

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
Westfield Municipal Building
August 8, 2023

COUNCIL PRESENT: Elizabeth Rowland, Constance Cummings, Roger Watkins, Roger McCullen, JeanAnn Tubbs, and Kristen Zaidi

COUNCIL ABSENT: Denis Landry

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Kris Kaufman, Mayor Gail Bollinger, Dan Painter, Jodi Painter, Steve Morris, Teresa Olofson, Brian Desposito, Mark Moffitt, Robin Presor, Ed Presor, and Theresa McCullen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Elizabeth Rowland. The pledge of allegiance was said, and a roll call of members present was taken. Denis Landry was absent due to illness.

Visitors

Kristopher Kaufman was present to introduce himself as the new superintendent of the Northern Tioga School District. He asked the Council if they have any suggestions going forward. Constance Cummings would like to have the school district's calendar added to the Westfield Borough website. Kristen Zaidi would like to see unhealthy options taken away and healthier options added to the school menus. She pointed out that the elementary school has the greenhouse where students could grow their own vegetables, etc.

Mr. Kaufman discussed various issues with those present and stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor/Police Chief Report

Gail Bollinger brought up that Clymer Township has been paying the full cost for EMT training, and they would like other municipalities to consider contributing toward the cost. She would like to be able to go back to the ambulance association meeting with an idea of whether the Borough will be contributing. Council members agreed to consider a \$500 contribution.

Motion was made by JeanAnn Tubbs and seconded by Kristen Zaidi to approve the purchase of a laptop and PC for the police department through the PCCD grant. Each computer is approximately \$1,900 each. Those in favor were Cummings, McCullen, Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins, and Zaidi. The motion was carried.

Minutes

Motion was made by Constance Cummings and seconded by Roger Watkins to approve the minutes of the June 13, June 27, and July 11, 2023 meetings as presented. All were in favor; the motion was carried.

Financial Report

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi and seconded by JeanAnn Tubbs to approve the financial report as presented. All were in favor the motion was carried.

New Business

- Crary Hose Co. Request

Crary Hose Company is purchasing a new dryer for their turnout gear. The cost of the dryer is \$10,325 and they are asking for any financial assistance. Mrs. Tubbs suggested getting the other municipalities in the district to contribute, and she suggested the Borough donate \$3,000 toward the purchase. Mrs. Bollinger believes the gas well money could be used for it. Mr. Watkins would like the secretary/treasurer's input before deciding so that council members have a clear idea on where the money is coming from.

Motion was made by JeanAnn Tubbs and seconded by Constance Cummings to approve contributing \$3,000 to Crary Hose Co. toward the \$10,325 cost of a new dryer for turnout gear. This motion is provided the money is available. Those in favor were Rowland, Tubbs, Watkins, Zaidi, Cummings, and McCullen. The motion was carried.

- Constance Cummings – Survey and Website

Ms. Cummings would like to send out a survey for the residents in a water and sewer billing. She provided copies for everyone with her ideas. Ms. Cummings also provided copies of several links that she would like added to the website. Mrs. Tubbs suggested mailing copies of the links with the water bills in addition to posting them on the website.

There was discussion about the June and July minutes not being posted to the website. Mrs. McCullen explained that minutes have to be approved in a meeting before they can be posted there.

- TCAB By-Laws

The Tioga County Association of Boroughs is considering amending the by-laws to change the meetings from monthly to quarterly. They are looking for each borough's approval. Council members agreed to the change.

Committees

- Administrative & Finance – nothing

- Personnel/Negotiations

Mrs. Rowland reported that another negotiations session is coming up this month.

- Planning/Fire

A draft dangerous structures ordinance has been drawn up by the solicitor, and this will be reviewed and worked on by the committee.

- Streets, Sidewalks & Buildings

Mr. Watkins reported that the grant application for the sidewalk project has been submitted, and we won't know whether it's approved until January, 2024.

He noted that the crew has been reinforcing and repairing manholes. Mrs. Rowland commented on how nice the curbs and crosswalks look since they have been painted.

A resolution is needed for PennDOT in connection with the traffic signal maintenance. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

- Utilities

Mr. McCullen brought up that Ron Schiffler from Schiffty's is in the planning stages of putting in a ten unit RV park. Originally, he was going to have five but has increased it to ten. Mr. McCullen noted that Mr. Schiffler has to go through the county for approval. He is asking to cross Borough property for his utility connections. Council members were in agreement on this but feel they should wait on any formal approval until the county grants theirs.

- Grants & Loans – nothing

Visitors – Comment Period

Jodi and Dan Painter along with Steve Morris were present regarding a new group that has been formed in town called the Westfield Initiative. It was formed to create activities in town. They have ideas for a Winter Weekend, programs for Veterans, parades, summer programs, etc. Mrs. Painter stated that they would like to “put the unity back in community”. Currently they are having a children's bingo in the park on Sunday evenings at no cost to families who participate.

Mrs. Bollinger suggested they get in touch with the fire company as there is a Christmas parade already in the works for this year. Mrs. Painter gave her phone number to everyone.

Resignation

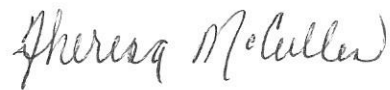
A resignation has been received by Kristen Zaidi as she is moving out of the Borough. JeanAnn Tubbs will be submitting a letter of resignation in the near future as she is also moving out of the Borough. Mrs. Rowland expressed regrets that they will be leaving the council.

Mural Update

Mrs. Zaidi gave council an update on the mural project. They are now working on the panels at the elementary school instead of the community room. It is progressing nicely.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



Theresa McCullen
Assistant Secretary