

**ARCHBALD BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Brian Gilgallon. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence in memory of those who have been affected by the CoVid-19. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Ossont, Gilgallon and Mayor Barrett were in attendance. Mr. Moran participated via teleconference.

Mr. Gilgallon mentioned Council met in Executive Session to discuss real estate and personnel issues.

Public Input

An anonymous letter was sent in and read by Mr. Gilgallon pertaining to the tax increase and a bonus for the Borough Manager. Mr. Gilgallon responded by explaining Mr. Turlip has applied for thirteen (13) grants for the Borough last year. The cost of an outside grant writer is an average of \$2500.00 per grant which would have cost the borough \$32,500. Add to that an administration fee of 10% for the grants that are awarded, which would equate to \$57,104.30 to be exact. So, by giving the Borough Manager a \$2500.00 bonus for the work done, it would have cost the Borough \$89,604.30 in fees to an outside source. This savings equates to approximately one (1) mil for revenues of \$571,043.00 to date. He stated a lot of the grants applied for are being used for playground projects, the ambulance, the new siren, and streetscape projects. He exemplified the Laurel St., Betty St and Pike St. playgrounds' equipment needed to be handicap accessible to accommodate everyone. The biggest grant not awarded was for four (4) million dollars for the Misty Thicket Project which would have been a major economic development off the Casey Highway. If and when completed (and hopefully when) it would be a major economic boom to the Borough in multiple ways like increase the tax base on the mountain for land we are getting next to nothing for. The grant did not get rejected it was not yet awarded which means the federal government did not award any of those grants last year. Nor did DEP. In future reference he asks to please put your name on public input as we do in open council meetings.

Grants Written and Submitted by Borough Manager 2020

Grant	Project	Amount	Awarded
LSA	Archbald Ambulance Cot	\$41,254.00	Awarded
LSA	James Radzelovage Park	\$154,635.52	Not Awarded
LSA	Municipal Land Acquisition	\$115,000.00	Pending
DCED Initiatives	Whelen Siren Project	\$50,000.00	Awarded
DCNR C2P2	Pike Street Park	\$119,000.00	Awarded
DCED GTRP	James Radzelovage Park	\$119,230.10	Pending
DCED Multimodal	Streetscape – Main Street	\$734,501.13	Pending
PENNDOT Multimodal	Streetscape Phase III	\$839,050.00	Pending
LC Reinvest	Laurel Street Playground	\$6100.00	Awarded
LC Reinvest	Betty Street Playground	\$14,000.00	Awarded
COVID-19	Emergency Equipment	\$35,000.00	Awarded
DEP BAMR Pilot	Misty Thicket Project	\$4,000,000.00	Not Awarded
902 Recycling	Truck/Calendar	\$305,689.00	Awarded

Total Amount	Total Awarded	Total Not Awarded	Total Pending
\$6,652,459.75	\$571,043.00	\$4,154,635.52	\$1,926,781.23

Minutes prepared by Michele Bianchi, Borough Secretary

Mayor Barrett spoke on this issue stating she has been involved for fourteen (14) years and never saw this many grants ever done in the Borough. All the grants that have been awarded so far has been unbelievable. And we are improving the town with the grants. She said no other past manager ever gave Council updates on what grants were available. She mentioned going after sidewalk grant money from a grant she pursued.

Mr. Ossont agreed with Mayor Barrett and pointed out that the manager's job description does not include being a grant writer. He said Mr. Turlip goes after the grants because he cares and wants to make the town better. To complain about giving a \$2500.00 bonus when you see what was gained and what was saved and to also complain about the tax mills does not make sense to him. He thanked Mr. Turlip and stated if he didn't go after the grants, we wouldn't be seeing things get done in town.

Mayor Barrett also stated the tax mills increase has been raised because of past mistakes not because of things happening now.

