The Regular Monthly Meeting of Dupont Borough Council was called to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday evening, April 13, 2021 by President of Council Stanley Knick Jr.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Mr. Knick – Present Mr. Kowalczyk – Present

Mr. Karkut – Present Mr. Price – Present

Mr. Jones – Present Mayor Lello - Present

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING AND PLACE ON FILE.**

Motion: Mr. Karkut  
Second: Mr. Jones

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CORRESPONDENCE AS PRESENTED.**

Motion: Mr. Jones  
Second: Mr. Karkut  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR PAYMENT.**

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk  
Second: Mr. Jones  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER MIKE KOWANICK EFFECTIVE APRIL 21ST. ADJUST BENEFITS AND RATE AND ADD TO PART TIME APPOINTMENTS AS OF THAT DATE.**

Mr. Kowalczyk questioned if anyone talked to him why he is resigning, the reason or main concern is, he is our mscap officer, how many shifts is he going to stay on. Patty noted this is personnel. Mr. Knick called for an executive session but due to recording issues with public listening, council agreed to pass this motion to the end of the meeting and move forward with other motions due to time limits on Zoom.

**MOTION TO APPOINT THE PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS FROM APRIL 13, 2021 TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH NO GUARANTEE OF WORK:** Duane Saunders, Jennifer Polemitis, Christopher Fargione, Thomas Sheehan, Thomas Rushnak, Robert Avvisato, Michael Sniscak, Jacob Palonis. New Applications: Lucas Kosciuk Removed Don MacRae, Chris Smith; Add Mike Kowanick as of April 21st.

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk  
Second: Mr. Karkut

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

REPORTS:

Treasurer’s Report:

General Fund - $109,917.19

Payroll Fund - $5,808.76

Refuse Fund - $ 153,475.37

Sewer Maintenance Fund - $420,370.64

Liquid Fuels - $202,856.13

Police Pension Fund - $1,026,035.19

Town Clock - $87.19

Special Fund - $178,426.04

Admin Debit Card - $588.24

Police Debit Card - $204.48

Community Development Fund - $1.00

Tax Collector’s Report:

March report from Susan Gregory, Tax Collector – Check deposited into General Fund in the amount of $77,441.53.

Balance Collectable Beginning of Month - $ 222,235.40

Less Face Collections - $ 79,022.06

Balance Collectable End of Month - $ 143,213.34

Less Discounts - $ 1,580.53

Ck #104 to General Fund $77,441.53

Ck#105 $118.33 coal

Mayor’s Report –

Food Drive April 22nd at Holy Mother of Sorrows.

May 2nd, Bells Across Pennsylvania, we did that last year 7pm. That will be put in the paper.

Commend our Rabbit, Our President was on top of the firetruck for four hours and played the bunny. Great job. Mayor thanked Joseph Jones for also helping out as well as others.

**MOTION TO PROCLAIM MAY 2, 2021 BELLS ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA DAY**

Motion: Mr. Jones

Second: Mr. Karkut

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

Police Report – Chief Doran read the monthly statistical report for Marc 2021 as follows:

Criminal arrests-2; traffic citations issued-63; non traffic citations-4; appearances in county court-4; appearances in magisterial court-15; motor vehicle accidents-4; assist to ems/fire-4; assist to other police dept.-2; alarms-7; thefts-3; vandalism-2; disorderly conduct-4; pfa violations-2; assault/harassment-4; miscellaneous calls-32; building checks-153;code enforcement-4. Mileage: Explorer-54,646; Taurus-83,297; F-150-26,297. Magistrate Fines - $3,249.67.

Solicitor’s Report - We again got another bill from Railroad Management Company in Texas. Patty referred me to a lawyer with the PUC and he stated there is no obligation to pay this. Erik advised not to pay the invoice. Mr. Kowalczyk asked the name and stated he too received a bill for his property and that the previous owner never was billed. Erik explained this is like a debt collector company and they send out letters looking for money. Erik sent them a letter months ago to address this with the PUC.

Mr. Kowalczyk also researched this.

