

# Courtdale Borough

## Meeting May 18, 2023

Roll- Carl Hodorowski, Pres. Jeff Ford  
Joseph Rish, Vice President Debra Youngblood  
Len Sanguedolce, Solicitor Amy Yuhas  
Michael Waslin (left @7:30) Jill Dietrick-Secretary/Treas.  
Mayor Degnan(arrived @ 7:50)

Meeting called to order at 7:00

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes Read: Joseph Rish made a motion to accept the minutes, Amy Yuhas seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report: \*Report read. Amy Yuhas made a motion to accept Debra Youngblood seconded. All in favor. Jeff Ford made a motion to pay bills, Michael Waslin seconded. All in favor.

Mayor: \*None

Public: \* Brian Morris attended the meeting looking for employment as a Police Officer in Courtdale. Brian currently works in Luzerne, but is available to work weekends and mornings. Debra Youngblood made the motion to hire, Joseph Rish seconded. All in favor. A roll call vote taken. All in favor.  
\*Lori Menzel of Center Street came to voice her concern over the issues on Academy Street (Timmy's House) Lori said, "They are selling drugs out of their house." Carl interjected saying, "how do you know that." Lori went on to say, "I see them do it" Greg Johnson said, "we searched the house and there were no drugs." Carl said you cannot make accusations like that. Amy Yuhas also mentioned a woman was held captive for 6 days at the home. The state police recommended to Lori that she go to council. Carl talked to BHW and they cannot enter the home. John Piesala said, "There is only so much we can do. Just because they have garbage bags in the garage we cannot site them. People can be hoarders and there is nothing we can do. We cannot control how people live." Amy also called the Bureau of the Aging. Len asked the police, "is it condemnable in your opinion?" The police said, "it's dirty but I don't think it condemnable." Carl said, "our hands are tied unless they catch them selling drugs." Amy pointed out that there were homeless people living in the basement. What if they are child molesters? Carl recommended rental properties disclose who is living in the home. Len will give council ideas on what other towns have done at the next meeting.

\*Mark Romanoski said, “This gentleman right here drove a motorcycle past my bus stop going 100 miles per hour and passed 7 cars out.” Carlos apologized and said it will not happen again.  
\* Joe Zambetto of 40 North Street asked why someone would be surveying land on my property. Jill presented council with several maps that were recently mailed to the borough. After reviewing Council believes it may be Nicholas who is selling property.  
\*Carlos Martinez attended the meeting to ask about turning his garage into a living space. Len said, “Council is aware that this is not a zoning issue but you will have to go through BHW. He will issue inspections for plumbing and electrical.

Committees: \*Committee (Debbie, Joe and Carl) met with Larksville Fire Dept. Larksville is looking for \$200.00 per hour, \$100 for every hour after that plus \$75 for a driver to attend Fire calls in Courtdale. There were 11 calls for 2022. Tony had 22 calls documented of Courtdale going into Larksville in 2022. Luzerne borough agreed to be called at no charge and assist Courtdale. Tony will call 911 to notify them of this change. Amy suggested a committee meeting with Luzerne. Carl said we will not be paying Larksville. Council tabled.

Old Business: \*Visual Alert Co. software can't be put back on because it is so out of date. The cost of the new updated version is \$2345.00 Debbie Youngblood made a motion to pay. Amy Yuhás seconded. All in favor.  
\*Jill will call Mark at Community Dev. to find out when the next round is coming up so Jeff can start surveys.  
\*Jill is asking committee members will met with Carol (tax collector) to discuss a procedure for getting paid in light of the recent discrepancies.

New Business: \*Carl read Jill's resignation letter. Jeff Ford made the motion to accept, Amy Yuhás seconded. All in favor. Jill will run an Ad for the job as a Part Time position, 12 hours per week at \$15.00 per hour based on experience.  
\*Park Grant signatures are needed. Carl will sign all documents and Joseph Rish will be the point of contact to replace Tom Vest. There is a 5% match on this grant. Jeff Ford made a motion to match with funds needed through the general funds, Debra Youngblood seconded. All in favor. Scott said most Boroughs hire outside companies to manage the reporting. HRG can handle this but it would have to be bid out and included in the RFP.  
\*Preconstruction paving grant was held last week. Joe and Carl met with construction co. The paving will not start until September, but should only take 4 weeks.

Amy Yuhas made a motion to donate \$300 to the Hoyt Library, Jeff Ford seconded. All in favor.

\*The Mayor would like to have a code enforcement meeting to talk about the properties in Courtdale not being maintained. Carl thinks the police are the first line. BHW only takes care of exterior work getting done. They are not able to go into homes and we can't force people to clean up their home if they are structurally sound.

\*Len got a call from an attorney in regard to 34 North Street there appears to have been Abandon land but we do not have a deed. Len believes the land may be owned by Courtdale however, we don't want it. Len is advising to do nothing and allow it to be adverse possession. Council agreed.

\*Quality Collision plans to submit an operating permit at 365 Courtdale Ave. Carl gave paperwork from DEP for Len to review.

\*Grant for 4 Speed Signs were awarded. 2 of the speed signs were already bought and paid for by the American Rescue Fund. Jill will order two more and get reimbursed for all 4.

\*Police Dept would like film installed on the windows. Fast Signs quoted \$849.27 for all 10 windows. This will stop the sun coming in. Amy would like to get other prices. Carl gave the information to Amy to get other quotes.

Joseph Rish made a motion to adjourn, Amy Yuhas seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.