

**FAIRFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA**  
**Borough of Fairfield**  
**Minutes of the Borough Council Meeting of October 27, 2020**  
**At the Fairfield Village Hall and Remotely via the Zoom platform**

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, in the Village Hall meeting room, 108 West Main Street, Fairfield, Pennsylvania, with the option for remote participation via the Zoom platform.

In attendance at the Village Hall were councilors Camille Cline, Phyllis Gilbert, Patricia Smith, and Dean Thomas as well as Solicitor Matthew Battersby and Secretary Susan Wagle. In attendance remotely via the Zoom platform was councilor Nate McNeill and Mayor Robert Stanley,

Present remotely from the public was Emmitsburg News Journal reporter, Richard Fulton. Present in person from the public was George (Butch) Harbaugh of Harbaugh's Hauling and Excavation.

At 7:00 PM Council President Patricia Smith called the meeting to order and Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes** – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 5-0, the minutes of the Council meeting of October 7, 2020 were accepted subject to correction of Mrs. Cline's report on the status of the move of display cabinets from Hamiltonban Township to the Village Hall.

**Public Comment** – Mr. Fulton did not choose to make comment.

**Police Department Report** – Discussion of the September Police report takes place later in the meeting.

**Fire Department Report** – There was no activity report from the Fire Company.

**Solicitor Report** – Solicitor Battersby shared that the United States is experiencing a housing boom and a shortage of built homes. Noting his anticipation that the Hamiltonban Township Iron Springs Plaza project will likely move forward with increased housing and less commercial focus, he recommended that the Planning Commission begin to consider long range planning for the Borough, perhaps including a traffic study with consideration given to the location of traffic signals. He suggested, in addition, that the Borough's shortage of parking be addressed and recommended that consideration be given to developing an alternate route to Main Street. While acknowledging that the Southwest Adams Joint Comprehensive Plan might address some of these concerns, he doubted that all were addressed and opined that the 10-year-old Plan is likely in need of an update.

At 7:14 PM Solicitor Battersby left the meeting and Mrs. Thomas remotely arrived.

**Snow Removal Bid Opening** – Mrs. Smith opened two sealed snow removal bids – one from W.F. Delauter & Son, Inc, of Emmitsburg, MD, and the other from Harbaugh's Hauling & Excavation of Fairfield, PA. After consideration of the bids and on a motion by Mrs. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council awarded the 2021 snow removal contract to Harbaugh's Hauling and Excavation whose line item bids were lower in all instances.

Mr. McNeill requested assistance in contacting the appropriate entity to have large (1' diameter) dead limbs removed from power lines at the edge of his property.

At 7:22 PM Chief Hileman arrived at the meeting.

Chief Hileman reviewed the September Police report and fielded questions from Council. He explained that the new section of the Police Report was prepared in response to request made by the Carroll Valley Borough Council. A majority of Fairfield Borough Council expressed interest in the general information included in the section. Chief reported that there has been a spate of election sign thefts, and the Department experienced its first interaction related to political unrest. In response to inquiry by Mayor Stanley, Chief reported that the department has received approval to hire a fourth officer for 20 hours per week instead of full time as had been planned.

At 7:39 PM Chief left the meeting.

**Correspondence** – There was no correspondence requiring action.

**Code Enforcement report** – Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer’s report for the period August 17 through September 11, 2020. Mr. Thomas requested that more specific time breakdowns be reported in the future.

**Review of Financial Reports** – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, the financial reports were accepted as presented and payment of the following invoices authorized: PMCA \$315.00 and Rose Computers \$120.00.

**Mayor’s Report** – Mayor Stanley reported that he received a note of appreciation relative to his participation at the 9-11 activity at St. Mary’s Church. In response to his recommendation that HARB begin regulating colors in the historic district, Mrs. Thomas shared that color does not affect a building’s architectural significance or value, and she adamantly opposed changing ordinance standards to include color oversight by the HARB. No substantive discussion ensued and no plans were made to pursue the topic.

**Municipal Service Report** – The Secretary reported that employee Jason Harbaugh has indicated his interest in taking the lead on providing municipal support. As he is available to wash the Village Hall windows in preparation for storm window installation, Mrs. Cline offered to contact the owner of Mows a Lot, who provided a quote for the job, to let him know that the work will be done in house.

