

Borough of Beaver, PA  
Council Meeting  
December 10, 2024  
Minutes

- A regular scheduled meeting of Beaver Borough Council was held in the Community Room of the Beaver Borough Municipal building and was called to order on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM by Council President, Sean Snowden.
- Council Representatives in attendance: Alexander Andres, Robert Bickerton, Michael Deelo, Roberta Good, Todd Hindman, Whitney Learn-Conjeski, Margaret McKean, and Sean Snowden.
- Borough officials in attendance: Mayor Thomas Hamilton, Chief of Police and Borough Manager Dan Madgar, Solicitor Garen Fedeles, Sergeant Ken McCoy, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Sprecker, and Debbie Hindman.
- Absent: Amy Stettler
- Visitors in attendance (signed in): Midge Sefton, Rick Sprecker, Phil O'Shaughnessy, Ron Stidmon, Rosemary Stidmon, Rebecca Beem, Jim Woolley, Lincoln Kretchmar, Andrew Voytko, Mike Kelley, Dominic Nardone, Matt Knight, Ellen Kretchmar, and Jim Bontempo.
- An Executive Session was held from 6:30 PM until 6:57 PM prior to the scheduled meeting to review litigation and contract negotiations.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

***Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski to accept the November 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes and the November 24, 2024 Work Session Minutes. Seconded by Ms. Good.***

- Ms. McKean requested the November 12, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes be amended to reflect her discussion with the Conway Regional Chief of Police and the back of the envelope estimate for two full-time police officers.

***Voice vote passed unanimously with requested amendments.***

- Mr. Hindman read a written statement regarding the proposed 2025 Budget and proposed tax increase.
- Mr. Snowden made a statement regarding the current condition of the Borough's capital reserves and general fund and operations moving forward.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

***Motion by Ms. McKean to approve the November 2025 Treasurer's report. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

## **Review invoices and authorization to pay bills**

***Motion by Ms. Good to authorize and pay submitted invoices for the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.***

## **Public Participation –**

- Lincoln Kretchmar, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Beaver
  - Addressed concerns regarding a 2022 Beaver County Times article that discussed costs of Police Departments within Beaver County, the proposed 2025 budget, current contracts, and the pool house construction project.
- Ellen Kretchmar, Ward 2, Beaver
  - Thanked Mr. Andres and Mr. Bickerton for listening to concerns regarding the proposed 2025 budget.
  - Addressed concerns regarding a 2022 Beaver County Times article that discussed costs of Police Departments within Beaver County, the usage of the capital reserves fund, the proposed tax increase, and maxing out the milage amount before the next reassessment.
  - Believes that Mr. Hindman has a conflict of interest because he has family members that are employees of the Borough.
  - Requested the Borough Manager provide a narrative of the proposed budget.
- Matthew Knight, Ward 3, Beaver
  - Asked that what the Borough actually spends be provided on the Borough website, use social media to communicate the borough budget, and budget for grants.
- Mike Kelley, 465 Dravo Ave, Beaver
  - Asked for justification for proposed tax increase and how the County reassessment affects the Borough's taxes coming in.
- Andrew Voytko, 1298 Corporation Street, Beaver
  - Addressed concerns of the proposed 2025 budget and proposed tax increase.
- Rebecca Beem, Corporation Street, Beaver
  - Asked council to consider how the proposed tax increase will affect residents with other costs increasing.

## **Council Committees**

**Finance –** No report

**General Government –** No report

**Highways –** Reported by Mr. Madgar

- Will meet with Columbia Gas to review 2025 projects, will keep Council updated.

### **Public Safety / Code Enforcement –**

- Ms. McKean provided an article to those in attendance regarding police staffing models. Ms. McKean believes that Council should consider other factors when determining the number of police officers Beaver Borough has and asked that Council continue this type of discussion. Ms. McKean stated she provided the same article to Council members via email.

**Recreation – No report**

## **Reports**

### **Manager/Secretary Report –**

- Shade Tree Commission meetings will change to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.
- Tax Collector will utilize the Beaver Borough Community Room during the months of March, April, July and August from 9:00am -11:00am. Additional information will be posted to the Borough website as it becomes available.
- Midge Sefton was recognized and thanked for her 24 years of service on the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Sefton has been instrumental in keeping up with current laws for Civil Service procedures and efficiency.
- Reviewed grants:
  - In 2024, Beaver Borough applied for five grants. Of the five, two grants were awarded. The two awarded grants consisted of \$50,000 for the pool house renovations and \$13,000 for police bulletproof vests.
  - Past 5 years, Beaver Borough has been awarded a total of nine grants, totaling \$682,000. Mr. Madgar explained that the majority of grants require the Borough to have a specific percentage of money on hand to be awarded and may have to front the money to then be reimbursed.
  - Currently, Beaver Borough has two pending grant applications for police body cameras and upgrades to Linn Park.

### **Mayor Hamilton –**

- Thanked Ms. Sefton for serving many years as an essential member of the Civil Service Commission and continuing to support our town.
- Thanked all involved in making our Light up Night a success.

### **President –**

- Thanked Ms. Sefton for her role on the Civil Service Commission, her professionalism and mentorship.