Borough Engineer’s Report – Mr. Knick welcomed Bob back and Bob noted it is good to be back. He began updating council on the following: (1) asked to look at the new home construction near the pump station and there does not seem to be anything out of line. The access to the easement for the pump station was discussed at previous meetings. Unless there is a concern or a specific action just let all continue as is. (2) Investigated a couple storm water issues in town, one being the 500 block of Main with ponding storm water. After investigating it was determined the water goes down Coolidge, the collection is not great, the pipes are not great and the inlets are not great. Part of the reason is there were blockages in there. We found what appeared to be a tarp, some carpet. The one inlet by the gas station has a big opening on it so a lot of debris is getting in there and causing damage. We flushed it, Mike Ford, and vacuum it. The problem is there is not great access to these pipes because they are 90’s or t’s. Long term we need to look at a better solution than what is there. Hopefully we get grant money in hand. We did get it flowing water and Bob asked if anyone noticed a problem last rain. Patty did not check it. Stan said it took it. Bob stated it is working more efficiently now, but that is a temporary solution. Long term solution, we need to add a couple structures or inlets so we can get access to these pipes because we still cannot get all the debris out of there. The vactor and jet could not get through 90 degree turns. (2) Main Street inlet by PNC bank – met with Penn DOT and a few contractors. Penn DOT helped us out coning it off but that is as far as they are willing to go, saying it is borough responsibility. That pipe goes directly into the flood channel. We believe it is just the inlet but the road is undermined a little bit out into the lane. We got pricing from a multitude of contractors who were willing to go look at it quickly as follows: Wayco 44,280; RLE 44,549; Pioneer 28,098; Leeward 64,000; AR Popple 10,000. Obviously we have a price of $10,000 on the table but in comparison to the other prices is a concern. Mr. Knick stated as long as it is in writing. Bob read the email from AR Popple as follows: Time and Material Basis - $75.00/hr. equipment and $75.00/hr. manpower and slight markup 20% on materials. Bob again stated we do not know the define scope of this. The road is undermined, how far to chase the pipe for a good connection. There are a lot of moving parts to this. The quickest turnaround is time and material. AR Popple is billing hourly not to exceed $10,000. Bob estimated this job at about $12,000-$15,000. Maybe these guys are just being cautious. The problem is if you open it up and it could be 20 x 30 digging 2 feet with 8 inches of concrete. Patty asked if we received the emergency HOP from PennDOT. Stan asked Bob on his recommendation. Bob referred it to the solicitor. If it is in writing not to exceed $10,000 and they sign a contract it should be. Bob noted they were also lower on the culvert project than others also. (3) Almond Street stormwater is getting ready to be sent to DEP for permitting. Once we have feedback from DEP we will be able to put that out for bid in the next couple of months. (4) We received extensions for all the grants. The flood channel, we have the H20 grant and the other grant from DCED. We will call tomorrow to see if we can combine the grants. There is about $20,000 left. Assuming it is ok, we will get it out to bid. (5) Leeward manhole cover project should start soon. (6) AR Popple culvert project Walnut Street - they did not ask for anything specific yet, but they presented us with paperwork about an uptick in pricing for the culvert. They bid the job December 1st. Central Clay gave them a price. When they went to order it in March, after awarded the project the cost of materials went up about $6000. Im not sure they have reason to claim. The contract was in December. Then they didn’t order it from Central Clay they ordered it from Trunorth Steel out in Mondana, same culvert. They paid $13,000 to ship it, Bob briefly explained he is not sure if they are looking for anything, but he wants to bring this to council’s attention. Why they went to Montana and not Central Clay is unsure. Mr. Knick stated they are under contract, if they lose on it, its on them. Bob is just bringing to council attention and it is not council issue. They have not sent any change order request as of yet.

Solicitor Dingle asked Bob if there is a time limit on requesting change orders. Bob explained this project did not even start yet. They were waiting til after the water levels went down. They delayed ordering the materials for some reason. When doing projects you should lock in those prices. Erik commented the change order if submitted for unforeseen circumstances, which in this case the circumstance is their own negligence.

