

**AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 MINUTES**

The monthly meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auburn Municipal Building at 451 Pearson Street. In attendance were President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Council-member Liz Shaner. Also present was Solicitor Stanley Burke, Engineer Chip Pohronezny, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Council-members Melissa Schwenk and Jesse Spencer were unable to attend this meeting.

At this time the meeting was called to order by President Eckert who then opened with the pledge of allegiance.

**August Minutes and Financial Reports**

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, to accept the August minutes and reports as submitted. Motion carried.

**Approval to Pay Bills**

A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to approve payment of check #16264 through #16290 as attached to the September agenda. Motion carried. This motion also includes payment of the regular monthly September invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. The complete September check register is included with the September minutes.

**Recognition of Guests**

The guests attending this meeting were John Fessler, Aaron Brommer, and Raymond Burkey. They had nothing to discuss.

**Complaints / Complaint Forms**

The engineer was asked to send a notice of violation for debris and general maintenance issues to the residents at 426 Washington Street and to the property owner of 221 Orchard Street.

**REPORTS**

**Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk**

No report

**Mayor – Frank Cataldi**

--On September 5, 2024, Mayor Cataldi swore in the following as official fire police: Dan Webber, Kris Bachman, Logan Wiederhold, Brad Reppert, and David Zubritski.

Frank commended these individuals for volunteering their time and service to our town.

--The Mayor said that he hasn't had a chance to canvas the town for uninspected and/or abandoned vehicles or properties with high grass and weeds. He said he did try to contact the residents at 245 Orchard Street but nobody answered the door. More high grass and weed letters, as well as door notices, will be printed out for Mayor Cataldi's use.

--The District Magistrate told the Mayor that a warrant was issued for the owner of 243 Orchard Street for failing to clean up their property. No new information was reported.

A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.

**Safety – Jesse Spencer**

No report

**SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES PAGE (2)**

**Fire & Ambulance**

--The ambulance service responded to 23 calls in the month of August. Auburn=7, Port Clinton=1, W.Brunswick=3, S. Manheim=4, Hamburg=4, Orwigsburg=1, Bethel=1, Wayne Twp.=1, Pottsville=1 (12 were medical, 7 trauma, 1 lift assist, 2 cancel, 1 refusal)

--The fire company responded to 8 calls in the month of August. Auburn-2, South Manheim-4, West Brunswick-0, and Other Call-2. (1 search and rescue, 1 vehicle fire, 2 tree down, 1 motorcycle accident, 1 afa, 1 industrial accident, 1 working structure fire)

A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept the reports as submitted.

Motion carried. The full reports are on file.

**SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny**

--One UCC permit was issued for 612 Jackson Street

--The 2024 road project is scheduled to start by the middle of September.

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

The full report is on file.

**Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger**

--August totals: Real Estate = -0- Per Capita = \$66.00

A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.

The full report is on file.

**Sanitation Clerk – Melissa Schwenk**

--August total collected = \$11,940.00

A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.

**Municipal Authority**

--All minutes received up to July 2024

--Frank noted that a billing clerk was hired and is currently being trained for the position.

**Streets & Roads – John Eckert**

--Council agreed that the new 2024 dump truck can be taken to Bob Fisher Auto in Reading for any needed services. John said that the alternator on the 2019 truck needs service and will schedule an appointment as soon as he can get it in.

--John F. said that council will need to address some of the vehicles that are parked and never move when it's time for plowing.

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

**Solicitor – Stanley Burke**

--The appraisal was received for the abandoned trailer on Bear Creek Street. The property was appraised at \$11,000.00. The next step would be to have a title search done. Stan noted that it is on the commissioner's list for sale and the county's new rules are based on the appraisal of a property. Council discussed condemning the property but Chip said it is not an easy process. No further discussion at this time.

--A letter was received from a resident on Bear Creek Street regarding his delinquent sanitation account. Stan informed Council that he feels he can negotiate and work with him to determine what is actually owed on this account. More information will follow at an upcoming meeting.

--The purchase of the lot on Orchard Street is with the Commissioner's office at this time.

--All accounts submitted to Stan for the lien process have now been processed.

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

**SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES PAGE (3)**

**Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner**

--The minutes and financial reports from July are on file.

**SCOG**

Next meeting on September 11, at 7 p.m., in Deer Lake Borough Hall.

**Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk**

No report

**OLD BUSINESS**

--Solicitor – Property on Bear Creek St. / Land purchase on Orchard St.

--Discussed the Municipal Authority crew using the Borough's backhoe at the filtration plant. Doug voiced some concern regarding the drive to get it there as well as making sure they have a certified operator to run the machine. We still need to draw up an agreement stating the following points: 1-certified operator, 2-certificate of insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured, 3-charge \$75.00 per hour, 4-the operator must punch in at the time clock in the garage when leaving and returning, 5-John F. will perform a maintenance check of the machine when returned, and 6-any damage will be the responsibility of the Municipal Authority. Brenda will prepare the agreement to be voted on at the October meeting.

--Security cameras – Installation not complete (open invoice for labor to install system)

--Comcast franchise agreement (no contact to set up meeting as of this date)

**NEW BUSINESS**

--A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to appoint Steve Chuba, a resident of Washington Street, to replace Jesse Spencer on the Municipal Authority board. His term will expire in 2027.

--Solicitor Burke agreed to prepare a draft letter to send to delinquent sanitation accounts informing them that the Borough has a right to proceed with a municipal sale of personal property if their accounts aren't paid. He agreed to prepare the letter for the next meeting.

--A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, to purchase the following items from Doug Dalton: 1- a 6x10 trailer with wood floor- cost \$600.00, 2 – heavy duty binder straps cost-\$50.00, 3 – mower/weed wacker cost-\$250.00. Motion carried.

--No decision was made regarding the status of the two older dump trucks. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

--Doug suggested that Council look into preparing a “welcome letter” for new residents moving into town. Brenda agreed to begin working on a draft letter to present to Council.

--Council was reminded that a budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sep. 30<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. A work session will be held, if needed, at 6:00 p.m. before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to adjourn the September 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler, Secretary-Treasurer

