The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Borough of East Rochester was held Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lacock Dwellings Community Center, East Rochester, PA.

Meeting was called to order and Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Cathy Hutsky, Joe Seminick and Kendra Hill

ALSO, PRESENT: Mayor Robert Knox, Solicitor Paul Steff, Engineer Jeff Frye, Chief Frank Mercier, Richard Fehr, John Drumm, Attorney Greg Douglass, Sam Landis and Matt from The Beaver Countian.

ABSENT: Joyce Gordon, James Simon and Code Enforcement Officer Randy Morrow

CITIZENS REPORT: Greg Douglass, attorney for the Rochester Area Joint Sewer Authority came to the meeting in connection with the rebuilding of the waste water treatment plant. The Authority opened bids back in May and the bids came in significantly higher than expected. So went back and rebid all the contracts and opened them in September and they came down from $52 million to $48 million. Then went back to Pennvest and asked them if they would fund the entire project with a 30-year 1% loan. The Authority does have about $1 ½ million Pennvest grants, but asked Pennvest to fund the rest for 30 years at 1%. There is a Service Agreement with all members of the Authority that was updated in 2009 but expires in 2024 and Pennvest is requiring that the Service Agreement be extended to cover the life of the Pennvest loan. Mr. Douglass presented copies of the existing Service Agreement and made a simple amendment which simply changes the termination date. The existing agreement terminates December 31, 2024 and presented amendment which changes that termination date to January 30, 2050 which is the maturity date for the Pennvest loan. Mr. Douglass said the closing with Pennvest is scheduled for January 2020 and asked council if inclined to go along to approve tonight. He said all the other terms of the Service Agreement remain in full force and effect. Ms. Hutsky asked if we should approve at this meeting. Mr. Steff said there are no changes to the agreement and that only the term is being extended. Mr. Steff said that a motion by council will need to be passed to authorize council to amend the term of the Service Agreement. Mr. Seminick made motion to accept the amended Service Agreement which extends the term. Mrs. Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried. Mr. Steff said he will prepare a written resolution accepting the amended Service Agreement. Mr. Douglass indicated that a fully signed copy of the agreement will be provided to the Borough once all parties have signed.

Richard Fehr of 10th Street asked about the open ditch on the property next to him. He also indicated that there are still flooding problems at the top of the road to his residence. He said there is a big rut at the top of the road and something needs to be done. Ms. Hutsky said she was told that the water was coming from the downspouts on the home next to Mr. Fehr's. Mr. Fehr said there are no downspouts or gutters at all on that house. Mr. Fehr asked if a curb could be put at the top to guide the water so it does not run down the road. The problem at the top needs to be addressed. Ms. Hutsky suggested that Sam take a look at the issue. Mr. Fehr said that at his own cost he will put pipe across the road into that ditch to divert the water. Mr. Frye indicated that 10th Street is an unopened street. Mr. Fehr said the borough needs to take care of the top of the street. Mr. Frye said at the top on Lacock is the borough right-of-way and the borough would have to address that situation. It was indicated that the road will still be plowed by the borough. Mayor Knox said the ditch needs filled in. Mr. Fehr said he does not care about the ditch.

John Drumm said he talked to John Barrett and the Borough can get 3 or 4 loads of milling to put on 10th Street. Mr. Drumm said that new locks have been installed on the doors of the fire department. A dumpster has been ordered to clean up around the fire department. He said the fire department received bids to fix the siding which were high and the department cannot afford, but indicated that the building will be fixed up somehow. Mr. Drumm also indicated that the borough should not be taking the truck to Three Rivers Marine for repairs because that they charge too much. He said the borough needs to find another repair service. He said that Fleet Service in Bridgewater works on diesel vehicles. Mr. Drumm said there is a business in Aliquippa that he took his truck to and he will provide the contact information.

In regard to the work on 5th Street, Mr. Drumm said there are two gas lines that need tested by the gas company before he can begin the project. The gas company is scheduled to come in and do pressure test this week.

