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| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Atty. Matthew G. Boyd  Ufberg & Associates  **Chief of Police**  David Homschek  **Interim Secretary**  Sandra Van Luvender  **Treasurer**  Jennifer Davitt  **Engineer**  PennEastern Engineers, LLC  Paul Pasonick | Borough of Avoca  950 Main St.  Avoca, Pa 18641  [Secretary@AvocaBorough.com](mailto:Secretary@AvocaBorough.com)  Telephones  Secretary: 570-457-4947  Fax: 570-451-1750  Police Department: 570-457-4011 Street Department: 570-451-0625 | **Council**  **President**  Holly Homschek  **Vice President**  Gary Halagarda  Michael Fuller  Joe Satkowski Jr.  Jim Emlaw  Stanley Waleski  Bob Dommermuth  Dennis O’Brien  Alan Kiesinger |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**Thursday April 13, 2023 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday April 13th, 2023, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHEK, presiding. The work session began at 1845HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1857HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Alan KIESINGER.

Council Members in attendance: Jim EMLAW, Mike FULLER, Gary HALAGARDA, Holly HOMSCHEK, Alan KIESINGER, Dennis O’BRIEN, Joseph SATKOWSKI, Stanley WALESKI and Bob DOMMERMUTH.

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert MULLEN, Attorney Matthew BOYD, Engineer Paul PASONICK and Interim Secretary, Sandra VAN LUVENDER.

Motion by Dennis O’Brien, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Stan WALESKI, second by Mike FULLER to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Jim EMLAW to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Alan KIESINGER reference McAlpine Street Storm Sewer

Improvements Project - authorize PennEastern Engineers, LLC to proceed with a change order to continue with the storm sewer improvements along McAlpine Street within the limits of the grant funding. Voice Vote (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O’BRIEN to be a sponsor for PA Wrestling Cornhole Tournament for $150. Voice Vote: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Joseph SATKOWSKI, second by Dennis O’BREIN to renew service contract with Mecadon Oil for oil burner service at Legion for $199.95. Voice Vote (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Bob DOMMERMUTH, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to approve Collective Bargaining Police Contract for 2024, pending solicitor approval and confirmation of funding availability. Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes, (1) Abstain (Holly HOMSCHEK)

Motion by Dennis O’BREIN, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to begin Civil Service process to hire a 4th full time police officer. Roll Call: (8) Eight Yes, (1) Abstain (Holly HOMSCHEK)

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Joseph SATKOWSKI to adopt Resolution #8 of 2023 to apply for grant for Abandon Mine and Acid Mine Drainage Grant Program to remove mine debris. Voice Vote (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Bob DOMMERMUTH to Award the 2022 LSA Grant Street Improvements Project to Pennsy Supply, Inc. in the amount of $116,502.50. Roll Call: (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Alan KIESINGER, second by Stan Waleski to purchase QuickBooks Pro program to assist with office duties, bookkeeping and audits. Voice Vote (9) Nine Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Holly HOMSCHEK to remain in the Luzerne County Community Development Program.

**Council additional notes**: Council member Alan KIESINGER asked if there was a way to limit the time frame for trucks coming into and out of Co-Part facility on McAlpine Street, Duryea. Currently trucks can access the facility 24 hours/ 7 days a week. Solicitor Matt BOYD reported that he would look into the matter but was concerned as the facility is actually in Duryea Borough.

Council member Dennis O’BRIEN inquired about having zoning matters in the borough handled by a Borough Zoning Board, as opposed to the Luzerne County Zoning Board that is used currently. There is a large cost associated with having a borough zoning board, which was the main reason for remaining with the County Zoning Board.

Council member Joseph SATKOWSKI advised Borough Engineer Paul PASONICK of a hole that was forming in the Borough Building parking lot. The hole was looked at after the meeting.

Council member Gary HALAGARDA suggested that a Resolution addressing the issues with Co-Part and Duryea residents be drafted. Solicitor Matt BOYD related that he would work on the resolution.

Council member Stan WALESKI touched on issues regarding the Land Bank. He advised that construction was due to begin on the 205 Main Street property. The properties at 212 Lehigh and 1416 Plane were under contract for demolition through Smart Recycle, Dunmore. They will notify the Borough when about to begin.

Council member WALESKI also suggested that the Borough send a thank you letter to both Senator Marty FLYNN and Representative James HADDOCK for their assistance with recent grant awards. The letter was drafted, and it will go in the mail during the week of 04/17/2023.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH and Stan SPAGNUOLO present. Provided information on Power Grader that could be purchased through Liquid Fuels, as well as Geo Cell ground grid to repair some of the Borough alleys. A small section of Geo Cell could be purchased as a test run to see if it would work.

**Audience**: Duryea resident, Charles SCIANDRA voiced his concern about the recent Co-Part expansion on McAlpine Street in Duryea Borough. Duryea residents are upset with expansion and question if handled properly. Residents are trying to organize a Town Hall type meeting and asking if the Avoca Borough would entertain participating in the meeting.

Avoca resident Ronald CASPER had questions and concerns about the McAlpine Street Storm Sewer project that is currently under way in Avoca. He had questions about the placement of the storm sewers, catch basin and engineering design. Engineer, Paul PASONICK did attempt to answer the questions raised. CASPER also commented about the Borough moving forward with QuickBooks and he related that it was a good purchase. He currently uses QuickBooks and would be willing to assist with any questions.

A representative from T-Mobil attended the meeting to provide information on current T-Mobil government contracts regarding tablets, internet and equipment tracking. Contact information was forwarded to the Avoca Police Department.

**Engineer**: Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated April 13th, 2023) prepared and read by Paul PASONICK. (See Attached)

**Police**: Police Report was prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor MULLEN. (See Attached)

**Notes**:

* BHW Construction permit fees collected: February $173.51 / March $141.15
* Pa Wrestling Cornhole Tournament – May 13, 2023 – flyer posted in Borough Lobby
* Liquid Fuels Audit completed on Aril 5, 2023 – no discrepancies found.