Attorney O'Connor relegated the conversation by pointing out the fantastic job Mr. Turlip has done on the grants but also the work he's done on the past due garbage fee collections. He has worked with Mr. Turlip on the initiative he has taken with that and other issues. He said people do not see the work done on a day to day basis and neither does he, but what he has seen, especially with the garbage fee collection and the grants, Mr. Turlip has done a very aggressive, thorough and effective job that no one sees getting done. From his perspective, as Borough Solicitor, he can vouch for things the public does not see and it's in the bottom line of the budget where there is an increase from last year to this year.

Mr. Gilgallon ended the conversation by adding it's not just the grants it's the everyday administrative part of the job. Grant writing is an art. They are not easy to do. But our Borough has now become pro active and not re active. They are now attacking problems within our budget and increasing tax mills was absolutely necessary with the cost of doing business going up around us. He said to google the Lackawanna County 2020 tax rates, you will see that with us going to 25 mills puts us in line with our neighbors. It should have been raised more to include a new car for Chief Trently which is much needed for the 33 miles of roads in the borough, the crime rate and unspeakable things happening in the town. As well as a much needed, new salt shed at the DPW garage.

Council Members Reports

Mr. Burke stated the letter sent in was just atrocious.

Mr. Ossont stated his email for the Borough is on the website. He did not single handedly raise taxes. He reported on it often due to being the head of the finance committee along with President of Council and Councilwoman Simon. They met with the Borough Manager and everyone to see when the numbers in the budget came back, they were shocked. He reiterated what he has said before that the consequences of raising taxes now is not because they want to spend money now, it's because consequences for things that were agreed upon or contracts signed that happened in the past has put them in a position that they had no where to go but to raise taxes. The budget passes a 5-2 vote. If anyone would like to discuss the budget with him can do so by emailing Mr. Ossont and setting up an appointment.

Ms. Simon had nothing to report on special events due to the safety of the children and CDC guidelines. She feels it's wrong to engage at this time.

Ms. Owen gave an update on the Safety Committee. She thanked Mr. Gilgallon for placing her on the committee. She said they received accreditation from Workers' Compensation. She spoke on the training they received. She listed and thanked Chief Harvey, Chief Trently, Officer Jamie Trently, Co-Chair Tom Mancuso, Brian Dulay, Mark Waters and guest Clyde Brown for their help on the committee. She gave suggestions to look for places to host summer camp and house the supplies due to upcoming construction at Pike St. playground. Mrs. Owen passionately spoke on the hiring of the Borough Manager and the work he has done to get the recycling truck and other things done. She is proud of the Mayor and the work she's done. She made comments on past employees that did not do their job and the difference that has been made with new hires in the borough and the accuracy and pride they have in the work they do.

Mr. Mancuso commended DPW today were out plowing and cindering and then they were back out collecting recyclables.

Mr. Moran stated that because of the virus, he has been staying close to home. He will try his best to hold a Beautification Committee meeting sometime in February to see if he can kick off and come up with something for spring.

Mayor Barrettt said she received a complaint from Butch Picchini about the sidewalks being swept near Quinn's Café corner. She will look into having a group come in the spring to help clean up. She also asked if they can do anything about the problem with the Quality of Life Ordinance and residents not cleaning up their sidewalks.

Unfinished Business

1. Community and Economic Development Committee
2. Senior Housing Committee – United Neighborhood Centers
3. Comprehensive Plan Update/Amendment
4. Zoning Ordinance
5. Building Permit Fee Schedule
6. Pave Cut Ordinance
7. Sturges Road Paving Project

New Business

1. Planning Commission Ordinance
2. Fire and Emergency Services Study

Motions

Motion by Ossont second by Burke to approve the December 16, 2020 Regular Council meeting minutes. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Simon to approve the December HNB General Fund bills totaling \$219,623.37, Valley View High School LSA Grant Roof Restoration checks totaling \$127,525.42, and COVID-19 Grant checks totaling \$35,000.00 for a total amount of \$382,148.79. Roll call. Burke, Owen Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Simon second by Burke to accept Reports – Treasurer, Building Inspector, Tax Collector's Report, Mayor's Report, and Planning Commission. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Michele Bianchi, Borough Secretary

