

**Borough of Edinboro
Council Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

Monday, May 11, 2020 the regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Mayor Aaron Gast at 6:33 PM. The meeting was held via Zoom videoconference, due to COVID-19.

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Council members present were Jim Kiley, Mary Ann Horne, Aaron Gast, Mark Eisert, Fred Langill, Pat Davis, and Alyssa Dobson.

Other officials present were Borough Manager Kevin Opple, Solicitor Tim Wachter, and Finance Director Jason Spangenberg. Citizens present via telephone were Curtis Hals and a representative from the West County News Journal.

MINUTES:

Jim Kiley moved to approve the April 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Mary Ann Horne seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Curtis Hals, 136 Maple Drive. Mr. Hals expressed his concerns about repeated speeding in town, specifically on Maple Drive, and asked what is being done to address the issue before someone gets hurt. Manager Opple discussed the situation, stating that the speed sign will be out of storage and ready for use this month, and he would discuss the situation with the Police Chief. He noted that the most effective course of action would be to express these concerns to the PA State Senators and Representatives so they would consider approving the use of RADAR by local police departments. The topic was briefly discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve bills paid April 27 totaling \$86,968.45; and paid May 11 totaling \$107,742.69. Alyssa Dobson seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Mary Ann Horne moved to approve payroll paid April 24 totaling \$71,443.55; and paid May 8 totaling \$74,492.56. Alyssa Dobson seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Wachter stated that a bill to approve RADAR use by local police departments has been progressing through the PA legislature. He also recommended that Resolution 9-2020 regarding property taxes, on the agenda later in the meeting, be amended to state that penalties and fees would be waived through year-end.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

Manager Opplé presented his monthly report. The ECED/Library organized Census Events are being discussed as to when they can safely be held. No word yet on if the Census deadline will officially be changed. On their website the Census Bureau now discusses August for workers to check households that haven't responded, so the July 31st deadline seems to be no longer valid.

ECED has been awarded \$9,370 from ECGRA. This will pay for an information sheet to be sent out through using the West County Journal, relief packages for families distributed by the Boro Women & Family Services, and coolers at distribution sites for the expected lunches for kids program this summer. A number of organizations and businesses have been raising money and trying to help neighbors in need.

Regarding summer events, the current plan for the outdoor movies to go ahead at Goodell Gardens is dependent upon when and if it will be safe. Jason Spangenberg stated that August would be an option for the movies if July ends up being too soon. Manager Opplé added that the Lakeside July 4 activities will depend on the COVID situation as we get closer, and we are waiting to receive guidance about opening our beach.

Solicitor Wachter is reviewing the proposal to Washington Township for a Water Service Agreement and is working with the Borough Staff to ensure it is thorough. He is working to simplify the proposal from years ago.

The sanitary sewer inspections that are required before any property can sell had been on hold due to the virus but have now resumed. Any inspection the homeowner or our employee would be uncomfortable performing due to virus concerns can be performed at a later time, with money held in escrow at closing.

The project to replace the wastewater lines on W. Normal, Brookview, and Water St. extension should begin the first week of June.

Playground equipment remains closed. We have closed the opening of the basketball hoops with stakes to dis-incentivize their use for basketball games. The docks are in and users are asked to continue social distancing. Erie County Health is working with DEP and DCNR to come up with guidelines for beaches in the next few weeks.

In order to eliminate congestion and be in compliance with health guidelines, people seeking construction permits - both Zoning Certificates and Building Permits - will need to make an appointment to see the Zoning office.

After reviewing the offers from three firms, Manager Opplé recommended appointing Stantec Consulting Services to be the Right of Way assessment firm for our PennDOT Rt. 99 sidewalk project. Our engineer Greenman-Pedersen is not one of the PennDOT-approved firms.

The PA State Legislature passed Act 15, allowing municipalities to waive late fees and penalties on property taxes through the end of the year. Erie County passed a resolution to waive the fees and penalties for the County taxes, and they recommended all municipalities do the same. Solicitor Wachter noted that Act 15 does not allow school districts to waive these items.

Jim Kiley asked about how traffic will be detoured for the wastewater project previously mentioned, and Manager Opplé replied that work was done in the same area last year without detour issues. Mr. Kiley also asked about changing the speed limit on Maple Drive and it was noted that an ordinance would likely be needed for such a change.