Mr. Jones addressed Bob on being approached a couple times regarding the creek shifting by Ash to Walnut. Mr. Jones asked if Kriger who is doing work in the area can do work there. Bob mentioned AR Popple is doing the culvert work. The DEP permit covers a distance of x amount of feet. If this is Ash that would be a separate permit. It would be streambank restoration project. It would be under general permit. Mr. Jones asked if we can get a cost estimate from the contractors. Bob explained you can get pricing from them. They would have to go look at it. It is not something clear on paper they would have to eyeball it. Bob suggested waiting til the contractor gets closer to starting and mentioned a meeting with the contractor on site to be coordinated with the housing project. It was noted Kriger is doing gas lines near Ash Street. Bob talked about permit wise and money wise. The grant does not cover that, but there is extra money in the culvert project and we can possible get a change order to cover that and consider that somehow. All those things are on the table.

Code Enforcement – No Report

Crime Watch Report - Bob Price noted there will be a meeting on April 27th, either at the Borough Building if opened up or if not, at the pavilion. It will be announced on the facebook page.

Council President’s Report – Trash 81.37 tons, cost to borough is $57.30 per ton; Singlestream – 0, cost to borough is $75.00 per ton. Comingle – 5.18 to, cost to borough is $25.00; and paper- 10.69 tons, no charge. Mileage: Chevy- 16,616; Mack- 3,851; Packer- 60,807, Recycler- 30,854, C3500 - 73,000 ; F550- 31,897.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AS PRESENTED:**

Motion: Mr. Jones  
Second: Mr. Karkut  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION FOR SOLICITOR AND ENGINEER TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE WITH THE SIMPSON STREET ALLEY PROPERTY LINES AND ACCESS PER REQUEST FROM NEW PROPERTY OWNER ADVISING OF ENCROACHMENT ISSUES**  Mr. Kowalczyk asked to be included in this meeting because he does have history of what went on and knows where it is supposed to be and why and where it is out of place.

Bob also talked to Erik as to are the surveys correct, and if the borough ever accepted the alley. Erik asked how many properties owners are affected. Mark stated about eight properties. Four to five are where it is out of place. The last two or three according to the surveys are where they are supposed to be. Mark feels the survey is correct according to how the buildings are. Bob it goes back to ownership of that 12 foot alley. Did the borough ever accept that right of way there maybe 80 years ago. Now that property line is over here 20 feet not what is showing. The 20 foot in the middle of ownership question. Patty stated someone brought up about abandoning the alley. Bob noted you first have to find out if you own the alley. It may need title work to see if the borough ever took the alley. It could be in someone’s deed or someone knows something. We will look into it and reach out to some of the residents. Patty asked about Mr. Phillips. Mark stated that property is still owned by Mericle. They too use that as access to their garage. Where those buildings line up makes sense there is a 12 foot alley. If you stand on Grant Street side and look down the distance, every building and fence are lined up except for a few. Everything else is in line where it is supposed to be. That is according to the surveyor for Mericle. Where he was placing his pins it lines up directly where it is supposed to be. If the buildings were not there it could be questioned. The buildings the way they are and things in place like a fence, drainage, basketball hoop and basically the roadway. Other than that all the structures are where they are supposed to be as far as distance.

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk

Second: Mr. Price

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION TO SUBMIT SITE CLEARANCE DEMOLITION PROGAM APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES:**  143 Main Street application is complete; Others contacted include 249 Lidy and 201 Lincoln. 249 Lidy declined; 201 Lincoln is completing paperwork.

Patty noted it is funds from another program from Community Development and will not affect our three year allocation from Community Development. Mr. Jones asked if it will cost the borough anything. Patty said she does have to question the asbestos inspection and removal. Bob added he believes the borough is responsible based on the previous project on Wyoming Avenue. Bob explained a little about the program. The borough is obligated to have an inspection done to determine if there was any asbestors. Mr. Knick asked the cost. Patty and Bob thought about $1000 or $1200. Patty said

It also will depend on if the funds are still available at the time the applications are submitted. We can probably submit the applications and if we find out there are costs to the borough we can pull out. Mr. Knick noted they are eyesores in town. New homes after five years will bring tax dollars.

