

## **Regular Meeting of California Borough Council, October 10, 2019**

President Alfano called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

**ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Alfano, Mr. Difilippo, Mr. Encapera, Mr. Glab, Mrs. Gutosky, Mayor Stetar, and Junior councilmember Ms. Mock

**ABSENCE:** Mr. Bittner, Mr. Mariscotti

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Glab added cell tower at 187 Beazel St.

Mr. Alfano stated the agenda stands as printed and amended.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Maddix stated he supports the letter for the Historical Society.

### **SPEAKERS: CASD- MR. SEARS, MR. NICCOLAI, MRS. SCRIP**

Mr. Alfano stated we have representatives from the California Area School district and we have been in discussions concerning the SRO Officer. He stated we agreed to have another meeting and that is why they are here this evening. Mr. Alfano stated initially we thought we may be able to provide coverage for both buildings if it was agreed upon by our collective bargaining agreement but that is not the case. He stated unfortunately we cannot offer any more cost effective way to get you two SRO officers. We still have the item on the table of if we want to present the school an SRO officer and Mr. Bittner who is the chairman of the Police Dept. unfortunately is not here tonight. He stated council has been discussion an idea that would be similar to what we have now. We are offering the School District an SRO for the entirety of a school year at a flat rate of \$70,000.00 it would be \$35,000.00 for the first semester and \$35,000.00 paid in the second semester. That officer would answer to the school district during his hours. That way we avoid the monthly billing and watching for wage increased, benefit increases, etc. Dr. Martin stated that includes the vehicle also. Mrs. Gutosky asked Mr. Sears what hours would he need the SRO and Mr. Sears responded with 7:30 to 3:30 an eight hour day. Mr. Alfano asked if they wanted to emphasize that the officer would report to the school district who would track his hours. Mr. Sears asked if it would be for 180 hours which is every school day. Mr. Alfano stated yes that is correct. Mr. Niccolai stated the current arrangement allows for emergency use of the SRO in the borough so would under this new agreement would this be a dedicated officer to the school district. Mr. Alfano stated we need to define an emergency for instance a true emergency in my eyes would be considered dire circumstances and you need to manage that officer while he is on the clock for the school district that is not for the borough to do. Mr. Glab asked Mr. Alfano to define manage. Mr. Alfano stated making sure he's there the hours that he is supposed to be there. The flat rate billing would benefit both parties involved. Mr. Alfano stated he thinks we could probably make this effective for the next fiscal budget for the school year August 2020. He stated he doesn't want to leave the school district in the lurch as to whether the borough will be providing an SRO or not. Mr. Alfano stated anytime the school district may want to start their own police force that would be fine but we would ask for formal written notification. Mr. Niccolai stated they have looked at starting their own police force or contracting out but the local community connection of the school resource officer is so appealing to the majority of the board that we would want it to continue this relationship. Mr. Alfano stated if they have any questions just get them to council and you can discuss the proposed agreement with your board and see where we go from there. Mr. Sears stated right now we have an agreement till the end of the first semester so does he assume that we can continue with the provisions of this agreement through the remainder of the second semester. Mr. Alfano stated we would have to bring that to a vote at our future meeting. Chief Sheehan stated we won't bring him down here unless it is absolutely an emergency. Mrs. Gutosky asked what about the sports and evening events. Ms. Evans stated that has nothing to do with the SRO Officer and is billed separately. Mr. Sears stated we just needed security for these evening programs and there is nothing that says we have to do it that way but we've always made sure we provided an officer and paid whatever the costs were. Mr. Alfano stated if you want to do security guards or something similar. Mayor Stetar stated there are sign up sheets in the back and are invoiced separately and there aren't issues there. Dr. Sears stated essentially there is no agreement for that

we just used them on an as need basis using the borough to provide those services or offering it to the borough to provide them.

#### **PAWC REPRESENTATIVES: TIM BERNARD**

Mr. Bernard introduced himself as the local superintendent for the district and Daryl the local supervisor for California. He stated they are here to explain the work they will be undertaking in California which is a million dollar upgrade on Ellsworth to Meadow and Meadow down Zulu to Peach and on Green down to Wilkins. He stated this is a million dollar project and will begin November 1<sup>st</sup> and get the ditch line done this year and curb to curb paving next year. He stated we are looking to upgrade the pipe and provide better flow to our customers.

Mr. Glab stepped out of the meeting.

#### **MINUTES -REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2019**

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2019 carried with all members stating aye.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Evans read the accounts payable and bank balances as of September 30, 2019.

