Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Strubinger with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the men and women serving our county, our first responders and their families and those impacted by the Coronavirus.

**Roll Call of Members**

Gregory Strubinger Joanne Klitsch Edith Lukasevich - resigned

Kyle Sheckler - absent Mike Yeastedt Bob Schaninger

Thomas Highland Mayor Sofranko Solicitor Nanovic JCP Connor Rodgers Police Chief Schatz PSM Yaich - absent Manager Sterner Louise McClafferty - absent Engineer - absent

**Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Sofranko said he was absent the past two months because he had COVID-19, he advised the resident to get the vaccine. He thanked everyone that reached out to him to wish him well.

Mayor Sofranko said Jarrod from the Times News did a nice job getting the police report in the newspaper.

Mayor Sofranko said he knows they do have to finish up on the wages for the part-time officers.

Police Chief Schatz said all of the police officers have received their first vaccination, waiting for the second dose. He thanked Anne Marie Poluck from Mauch Chunk Pharmacy and Tracy for administering this to them this past week. He wants to thank the Fairview Social Club for their $500.00 donation to the Police Dept. He sent them a thank you note, they will use this towards the community vehicle.

**Announcements**

UCC Joint Board of Appeals Board Vacancy

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Short-term rentals Public Hearing scheduled for Feb. 11, 2021 meeting. The amendment is currently in the hands of the County and JT Planning Commission.

**SALDO**

**Public Comment** – limited to 1 minute per person – public is encouraged to submit public comments via regular mail, email or place in drop box at municipal office

Bill Malatak, 1342 Germantown Rd, - he hears that Jay Miller might be councilman. He spoke about coming into town from Nesquehoning and the trees needing to be trimmed by the Liberty’s and the road needing patching.

John McGuire, 1325 Center St., spoke about the article in the paper about people shooting. He knows one of the comments that was made that we are going to follow what the State regulations are that are put out there for us. He is an NRA member, and a firm believer in everybody having their own guns and shooting, he also thinks what is going on here could be reckless endangerment and a safety issue, not a second amendment issue. Legislation #2507 where it states even if you are shooting on your own property you have to be 200 yards away from the dwelling or campsite to shoot and you also have to have a back stop, and something to catch the deflection on the sides. He would like to see council do something to keep it out of town. This is not to restrict anyone from their second amendment right. He will send this information to council through email. He’d like to wish the new council person good luck.

Nancy Damanski, 1259 Broadview Drive, she has lived there for 22 years and she no longer feels safe in her house, she is afraid to walk outside into her own backyard. She is for hunting and people having guns but she would like it to be in a safe controlled area not in the resident’s area. She does not feel this should be done in a residential area.

President Strubinger asked if this has been addressed to the Property Owner’s association?

Nancy Damanski said yes it was. She does not know of the conclusion from this meeting.

Dee Reitz, 909 Old Piney Rd, on January 11, 2021 Times News, Mayor Sofranko was quoted “he would not find any ordinance to take away peoples second amendment rights in order to regulate shooting ranges”. This is about the quality of life for the residents who live here. She said this is a job for council members, you make the rules. This is her home; this is where she lives and where she works, it’s about their well-being, their mental health. She asked how would you feel if this shooting range was located next to their home? Glenn Onoko Estates is classified as an R-1 residential development, it is part of the borough, it is not a rural area. GOE covenants states hunting is not permitted within an R-1 zone. They follow borough codes on regulations pertained to shooting. Council approved a variance for a recreational cabin that is owned by Mayor Sofranko’ s son also a member of the PSP. She sated Mr. Sofranko you have a conflict of interest, because the range at the recreational cabin belongs to your son. She asked that Mayor Sofranko recuse himself from any further statements regarding this issue.

Mayor Sofranko stated he never stated, he said second amendment rights and that was it.

Mark Reitz, 909 Old Piney Rd, he has been working on his property since 1978. The target shooting that is going on in the GOE development. Excessive shooting devalues the property values in the development. You just raised the taxes $200.00, who wants to listen to shooting every Saturday or Sunday for 3 hours? I have the same rights as the recreational cabin. This devalues the quality of life and it is not good for real estate value.

**Action**

President Strubinger said we have the council vacancy. The borough has received 8 letters of interest.

Two of the letters do not have their primary residence in the borough.

President Strubinger asked for nomination for the vacant council seat.

Thomas Highland nominated Jay Miller.

Robert Schaninger nominated Kristina Heaney.

Floor closed for nominations.

**ROLL CALL VOTE FOR NOMINATING JAY MILLER**

Gregory Strubinger

Michael Yeastedt

Joanne Klitsch

Thomas Highland Robert Schaninger Kyle Sheckler

YES 4 NO 1 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Mayor Sofranko swore Jay Miller in as a council member.