Motion: Mr. Jones  
Second: Mr. Price  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION APPROVING GUARDRAIL QUOTE FOR GROVE STREET IN THE AREA OF REAR 139 LIDY WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN TWO PAST SAFETY INCIDENTS Amount $2105.40 from Chemung Supply Corp**

Motion: Mr. Jones  
Second: Mr. Kowalczyk  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION APPROVING THE DONATION OF DIMOND TEX TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD FOR THE 2021 SEASON. Cost $425 Marek to donate delivery.**

Motion: Mr. Jones

Second: Mr. Karkut

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF 75 YDS OF WOOD CARPET MULCH FOR THE PLAYGROUND**

**FROM GEORGE ELY ASSOCIATES AT $1995 DELIVERED.**

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk  
Second: Mr. Jones  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION APPROVING MAIN STREET INLET REPLACEMENT PROJECT INCLUDING ROAD AND SIDEWALK REPAIRS UNDER EMERGENCY HOP APPLICATION SUBMITTED THROUGH PENNDOT**

**The following quotes were received:**

**Leeward –64,000**

**Wayco –44,280**

**AR Popple –10,000**

**Pioneer –28,098**

**RLE – 44,549**

Motion by Mr. Karkut to award the project to AR Popple per proposal labor and materials $75/HR labor and $75/HR Machinery and 20% markup on materials not to exceed $10,000 total. Second by Mr. Kowalczyk. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes. Motion Carried 5/0.

Patty questioned council on funds for this project being from sewer fund or liquid fuels. From the sidewalk out liquid fuels can be used. It is a culvert project and sewer funds can be used. Liquid Fuels will require bidding and paperwork. Council agreed to use sewer funds.

**MOTION APPROVING THE DPW GARAGE FOR THE PITTSTON TOWNSHIP ELECTION SITE FOR MAY AND NOVEMBER 2021.** Patty spoke with the poll worker and there is a lot to do to prepare the building including tables and chairs, wifi, extension cords, tape, social distancing space, in and out and space if it rains for people to wait inside. Mr. Jones spoke with supervisors from Township who will help set up.

Mark stated we will move the equipment out and let them set up what they need.

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk  
Second: Mr. Karkut   
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION APPROVING THE PROPOSALS FROM GUZEK ASSOCIATES AND SUNSHINE VENTURE GROUP**

**AS PART OF THE BUILDING RENOVATIONS PROJECT**

Motion: Mr. Kowalczyk  
Second: Mr. Karkut  
Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

**MOTION TO TRANSFER $125,000 FROM SEWER FUND TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR BUILDING REMODEL PROJECT AS A LOAN TO BE REPAYED @$25,000 A YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS BEGINNING IN 2022.**  Mr. Knick also noted if funds are available to pay more per year that will be done.

Motion: Mr. Jones

Second: Mr. Karkut

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Knick, yes; Mr. Kowalczyk, yes; Mr. Karkut, yes; Mr. Price, yes; Mr. Jones, yes.

Motion Carried 5/0.

Matters from Residents:

Pina Hansen, 11 Ivy Lane – Questioned code enforcement violations at two properties 606 Main and 14 Bear Creek Road. Patty noted the officer has addressed both these properties. Chief Doran noted that citations issued are held up during magistrate office closures.

Matters from Mayor and Council:

Mayor – None

Mr. Jones – None

Mr. Kowalczyk – None Happy Spring

Mr. Price -No

Mr. Karkut - Compliment the Hose Co., and especially the Lions Club and the Bunny. The Lions gave such specialized attention. Kids happy to see the Bunny. They got such big baskets. They went out of their way to joke with everyone. A big thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Mr. Knick – Be Safe. Hopefully we have regular meetings soon.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Adopted and Approved,

Patricia McDonald Stanley Knick, Jr.

Secretary Council President