

March 5, 2024

**Tremont Borough Council
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Ochs called the Workshop Meeting of the Tremont Borough Council to order at 6:30 p.m. on March 5, 2024, at the Tremont Borough Building.

ATTENDANCE:

Council: President William Ochs, Vice-President Brian Eisenacher Council Members, James Scheibley, Roger Adams and Melody Strickler.

Mayor Gerald Fasnacht was absent from meeting.

RECREATION AND EDUCATION:

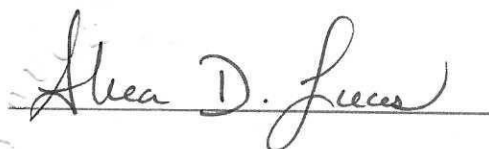
- Motion made by Strickler, second by Adams, to pay the Light-Heigel invoice for engineer services for the playground project in the amount of \$1,133.51 from the COVID money and to pay the invoices for engineer services for the BRIC (Stormwater) Grant in the amount of \$1,751.50. All in favor, Motion passed.

RECORD OF WORKSHOP MINUTES

Minutes of this meeting were recorded only for the portion in which action was taken in the form of Motions. No additional action was taken during this Meeting.

The Workshop Meeting continued as usual.

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT:



TREMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

President Ochs called the meeting of the Tremont Borough Council to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Tremont Borough Building.

ATTENDANCE:

Council: President William Ochs, Vice-President Brian Eisenacher, Council Members: James Scheibley, Melody Strickler and Roger Adams.

Also attending: Mayor Gerald Fasnacht, Solicitor Shane Hobbs, Secretary-Treasurer Shea Lucas and Engineer John Poff

** See attached sheet for a list of Citizens who were in attendance.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion made by Adams, second by Eisenacher, approving the January 2, 2024 Reorganization Meeting Minutes. All in favor, Minutes approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Attorney Shane Hobbs

- SAM Account Update
 1. Solicitor Hobbs and the borough secretary have spent countless hours trying to get the account active again.
 2. The Borough had a second Entity opened, unsure of when or why this happened.
 3. Our Entity was never renewed in the system
 4. New forms had to be notarized and submitted to assign admin roles
 - Scheibley: Why do we have to do all of this again?
 - Hobbs: This is what has to be done since switching to the UEI number instead of the DUNS number. Plus, no personal emails can be used, so the borough office email is now being used in SAM.
 5. Hobbs hopes this matter will soon be resolved.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Gerald Fasnacht:

- Needs to order more Quality of Life Tickets, but he wants two violations added to them:
 1. No parking on yellow lines or no parking areas
 2. Noise
 - The Mayor used the example of kids at the park playing loud music, he has the right to issue a ticket for noise.
 - Residents disagreed with this, asking who decides what is loud, and if he is going to have the equipment to measure decibels, and that no tickets should be given for noise during the day, especially to kids playing at the park.
 - Eisenacher asked the Mayor if the Fire Company will be fined for their annual car show because it is loud.
 - Strickler feels this could cross the line of discrimination.
- 15 E. Main Street abatement
 - Hatter will tow the vehicles
 - He has a guy to come in and remove all of the garbage.
 - Strickler asked who is paying for this.
 - Mayor Fasnacht: If the Borough has to pay anything, then we will go after the home owners for the money.
 - Strickler questioned why we would spend the money & obtain a property that is connected to another property that should be condemned and torn down.
 - Mayor Fasnacht: We go in and clean it up, they maintain ownership of the property, but we bill them for the costs and if they don't pay it, we take them to court.
 - Strickler feels that if we pay the money and clean up this property, the owners will just junk it up again.

- Leins on Properties
 - The mayor thinks it's wrong that we pay the road master to cut grass at these properties but we don't ever get reimbursed.
- Holes in Sidewalks
 - There are open holes in the sidewalks where the trees were cut down. People are going to get hurt. The holes must be filled in .
 - Stricker recommended planting flowers in these holes
 - Mayor Fasnacht said no to planting flowers.

PUBLIC UTILITY AND STREETS:

- 2024 Inlet Replacement Project
 - Motion made by Strickler, second by Adams authorizing the Inlet Project. All in favor; Motion passed.
 - Motion made by Adams, second by Eisenacher to Advertise Bid for the Inlet Project. All in favor; Motion passed.
- 2024-2025 Costars Salt Contract was submitted
- Keith Krott will be submitting an invoice for additional material & time for the repair and fitting of a reinforcement to beam 15. The additional costs will not exceed \$500.00.
- President Ochs reported that the landscaping on the E. Main Street property that was damaged in the last snow storm has been fixed.