Motion by Difilippo/Encapera to accept the Treasurer's report carried with all members present stating aye.

Mr. Alfano stated since we do not have a DARE program is there any reason we can't convert that money to the K9 fund. Ms. Evans stated this was discussed with the auditors and that money would have to be rolled into the general fund.

#### **PRESIDENTS REPORT – MR. ALFANO**

##### **LETTER OF SUPPORT – HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Mr. Alfano asked for a motion to provide a letter of support for the Historical Society for their LSA project. He stated this is a retroactive motion since it had to be submitted with their application.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to provide a letter of support to the Historical Society for the LSA Grant application carried with all members present stating aye.

#### **RECREATION AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

Mr. Alfano stated the Recreation Authority is pleased to announce that they have designated George Crane and Irene Mariscotti as meritorious members for dedicating a lot of time and energy to the Recreation in California Borough and they will be provided a plaque. We have two new member one is William Miller and he is here tonight. Mr. Alfano stated William Miller is slated to fill the balance of Irene's Mariscotti's term which will end Dec. 31, 2022 and asked council if they have any questions of Mr. Miller. Mr. Encapera asked Mr. Miller what he could bring to the board as a member. Mr. Miler responded they are doing a pretty good job so far and he is friends with Michelle Kinsey and the riverfest is a great event and they are going to upgrade some parks so he hopes to bring some new perspectives to the board in the upcoming year.

Motion by Gutosky/Difilippo to appoint William Miller to the Recreation Authority Board to fill the term of Irene Mariscotti duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION OF OCT. 3, 2019**

Mr. Agrafiotis stated we discussed some potential litigation.

#### **WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICE**

Mr. Alfano stated we have invoice #21909383 from Widmer Engineering for \$315.00 for work on the pavilion project.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #21909383 in the amount of \$315.00 for the pavilion project duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

We also have Widmer Engineering invoice #21909360 in the amount of \$75.00 for additional work on the pavilion.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #21909360 in the amount of \$75.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – DR. MARTIN**

### **PAVILLION PROPOSALS**

Dr. Martin stated he did his best to put together some proposals to get some help on the pavilion project and sent it to council via email and he reached out to the last architect the borough worked with to get his input for me. Dr. Martin stated basically at this point you have a document that I put together and we'll put that out to some architects and we will see what their input may be. He stated he took care of that and kept all of council in the loop and thanked council for their feedback in that process.

Mr. Glab stepped back into the meeting

### **KEYBANK**

Dr. Martin stated he is pleased to report that Mr. Tудay and the bank manager were able to arrange for him to get in the bank to upgrade the timer so the lights are now on at night and off during the day. Those three lights as you know are the banks lights and they did make the one on Third Street look like our lights. He stated the question came up and Mr. Tудay got a quote for replacing the heads on the two lights on Liberty Street to make them match our lights and that was in your packet and the cost is \$4,239.00 and he doesn't know what council pleasure is on this since we would be purchasing and replacing lights for the bank since we don't own those. He asked council to defer action at this meeting so everyone is on the same page and has some to think about it. He stated on council's request he has reached out to West Penn Power to explore the possibility of placing a standard cobra head led light on the pole across the street from the bank parking lot to flood that whole area with light. He assumes it will approximately what it cost us when we did a project down by the former PNC building. As soon as he gets those numbers back he will email those to council and they can discuss if they want to proceed with that route or not.

### **BULLET PROOF VEST GRANT**

Dr. Martin stated we successfully wrote for a grant from the Dept. of Justice to update bullet proof vests in the police department. It is a 50% match and we were awarded \$3,819.99 and we can purchase eight vest and we have to front the money and then submit for reimbursement. He stated so he is asking for a motion from council to approve an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00 to be paid from the Act 13 fund to be used for the purchase of 8 bullet proof vests with half of that amount to be reimbursed to the Act 13 fund from the Dept. of Justice grant.

