



**MINUTES**  
**FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 21, 2022**

PRESENT: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Bradley D. Harrison, Mandy Steele, Elizabeth Monroe, Sarah Hanna, Councilmembers; A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor. Gary J. Koehler, Borough Manager; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Michael Stevens, Police Chief; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director; Shawn M. Peterson, Borough Secretary

ALSO

PRESENT: Dante Moretti, Zoning Administrator; Michael Pohl, Fox Chapel VFD Secretary; Erica Sandbothe, O'Hara Township resident; Mike DiVittorio, Tribune-Review reporter

VIA ZOOM: Thomas Karet, Councilmember; Wesley Posvar, Chairperson for the Park Commission; three other attendees

ABSENT: Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor

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

**MINUTES**

Ms. Steele moved that the February 21, 2022 meeting minutes be approved. Ms. Monroe seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Bennett abstaining from voting due to his absence at the February meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bennett stated Council would discuss the Regional Fire Department Study first as Michael Pohl was due to be at a Fire Department training event but was present at the meeting to answer questions on behalf of the Fox Chapel VFD.

Regional Fire Department Study

O'Hara Township has asked the Borough of Fox Chapel to participate in a Regional Fire Department Study with Blawnox, O'Hara Township, Sharpsburg, and Aspinwall communities. The Fox Chapel Fire Department has conveyed that they are not interested in being a part of a Regional Fire Department Study.

Mr. Pohl stated that when a Regional Fire Department Study is conducted, it is usually because a clear and identifiable problem needs to be solved. Mr. Pohl said that the Fox Chapel Fire Department does not believe there are any significant problems with the department regarding fire protection. The department has strong manpower with twenty-nine active members who are well-trained individuals.

The ISO rating for the fire department, which calculates how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in a community, shows the Fox Chapel Fire Department is well equipped to serve Fox Chapel residents.

Mr. Koehler stated that he spoke to Chief Dee Humes about the study, and Mr. Humes told Mr. Koehler if the Fire Department regionalized, he worries that the members would suffer burnout from responding to an increased amount of calls. It may also dilute the service that Fox Chapel residents receive from their Fire Department.

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Mr. Pohl pointed out that with regionalization, in a true emergency where time is of the essence, having other municipalities not as familiar with the Fox Chapel area roads and locations could be devastating.

Ms. Steele stated that participating in the study could provide the Borough with more information that could benefit the Joint Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Fire Department. The data could also strengthen Chief Humes's concerns with burnout and dilution.

Following the discussion, it was moved by Mr. Lauer that the Borough of Fox Chapel will not be participating in the Regional Fire Department Study. Mr. Karet seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion with a Nay vote from Ms. Steele.

### RESIDENT COMMENTS

Erica Sandbothe, an O'Hara Township resident, requested assistance from Borough Council on whether Council would be willing to contact the Fox Chapel Golf Club regarding the noise pollution from the recreational shooting at the Club. Ms. Sandbothe's home is located close to the Club's property, and she stated that the noise significantly impacts her family and neighbors.

Mr. Bennett stated that Section 35 Pa. Stat. 4501 of Pennsylvania Statute says that this matter is out of the Borough Council's purview.

Ms. Steele suggested to Ms. Sandbothe that her best course of action is getting other residents and neighbors together and petitioning the Fox Chapel Golf Club Board members. Council agreed with Ms. Steele's suggestion.

### POLICE REPORT

Chief Stevens reminded Council of the Coffee with a Cop event on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9 – 11 AM at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library. He also reminded Council of the Fox Chapel Day event on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 5 PM.

Chief Stevens informed Council the Police Department received another Radar Sign that they will deploy as speeding in the Borough is an ongoing issue.

### PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Kurpakus commended the Public Works employees on a fantastic job with snow and ice removal this past winter.

Mr. Koehler took a moment to welcome Dante Moretti as the new Zoning Administrator of the Borough.

### TREASURER REPORT

Ms. Mancuso informed Council that the two audits from February had been completed. The Liquid Fuels Audit was for 2020. The Auditor-General confirms that the funds allocated to the Borough are being used appropriately. For the last ten years, the Borough has used the Liquid Fuels funding for storm sewer material for the Road Rebuilding Program.

### Payment of Bills

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Mr. Lauer moved that the payment of bills for February 2022 (General Fund Vouchers 2347-2463, \$656,844.09) be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed by a unanimous vote.

### CONTRACTS

Mr. Karet moved to award the contract for two 2023 International HV507 chassis to Hunter Truck Sales via CoStars Contract No. 025-101 for \$202,636. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Steele moved to reject the bid from LM&R Excavating for Contract No. 22-SW1- Squaw Run East Streambank Restoration with the understanding that the project will be rebid. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed by a unanimous vote.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harrison would like to reinvigorate the Junior Council Person Program for this fall. This will allow a high school junior, preferably a Borough resident, an opportunity for mentorship and community involvement. He and Ms. Hanna will reach out to Fox Chapel Area High School and Shady Side Academy personnel for recommendations on interested students and update Council on their progress with the program.

### INFORMATIONAL

Mr. Bennett took a moment to send a big thank you and congratulations to Dempsey Bruce, Superintendent of Public Works, on his retirement. Mr. Bruce's last day is Thursday, March 31, 2022. After thirty-seven years of employment at the Borough, Mr. Bennett called Mr. Bruce a fixture of the Borough.

Borough Council hopes retirement is terrific for Mr. Bruce, his wife, and his family, and wish him all the best.

There being no other business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 PM.

SHAWN MARIE PETERSON  
Borough Secretary