PROPERTY:

- Independent Miners Assoc. & Anthracite Underground Rescue can use of our lot for cars to park for a bus trip on May 4th from 10 am – 7 pm.
- President Ochs thinks we should be doing preventative maintenance on the Union Street Bridge.
 - Scheibley says that it is done, we get it inspected every six months.
 - Ochs said that if it is being checked properly then we wouldn't have these problems.
 - Scheibley said this was noticed after the sand blasting and pressure washing was done.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:

» **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- Chief Eisenacher reported the Fire Company responded to 68 calls in January and February 2024.

<u>JANUARY & FEBRUARY CALLS</u>			
Structure Fire	3	Chief's Request	2
Motor Vehicle Accident	11	Tree Down	7
Pump Detail	2	Wires Down	5
Fire Police	5	Odor Investigation	1
Landing Zone	2	Medical Assist	1
Vehicle Fire	1	QRS Responses	28
TOTAL			68

<u>2024 MAN HOURS</u>	
Incident	264.5
Administration	204
Maintenance	55
Training	248
Fundraising	121
TOTAL	792.5

- Fish fries continue March 15th and 22nd takeout orders. There is limited seating for eating in with no wait staff. Phone orders taken Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 and Friday from 2:00 to 4:30.
- Anyone that would be interested in volunteering to help at the fish fry or know someone in need of community service, the help would be welcome. You can call the firehouse at 570-695-3915 and leave a message and someone will contact you.
- Volunteers are wanted for a wide range of positions within the fire company. For more info message the Facebook page or call and leave a message at 570-695-3915.

» **TREMONT AMBULANCE REPORT**

- No report this month.

» **ENGINEER REPORT (PROPERTY MAINTENANCE)**

Marty Sowers

- Submitted Report:
 - 15 East Main – grass and rubbish – citations issued for IPMC and QOL tickets issued – no response. Issuing citations for failure to respond to QOL ticket
 - If council wants to abate this property, I would suggest issuing a final notice and giving 7 days to abate. I would also confer with solicitor
 - 17 East Main – issuing citation for failure to respond to QOL ticket and also for property maintenance violations. Issuing citations also for IPMC (were originally issued to Gary Baser, previous owner, but no response. Global Funding Center is now owner, so will issue to them.) They are out of state entity, so difficult to serve.
 - 208 Clay St – meeting with property owner to discuss whether or not property is compliant
 - 29 Spring St – property was posted as not habitable a number of times. Working with solicitor to take formal action to remove the occupants. Citing property owner for failure to vacate the property
 - Union St – pig on property – research paperwork regarding “domestic pets” and ordinance reqts
 - 7 West Laurel – IPMC NOV for garage
 - 37 South Crescent – Global funding Center – out of state entity. May not be able to serve.
 - 206 West Laurel – citations issued 2/14/23 – “inactive” due to lack of service
 - 318 Main St – NOV for siding and rubbish
 - General – numerous citations issued and continuing to be issued for QOL failure to respond: including but not limited to (the actual list is much longer):
 - 120 West Laurel
 - 36 N Crescent
 - 40 North Crescent
 - 50 North Crescent
 - 129 Vaux
 - 15 E Main

» **HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER**

- Health & Safety Officer, Lewis Moyer submitted a letter to Council reporting that he attended the Susquehanna Conference for Food Safety in February.

RECREATION & EDUCATION:

John Poff, Engineer Report: March 2024

- Pine Street Bridge:
 - All work is complete. Close out paperwork has been filed with FEMA/PEMA.
- Union Street Bridge:
 - All FEMA/PEMA work is complete. Close out paperwork has been filed with FEMA/PEMA.
- Good Spring Creek Retaining Wall Project
 - All work is complete. Closeout paperwork has been filed with FEMA/PEMA.

In 2022 Poff gave Council all the numbers for Mar Allen, Spotts Brothers and the PennDOT alternates. \$168,688 was out of pocket expenses. We asked for additional mitigation but FEMA said no

- Scheibley: those walls should have been full mitigation and if not then we need to go after FEMA and find out why. We have to have this meeting with FEMA and Pima. He wants to know why none of this was covered under mitigation. Not one of us would have ever approved this. We would have only approved the Union Street Bridge.
- Poff informed him that him and the rest of Council did vote on this and approve the work for both Bridges in July of 2022.

