

The Borough of Speers Council met on July 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Sauer, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd; absent was Mr. Todora. Mr. Todora did give prior notice that he would be absent.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read; a motion to accept was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mrs. Spina.

Secretary read correspondence: Chamber of Commerce Gala Awards Cruise.

Kerry Krider – Spoke on the additional LSA grant money he applied for regarding the bridge repairs; we were denied. He suggests reapplying in October. We still have the allocated amount of \$88,000. Mr. Krider recommended just bidding out the most critical phases of the repairs. Mrs. Spina – “Wasn’t the additional money guaranteed by Jeff Kotula?” Mr. Krider – yes but we never got it. HMT wrote the letter to the LSA Board requesting the additional funds. It was denied the additional funds because “it was too close to the next application timeframe and recommended to just reapply.” Mayor Herd questioned if we do reapply, will there be any additional engineer fees? Per Mr. Krider – no, there will be no additional engineer fees. Mr. McCorkle – how much did we apply for? Mr. Krider – we asked for an additional \$70,000. Mr. Daylong – should we wait until after the next inspection? No, the inspections are done every 2 years by Penn Dot. The next bridge inspection will be done this October. Mr. Krider will reach out to SAI for the next inspection. Mr. McCorkle – is it beneficial for Council to pay for it now, instead of waiting until October to reapply? We cannot keep waiting to start the repairs. Mr. Krider – put the project out for bid and use the allotted \$88,000 for the main repairs. Mayor Herd – if we vote to repair the bigger projects and then the state LSA says they will cover the whole project, can we still proceed; Per Mr. Krider – yes, we can proceed. A motion to put the project out for bid and to reapply in October for the next grant was made by Mr. Rice and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

Mr. Krider has no updates regarding the LSA grant for the park paving project. Mr. Krider left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police: – 89 calls for the month of June – report available for review. Fire Dept responded to 58 calls for the area.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – income: \$63,002.02; expenses: \$42,958.53; YTD: (+) \$11,464.77.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – He received a call on 6/25 from Mr. Dave Krutz who reported that 142 Grandview Way blew grass and leaves onto the sidewalk and street. A letter has already been sent to the address regarding property maintenance. Dennis also spoke to the resident and the grass was already cleaned up. There are no further issues with the property.

Streetlights: No problems to report at this time.

Parks: Mr. Sauer and Mrs. Barcelona – Mr. Sauer commented on the parcel next to the park in Lower Speers, who owns it? Can we extend the park? We will look into.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – 2 new bus stops will be added; IDC Park and Gabe’s Plaza in Belle Vernon. MVTA drives 68,482 miles a month.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Still waiting for approval on the grant for the Lower Speers Park. She will look into DCNR and DCED for additional grant money for the bridge repairs.

Mayor Herd: Thanked Council for coming in to sign the resolution for the ambulance service. Reminded Council to review old business that needs attention. Please be respectful of the new residents in the Borough.

Dennis Carson’s Report: reviewed the parcel lines of the Lower Speers Park, cut grass, weed whack, flush sewer lines on Lewis Ave, trim tree limbs along Davidson Dr., Oak St., Charles St. and Short St., attended Safety Days training for PA One call, worked with WPP on new powerlines at Speers Park, cleaned park and restrooms for rentals, spray weeds, filled potholes in alleys and park, worked on cracks on the bridge at IDC Park, cleaned storm drains, painted yellow curbs – need more paint, 11 One Calls and 1 downspout inspection.

Mrs. Spina – asked for an update on fixing the storm drain on Arlington Ave; Per Dennis - Mr. Krider reviewed it and stated that it needs lowered. He will provide design and specs and advertise once he gets approval from Council.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint spoke on the handicap parking spot applications. He reviewed the ordinance; no more than 2 spaces per block. If an application is denied, the resident has a right to appeal. Mrs. Spina – can we revoke previously approved applications? Mr. Lint – yes.

Citizens: Felicia Riley – Davidson Dr. spoke on the speeding issues on Davidson Dr. She is worried and concerned for the safety of her children. Mrs. Riley is requesting a “Deaf Child” sign be posted in the area as her daughter is hearing impaired. Dennis will install signs. A white truck is parked blocking the speed limit sign. She would also like to see the speed limit reduced on Davidson Dr. Per Penn Dot the minimum speed is 25 mph. We can post a lower speed but cannot enforce it. If you see cars speeding, call the police with the license plate number. We can paint “slow” on the roads when we get more yellow paint. Mrs. Riley also reported that 2 men in a white van tried to kidnap her child out of their yard. She did file a police report. Mr. Rice encouraged Council and residents to attend the next Police meeting to voice their concerns. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 20, at 6:00 p.m. at the Speers Borough Building. The meeting notice will be placed on the digital signs, website and Facebook page. Mrs. Spina offered to go with Mrs. Riley and talk to the neighbors regarding the speeding problems.

Mr. DeSantis – ZHB – wants clarification on what a variance is. He presented paperwork describing the criteria of a variance. Mr. Lint explained that anyone is allowed to apply for a variance if the scope of work being done is outside of the ordinance parameters. There seemed

to be some misunderstandings and miscommunications between Council, ZHB, zoning officers and Solicitors. Mr. DeSantis and Mr. Bowness are requesting that the Zoning Hearing Board receive more clarification before any meetings or hearings take place. Everyone is in agreeance.

Jackie Galiffa commented on vehicles parking on the sidewalk along the bend on Grandview Way. This is an ongoing problem. Also, cars are speeding and it makes it unsafe since Grandview Way is a 2-way street. Council instructed to call the police every time it happens.

Mrs. DeSantis wanted to confirm that 142 Grandview Way was taken care of. She also asked if the switch of ambulance services will interfere with the membership; No, it will transfer over. She questioned the changes in the fire whistle code tones. Mr. McCorkle explained. Mrs. DeSantis wanted to know which bridge we were discussing for repairs – IDC Park, Arentzen Blvd.

Tax Collector's Report: Deposit of \$45, 589.83.

Old Business: A new ambulance service agreement with Rostraver/West Newton was discussed. The current EMS provider was unable to cover shifts and it was becoming a safety issue. A motion to transfer and continue with Rostraver/West Newton ambulance service was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona. Mr. Rice stated that non-emergency issues should not be called into Dennis/Tim or Jody in the evenings, weekends or holidays. Please call the office and leave a message. Mr. Sauer would like to see a sign installed on the bend on Grandview Way stating 2 -way traffic. Also, he would like to see 15 mph speed limit signs posted even if we cannot enforce it. Mr. Daylong commented that per Penn Dot – speed bumps are not allowed. Mr. McCorkle spoke on paving roads and alleyways throughout the Borough; keep track of which road and alleys need done.

New Business: Mr. McCorkle questioned the speed bumps; they have to be to Penn Dot specifications. He will look further into.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer. Trinity Doors invoice will be paid out of the LSA account.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. was made by Mr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Sauer.