Mr. Landis indicated that the truck needs new tires. He said he called around and checked prices and Cherry Auto Sales has the best price. He got two prices from Cherry. One is $190 per tire and the other is $250 per tire for a better tire. He called Meyers and their prices were higher. The truck also needs aligned.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Ms. Hutsky called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Mrs. Hill made motion to accept minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Hutsky seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the prior month's meeting minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary indicated that 2018 Liquid Fuel audit was completed and accepted. Secretary said engagement letter had been received by Herman & Loll accounting services for 2019 services to the borough. Motion was made by Mr. Seminick to accept engagement of Herman & Loll as accountant. Ms. Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting Herman & Loll engagement letter. Motion carried.

MAYOR and POLICE: Mayor Knox read the October police report. There were 175 calls, 9 arrests and 12 citations. A motion was made by Mr. Seminick to accept the October police report. Mrs. Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor of accepting the September police report.

Mayor Knox said there is a tree program through Representative Mattzie's office. He said it is a 50/50 match program if we do the work.

Mayor said that Mr. Wilson from Rochester Township has expressed a desire to be constable for the Borough, which is an appointed position. Mayor said he has a good background. Mayor said he will ask Mr. Wilson to attend a council meeting.

Mayor Knox said he has a contact at Valvoline who will assist the borough with Earth Day 2020.

Mayor said he received information regarding replacing the heads lamps on the street lights in the borough with LED lights at a cost of $109.00 each street light. He said he will donate his salary for the next two years toward the cost of replacing the street lights in the borough with LED lights if the borough will match. If the head lamps on the street lights are replaced with LED lights there will be savings to the borough. If the borough is interested, Mayor Knox said he will contact John Barrett of Rochester Borough. It would be nice for the residents of the borough to show that we are doing things in the Borough. Ms. Hutsky said she would like to look at the information for the program. It is a

good program. The information will be reviewed for the next meeting.

STREETS & SEWERS: At this time the matter of lighting to the flagpole was discussed. Mayor Knox said something needs to be done because we need to put something up on the pole. Mr. Drumm said he was going to do this some time ago and that he purchased the conduit and it is in the borough garage. Mayor Knox asked Mr. Drumm if he installed the flagpole and he said "yes". Mr. Drumm said he built the flagpole and had a company come in and raise the pole. Mayor Knox said he had previously brought this matter to council's attention. It was also mentioned about the project that was never completed at the ballfield. Mr. Drumm said he started a project at the ballfield and there was some disagreements so the project was never completed. He said he is still willing to fix it up. The area was never taken care of.

Ms. Hutsky said Mr. Landis did talk to an electrician about the flagpole lighting. Mr. Landis explained what he was told by the electrician. Ms. Hutsky said we will revisit the flagpole issue.

Mr. Landis indicated that when a dye test was performed on property at 895 Spruce Avenue, wipes were found coming out. The line was blocked and when the plumber cleared the line wipes were found in the lift station, which means that the house is connected to the lift station the same as the residents on Oak Avenue. Not sure if the house at 868 Spruce is also connected.

A motion was made by Mr. Seminick and seconded by Mrs. Hill to purchase tires for the borough truck from Cherry Auto Sales and to get the truck aligned. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion carried.

Mr. Landis said that the pipe in the catch basin on 4th Street going toward Linton is blocked. Mr. Drumm said the situation has existed for some time. Mr. Drumm said the catch basin runs down over the hill. Ms. Hutsky asked what can be done to unblock it. Mr. Landis said the pipe needs blown out. Mr. Seminick asked if Mr. Seybert created the problem when he excavated for the wall on his property. Not sure. Mr. Seminick suggested that Mr. Frye look into this matter.

Ms. Hutsky asked about getting grants to fix the roads. Mr. Frye said he has information in his report.

BUILDING PERMITS: A copy of Mr. Morrow's report for October is provided to council in their folders.

FINANCE & BUDGET TAX REPORT: The Secretary reported that tax collections were $4,662.96 with a commission to the tax collector of $233.15. The total bills paid for the month were $28,877.66; payroll was $4,308.76; Pennvest loan payment was $1,604.54. The Sewer Maintenance collection for October was $4,665.11 (both residential and commercial). Mr. Seminick made motion to accept finance report and pay bills. Mrs. Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Seminick said there were 5 calls. He said that the Saturday before Christmas that the fire department will drive Santa Claus around the Borough to pass out treats. He will provide more information to the Borough Secretary so something can be posted on the Borough website.