- Poff has a call into Catherine Ellis about recouping some engineer costs
- FEMA BRIC-DTA GRANT
 - Representatives of the Borough and LHAI attended a meeting on February 21st with representatives of FEMA, PEMA, DCED and other agencies to discuss the results of the ARMY CORP Flood Study and possible funding alternatives to accomplish the projects. A follow up meeting will occur at a later date.
- DCED Grant from Commonwealth Financing Agency
 - On December 19, 2023, Tremont Borough has received a \$ 300,000.00 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Agency through the Department of Community and Economic Development. Please note, the grant application was for \$ 375,000.00. Therefore, the Borough will have to provide a 15 % match (\$ 56,250.00) plus the funding shortfall of \$ 18,750.00. This grant will provide funding to do the stormwater collection and conveyance projects as outlined in the Army Corp Study as well as replacing the storm pipe under Route 25. DCED will need the Borough's SAM number to finalize the grant agreement.
- Borough Playground
 - Keith Heigel is coordinating the next step in the process with DCNR. The grant will have to be managed through the new Grants Customer Service Portal. Grantees are encouraged to submit a Partial Payment Request for 50% of the grant award through the Grants Portal Payment Link. All partial payments must be deposited in a separate interest-bearing account.
 - The LHAI team will be filing the construction plans for the playground with DCNR the end of this week. We cannot proceed with the project until DCNR approves the construction plans. There can't be any demo until they are approved.
 - If the Borough needs to spend their matching funds (COVID monies) in the next few weeks, please advise on a date, and we will purchase the equipment through COSTARS.

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Report for January & February 2024:

GENERAL

MID PENN BANK	PAYMENT TO COMMERCIAL LOAN		2,525.48
PIRMA	Liability Insurance Premium		21,295.00
COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL	Delinquent Road & School Taxes	1,249.04	
CITIZEN-STANDARD NEWSPAPER	Meeting Dates AD		110.00
LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT INC	Garage Supplies		134.26
SOMMER, INC.	TACC Bldg. Boiler Repair		5,898.38
Transfer	from PLGIT General - Liability Insurance Premium	23,000.00	
ADOBE	Computer Program		42.38
PETTY CASH	2024 Petty Cash		100.00
EMIL RARICK, Division of Tevis Energy, Inc.	TACC Bldg. Heating Oil		5,657.13
Transfer	from ARPA (COVID) Acct : DCNR Playground Project Engineer	12,535.00	
LIGHT-HEIGEL & ASSOCIATES, INC	Property Maintenance Services - 4 months		2,252.78
LIGHT-HEIGEL & ASSOCIATES, INC	DCNR Playground Project Engineer Fees Oct 2022- Dec. 2023		12,533.55
GEISINGER QUALITY OPTIONS, INC	Employee Medical Insurance		1,951.86
AMTRUST NORTH AMERICA	Workman's Compensation Premium		7,940.00
AMAZON	Office and Garage Supplies		131.99
FRONTIER	Phone and Internet - Office/Garage		420.98
STEEL & METAL SERVICE CENTER POTTSVILLE	Winter Maintenance Items		300.21
GO DADDY.COM	ATM/POS Debit - Recur Payment Website		127.08
BERKHEIMER	ACCT # 54600016 EIT/LST Commissions		219.90
BOROUGH OF SCHUYLKILL HAVEN	2024 Rave Alert Service		1,000.00
PEIFER'S FIRE PROTECTION, INC.	Annual Inspection		709.67
EHRlich	Pest Control		235.44
REPUBLICAN HERALD	Budget & Special Meeting AD		170.52
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY	2023 Fall Cleanup & Recycling Event		237.00
VICTOR E. MUNCY INC	Clay Street Bldg. Damaged Window Replacement		395.00
INTUIT QUICKBOOKS	Computer Program - Payroll Processing		597.84

