of the summer help through the end of September. A discussion followed. Council approved the request.

**Community Facilities** (Ms. Ditmore): No report.

**Land Conservation/Resources** (Mr. Long): No report.

**Public Relations** (Mr. Perrott): No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Community building master plan update: No report.

Glass recycling: Ms. Ditmore reported that everything was on track for the dumpster to be located in the borough from October 17 – 22.

Streetlights: Ms. Ditmore identified a few areas in upper Thornburg that might benefit from adding streetlights. She will discuss the possibility with the affected residents.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Coppola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM which was seconded by Mr. Szmul. The motion carried.