

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
Westfield Municipal Building
August 9, 2022

COUNCIL PRESENT: Roger Watkins, Elizabeth (Beth) Rowland, Denis Landry, Wayne Boka, Leland Pond, and Roger McCullen

COUNCIL ABSENT: None (one vacancy on Council)

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Theresa McCullen, Mayor Gail Bollinger, Kristen Zaidi, Laura Clarson, Robin Presor, Edward Presor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Denis Landry. The pledge of allegiance was said and a roll call of members present was taken. All Council members were present; there is currently one vacancy on Council.

Visitors – Agenda Items

Laura Clarson from the Tioga County Cat Project was present. Due to health issues Lorie Card is unable to be active with the cat project. There was discussion about having another council member act as liaison between the project and the council. Mansfield Borough has a liaison; however, the cat project group usually works on its own. Beth Rowland volunteered to be Westfield Borough Council's liaison between the council and the project.

There was discussion on the problem with cats on North St. There was also discussion that small towns typically do not have ordinances, etc. to govern cats. Ms. Clarson said that an ordinance is a possibility. There was discussion on fund raising, keeping strays separate from pets, and other issues regarding cats.

Mayor/Police Chief Report

Mrs. Bollinger did not have anything to report. However, later in the meeting Mrs. Bollinger noted that Lori Nelson is looking into the Heroes Program for the department.

Solicitor's Report

There was nothing from the solicitor.

Minutes

Motion was made by Roger McCullen and seconded by Leland Pond to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting. Those in favor were Boka, McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Watkins and Landry. The motion was carried.

Financial Report

Motion was made by Beth Rowland and seconded by Roger Watkins to approve the financial report as presented. Those in favor were McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Watkins, Boka, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Foreman's Report

There was no foreman's report this month.

Old Business

- **Sewer Project**

Shawn Downey of Larson Design Group sent Council a memo with a brief update of the sewer plant project and other projects.

- **Council Vacancy/Appointment**

Motion was made by Beth Rowland and seconded by Roger McCullen to amend the agenda to allow a vote on the resignation of Lorie Card. Those in favor were McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Watkins, Boka, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Wayne Boka and seconded by Roger Watkins to accept the resignation of Lorie Card from the Borough Council. Those in favor were Pond, Rowland, Watkins, Boka, McCullen, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Beth Rowland and seconded by Roger Watkins to appoint Kristen Zaidi to the vacant seat on the Westfield Borough Council. Those in favor were Rowland, Watkins, Boka, McCullen, and Landry. The motion was carried.

New Business

Mr. Landry brought up that there will be a Legislative Breakfast on September 1, 2022 at the Penn Wells in Wellsboro. Anyone interested should RSVP before August 20, 2022.

The Assessment Office will be doing a re-assessment in 2023, and the new tax assessment will take effect in 2024.

Mrs. Rowland would like to have the cat project on the next agenda.

Mr. Landry said he has written a letter to the commissioners regarding the drug issue.

Committee Reports

- **Administrative & Finance** – Mr. Landry did not have anything at this time.

- Personnel/Negotiations

Mrs. Rowland brought up that Douglas Jackson, a public works employee, is planning to move to Elkland Borough. His new home will be 12.3 miles away, which is over the allowance of 10 miles in the union contract. The solicitor has advised Mrs. Rowland that Council could make a special allowance for Mr. Jackson or change the limit in the union contract.

It was suggested that the contract be revised to allow for a cap of up to 15 miles away for residency requirement. Mr. McCullen suggested making an allowance for Mr. Jackson.

Motion was made by Roger Watkins and seconded by Roger McCullen to amend the agenda to allow for a vote on the Douglas Jackson residency issue. Those in favor were Watkins, Boka, McCullen, Pond, Rowland, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Beth Rowland and seconded by Wayne Boka to grant a special dispensation to Douglas Jackson to live outside of the 10 mile residency limit required in the union contract. This motion is for his move to Elkland, Pa, which is 12.3 miles away. Those in favor were Boka, McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Watkins, and Landry. The motion was carried.

- Streets, Sidewalks & Buildings

Roger Watkins brought up that the stone layer on the Route 49 bridge by Tops Markets is peeling away. It was noted that PennDOT should be notified.

The purchase of the paint striper was on the agenda for possible purchase. The cost is \$935. Mr. Watkins suggests tabling until the next meeting or when street paint becomes available again.

- Vehicle Maintenance

Mr. Pond reported that the new tires are on the police cruiser.

- Utilities

Mr. McCullen reported that the committee recently met regarding two issues. As a result of the meeting, the committee plans to meet with a business owner regarding a disputed water and sewer bill. They also plan to meet with Westfield Township regarding their unpaid debt service in connection with the sewer plant upgrade.

- Grants and Loans

Mr. Boka did not have anything at this time.

Visitors

James Streeter announced that he has called PennDOT and talked with a Mr. Ayers with regard to the condition of the Tops bridge.

Mr. Landry would like to assign to the Streets Committee funding for Main St. and Church St. There was discussion about sidewalks in the Borough. The Borough does offer the service of removing and disposing of old sidewalk blocks for residents who are installing new ones.

Robin and Edward Presor were present asking about an addition to the recovery center.

Council Appointment – Resolution

A resolution is needed in order to appoint Mrs. Zaidi to the Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-338

A RESOLUTION TO FILL A VACANCY ON COUNCIL

WHEREAS, a vacancy in the office of Council member of the Borough of Westfield, County of Tioga, Pennsylvania, has occurred due to a resignation; and

WHEREAS, Section 901 (53PS§45901) of the Borough Code provides that the borough shall fill such vacancy by resolution within thirty (30) days by appointing a registered elector of the borough (who has also resided one year continuously prior to the date of appointment) or by the Vacancy Board within 15 days after the 30 days to hold such office until the first Monday in January after the first Municipal Election occurring more than sixty (60) days after the vacancy occurs at which election and eligible person shall be elected to the office for the remainder of the term;

WHEREAS, the next Municipal Election will be held in November, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kristen Zaidi, a registered elector of the Borough of Westfield, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, is hereby appointed to the office of councilmember of the Borough of Westfield to serve until the first Monday in January following the next municipal election.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that there shall be elected at the next Municipal Election, which shall occur in November, 2023, a qualified elector of the Borough of Westfield to hold such office.

Motion was made by Roger Watkins and seconded by Roger McCullen to adopt Resolution No. 2022-338 appointing Kristen Zaidi to the Westfield Borough Council. Those in favor were McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Watkins, Boka, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Mrs. Zaidi will need to complete some paperwork in the Borough Office before being sworn in.

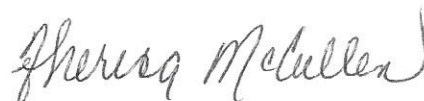
Page 5 – Regular Meeting
August 9, 2022

Executive Session

An executive session was called at 7:55 p.m. for pending litigation with no action to take place afterward.

Motion to adjourn was made by Beth Rowland and seconded by Roger McCullen. All were in favor; the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa McCullen".

Theresa McCullen
Assistant Secretary