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DEPOSIT	Regular Deposit	12,350.01	
PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES	Borough Electric Utility Accounts		8,229.41
SCMA	Water & Sewer and Hydrants		1,981.35
PAYROLL	Total Payroll		22,894.05
Transfer	from PLGIT General - Cover monthly bills	15,000.00	
MID PENN BANK	PAYMENT TO COMMERCIAL LOAN		2,367.62
MID PENN BANK	PAYMENT TO COMMERCIAL LOAN		2,106.12
BANK TRANSFER	Credit - Transfer from Closing 3 Bank Accts	2,307.94	
HAHNER BROS. ROOFING and SHEET METAL INC.	Clay St. Bldg. Roof Repair		2,128.00
WERNER LUMBER ACE HARDWARE	Misc. Purchases		1,082.21
POTTS & MONGER SANITATION	Garbage Collection		170.00
COUNTY OF SCHUYLKILL	Delinquent Road & School Taxes	937.37	
ADOBE	Computer Program- February		42.38
PSAB	2024 Membership		242.00
H.A. THOMSON CO.	2024 Treasurer Bond		299.00
BERKHEIMER	ACCT # 54600016 EIT/LST Commissions		154.37
PSAB U/C PLAN	U/C Taxes		995.74
PA DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY - B	Boiler Inspection		106.58
PORT ELEVATOR	Elevator Repair		596.25
Transfer	from PLGIT General - Cover monthly bills	25,000.00	
LAW OFFICE of SHANE HOBBS	Solicitor Services Nov. 2023 - Feb, 2024		1,520.52
GEORGE HOVEROCKER	Reimbursement for Supplies		37.98
DEPOSIT	Regular Deposit	5,343.45	
MID PENN BANK	Interest Credit - Interest	2.79	
TOTAL		\$ 97,725.60	\$ 109,940.03

POOL

PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES	Pool Electric		69.88
MID PENN BANK	Interest Credit - Interest	0.17	
TOTAL		\$ 0.17	\$ 69.88

NEW EQUIPMENT FUND

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT	USDA Loan- Payment # 52 & 53		1,296.00
MID PENN BANK	Interest Credit - Interest	0.04	
TOTAL		\$ 0.04	\$ 1,296.00

ARPA (COVID) FUND

Transfer	To Regular General: DCNR Playground Project Engineer Fees		12,535.00
TOTAL			\$ 12,535.00

PLGIT GENERAL ACCT

BERKHEIMER	EIT & LST Distributions	40,123.23	69.88
Transfer	To Mid Penn General - Liability Insurance Premium		23,000.00
Transfer	To Mid Penn General - monthly bills		15,000.00
Transfer	To Mid Penn General - monthly bills		25,000.00
PLGIT	Interest Credit - Interest	813.36	
TOTAL		\$ 40,936.59	\$ 63,069.88

FIRE DEPT. FUND

GLICK FIRE EQUIPMENT	Repairs to Engine 67-10		1,205.88
MARS DIESEL	Repairs to Pierce Fire Engine & Unit 67-70		1,462.57
PLGIT	Interest Credit - Interest	450.04	
TOTAL		\$ 450.04	\$ 2,668.45

LIQUID FUELS ACCT

KLINGER & STEHR INC	Tire Repair 2016 GMC		13.50
KESSLER and COMPANY	Concrete Block		1,170.00
POTTSVILLE QUARRY	Cold Patch		226.50
KLINGER & STEHR INC	Tires 2016 GMC		1,469.34
KREISER FUEL SERVICE	Fuel		1,132.01
AMERICAN ROCK SALT	Road Salt		1,835.23
KEITH KROTT	Union St. Bridge Painting Project		8,930.94
PLGIT	Interest Credit - Interest	331.88	
TOTAL		\$ 331.88	\$ 14,777.52

ACCOUNT BALANCES

GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$27,915.39	Primary Account
PLGIT GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$90,520.77	Secondary Account
SWIMMING POOL ACCOUNT	\$4,794.61	Pool Only
NEW EQUIPMENT FUND ACCT	\$679.69	USDA Loan Only
ARPA FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS ACCT	\$84,874.54	COVID Money
ESCROW OF REAL PROPERTY ACCT	\$4,150.00	Escrow Acct
	* \$69,172.00 for 20% of Playground	
FEMA 2018 FLOOD ACCT	CLOSED	FEMA Flood Acct
PLGIT FIRE DEPT FUND ACCT	\$51,746.08	Fire Depr Only
PLGIT HIGHWAY AID ACCOUNT	\$28,461.55	Liquid Fuels Only

ENDING BALANCE OF ALL ACCOUNTS AS OF FEBRUARY 2024 **\$293,142.63**

- Motion made by Adams, second by Eisenacher, approving the Treasurer's Report. All in favor, Motion passed.

