

**Pennington Borough Council
Special Meeting – December 13, 2021**

Mayor Davy called the Special Meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:01 pm. The meeting was held on Zoom due to the COVID19 pandemic. Borough Clerk Betty Sterling called the roll with Council Members Chandler, Gross, Marciante, Mills and Semple in attendance. Mrs. Gnatt was absent.

Also present were Borough Administrator Eileen Heinzel, Public Works Superintendent Rick Smith, Chief Douglas Pinelli, Borough Engineer Brandon Fetzer and Borough Attorney Walter Bliss.

Mayor Davy announced that notice of this meeting has been given to the Hopewell Valley News, Trenton Times and was posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall and on the Borough web-site according to the regulations of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Open to the Public – Agenda Items Only

Mayor Davy read the following statement.

The meeting is now open to the public for comments on items on the agenda for which no public discussion is provided. In an effort to provide everyone interested an opportunity to address his or her comments to the Governing Body, a public comment time limit has been instituted for each speaker. **Please raise your hand and when the Borough Administrator acknowledges your name and address for the record. Please limit comments to the Governing Body to a maximum of 3 minutes.**

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
RESOLUTION 2021 – 12.11**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF TATIANA DOMINGO AS PROBATIONARY
POLICE OFFICER IN THE PENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pennington has a need for a qualified person to fill the position of Police Officer in the Pennington Police Department; and

WHEREAS, twenty applications were received and five candidates were interviewed via Zoom on December 8, 2021, the Zoom panel consisting of Chief of Police Douglas Pinelli, Sergeant Daryl Burroughs, Sergeant Novin Thomas, Chad Bridges and Borough Administrator Eileen Heinzel;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee met on December 9, 2021 and recommends the hiring of Tatiana Domingo; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pinelli has recommended the appointment of Ms. Domingo, contingent upon successfully passing both a medical and psychological exam;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, as follows:

1. the hiring of Tatiana Domingo as Probationary Police Officer (Class 8) in the Pennington Police Department is hereby approved, contingent upon successfully passing both the medical and psychological exam;
2. Ms. Domingo’s salary and other terms and conditions of employment shall be governed by the contract between the Borough and the Pennington Borough Police Association;
3. Ms. Domingo’s start date shall be determined by the Chief of Police.

Record of Council Vote on Passage

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Chandler	M				Marciante	S			
Gnatt				absent	Mills	X			
Gross	X				Semple				absent

Council Member Chandler made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-12.11, second by Council Member Marciante. Mr. Marciante asked if a contract could be required so that officers are required to stay for a defined period of time. Mr. Bliss stated that there is a form of contract that could be done, but it is a complex process. Chief Pinelli thought that it could be included as a condition of hire and not as part of the police contract. Mr. Davy asked what the consequences are for leaving if an agreement is in place. Mr. Bliss stated that courts are loath to support agreements that force people to remain in a job that they want to leave. Mrs. Chandler stated that she is optimistic that the new contract and salary structure will entice

officers to stay. Mayor Davy suggested that this be looked into for future hires. Upon a roll call vote all members present voted in favor.

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
RESOLUTION 2021 – 12.12**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF DANIEL TYLER D’ASCOLI AS POLICE
OFFICER IN THE PENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Pennington has a need for a qualified person to fill the position of Police Officer in the Pennington Police Department; and

WHEREAS, twenty applications were received and five candidates were interviewed via Zoom on December 8, 2021, the Zoom panel consisting of Chief of Police Douglas Pinelli, Sergeant Daryl Burroughs, Sergeant Novin Thomas, Chad Bridges and Borough Administrator Eileen Heinzl;

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee met on December 9, 2021 and recommends the hiring of Daniel Tyler D’Ascoli; and

WHEREAS, Chief Pinelli has recommended the appointment of Mr. D’Ascoli, contingent upon successfully passing both a medical and psychological exam;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, as follows:

- the hiring of Daniel Tyler D’Ascoli as Police Officer (Class 7) in the Pennington Police Department is hereby approved, contingent upon successfully passing both the medical and psychological exam;
- Mr. D’Ascoli’s salary and other terms and conditions of employment shall be governed by the contract between the Borough and the Pennington Borough Police Association;
- Mr. D’Ascoli’s start date shall be determined by the Chief of Police.

