

Eagles Mere Borough

Minutes

September 6, 2016

Tuesday

The Eagles Mere Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7 PM on the above date by President Feese with the following Council members and Mayor Joan Werner in attendance: VP Christelle Loftus, John Huhn, Dave Werner, Matt Andrews, Richard Liebert & Robert Spahr. Secretary/Treasurer Wilson. In the gallery: J. Moore, K. Smith, E. Vauclain, B. Moyer, D. Andrews, J. Ecker, Mr & Mrs. J. Detwiler.

Public Comments: Don Andrews from the EMFC made a statement that the lower Branch building is not being torn down. The Fire Company is planning to refurbish this building and intends to solicit donations to raise approximately \$30K to accomplish this. A grant may also be applied for.

Minutes- for the previous monthly meeting were approved on a motion from Mr. Huhn and seconded by Mr. Werner

Treasurer's Report – provided with the agenda for the previous month were approved with the minutes.

Street Superintendent Report: written reports were sent with agendas. Replacing the upper crosswalk at the downtown is being researched and discussed. The Infrastructure Committee has discussed this and recommend putting it back the way it was, now that the bank is no longer there. Pendot stated it could be reestablished as it was. A question of safety has been raised whether it is too close to the top of the hill. Other information is being gathered, and it should be checked by an engineer or at least reviewed by several council members before a final decision is made. Ms. Wilson will give the Pendot engineer' information to Mr. Liebert. The recommendation from the committee was tabled.

Jeremy Moore has been given authorization to trim any low hanging or obstructing branches that are found in the Borough's Right of Way. Height recommendations are as described in the ordinance.. Complaints regarding regarding sidewalks should be directed to the Code Officer or the Borough Office and letters will be sent to the owners to advise them of the issue or ordinance violations. The invasive species (bushes) around the lake encroaching on the Borough right of way were also added to the list that Mr. Moore has authorization to remove. EMA has agreed he may enter their property to do so.

New reflective signs with breakaway metal poles will be installed next year to replace the old black and white metal signs. The carved wooden posts will be replaced as they need replaced. Finance Committee wants a guess-timate for the 2017 budget for sign replacement. On a motion from Mr. Spahr the amended sign replacement policy was approved. It was seconded by Mr. Werner.

Open Records Officer: there was one request from Signature Information Solutions.

Ordinance & Zoning Officer's Report- letter sent to Wards/North Financial regarding their pool and the safety issue there. There are still 3 sidewalks that haven't been completed and reminders will be going out to them that the deadline is running out.

Parking Officer Report: Nothing at this time.

Business Conducted –

General Code has sent updates for the EM Borough Code hardcopies. There are 3 left in the office for anyone who wants to keep their book up to date.

NIMS- Mr. Spahr has completed the ICS 700 course and Mr. Andrews has done the ICS 100. The annual report will be filed by Sept. 30th.

Salt Contract for 2016-2017 was issued to Cargil for \$53.42 ton.

Traffic situation at Robsons is being investigated by the Infrastructure Committee. Committee Chairman Huhn is going to meet with him in the next couple weeks to discuss remedies for the situation.

Marking the Borough Line in the EM Park- Eric Hopkins has agreed to meet with and show Emergency Services where the borough line is marked and EMS will GPS the line so they have correct house numbers for street addresses.

Hearing for parking ordinance amendment was tabled due to a holdup in advertising. It will be rescheduled for October 3, 2016.

Pendot sent a letter advising they will be paving Rt 42 in 2018 (we are assuming this will start in Laporte), but they want to know by the end of September this year if the Borough is planning any storm drain or pipe replacement. The pipe under Rt 42 at the pond has been inspected by the EMA and found to be in good condition. There are no other pipes under Rt 42 in that area of the borough.

Network Solutions has notified the Borough the domain name eaglesmere.org is due for renewal. A decision needs to be made if the Borough wishes to keep this or return it to the Eagles Mere Inn. A letter will be sent to George Jenkins and Rich Lobach asking them to meet with some council members to advise whether they want it back.

