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| **Mayor**  Robert Mullen  **Solicitor**  Atty. Matthew G. Boyd  Ufberg & Associates  **Chief of Police**  David Homschek  **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**  Dennis O’Brien  Michael Fuller  Kyler Kovaleski  Jim Emlaw  Jonathan Gedrich  Bob Dommermuth  Gary Halagarda  Alan Kiesinger |

**AVOCA BOROUGH**

**Thursday, February 13, 2025 – Council Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Avoca Borough Council was held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, with Council President, Holly HOMSCHECK, presiding. The work session began at 1846HRS. The regular meeting was called to order at 1853HRS, and Pledge of Allegiance was said by Mike FULLER.

Council Members in attendance: Holly HOMSCHEK, Jonathan GEDRICH, Gary HALAGARDA, Jim EMLAW, Mike FULLER and Kyler KOVALESKI. Dennis O’BRIEN, Alan KIESINGER and Bob DOMMERMUTH were absent.

Also in attendance: Mayor Robert MULLEN, Attorney Jordan DEMPSEY, Borough Engineer Paul PASONICK, Police Chief Dave HOMSCHEK, Street Department Michael VOLCH and Secretary Sandra VAN LUVENDER.

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to accept the minutes from last month’s meeting. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Mike FULLER to pay all bills presented with monies available. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jim EMLAW to accept new correspondence as presented. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to accept police report prepared by Chief HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to renew membership in PA Mayors’ Association – membership fee $70.00. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Gary HALAGARDA, second by Jonathan GEDRICHto renew Kuharchik Construction response maintenance agreement $134.00 per hour for technician, test equipment and tools, $45 per hour for Bucket Truck and cost-plus 25% percent for materials. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Jim EMLAW to table decision on Renewing /Declining Kuharchik Construction traffic signal preventative maintenance $700 per intersection, plus materials and upload of info.

Motion by Jim EMLAW, second by Mike FULLERto reject Contracts #1 General,

#2 Electric, #3 Plumbing for the Avoca Little League Club House Project. Roll Call Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Kyler KOVALESKI to sign agreement letter with J.H. Williams for annual Borough Audit. Voice Vote: (6) Six Yes

Motion by Kyler KOVALESKI, second byMike FULLER to appoint Jeff BRAYER as the alternate Sewer Inspector for the Avoca Borough. Roll Call Vote (6) Six Yes

**Audience:**

**Christina MUNSKI** and **Anna CALLAHAN** here about the conditions at the ORLUK property at 813 Grove Street, Avoca. The house is infested with rats, mice and mold. It is a health and safety hazard, and the neighbors want updates and to know who is in charge. President HOMSCHEK advised that the home had been condemned and that ORLUK was being cited since June 2024. He was not responding to the citations. A recent check of the magistrate site showed a hearing date on 03/13/2025 at 1100HRS. ORLUK had responded NOT GUILTY to the citations.

After hearing, we will discuss the next step. Per Attorney Jordan DEMPSEY possibly sending a letter with time frame to repair or demolish. ORLUK has to be given notice and a reasonable time (60 to 90 days) to start cleanup. Neighbors do have photos of mess and can attend the hearing on 03/13/2025.

**Boy Scouts**: Scout Leader Matt FINO was present with several Boy Scouts working on their Citizenship and Community Merit Badges.

Can the Scouts use the Community Center for meetings if the church closes? – Thursday nights 6 to 8pm? – per President HOMSCHEK, yes can use and will work with them.

**Michael LAMPMAN** asked if we had heard anything from Mr. Stell. President HOMSCHEK advised that on January 11, 2025, the Quarry was served with paperwork for not having proper zoning. They had 30 days to respond with corrections. If there are no corrections or paperwork filed, they could be fined $500.00 a day for operating the Quarry. DEP should be shutting them down. As far as the Waste Transfer Station is concerned, there is a meeting scheduled for April 2025. All of the attorneys will meet with dates and paperwork. Attorney DEMPSEY advised that the Avoca Borough is now a party to oppose the Waste Transfer Station. He also advised that surrounding properties could petition the court to be part of the suit, citing property values and health issues are a concern. The case is still at the county level, but it can be appealed to the State level.

**Fire Chief Tom MATTHEWS** asked about where things were at with 737 Main Street. Secretary VAN LUVENDER advised that a male called a few days prior inquiring about how to get the condemned status removed from the property. He was advised to contact BHW for the list of items that needed to be addressed.

President HOMSCHEK reported that she and council members, Mike FULLER and Jonathan GEDRICH did meet with members of the Duryea Council about the paid firefighter on Monday, 02/10/2025. They did not hear back from them, waiting to hear from Duryea. They discussed a 50/50 or 3-way split – nothing set in stone. If split (3) three ways would cost about $26,000/27,000 per year. Duryea was to potentially start in June or July.

**Street Department**: Michael VOLCH was present. Reported that the Street Department had received its salt order, picked a load of antiskid and the Dodge Truck was back in service.

**Engineer:** Avoca Borough Engineer’s Report (dated February 13, 2025) prepared by Paul PASONICK. (See attached)

**Police:** The Police Report was prepared by Chief David HOMSCHEK and read by Mayor Robert MULLEN. (See attached).

President HOMSCHEK commented to the Avoca Police Department on the good job they have been doing keeping Main Street in check. She explained that a new camera system was put in place to monitor vehicle registrations on the Main Street. The camera system was hitting on stolen and suspended registration plates.

**Discussion**: Bart BRYKand Store owner asking about parking sign in front of 645/643 Main St. building – will discuss at later time.

Motion by Mike FULLER, second by Jonathan GEDRICH to adjourn the meeting at 1927HRS.