Mayor Gast moved to approve the Stantec Consulting right-of-way acquisition proposal as previously discussed by Manager Opplé. Pat Davis seconded the motion. Mayor Gast expressed a concern with the firm talking to property owners on our behalf and ensuring that they handle the situation properly. Manager Opplé replied that this shouldn't be a problem, since Stantec is on the list of PennDOT-approved firms and does this regularly. The motion passed 7-0.

Finance:

Mayor Gast moved to approve Resolution 9-2020 to waive 2020 property tax penalties and fees for all taxes paid by year-end, which included an amendment to the Resolution in the Council packet to add "and fees" as recommended by Solicitor Wachter:

***BOROUGH OF EDINBORO
RESOLUTION 9-2020***

A RESOLUTION, of the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro, Erie County, Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, the outbreak of the Coronavirus COVID-19 has led to lost income for many Borough residents and businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the well-being of Borough residents and businesses is of the greatest importance to Borough Council and staff; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 15 on April 20, 2020 that enables local governments to extend real estate tax deadlines.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro that all penalties and fees for 2020 real estate taxes shall be waived if said taxes are paid in full by December 31, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all unpaid 2020 real estate taxes after December 31, 2020 shall be subject to the normal delinquent penalties and fees pursuant to the Real Estate Tax Sale Law, the Pennsylvania Borough Code, the Municipal Claim & Tax Lien Law, and any other state statute or ordinance of the Borough; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the real estate tax collector no later than May 20, 2020.

RESOLVED this 11th day of May, 2020.

Mary Ann Horne seconded the motion. The motion passed by 7-0 roll call vote: Mark Eisert, yes; Alyssa Dobson, yes; Jim Kiley, yes; Mary Ann Horne, yes; Pat Davis, yes; Fred Langill, yes; and Aaron Gast, yes.

Alyssa Dobson left the meeting at this point.

Public Works:

Mayor Gast moved to approve Resolution 8-2020 to approve the use of the 2020 County Liquid Fuels allocation:

**BOROUGH OF EDINBORO
RESOLUTION NO. 8-2020**

A RESOLUTION, of the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro, Erie County, Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Erie County receives an annual Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to be disbursed to the County's municipalities as County Aid from Liquid Fuels Tax income; and

WHEREAS, Erie County must distribute their allocated budget based on the 50-22-28 formula approved by the Liquid Fuels Formula Committee on September 14, 1982, and the formula is recalculated annually using current mileage, population, and millage rates; and

WHEREAS, based on the aforementioned formula, Erie County has budgeted the amount of \$16,783 to be distributed to the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro for 2020 Liquid Fuels County Aid; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are obligated to approve the use of the County Aid distribution by annual Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Borough Council, that the Home Rule Borough of Edinboro approves the 2020 Liquid Fuels County Aid, in the amount of \$16,783, to be used for road maintenance.

ADOPTED this 11th day of May, 2020.

Mary Ann Horne seconded, and the motion passed by 6-0 roll call vote: Mark Eisert, yes; Jim Kiley, yes; Mary Ann Horne, yes; Pat Davis, yes; Fred Langill, yes; and Aaron Gast, yes.

The following bids were received for seal coat work, bid through the EACOG:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Suit-Kote Corp.	10965 McHenry Street, Meadville, 16335	\$1,263,864.87
Russel Standard Corp.	P.O. Box 86, Union City, 16438	\$1,458,677.75

Jason Spangenberg noted that the bid prices were so high because the total was for 10 different municipalities, and the Borough's portion of Suit-Kote's bid was \$39,504.30. Manager Oppe recommended awarding the contract to Suit-Kote as low bidder. Mary Ann Horne moved to award to Suit-Kote, Pat Davis seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

COMMUNITY LIAISONS:

EVFD:

Mary Ann Horne stated that the EVFD had applied for and received federal stimulus money from the Paycheck Protection Program for the Engine House club.

Lakeside Association:

Pat Davis mentioned that the Lakeside Association meetings are on hold until further notice.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Gast moved to send the speeding concerns on Maple Drive to the Public Safety Committee for review. Pat Davis seconded, Council discussed briefly, and the motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Gast for adjournment, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

ATTEST:



Manager Kevin Oppe



Mayor Aaron Gast