

**SHICKSHINNY BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 7, 2021**

*The General Meeting of the Borough of Shickshinny Council was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, in the council room of the Shickshinny Municipal Building. President Rosalie Whitebread called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.*

*Per roll call, the following members of council were present: Rosalie Whitebread, Jim Wido, Candice Kruczek & Joe Buchalski. Kevin Kruczek was absent. Attorney Burke was present.*

*President Whitebread informed Attorney Burke that Jimmy Bach was in attendance to discuss the situation with the FLT Grant. They are having problems with the General Contractor who was awarded the bid, Jim Dezliak, the problems are holding up the opening of this business. After some extensive discussion with all the council members and Mr. Bach, this matter has been turned over to Attorney Burke.*

*Motion to pay the Borough Bills as they come in were made by Joseph Buchalski and seconded by Jim Wido. All others voted yes.*

**President's Report-** *Ms. Whitebread informed the members of council that we have not had an audit completed to date for the year 2020. Rainey & Rainey, the current Borough Auditors says they cannot complete the audit due to missing reports and/or reports that are not balanced. Rosalie contacted another CPA to see if they can help, Marilyn Derolf of Hall, Mihalos & Straub will complete our audit, but it will cost over \$5,000.00, she suggested firing Rainey & Rainey and hiring Hall, Mihalos & Straub. Attorney Burke will contact Rainey & Rainey to find out if there is a professional agreement with the Borough and we will proceed accordingly.*

*Ms. Whitebread informed the Council Members that the Kubota was out for repairs and the repair shop informed her that whoever installed the fire extinguisher in it drilled a whole through all the wiring. So the bill for this repair will be forwarded to Cintas for payment.*

**Solicitor's Report** – *None - Ms. Whitebread asked where things are with the property at 125-127 West Union Street. Attorney Burke stated that he is working with the county, the taxes were forgiven but he is waiting on written confirmation of this. President Whitebread informed him that needs to be taken care of as soon as possible so that the Borough could sell this piece of property. Ms. Whitebread also asked Attorney Burke if the title was available yet for the property at 26 Conyngham Street, Attorney Burke stated that we do not have the title for that yet. He was informed by President Whitebread that we need this as soon as possible as well so that this property can be sold.*

**Engineer's Report-** *President Whitebread stated that Rockview Ave is a problem, Don Bower paved the road and hired a contractor to install the guiderails and the engineer, John Ackerman, does not converse well with the borough. Ms. Whitebread went and did an inspection of the completed work. The poles that the guiderail contractor pounded into the ground damaged the*

pavement, (cracked it), the poles are loose, water runoff is going into the Church because there was no rolled edge put there, there is a large gap between the guide rail and the new pavement. There is concern that the plow trucks or any motorist will slip into that gap and go over the embankment. Ms. Whitebread stated that the contractors want to be paid and they only have a \$13,000 retainage for this job. Ms. Whitebread said they will be paid for the job, but these repairs need to be completed first.

**Zoning Officer's Report:** - Sonny from Larry Frace's office discussed the amendment to the Zoning setbacks within the zoning ordinance. Attorney Burke stated that any amendment to an ordinance needs to be advertised and adopted officially at a regular Council meeting.

A letter needs to be sent to Gary Spencer regarding the repairs to the fence along the creek that was damaged during the winter of 2020. Attorney Burke will send a letter to him.

Sonny addressed some other issues within the Borough that he is handling and the status of each. Motion to accept the Zoning Officers report was made by Joe Buchalski and seconded by Candice Kruczek. All others voted yes.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:** \* Motion to accept the meeting minutes of November 3, 2021, was made by Joe Buchalski and seconded by Candice Kruczek. All members voted yes.

Motion to approve the payment of Bills & Financial Statement was made by Candice Kruczek and seconded by Joe Buchalski. All Council Member voted yes.

Motion to adopt the 2022 Operating Budget was made by Candice Kruczek and seconded by Joe Buchalski. All members voted yes.

Motion to adopt the resolution setting the tax rate for 2022 was made by Candice Kruczek and seconded by Joe Buchalski. All others voted yes.

Motion to accept the Secretaries report was made by Joe Buchalski and seconded by Candice Kruczek. All members voted yes.

The Shickshinny Sewer Authority audit for 2020 is available for review.

Ms. Whitebread read the minutes from Don E. Bower for the meeting held on November 16, 2021, to discuss the repairs needed for Rockview East & West. Motion to approve the change order #1 and payment application #1 for a total of \$103,508.85. Motion to approve this conditionally, that Bowers putting it in writing that they will fix all the items needed to be repaired on these roads.

Motion was made by Joe Buchalski and seconded by Candice Kruczek. Jim Wido abstained (he feels this is John Ackerman's fault that the scope of work was not properly done) all others voted yes. Attorney Burke will contact John Ackerman regarding the water run of issue and the fact that he did not include a rolled curb in the scope of work.

Motion was made to approve the amendment #5 to the agreement by and between the County of Luzerne and Shickshinny Borough for the leased flood zone properties was made by Joe Buchalski and seconded by Jim Wido. All others voted yes.

Motion to approve a resolution prohibiting the use of tobacco in the outdoor parks & recreation area signs was made by Jim Wido and seconded by Joe Buchalski. All Council members voted yes.

*ICU Estimate for updating the camera system in the building was discussed. No action taken.*

*Motion was made to adjourn by Joe Buchalski & seconded by Candice Kruczek.*

*Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.*

*Lori Ragazzo  
Borough Secretary/Treasurer*