FINANCE:

- Loan Report as of February 2024

GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE "A" OF 2023

Original Amount	\$ 535,000.00
Total Advances Amount	\$ 495,840.08
Total Paid	\$ 13,530.87
<i>(Monthly Payments - Interest only)</i>	

GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE "B" OF 2023

Original Amount	\$ 300,000.00
Total Advances Amount	\$ 92,751.19
Total Paid	\$ 2,106.12
<i>(Semi Annual Payments - Interest only)</i>	

- Mid Penn Bank Branch is closing their Tremont branch
 - Council is in agreement that we stay with Mid Penn Bank and we use their computerized Advanced ATM to do our banking.
 - The contents of our Safety Deposit Box need to be removed by April 4th
- A Bank Account needs to be opened for the DCNR Grant Playground Project
 - Motion made by Adams second by Scheibley to open a bank account for the DCNR grant playground project.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Motion made by Eisenacher, second by Strickler to purchase two plow controllers from Stork's. All in favor; Motion passed.
 - Eisenacher will pick them up
- Mayor Fasnacht asked Council if they made a decision about giving him the authority to enforce the quality of life. He said that Marty would do Property Maintenance and he would do quality of life.
 - He can Cite people but if they don't pay, he can't go to court.
 - Strickler suggested that the mayor give a warning and then Marty could cite them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Website Design is almost finished.
- Motion made by Scheibley, second by Adams to reimburse Kathleen Krammes in the amount of \$397.03 for postage & envelopes for 2024 tax year. All in favor; Motion passed.
- Motion made by strickler, second by Adams to reimburse George Hoverocker in the amount of \$139.91 for a new vacuum he purchased through Amazon. All in favor; Motion passed.
- Motion made by Adams, second by Strickler to purchase a load of modified stone. All in favor; Motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:

- Sherry Huntzinger
 - The "No Turn on Red" sign at Main & Spring Street needs to be pit back up.
 - Scheibley: The State took it down
 - The speed limit on Spring Street is supposed to be 25 mph. There is only one sign and it is by Richmond Screw. The trucks come down Spring Street it is so loud that you can feel it.
 - Scheibley: He will reach out to the State.
 - When it floods, it always comes over the wall by the church, is anything going to be done there?
 - Poff: That area is included in the BRIC-DTA process.
 - There is a lot of sediment in the creek and the water is really orange. There are problems up the line somewhere that need to be checked into.
 - Scheibley: They are aware of it.
- Laurie Bender

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- There is a house on Spring Street that has the down spout in their sidewalk and there is a bad dip because of it. Someone walking by could trip or fall and get hurt
- She, along with Elaine Wansley would like to be in charge of setting up a Pool Committee.
 - The Borough can't be involved with the committee nor can it take part in any fundraising.
 - An estimated goal for the percentage of a pool grant is around \$400,000.00.
 - The Mayor told her to go to the Courthouse and ask about philanthropists.
- **Roger M. Adams**
 - If Council abolished the Police Department to save money, why are we so broke? That saved about \$100,000.00 a year. That should be enough to get local cops back. The drug activity is way out of hand.
 - Contact the drug task force or the District Attorney
 - Roger: They don't do anything
 - Strickler: She offered for the Task Force to use her house to sit and watch across the street, but they wouldn't.
 - President Ochs: He would love to get part-time officers in, but we can't do it right now.
- Motion made by Strickler, second by Adams, to enter into an Executive Session at 8:15 pm p.m.; All in favor.

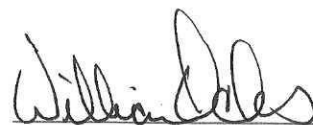
ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion made by Strickler, second by Adams, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.; All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

ATTEST:



PRESIDENT:



**TREMONT BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

MARCH 12, 2024

1. <i>Laurie Bender</i>	19.
2. <i>Stephen Slynski</i>	20.
3. <i>Kathleen Hanne</i>	21.
4. <i>Gerald Feschach</i>	22.
5. <i>Sherrif Hamzinger</i>	23.
6. <i>KEVIN M. ADAMS</i>	24.
7. <i>JOHN R. POFF LIGHT-HEGEL</i>	25.
8. <i>Rachel Fosse</i>	26.
9.	27.
10.	28.
11.	29.
12.	30.
13.	31.
14.	32.
15.	33.
16.	34.
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18.	36.