SOLICITOR, ORDINANCE & LITIGATION: Mr. Steff presented a draft of the street opening ordinance which he has provided a copy to the Borough Engineer for his review and

comment. Mr. Steff said that new drawings will need to be completed for this ordinance. Mr. Steff said he has been in communication with Mr. Frye. A new resolution will be presented for the new fees. Mr. Steff said this is the meeting where direction regarding the 2020 budget needs to be taken. The budget needs to be advertised for the December meeting. At the December meeting the tax ordinance will be advertised and the budget formally adopted. Secretary has presented two versions of the budget, one with the same mileage and another increasing the mileage by one mill. Copies of these budgets have been provided to council members and Mr. Steff. Council should decide the tax rate for 2020 and instruct Mr. Steff to advertise for the December meeting.

BOROUGH ENGINEER: Mr. Frye said he has no issues with the resolution for the street opening and will update drawings. He said the fee schedule basically follows PennDot schedule. Mr. Frye said that the curbing will be installed on 5th Street. He said that he has contacted R.D. Smith Plumbing to perform a dye test at the Reda property on Lacock Avenue. A time and date will be coordinated to perform the test.

Mr. Frye said he reviewed the grants information from the letter from Representative Mattzie's office that he was provided at the last meeting. Most of the grants are 20% to 50% match grants. Most require when you submit the application to have preliminary drawings to show and if you get the grant the drawings are finalized. Most grants require a $100 application fee. He said a good place to start is with the Borough's drainage issues. These grants are due in February and March. Mr. Frye said he will come back with a recommendation at the next meeting.

RECREATION: Secretary said she was notified by Rochester Little Rams that they are done with use of the East Washington Street ballfield. She indicated that they need to clean up the area and return the key. Secretary told the representative from the Little Rams that if the field is cleaned up to the Borough's satisfaction then the $100 deposit will be returned. She asked council if they want the tackling sleds removed. It was noted that sleds should be removed.

It was mentioned that the sink is off the wall in the ladies' room at the ballfield and needs reattached. There is girls' softball equipment still at the ballfield and has been there for well over a year or two. Mayor Knox mentioned that he has tried calling someone from the girls' softball league but has gotten no response. Mr. Landis knows someone from the Freedom softball league and they indicated that they would take the equipment if the borough wanted to donate it. Members of council agreed to donate the baseball equipment. Mr. Landis will deliver the equipment to Freedom.

Ms. Hutsky mentioned that the fence in the back by the 3rd base line is washed out. Mr. Drumm indicated that because of all the rain the creek gets high and always washes out that side of the field.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: A discussion was held about the 2020 budget, namely the current millage of 22 mills and a version of 23 mills – a one mill increase. Mr. Steff said council needs to decide which works and give guidance as to what draft they want to use. The Borough Secretary mentioned that maybe council would consider raising to 24 mills to have a cushion to put away for a truck or keep funds for streets. Mr. Steff said normally the budget discussion was held in October so we are a little behind this year. Mr. Steff said the only recommendation he can make is for council to look at the budget drafts and if they think if needed to take an increase or make cuts. Not sure when taxes were raised last. Borough Secretary said one mill increase provides the borough an extra $7,000. Ms. Hutsky said she does not know where cuts can be made. Ms. Hutsky asked for council's

recommendation.

Mr. Seminick indicated that the Borough could raise the fees charged for billboards. Mr. Steff said he discussed with the Code Enforcement Officer about raising fees for permits and asked Mr. Morrow to collect a list for recommendation to provide to council. Mr. Steff said the permit fees are not necessarily a money maker but an offset for the administrative costs in providing that service or inspection. He said he would not look at permit fees as a revenue source. Mr. Steff said he told the Code Enforcement Officer to keep track of what fees he is using the most and come back to council with a list of recommendations.

Mr. Steff said the budget process needs to start earlier. He would suggest that it might be beneficial to go with 23 mills or go another year with the same mileage. After discussion concerning the budget, Mr. Seminick made motion to advertise proposed budget at 23 mills for the year 2020. Mrs. Hill seconded. By way of roll call vote, all in favor and motion was carried.

Ms. Hutsky called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Hill made motion to adjourn and Mr. Seminick seconded. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dunn, Borough Secretary/Treasurer