**Police Department – No report**

**Borough Engineer – No report**

**Solicitor Report – No report**

## **Motions**

### **Reappointment to the Zoning Hearing Board**

*Motion by Mr. Deelo, based on the recommendation of the Zoning Hearing Board, I move that Beaver Borough Council reappoint Mike Helms, Fred Lloyd and Megan Laughlin to the Zoning Hearing Board for three-year terms. This term expires December 31, 2027. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **Reappointment to the Municipal Authority Board**

*Motion by Ms. Good, based on the recommendation of the Municipal Authority on September 3, 2024, I move that Beaver Borough Council reappoint Michael Deelo to the Municipal Authority Board to a five-year term. This term will expire December 31, 2029. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **Resignation of Civil Service Member**

*Motion by Mr. Deelo, based on the attached letter, I move that Beaver Borough Council accept the resignation of Marty Scheidmantel as a member of the Civil Service Commission for Beaver Borough effective December 31, 2024. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **Appointments to Civil Service Commission**

*Motion by Mr. Deelo, based on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, I move that Beaver Borough Council appoint Ryan Doran and Ryan O'Shaughnessy to the Civil Service Commission to a six-year term. This term will expire December 31, 2030. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **Reappointment to the Shade Tree Commission**

*Motion by Mr. Andres, based on the recommendation of the Chair of the Shade Tree Commission, I move that Beaver Borough Council reappoint Tim Stancec to a 4-year term. This term will expire December 31, 2029. Also, reappoint Nancy Lonnett to a 3-year term. This term will expire December 31, 2028. Seconded by Ms. McKean. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **Appointment to the Shade Tree Commission**

*Motion by Mr. Andres, based on the recommendation of the Chair of the Shade Tree Commission, I move that Beaver Borough Council appoint Mike Fiedler as an Alternate to the Shade Tree Commission to a 3-year term. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **2025 Schedule of Beaver Borough Meetings**

*Motion by Ms. McKean, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve and adopt the attached 2025 Schedule of Beaver Borough meeting and authorize the Solicitor to advertise. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

### **Resolution appointing Chief Administrative Officer for Pension Plans**

*Motion by Ms. Good, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached Resolution 2024-09 appointing the Borough Treasurer as Chief Administrative Officer of its Police & Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit & Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Pension Plans. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

## **Resolution appointing voting delegate for Beaver County Tax Collection Committee**

*Motion by Mr. Deelo, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached Resolution 2024-10 appointing a voting delegate for the Beaver County Tax Collection Committee (BCTCC). Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

## **Festival Fund**

*Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council transfer \$6,855.23 from the Festival Fund, line item 100.129, to the General Fund, line item 100.121, to be used towards Parks and Recreation. Once the transfer is made, the bank account ending in 2844 will be closed. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

## **2025 Fee Schedule**

*Motion by Mr. Bickerton, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve and adopt the attached Beaver Borough Fee Schedule for 2025. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Voice vote passed unanimously.*

## **Ordinance 871 Fixing the 2025 Tax Rate**

*Motion by Mr. Hindman, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve the attached Ordinance 871, fixing the tax on real property for the fiscal year of 2025 at a rate of 5.58 mills. Seconded by Ms. Learn-Conjeski. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – No, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – Yes, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – No, Mr. Snowden – Yes. Motion passed 6-2.*

## **2025 General Fund Budget**

*Motion by Mr. Hindman, I move that Beaver Borough Council adopt the 2025 Beaver Borough General Fund Budget as advertised. I move that a copy of this budget, electronic or otherwise, be attached hereto and retained in the Borough records. Seconded by Ms. Good. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – No, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – Yes, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – No, Mr. Snowden – Yes. Motion passed 6-2.*

## **Hire John Adams as a Full-Time Police Officer**

*Motion by Mr. Hindman, I move that Beaver Borough Council hire John Adams as a full-time police officer with the Beaver Police Department as of January 1, 2025. This offer is conditioned upon passing physical and psychological testing. Seconded by Ms. Good.*

- *Motion by Mr. Andres to table the motion for one month. Seconded by Ms. McKean. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – Yes, Mr. Bickerton – No, Mr. Deelo – No, Ms. Good – No, Mr. Hindman – No, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – No, Ms. McKean – Yes, Mr. Snowden – No. Motion failed 6-2.*

*Original motion Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – No, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – Yes, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – No, Mr. Snowden – Yes. Motion passed 6-2.*

## **Promote Anna Lane to Full-Time**

*Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, I move that Beaver Borough Council promote Anna Lane to a full-time employee as an Administrative Assistant for the Police Department, at the rate of \$20.00/hour plus appropriate benefits, effective January 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Hindman. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – Yes, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – Yes, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – Yes, Mr. Snowden – Yes. Motion passed 8-0.*

## **2025 Non-Union Pay Increase**

*Motion by Ms. Learn-Conjeski, in conjunction with the 2025 budget, I move that Beaver Borough Council approve a pay increase of 5% effective January 1, 2025 for full-time and part-time non-union personnel, excluding previously mentioned Anna Lane listed in motion #15. Seconded by Ms. Good.*

- *Motion by Mr. Andres to amend the motion to a pay increase of 3%. Seconded by Ms. McKean. Ms. Learn-Conjeski opposed the amendment to the original motion therefore the original motion was kept on the table to vote.*

*Original motion Roll Call Vote: Mr. Andres – Yes, Mr. Bickerton – Yes, Mr. Deelo – Yes, Ms. Good – Yes, Mr. Hindman – Abstained, Ms. Learn-Conjeski – Yes, Ms. McKean – Yes, Mr. Snowden – Yes. Motion passed 7-0.*

**Motion by Mr. Hindman to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Good. Voice vote passed unanimously.**

Adjourned 8:23pm

Submitted by Rebecca Phillips