MINUTES

**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 21, 2019**

PRESENT: Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; Andrew C. Bennett, President; Thomas A. Karet, Frederick Leech, Ann R. Meyer, James M. Royston, Jay S. Troutman, Councilmembers; A. Bruce Bowden, Esq. Solicitor; Gary J. Koehler, Manager; Joy A. Hardt, Treasurer; Jeanine M. Mancuso, Asst. Treasurer; David M. Laux, Chief of Police; Dana A. Abate, Borough Secretary.

ABSENT: Harrison S. Lauer, Councilmember.

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Koehler reported that the stormwater construction work at the Borough Building is about three weeks behind schedule. He also stated that the Borough received a $251,400 GROW Grant for the Riverview Terrace Sanitary Sewer Project. Lastly, he noted that there was a kickoff meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding a flood risk and stormwater management study for the Squaw Run Watershed. A $150,000 grant was received by the Corps to fully fund the joint study between Fox Chapel and O’Hara.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Hardt reported that the Pension State Aid was received for the non-uniform pension plan and that future State aid will be based on the needs of the plan instead of unit value. Therefore, the Borough will receive less money next year unless the Borough increases the needs of the plan.

Approval of Bills

It was moved by Mr. Troutman that the payment of bills for September 2019 (General Fund Vouchers 25176-25281- $487,399.23; Land Fund ARM Vouchers 1009-1010 - $309,555.79) be approved. The motion was duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Planner

Wesley Posvar, Chairperson of the Park Commission, appeared before Council to discuss the unanimous recommendation of the Park Commission to hire Pashek+MTR as the park planner for the Hardie property. Mr. Posvar reviewed the RFP process and indicated that the DCNR template was used in order to ease the process for obtaining future grants from DCNR for the Hardie property. Following explanation of the RFP process, Mr. Posvar reported that two proposals were received, Pashek+MTR and HRG. He distributed a spreadsheet to Council that he prepared comparing both proposals. The spreadsheet consisted of information such as Consultant Qualifications, Evaluation Criteria (Technical Expertise/Experience; Procedures/Methods; Cost; Oral Presentation) and Personnel Hours/Cost. He stated both proposals came in at $30,000, but Pashek+MTR will complete

the work in 6 months vs. HRG at 13 months (April 2020 vs. November 2020) which is important for DCNR grant application timing. He also stated that Jim Pashek is volunteering his time to work on the project. Mr. Posvar stated that each Park Commission member evaluated both firms using a point system (5=best…1=lowest). When the numbers were tallied, Pashek+MRT’s final score was 175 compared to 75 for HRG. He also stated that Pashek+MTR has assisted on other park matters and is very familiar with the Borough and its infrastructure. Also, their proposal includes consideration for stormwater management thereby reducing the potential for flooding. Council thanked Mr. Posvar for the comprehensive review.

Allison Stein, Mandy Steele and Betsy Monroe were in attendance and asked questions about, among other things, the hiring process. Mr. Posvar stated that the proposal was sent to four Pittsburgh park planning firms. One firm did not respond, another sent an email stating that the firm would not be bidding on the project. There are only four major firms in Pittsburgh area that are actual park planners. The Park Commission was not interested in a firm located outside of the Pittsburgh area, particularly a larger engineering firm say in Boston or New York, due to logistics and the typically better working relationship with a local consultant. Jim Pashek is a member of the Park Commission, expressed interest in his firm bidding on the project, and offered to resign from the Commission. Upon checking with the Borough Solicitor, Mr. Pashek did not need to resign but did recuse himself from all contact with the Park Commission regarding the Park Commission and park planner discussions, reviews and approval.

Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Troutman that Pashek+MTR be hired as park planner for the Hardie property at a cost of $30,000. The motion was duly seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

McCahill Park

Mr. Posvar reported to Council that the Park Commission was approached by Stephen & Abagael Whittingham who tragically lost their daughter, Annabel Rae, wanting to create Annie’s Field of Dreams at McCahill Park. He stated that members of the Park Commission and the Borough Manager have met to discuss the proposal with the Whittinghams who attended the Council meeting. Discussions at this point are preliminary, but the Park Commission wanted to inform Council of the proposal and to let Council know that the Park Commission is completely behind the project. A rendering of Annie’s Field of Dreams was available to Council for review.

Mr. Whittingham stated that a GoFundMe Page has been established and those funds along with matching funds from his employer as well as in-kind donations will be utilized to create Annie’s dream park. Council asked Mr. Whittingham to write an article for the next newsletter seeking donations for the park and information will also be placed on the Borough’s website. Council wished the Whittinghams their best and indicated their support of the project.

Hardie Property Fundraising Update

The Mayor reported that the Borough has received approximately $360,000 in donations and commitments for the Hardie property, including donations from all of Borough Council, Borough Manager, Borough Police Chief and himself. It is hoped to raise the entire $885,000 for the property purchase. The Borough will also apply to DCNR for a grant for 50% match of the property purchase cost.

OTHER

Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy

Mr. Bennett acknowledge receipt of a letter from the President of the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy congratulating the Borough on its recent acquisition of the Hardie property. The letter stated that the Conservancy has been working on creating a trail route from the Rachel Carson Trail north of Beechwood Farms to Squaw Valley Park and the Allegheny River and the acquisition boosts the efforts for the continuous trail to the north.

Fox Chapel/Powers Run Road Intersection

The Police Chief reported that PennDOT will conduct an engineering/traffic study at this intersection. The study will determine if a multi-way stop sign or other improvement is warranted. Chief Laux noted that although Powers Run Road is a State road and Fox Chapel Road is a County road, he and the Borough Manager have visited the intersection and believe that they have a solution amicable to all parties. He will wait until the completion of the study to offer their opinion on the matter.

At 7:05 PM, Council adjourned into Executive Session, which began at 7:17 PM, to discuss a personnel matter and reconvened at 7:24 PM.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

DANA A. ABATE

Borough Secretary