President Strubinger said he is sorry Edith Lukasevich decided to step down from council, he thanked her for her service on council and for many of the other effort she has been involved in within the borough. He will reconfigure the committees for the upcoming year.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to adopt Resolution 2021-01 Borough Council Vacancy Appointment.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from December 3, 2020.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2020.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch **to approve Council Meeting Minutes from December 30, 2020.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger **to approve the Expenditures from all Funds as presented.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch **to approve the Treasurer’s Report December, 2020.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION**: Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to** adopt Resolution **2021-02 Bituminous Materials Escalator Clause – as required by Comm of PA.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeasted second Thomas Highland **to adopt Resolution 2021-03 Sale of Borough Personal Property – streets divisions unneeded items.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 12 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller **to appoint Vince Yaich, Sr. as Fire Chief**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller **to appoint William Diehm as the Assistant Fire Chief**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Thomas Highland second Michael Yeastedt **to adopt Police Policy General Order 4.17– Part-Time Officers.**

QUESTION:

Mr. Schaninger asked if the Police Chief made this?

Police Chief Schatz said yes.

Mr. Schaninger asked the $150.00, is that one time only?

Police Chief Schatz said yes.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger **to Post in house the Full-Time Sewer Department Truck Driver/Laborer position conditioned upon the employee obtaining the Sewer Operator Class C, subclass 1 license within 3 years of date of hire or transferred to this position.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger **to approve the Non-Agreement Employee Hourly Wages – set for 2021.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch **to approve the PMRS Agreement Amendment 2021 – pension contribution**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch **to approve the PMRS Agreement Amendment 2022 – pension contribution.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger **to approve the PMRS Agreement Amendment 2023 – pension contribution**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to approve the PMRS Agreement Amendment 2024 – pension contribution**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION**: Jay Miller second Joanne Klitsch **to approve Onoko Fire & Rescue Zoning & Building Permit Fees Waiver Request – renovations.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller **to approve the Mauch Chunk Pharmacy Request – use of hall.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch **to work with Lehighton Borough to use their Street Sweeper, they would provide the operator, and this would be for 10 days.**

**COMMENT:**

Mr. Miller abstained from voting, due to sitting on the COG committee.

President Strubinger said he would like to see that we get an employee trained to run the street sweeper, this way if the numbers from Lehighton Borough are high, we would have someone that would be able to run the street sweeper.

Mr. Yeastedt said the agreement has us assuming all the responsibility of liability for that piece of equipment. If it broke while we had it, we would be responsible for repairing or replacing it.

Borough Manager Sterner said the brooms would have to be replaced.

YES 5 NO 0 ABSTAIN 1 Jay Miller

ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Jay Miller second Michael Yeastedt **to TABLE the Pumper/Tanker COSTARS Purchase.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Robert Schaninger **to approve Bryfogle Handicap Sign Request – area of 600 block of Center Street.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION**: Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger **to send a letter to Carbon County – request consideration for additional long-term parking for residents.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Reitz Request – Plan of Action to ban target range.

Mayor Sofranko said it should be noted Jim Thorpe Borough is rather large rural area and it accomplices a lot of areas, and take that into consideration. The area in Leisure Land we have State Game lands, and a large part of that development boarders State Game lands.

President Strubinger said the property owner on this incident was spoken to in June and it was made clear the message was understood.

Police Chief Schatz said he could contact the Game Commission Warden and get his take on this just for research on our area and the GOE.

Borough Manager Sterner said the request in their letter is for Council to provide a plan of action to ban target ranges. What is council planning to do on this item?

President Strubinger said we don’t have enough information to put forth or proposed in regards to banning target shooting in the borough.

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Joanne Klitsch **to TABLE the Borough Facilities Projects Memorial Hall Renovations Bids and Public Service Garage Bids.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

WWTP Upgrade Project – N/A

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger **to approve Mr. Rehab Payment Application #10 – $ 28,117.77.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger **to approve Entech Invoice #70679 - $891.25**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger **to approve Entech Invoice #71048 - $ 2,548.75.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Robert Schaninger **to approve Requisition #46 - $ 31,617.77.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**Utility Action**

Utility Accounts Lien Reports

Active Utility Accounts Garbage & Others Lien Report (0)

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to approve the Active Utility Account Garbage Only Lien Report (1).**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Active Utility Accounts Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Active Utility Accounts Water/Sewer/Garbage Lien Report (0)

Temporary Off Lien Report (0)

Inactive (0)

Uncollectible Accounts Report – (0)

Utility Accounts Proposed Updates (0)

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller **to approve Account #8056 Payment Plan**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Thomas Highland **to approve Account #6613 Request.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**Exoneration Request**

**MOTION:** Joanne Klitsch second Michael Yeastedt **to approve the exonerations for O’Donnell, Joan and Getz, Dorinda.**

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

**Committees**

Administration

Public Service (Sewer/Sanitation/Water/Streets)

Police

Buildings/Parks

Emergency Services

**Old Business**

Flizack Request – 4th St Quit Claim Deed 457 Plan Parking Study Readdressing Phase II Blight Landbank

Parking Ordinance Amendment – permit parking WB

**Executive Session**

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Michael Yeastedt second Jay Miller **to adjourn**.

YES 6 NO 0 ABSENT 1 Kyle Sheckler

Adjourned at 8:15 pm Respectfully submitted

Louise McClafferty

Borough Secretary