Motion by Glab/Gutosky to approve expending up to \$8,000.00 from the Act 13 fund on bullet proof vests and put the reimbursement from the Dept of Justice grant back into the Act 13 fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **TWO LOTS IN GRANVILLE TO SELL**

Dr. Martin stated the two lots in Granville we would like to sell and Mr. Agrafiotis stated we should check the appraised value of them and one lot is 10' larger than the other lot and for reasons that only Washington County Tax Assessment can answer one lot is valued at \$8,100.00 on the assessed value and the other lot which is 10' shorter is valued at \$900.00. He stated I got the information and I have no explanation. He is asking for permission to put up a for sale by owner sign on both lots down there. Mr. Agrafiotis stated \$1,500.00 is the magic number if it is less than that we don't have to advertise for bids so you can sell the one without bids but the other one you have to bid unless you can Mr. Lignelli to appraise it at less than \$1,500.00 then we can sell it outright also. Of course, he'd probably cost at least \$500.00. Mr. Alfano stated our street dept. is going to spend at least \$500.00 to cut the grass over the next year or two. Mr. Agrafiotis stated this is one of the instances where the law kind of stymies us and make us spend money unnecessarily. Mr. Glab stated can't we just sell them as a package and not split them up. Mr. Agrafiotis stated if it is more than \$1,500.00 we have to bid the real estate. Mr. Tудay asked if it can be put on Municibid. Mr. Glab stated if you only sell one of them you are stuck with the

other one. Mr. Agrafiotis stated no one actually believes it is worth \$8,00.00. Mr. Glab stated he understand that and sell them as a package. Ms. Evans stated you can combined them by deed into one large lot and sell it that way. Mr. Difilippo asked Mr. Agrafiotis if they sell them for \$1,499.00 will we be in trouble. Mr. Agrafiotis stated first someone has to complain. Mr. Difilippo stated put one up for what its worth and put the other one up for the same price and go from there. Why would we pay someone to come in and appraise them. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he's not saying it makes sense he's just providing what the requirements are. He stated if we think they are worth \$1,500.00 then he thinks we have a pretty good reason to believe it's worth \$1,500.00 or less despite the assessed value then list them both for \$1,499.00.

Motion by Difilippo/Encapera to sell the two lots in Granville at \$1,000.00 a piece keep them separate for a \$1,000.00 that way it is under \$1,500.00 and see what we get duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Ms. Evans asked if we are making this public to anyone. Dr. Martin stated he's just putting a for sale by owner sign on the properties and possibly put it on the website and facebook page not involving any expense.

Mr. Agrafiotis stated we have pretty good reason to believe they are worth \$1,500.00 despite the assessed value so lets just list each one for \$1,500.00 or 1,499.00

#### **TRAINING – RON SANTO – ½ DAY**

Dr. Martin stated Ron has asked to go to a half day training that is during the work day. It is no cost to the borough and it has to do with one call and identifying lines. He will use the borough vehicle.

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to authorize Ron Santo to attend a half day training using the borough vehicle for transportation duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

#### **WEATHER PROGRAM – SKYWATCH**

Dr. Martin stated the school district has made him aware that there was a very small increase in the cost of the shared weather application that we have with them. Jeff uses this in the street department and finds it very effective. Our share this year will be \$12.50 more than last year so they are asking us to reimburse them \$262.50 to pay for our half of the weather application. Ms. Evans stated she will need an invoice or something showing what we are paying for.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to approve payment to the California Area School district for half the cost of the Skywatch program in the amount of \$262.50 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

#### **OLD GENERATOR – CAL U PUMP STATION**

Dr. Martin stated he had the generator on municibid and received no bids. We do have an offer from the electrician that helped with the installation of the new generator for \$1,500.00. Mr. Agrafiotis asked if Dr. Martin thinks it is worth \$1,000.00 or less despite what this gentlemen is offering. He stated real estate it has to be \$1,500.00 or less but personal property has to be valued at \$1,000.00 or less to avoid bidding procedures. So he said if borough people in the know believe it worth \$1,000.00 or less we avoid a bid. Dr. Martin stated he will refer judgement to our borough engineer on this one. Mr. Eby stated he thinks it's worth \$1,000.00 or less. Mr. Agrafiotis stated but he's still going to pay \$1,500.00. Mr. Tудay stated he's going to be generous.

Motion by Difilippo/Encapera to sell the old generator from the Cal U pump station to Michael Hardison in the amount of \$1,000.00 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mr. Glab who voted no.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dr. Martin stated the four pet waste stations have been installed. He thanked Mr. Tудay and his Street Dept. for installing them. He stated he's hoping the community will use them. He stated he has had two additional areas identified where there is interest in having them and he's taking a wait and see position before he orders anymore.

## **PUBLIC HOUSING – MR. GLAB**

### **CONDITIONAL USE HEARING – VERIZON**

Mr. Glab stated we had a request from Verizon wireless to put in some 5G towers within the borough with three applications for three separate locations. We had our conditional use hearing last month and came back again today and concluded that that the tower to be located at 187 Beazel Street should be approved with the conditions set forth in the conditional use hearing. Mr. Glab stated as a note he'd like to mention that the conditions council can place is limited due to the telecommunications Act 1996.