**Committee Reports** – There were no committee reports.

### **Liaison Reports**

**COG** – Mrs. Smith reported on the October 22 COG meeting where it was reported that municipal requests for FAIR monies will be reviewed in November. Destination Gettysburg’s Norris Flowers reported that hotel occupancy rates ranged from 30% to 84% as pandemic circumstances changed.

**Fairfield Area Historical Society** – Mrs. Gilbert reported that the Board met on October 15. Public activities are on hold due to the constraints of Covid-19.

**FREMA** – Mayor Stanley reported on the October 19 meeting at which neither Hamiltonban nor Liberty Townships were represented. He shared information on an August 29 event at the SGI plant where a pipe rupture allowed a non-toxic material to spill into Miney Creek. The material made a significant volume of the creek water milky, and its effects caused some fish and salamander to die. Mrs. Smith shared her intent to recommend that the Municipal Authority Board write a follow up

letter to re-emphasize the Authority's objection to current permitting regarding use of the creek waters. Some discussion ensued regarding the importance of designating Tom's Creek as an exceptional value creek.

**HARB** – On a motion by Mrs. Cline, seconded by Mrs. Gilbert and carried by roll call vote of 6-0, Council passed Resolution #12 of 2020, issuing a Certificate of Appropriateness for handrail installation at 11 West Main Street.

**Joint Parks & Recreation Commission** – In Mr. Pileggi's absence Mr. Thomas reported on the October 24 tree planting event at which 32 trees were successfully planted. The commemorative plaques have not yet been installed.

**Municipal Authority** – Mrs. Smith reported on the October 13 meeting at which the Authority engineer indicated that there is a good possibility of the development of housing projects on both the east and west sides of the Borough, both of which could be served by the Authority. There is nothing conclusive at this time.

**Planning Commission** – Mr. Thomas reported on the October 12 meeting at which a draft of the nuisance ordinance was discussed. An updated zoning amendment document was not available for review but has since been provided for Commission consideration at its November meeting.

**YATB** – Mrs. Smith reported on the YATB meeting that was held via Zoom on October 26<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that collections are up a little bit, but the organization has placed its capital projects on hold for one or two years in case collections go down as a delayed affect of the pandemic. It was noted that unemployment rates are trending down.

### **Unfinished Business**

- There was no new information on bell repair or refurbishing.
- Display cabinets have not been moved from Hamiltonban Township.
- The Secretary shared that Act 101, which would put responsibility for infrastructure under PennDOT roads back onto PennDOT, was not passed this legislative session, but there is hope that it will be passed in the next. In the meantime it was recommended that the Authority's soon-to-be-delivered inspection camera be used to inspect the drain pipes under Main Street.
- No response has been received to the Borough's FAIR grant request for Covid-19 related expenses which was submitted to the Office of Planning and Development on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- As reported earlier, Jason Harbaugh has indicated his willingness to take the lead on municipal support. One other individual has indicated an interest in working for the Borough and will submit an application.
- A report on the final 2020 quarterly e-recycling event was emailed on October 19.
- Mrs. Smith reported that the new rear entry door was installed on October 12<sup>th</sup>. She expressed thanks to Mrs. Thomas for her offer to paint the door and acknowledged that it seems that three coats of paint are needed for the initial paint job. Mrs. Smith affirmed that storm window installation is still scheduled for December 15 and confirmed that no action has been taken on the foyer ceiling repair.

**New Business** – There was no new business.

**Anything for the Good of the Borough**

- Mr. Fulton shared that he just sent the Borough an email sharing all previous reporting on the August SGI spill into Miney Creek. Some discussion ensued.
- In other business Mr. Fulton requested that accommodation be made for him to exercise the Zoom option for listeners to record Borough meetings. Not knowing how to do so, the Secretary indicated that she will figure it out for future meetings.
- Council supported Mrs. Cline’s recommendation that a ‘thinking of you’ card be sent to Pat Pileggi’s wife, Nadine, who has been struggling with serious health concerns.

**Next Meetings** – The next meetings of the Borough Council are scheduled for November 11, at 9:00 AM and November 24, 2020, at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment** – On a motion by Mrs. Gilbert, seconded by Mrs. Cline and carried by unanimous acclamation, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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Susan E. Wagle, Secretary

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Patricia T. Smith, President