

**CORRECTED  
BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bell Acres was held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2019, at the Big Sewickley Creek Volunteer Fire Hall, 1850 Big Sewickley Creek Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

- Rich Kulbacki – 147 Hitzel Hill Road  
Mr. Kulbacki announced the Amish will be making donuts on Election Day. This fundraiser will be held at the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Hall – all are welcome.

**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Renfrew, Vice President of Council, at 7:02 p.m.

**COUNCIL**

- ( ) Dennis Young, President of Council - Excused
- (X) David Renfrew
- (X) Chris Abell
- (X) Brock Meanor
- (X) Michelle Veeck
- (X) Greg Wagner
- (X) John Walliser

**MAYOR**

- (X) Kenneth Alvania, Mayor

**BOROUGH ENGINEER**

- (X) Richard Shoup – Shoup Engineering, Inc.

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR**

- (X) Robert Max Junker – Babst Calland

**STAFF**

- (X) Charles Kulbacki, Borough Manager
- (X) Lisa Fleming, Borough Secretary

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor's Report for the month of September 2019 has been submitted in writing and made a part of the minutes. Mayor Alvania announced that Halloween will be held on October 31, 2019, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 9, 2019, was made by Mr. Abell and seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2019 as distributed and ratify payments totaling \$381,143.52 out of the General Fund and \$142.41 out of the State Fund, was made by Mr. Abell and seconded by Mr. Walliser. Mrs. Veeck asked if the List of Invoices Report could be listed "by category". Mr. Renfrew inquired about the pension contribution and Mr. Kulbacki stated that the Borough received \$66,566.48 from the State, which is actually more than we anticipated. All in favor. Motion carried.

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## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **TURKEYFOOT ROAD LANDSLIDE**

Dr. Javid M. Alvi, President of GeoMechanics, Inc. summarized and explained the Investigation Report their company prepared on the Distressed 181 Turkeyfoot Road Landslide. Dr. Alvi stated there are 50-60 slides in Western Pennsylvania. The material under Turkeyfoot Road is comprised of clay which is compressed mud and slides very slowly. That's the reason why the slope has been happening over a million years. Solution-wise, there are two recommended options:

- Option 1 – Reconstruction of Slope
- Option 2 – In-Situ Ground Reinforcement

Dr. Alvi further explained the advantages and disadvantages of each option. In-depth discussions took place as Council Members posed many questions.

Mr. Shoup stated Shoup Engineering reached out to a company that repairs landslides. He stated they are looking towards the wall situation and the Borough might be able to apply for grant money. Mr. Meanor stated that the ACED denied the Turkeyfoot Road Landslide Grant Application because it was handwritten. Mr. Meanor returned the GEDF grant application to Rep. Valerie Gaydos to put on a "Wish List". Mr. Abell inquired about the drainage system. Mr. Shoup explained there are a couple options with the drainage. Mr. Shoup noted there are not a lot of companies that perform this type of work; therefore, we are very limited. Questions were posed to Mr. Junker regarding the bidding process and how the Borough can act immediately. Mr. Junker cited the Borough Code on bidding and advertising. Any use of public funds in excess of \$25,000 requires a Prevailing Wage determination, and a construction project such as this is not an emergency and requires advertising for competitive sealed bids. Mr. Junker stated that a bid bond could be waived in accordance with Section 1402(b) of the Borough Code and that the performance security could be as low as 10% of the contract.

A motion (1) to authorize the Borough Engineer to develop specifications and advertise for public bids to repair the Turkeyfoot Road Landslide using Option 2 in the Geomechanics report; (2) to authorize the Borough Manager to open the bids in coordination with the Borough Engineer, and (3) to waive the bid bond requirement and to set the performance security at 10% of the contract amount was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Meanor. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **ROAD DEPARTMENT/BOROUGH OFFICE RADIOS**

Mr. Wagner traded emails with the 911 Center regarding radios for the Borough. Mr. Wagner will be meeting with the 911 Center on October 30, 2019, to further discuss the issue and see if it is technically possible.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **BUDGET & FINANCE – Mrs. Veeck - Excused**

#### **2020 BOROUGH BUDGET**

Mrs. Veeck had to leave the Council Meeting and asked Mr. Wagner to present the report. Mr. Wagner stated he and the Committee wants to eliminate the Per Capita Tax. After reading the recent article in the Sewickley Herald regarding the plans to build a new school for the Quaker Valley School District, Mr. Wagner expressed his concerns about the potential school district tax increases and how it may impact our residents. Therefore, Mr. Wagner requested that expenditures be reduced by five percent (5%) in the upcoming budget. Mr. Wagner also suggested that zero based budgeting be used.

A motion that the draft budget needs to be at or lower than the 2019 Estimated Actual with a goal of a 5% reduction against the 2019 Estimated Actual, without impacting Public Safety or Road Maintenance was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Meanor. Members voting yes: Mr. Renfrew, Mr. Meanor, Mr. Wagner, and Mr. Walliser. Member voting no: Mr. Abell. Motion carried: 4 yes and 1 no. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC SAFETY – Mr. Renfrew**

**PROMOTION OF OFFICER MICHAEL D. TRESKY TO SERGEANT**

A motion to accept the Civil Service Commission's certification and to appoint Officer Michael D. Tresky to the position of Sergeant was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Mr. Abell**

Mr. Abell stated the paving company did a great job on Summerlawn Drive. Mr. Abell noted that we are receiving truckloads of salt that's being stored for the winter supply.

Mr. Wagner expressed his concern regarding another slide on Hitzel Hill. Due to the slides on Hitzel Hill Road and the closure of Camp Meeting Road, Mr. Wagner suggested a review of the 10-year Road Improvement Plan and to strongly consider repairs to Hopkins Church Road.

**PROPERTY & SUPPLIES – Mr. Wagner**

No report.

**GOVERNMENT & LEGISLATION – Mr. Meanor**

Mr. Meanor presented his report earlier in the meeting during the Turkeyfoot Road Landslide discussion.

**ZONING – Mr. Walliser**

Mr. Walliser stated the Planning Commission recommends Zoning Ordinance amendments to Article VI - Signs and to Article X - Conditional Uses. The information will be reviewed by Mr. Junker and Allegheny County Economic Development. Mr. Junker stated the amendments will be prepared in Ordinance format and will be presented to Council for their review at its November 11, 2019, meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BELL ACRES MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

A motion to appoint Mrs. Addie Sochats as a member of the Bell Acres Municipal Authority, to fulfill Mr. David Renfrew's term ending 12/31/2023, was made by Mr. Wagner and seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**COMPLIMENTARY LETTER**

Mr. Renfrew announced that a very nice letter was received from his neighbor complimenting Carl Bohn, Public Works Supervisor, and Lisa Fleming, Borough Secretary, for their fast action of a landslide near Witherow Road.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT**

Mr. Renfrew announced that Attorney Kim Houser will be at the fire station on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss recruitment and other issues related to the fire department.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to transact, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Meanor and seconded by Mr. Abell. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa J. Fleming  
Borough Secretary