Motion by Glab/Encapera to approve the Conditional Use filed by Verizon to locate a 5G tower at 187 Beazel Street with conditions duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes except Mrs. Gutosky who voted no.

### **DEMOLITION OF PROPERTY ON HIGHLAND DRIVE**

Mr. Glab stated we have a request from our Code Enforcement officer because he's having some issues with a property located at 80 Highland Drive. It is a vacant property and has fallen into disrepair and he's cited the property owner through the District Court and the people continue to just pay the fines. Mr. Agrafiotis stated he thought Mr. Petro was instructed to begin condemnation at the committee meeting.

Motion by Glab/Difilippo to start the condemnation process but contact owners first to see if they would turn the property over to the borough prior to condemnation proceedings duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky who will own that property once it is condemned. Mr. Glab stated they will have to turn it over to us. Ms. Evans stated if we go through condemnation procedures we lien the property but it stays in their name and if they sign a waiver giving it to the borough we have it recorded and it is ours.

## **PUBLIC WORKS – MR. MARISCOTTI**

### **UPDATES**

Mr. Tудay stated the street department received some milling for the paving done by Penndot and they placed them on North California Drive and Chalfant and they seem to be working out well.

### **TREE TRIMMING**

He stated he was supposed to provide three quotes and he has not heard back from any of the people he contacted yet so he'll have them next meeting.

### **GRASSCUTTER**

Mr. Tудay stated our grasscutter's seasonal work will be over the end of the month and he would like permission to keep him on as needed if the grass keeps growing.

Motion by Glab/Difilippo to authorize bringing back Jim Mitchell on an as need basis after Oct. 31, 2019 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Dr. Martin stated we are required to notify the union and he asked Mr. Tудay to notify the union steward that this has passed.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY- MR. BITTNER**

### **HALLOWEEN PARADE**

Mr. Alfano announced that the Halloween parade will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 and trick or treat is Saturday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

### **FINANCE – MRS. GUTOSKY**

Motion by Gutosky/Glab to pay the monthly bills duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky announced that the first budget workshop will be on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm

## **PUBLIC HEALTH – MR. DIFILIPPO**

### **WIDMER ENGINEERING INVOICES**

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #21909384 in the amount of \$225.00 for installing new generator duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Gutosky to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #21909381 in the amount of \$1,710.00 for the MS4 mapping duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to pay Widmer Engineering invoice #21909378 in the amount of \$480.00 for Highland Dr/Blaine Road sewer design duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **MICHAEL MANUFACTURING INVOICE**

Motion by Difilippo/ Glab to pay Michael Manufacturing's invoice for \$1,500.00 for the installation of the new generator at the College Farm pump station contingent on Mr. Eby inspecting the job duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

## **PERSONNEL – MR. ENCAPERA & MR. MARISCOTTI**

### **STREET DEPT OVERTIME**

Motion by Encapera/Difilippo to authorize one street department employee to work overtime for homecoming duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

### **BASIC SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING**

Mr. Encapera stated he received information on a training offered by Penn State University, Penn State Fayette on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated it is more or less to help SRO's with specific training to work in an educational environment. The cost is \$495.00 and the deadline is Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> so he wanted to bring it to discussion in case our council would be interested in. He said he didn't know if we would split the cost with the school district but he thinks it would be something we may want to take a look at. Mr. Alfano stated he thinks anyone who does this job has to have the training. Chief Sheehan said within 6 months the officer has to be trained in that School Resource officer association. He forwarded off a grant from the PCCD which Dr. Martin sent up the school district. Dr. Martin researched the grant when the Chief sent it to him and it is for educational entities only that can apply so he sent it up to Superintendent Sears and he reviewed it and advised me that they were already working on that. Chief Encapera stated there is also a training at Chelsy Firearms in Brownsville for about \$500.00 that's close to the same thing so we'll have a couple of them coming up.

Motion by Encapera/Difilippo to send an Officer to Penn State Fayette Campus for School Resource officer training at a cost of \$495.00 from Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 3:30 to paid for from Act 13 fund duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

Mrs. Gutosky asked how would they get there. Mr. Encapera just like all the other training.