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to reappoint Tim Trently as Archbald Borough Police Chief. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Simon second by Owen to reappoint Robert Turlip as Borough Manager. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Simon to reappoint Bob Harvey as Archbald Borough Fire Chief. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Mancuso second by Ossont to reappoint Michele Bianchi as Borough Secretary. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Mancuso to reappoint Nancy Edmunds as Borough Treasurer. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Mancuso to reappoint April O'Connor as Archbald Borough Police Secretary. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to approve Patrolman Matthew Carter as a regular full-time officer having completed his 12-month probationary period effective December 31, 2020. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Simon to approve special part-time Emergency Medical Supervisor Jerry Trently to work not to exceed 30 hours/week with a pay increase to \$12.75/hour and no benefits effective January 31, 2021. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon is favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Mancuso to approve special part-time Emergency Medical Technicians Drew Obermiller, Robert Getz, and Garrett Flynn to work not to exceed 30 hours/week with a pay increase to \$12.50/hour and no benefits effective January 31, 2021. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to hire Robert Rudalavage as a special part-time Emergency Medical Technician not to exceed 30 hours/week at \$12.50/hour and no benefits effective January 31, 2021. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Ossont to hire Jonathan Coyne as a special part-time Emergency Medical Technician not to exceed 30 hours/week at \$12.50/hour and no benefits effective January 31, 2021. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Simon second by Owen to hire Nick Fiels as a special part-time Emergency Medical Technician not to exceed 30 hours/week at \$12.50/hour and no benefits effective January 31, 2021. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to appoint Ryan Calciano as a Special Police Officer from February 14, 2021 to December 31, 2021 to be used only to replace a full-time regular officer who cannot work due to allowable time off. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to reappoint Jeff Munley to the Recreation Commission to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2023. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Michele Bianchi, Borough Secretary

Motion by Owen second by Simon to reappoint Kevin O’Shea to the Archbald Vacancy Board to a one-year term expiring December 31, 2021. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Mancuso to reappoint Ed Levandowski and Tony Grizzanti to the UCC Board of Appeals to a one-year term expiring December 31, 2021. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Simon to adopt a Resolution for the 2021 Archbald Borough Fee Schedule for Residential UCC Building Permits pursuant to Archbald Zoning Ordinance 4 of 2004, Section 5.3. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to appoint Kayleigh Cornell to the Gravity Slope Colliery Authority to a five-year term expiring December 31, 2025. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Simon second by Owen to appoint Sarah Gabriel to the Gravity Slope Colliery Authority to a five-year term expiring December 31, 2025. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Mancuso second by Owen to approve a request for technical assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development, Governor’s Center for Local Government Services with the intent to evaluate Archbald Borough’s Fire and Emergency Services. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Burke to retain the services of Urban Research and Development Corporation to complete the scope of work for a Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Update of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and all consulting expenses in the amount of \$58,400.00. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Moran second by Ossont to release \$194,848.00 from Krieger’s Phase I performance bond for Woodbury Estates pursuant to KBA approval of work done in Woodbury Estates Phase I Development. (\$118,906.25 left in escrow for the remaining work to be done). Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon to close the 2019 Civil Service Borough of Archbald police hiring proceedings. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Owen second by Burke to approve and enter into a memorandum of understanding between the Borough of Archbald and the Archbald Borough Police Department Employee’s Association pertaining to a residency requirement requiring all new and existing full time bargaining unit members of the Archbald Borough Police Department to establish and maintain residence within 10 air miles of the nearest Archbald border within twelve (12) months after the date of hire. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Burke to adopt the Archbald Borough Police Departments Use of Force Policy as presented by Chief Trently. Roll call. Burke, Owen, Mancuso, Simon, Moran, Ossont and Gilgallon in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Ossont second by Simon second by to adjourn. Roll call. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Michele Bianchi, Borough Secretary

ATTEST:

Michele Bianchi, Borough Secretary

ARCHBALD BOROUGH:

Brian Gilgallon, President of Council

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