W/C claim for Rich Schaefer will be followed up on to be sure EMTs are covered under insurance.

Mayor's Report: Aug 20th is the annual Organizations meeting. It will be asked that they advise our web manager of administration changes and schedules for inclusion on the Borough Website. Mayor Werner attended a Social Media seminar and learned a great deal about Facebook and other media for the Museum. She advised EMMA members and EMHVI that signs are needed to alert shoppers and visitors of icy walks or slippery floors. The green handicapped sidewalk markers in the downtown area are in bad shape and people are tripping on them. Pendot will be contacted to advise of the safety issue and see who is responsible to keep them in repair. There is a drug awareness program at SCHS Sept 8. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Committees:

Finance: Committee chair thanked everyone for getting budget numbers to them on time. Preliminary budget will be developed and given to council for the October meeting. He says financials look good.

Personnel: a 3% increase was recommended for employees for 2017. Clothing allowance for fulltime employees would get \$400 annually for pants and boots, part-

time would get half that amount. Shirts will be supplied for all employees. In respect to the Fire Company's announcement that they will be charging for the use of the Community Hall, the Christmas party may need a new venue this year. Cooking facilities will be necessary. Perhaps the newly renovated Johnson house or the Flora Villa would be considered. Ms. Loftus will check what is available.

Infrastructure: Parking at the Beach will be reviewed before next spring.

Museum : A letter will be sent to the Eagles Mere Foundation advisory board to ask for \$3000 to cover promotional materials and advertising. This was approved on a motion from Mr. Spahr, seconded by Mr. Liebert. Morgan Randall was approved for employment in the shop at \$8 per hour. She is a high school student from Laporte. This was approved by Mr. Huhn, seconded by Mr. Werner.

STC. The Commission met at Blairs on the corner of Laporte and Eagles Mere Ave. Two trees at this intersection were approved for removal. There are two others along Laporte Ave and one by the pavilion that were also approved. Several have been marked with ribbons that have been treated, but not for removal. One tree at Mark Beaugard and Ken Class property needs to be removed and was approved as well. There is a tree at the Dewire Center that looks dead and the STC will check it out. They appreciate getting these alerts from others who are about town a lot. On a motion from Mr. Werner, seconded by Ms. Detwiler, the Blairs and Beagards will be notified that they have permission from the Borough to remove the trees that were looked at and approved. EMA has several on Lewis Avenue that are marked to come down and another that is already down. EMA has a contractor that will do this work after the STC has looked to see if they are in the street right of way. Guidelines for evaluating trees were approved on a motion from Ms. Loftus, seconded by Mr. Werner.

Secretary's Notes & Information :

- County Trust Fund Distribution for 2016 \$0
- Purchased new battery backup for office computer.
- Sales Tax penalty abated. When the sales tax was paid for the 2nd Qtr the new museum checking hadn't been added to the State Etides payment site.
- Rich Schaefer's workman's Comp claim was denied from State Workers Insurance Fund(SWIF) for his slip and fall while attending a fire at Gold Forest in July as an EMT.
- Auditor General Bureau of Fire Audit report has been received regarding Foreign Fire Tax. Copy available as per request.
- Don Lucas was notified of the tree hazard located on his property next to the tennis court on Allegheny Ave. No response has been received.
- Frontier is promoting new faster internet speeds. The Borough Office declined to email their advertising flyer.
- Letter sent to Labor and Industry requesting they change the payment method to a one pay plan instead of installments. The first installment is almost as much as the annual fee. No reply as yet.
- Certified documents for paid trash fees were issued for Bauman's closing.
- U/C rate is going up 2017 from .0695 to .0745. This will be adjusted in the budget.
- Claim opened for Museum Lift. Trying to get new company for repairs & maintenance closer to EM.

The bills were ordered paid for the Borough and Museum by motion from Mr. Huhn, seconded by Mr. Werner .

The meeting was adjourned by of the President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay L. Wilson
Secretary/Treasurer