Record of Council Vote on Passage

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Chandler	S				Marciante	X			
Gnatt				absent	Mills	S			
Gross	X				Semple				absent

Council Member Mills made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-12.12, second by Council Member Chandler with all members present voting in favor.

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
RESOLUTION 2021 - 12.13**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT OF RESIDENT FOR INSURANCE
DEDUCTIBLE RELATING TO LEAKING WATER METER**

WHEREAS, David Hallgren, an owner of the residence at 120 King George Road in Pennington, experienced a substantial leak in a newly installed water meter that caused damage to furnishings and required professional mitigation provided through the Hallgren homeowners insurance carrier; ;

WHEREAS, the damage in question was covered by the Hallgren insurance policy except for a \$750 deductible charged to the Hallgrens;

WHEREAS, Borough Council resolves to make the Hallgrens whole by reimbursing them for the \$750 deductible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, that upon exchange of mutual releases relating to this incident, and without acknowledgment of fault by either party, the Borough Clerk shall cause to be issued to David Hallgren and such other persons as are insureds under the Hallgrens’ insurance policy Borough funds in a total amount not to exceed \$750.

Record of Council Vote on Passage

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Chandler	M				Marciante	X			
Gnatt				absent	Mills	X			
Gross	S				Semple				absent

Council Member Chandler made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-12.13, second by Council Member

Gross with all members present voting in favor.

**BOROUGH OF PENNINGTON
RESOLUTION 2021 – 12.14**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REIMBURSEMENT OF PENNINGTON BUSINESS
PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION FOR PART OF COST OF POLICE COVERAGE FOR THE
HOLIDAY WALK ON DECEMBER 3, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Pennington Business Professionals Association (PBPA) hosted its annual Holiday Walk on December 3, 2021;

WHEREAS, this is a community event featuring tree lighting and free refreshments and outdoor family activities in downtown Pennington;

WHEREAS, the Pennington Borough Police Department provided police coverage for the event totaling six officers, including three on-duty officers and three paid detail officers working off-duty;

WHEREAS, the PBPA has asked the Borough to cover the cost of the paid detail officers in addition to the regular duty officers;

WHEREAS, the total cost of the requested reimbursement would be \$3,025;

WHEREAS, Borough Council recognizes the importance of the Holiday Walk for the Pennington community as well as its dependence for success on private and public donations;

WHEREAS, sources of potential support for this event under the Borough’s budget total \$3,025, including \$1,200 in the budget account for “celebration of public events,” \$900 in the Library account, and \$500 in the account for the Economic Development Commission;

WHEREAS, the availability of these funds is confirmed by the Borough’s Chief Financial Officer;

WHEREAS, Borough Council seeks to authorize a partial reduction of the aforesaid charges to PBPA for paid detail police services in the amount of \$2,600, drawn from the budgetary accounts identified above, leaving a net due from PBPA for these services amounting to \$425;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by Borough Council of the Borough of Pennington, as follows:

1. The amount due from the PBPA for paid detail services in connection with the 2021 Holiday Walk shall be reduced by \$2,600 by application of funds drawn from the 2021 Borough Budget, which shall be charged respectively to “celebrations of public events” in the amount of \$1,200, the Library in the amount of \$900, and the Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$500;
2. the net invoice to the PBPA for police services in connection with the 2021 Holiday Walk shall be \$425.

Record of Council Vote on Passage

COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	COUNCILMAN	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.
Chandler	M				Marciante	S			
Gnatt				absent	Mills	X			
Gross	X				Semple				absent

Council Member Chandler made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-12.14, second by Council Member Marciante. Mrs. Chandler stated that the PBPA will be paying \$425. and the difference will be coming from the library, the Economic Development and Celebration of Public Events. There was some confusion as to the numbers which was clarified as the total cost was \$3,025 with \$2,600 coming from the Borough budget and the difference of \$425 being paid by the PBPA. Upon a roll call vote all members present voted in favor.

Public Comment Period

Mayor Davy asked anyone wishing to address Council to please raise your hand so the Borough Administrator can acknowledge you. Please state your name and address for the record. Please limit comments to the Governing Body to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Mrs. Susan Perris of 41 East Welling Avenue thanked Council for listening to her comments. Mrs. Perris stated that at the last meeting the Coopers Hawk was brought up by a resident and the Coopers Hawk is classified as a species of special concern and we need to be careful to protect this species.

At 7:23 pm with no further business to address Council Member Marcianti made a motion to adjourn, second by Council Member Mills.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sterling
Borough Clerk