## **JUNIOR COUNCILMEMBER – MS. MOCK**

### **SCHOOL UPDATES**

Ms. Mock stated the California Area School District Foundation and the Class of 1969 will tour the High School building tomorrow and the High School students who are volunteering to guide these tours are seeking community service hours. She stated there is an open house on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm at the High School and they are also doing a fund raiser at the school currently where the high school seniors are painting their parking spaces. The national aviary is hosting a presentation for students on Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> on topics such as flight, physics, and biology. The school recently started a biology club sponsored by Mr. Fabrie and they are currently looking into doing projects such as planting burgundy and gold tulips on school campus and possibly starting a garden. The administration is looking into flexible instructional days which would allow students to complete classwork at home rather than having make up days but that would need

State approval before implementing it. She stated recently the Spanish 3 and 4 classes attended a cultural festival at Cal U.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT – DR. STETAR**

### **LONG BRANCH POLICE AGREEMENT**

Mayor Stetar stated the Long Branch Agreement is in the hands of Long Branch right now so we're waiting to get a response from them. Hopefully they will approve it so we can formally approve it next month.

### **CIVIL SERVICE UPDATE**

Mayor Stetar stated the deadline for the civil service applications was this past Friday at 4:00 pm and we have four applicants but only three that are going through the testing unless the fourth shows up. Testing will take place on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the California Middle School parking lot.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT – MR. EBY**

### **UPDATES**

Mr. Eby stated the Vulcan Village pump station does not get a dial tone so he'd like someone to check and see why not. He stated as far as the Technology park there was discussion about replacing the dead trees so he'll go up there and tag and get a count and they want to know what kind of trees council wants planted.

### **FOLINO'S INVOICE**

Mr. Eby stated he spoke with Folino and agreed to your terms so he'd like a motion to pay Folino. Ms. Evans stated that motion is already on the books with the contingency that they agree to council's terms.

### **MALDEN INTERCEPTOR**

Mr. Eby stated there are two open grants right now, PA Small water and H2O grant. Mr. Alfano stated apply for all we can apply for. Mr. Eby stated it all depends on which project and how much you are applying for. They both let the same day and both have a 15% match. Mr. Difilippo stated send us out the information and we can review it and have an answer at the next meeting. Mr. Eby asked which option do you want the repair or the upgrade/replace. Mr. Eby stated the H2O goes from \$500,000.00 to \$20,000,000.00 so you're not going to have that one. He stated the PA Small water grant goes up to \$500,000.00. Mr. Alfano stated go for both of them.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT – MR. AGRAFIOTIS**

Mr. Agrafiotis stated he has nothing further than what was discussed in executive session.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business at this time

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Difilippo stated he would like to congratulate Chief Hartley, Chuck Sheets, and our own Jon Bittner for being named Grand Masters of the Homecoming parade.

### **RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS**

Mrs. Bonnell was wondering if there were any plans for the playground at Mechanic Street so there could be equipment there for older children as opposed to those that are very small. She asked if there was anything they could put for older children that don't do basketball. Mr. Alfano stated we have received one grant for upgrading and we have leveraged that grant money to get more money to expand the playground. He stated he doesn't know of any specific equipment being placed but there will be an additional court built that can be used for pickleball and there will be some handicap accessible parking spots put in. Mayor stated he would like to add that he had requests for some other things be put in for older children and adults as well and he gave those to Michell Kinsey and she's going to address it at the new Recreation Authority.

Mrs. Bonnell stated that the town has worked very hard to clean up and make nice down by the Rotary park along Pike Creek there is still knot weed is taking over. She said it is very hard to

get rid of but she asked if it was possible if a department at the University would have a student that could research how to get rid of it. She stated it is invading everywhere. Dr. Martin stated he's already in those negotiations right now and he's been working with Jean Hale and some people in the biology department and a student club.

#### **CHRISTINE KINDER**

Ms. Kinder stated she brought this evening a few schedules of this weekend's events for homecoming and Vulcanfest. She stated Vulcanfest is provided through a partnership with Washington County Tourism Association. She stated the Vulcanfest 5K is the new addition this year and will start bright and early Saturday.

#### **RECREATION AUTHORITY MEMBER**

Mr. Alfano introduced Peter Leterau who would like to finish out the term of Ted Dillion.

Motion by Difilippo/Glab to appoint Pete Leterau to the recreation authority to finish out he term of Ted Dillion which is Dec. 31, 2025 duly carried on a roll call vote with all members present voting yes.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Difilippo/Encapera to adjourn at 8:15 carried with all members present stating aye.