

Eagles Mere Borough

AGENDA

October 4, 2021
Regular Monthly Meeting
Time: 7:00 pm

William Feese, Louise Middleton, Dennis Craig, Cole Lee, Doug Smith, Jim Way and Richard Liebert. Mayor Richard Lobach. Also present may be Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Carson, and Street Superintendent: Jeremy Moore and Emergency Management Coordinator: Wendy Hastings.

In the Gallery:

Call to Order: Council President Bill Feese

Pledge of Allegiance:

Motion to Revise the Published Agenda: (if necessary)

Public Issues & Comments:

Minutes: Approve September 7, 2021 Meeting minutes as included with Agenda.

Treasurer's Report:

- Interim reports sent with agendas. Reports are through September 30, 2021.

Open Records Officer: None.

Zoning & Ordinance Officer report:

- The owner of a building on the corner of Fern and Allegheny Aves., who received our notice that building was a Public Nuisance, signed a contract prior to his death to have the building removed. Despite his demise, his family wishes to proceed with this and to eventually build a new garage in its place. The contractor says the work is scheduled for late October.
- Maria Casey, who received a notice to repair or replace her failed sidewalk, has replaced the walkway and is in full compliance.

Street Superintendent Report:

- The Superintendent has prepared his budget requests and recommendations for the Infrastructure Committee.

Mayor's Report:

Emergency Management Coordinator's report:

Points of Interest and Information from the Secretary:

- The Borough has received Realty Transfer taxes for August in the amount of \$2641.10 (Rubel > Sabol, and Ball > Olson)
- Our revised grant application, submitted in conjunction with the EMA and Conservancy, for the Clay Ave. drainage improvements has been reviewed by the Sullivan County Conservation District and we have received approval and an award of \$42,498.50 for a phased plan to implement the improvements. We can submit a follow-up plan for another

Eagles Mere Borough AGENDA

grant in 2022 to do additional work. The Conservancy has subsequently said they will withdraw from the collaboration because they are only interested in work on the Green and parking lot. Planning and final design for the work and preparation of the DEP application for the outfall are underway. The SulCo Conservation District will be notified that completion of the project by December 17, 2021, (as they specified) is unlikely due to the DEP application process and its comment periods.

- As previously noted, the Borough has received its allocation of \$5,913.81 of federal money from the American Rescue Plan of 2021. An identical distribution will be made in the summer of 2022. Council needs to determine how they wish these funds to be used. This money was not budgeted. The amount is based on 2010 census of the Borough population. Information on these funds is attached to this agenda.
- Our Liquid Fuels accounts and activities for 2019 and 2020 were audited on September 29, 2021. Based on the exit interview, a final report will indicate there are no issues.
- The Borough, on behalf of the Volunteer Fire Relief Association, has received \$5,935.34 (a pro rata share of state funds collected on fire premiums sold by out of state insurance companies). The Borough must transmit these funds to the EM Volunteer Fire Relief Association.

Committee Reports:

Finance-

- Interim financial reports through September 30, 2021 are attached to this Agenda.
- The Borough continues to operate soundly and within budget with adequate cash flow.
- The financial reports have been corrected to show the approved revenue budget for 2021. Previous reports included the budget amount before the tax increase was approved.

Infrastructure-

- The committee has met to finalize recommended projects for the 2022 budget.
- In addition, it has received and considered a request to extend the sidewalk along Laporte Ave. to the Mt. View Lane intersection. This is an expensive and involved project which will require approval, permission, and funding by property owners along its path.
- The recent repair by PennDOT of Laporte Ave near Gerry Ganz's property was reviewed. Further drainage remediation work is beyond the authority and budget of the Borough.
- The Becker/Zissman homeowners on Allegheny Ave. requested removal of a nearby street light. The committee recommended that no changes be made. Possible alternatives will be explored.
- The status of the Clay Ave grant funded project was reviewed.

Museum- The Museum is now operating on weekends only. The Museum is working on its 2022 budget for submission to the Borough.

Ordinance- No Activity

Personnel- The Committee has met to begin the 2022 Budget planning process.

Website- Updates continue to be made by Kase Moore as needed.

Continued Business:

- The Borough Solicitor is preparing a formal response to Dilks Lake Holdings, LLC, indicating that Wingert Lane is and has been an open Borough street and that the Borough does not anticipate changing that status in the foreseeable future. Since the street is open, there is no need to consider the process to be used to "open" the street.

Eagles Mere Borough AGENDA

New Business:

- Action on the impending resignation of Mayor Richard Lobach is needed.
- Council can assign the recently received \$5,913.31 of American Rescue Plan funds to budget categories in accordance with the guidance noted below. Using this unbudgeted distribution for the unfunded portion of the Clay Ave project would be an excellent use of the money.

Workshops/Conferences-

- No programs are on the schedule.

Payment of Bills- Approval to pay the bills (as reviewed) for the Borough and Museum is requested.

Adjourn the meeting at _____ pm.

American Rescue Plan Act funds

Eagles Mere has received \$5,913.81 in *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)* funding. A like amount will be received in the summer of 2022. The award is calculated based on 2010 census figures and every municipality in the United States is included. For comparison purposes, Eagles Mere received the smallest amount in Sullivan County. Laporte Borough received \$15,599.50 and Cherry Township received \$84,206.38. Funds were distributed only to municipalities; Authorities and other quasi-governmental entities do not receive funds.

There are very few strings attached to these funds and the Borough is free to spend them as it sees fit. It is likely we will need to explain how much and in what fashion the money is ultimately spent. The following guidance is from the State of Pennsylvania:

“The COVID-19 ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund will provide eligible state, local, and territorial governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs.

Recipients may use these funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, funding for COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet”