

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
January 10, 2023  
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Denis Landry, Wayne Boka, Roger McCullen, Beth Rowland, Roger Watkins, Kristen Zaidi

COUNCIL ABSENT: Joe Pond

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Mayor Gail Bollinger, Connie Cummings, Ed & Robin Presor, Lori Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by council president Denis Landry, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of members found Joe Pond to be absent. The visitors had no comments on agenda items.

Mayor's Report

Mrs. Bollinger asked council to consider sponsoring someone to the police academy.

Minutes – unavailable. Will be tabled to the next meeting.

Finance Report

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi, seconded by Roger Watkins, to accept the financial report. Those in favor were Boka, Landry, McCullen, Rowland, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

Old Business – none

TCAB

The Tioga County Association of Boroughs meeting will be in Mansfield on January 19. Reservations are due now.

Mountain Laurel Recovery

Denis Landry reported on a meeting with Mountain Laurel Recovery held Monday. He noted there “was a lot of talk” and will see if anything changes. The stress to the emergency services in the area was discussed at the meeting. Mountain Laurel promised to handle as much of the transportation as they are able. There have been some staff changes and Mountain Laurel stated they will be more accountable. The new facility they are planning was also discussed – it will have 32-36 beds and 30 more staff. Council discussed the meeting further. Mrs. Presor questioned if the new addition would be a stress to the borough's water or sewer system. She also asked is any councilmembers planned to attend the planning commission meeting tomorrow night.

There was further discussion on who regulates the facility and the issues with emergency personnel. Roger Watkins noted his concerns with water/sewer. He also asked the status of the meeting with the township on the sewer upgrade.

### Resignations

Denis Landry reported a resignation letter has been received from Leland Pond.

Motion was made by Roger Watkins, seconded by Beth Rowland, to accept the resignation of Leland “Joe” Pond with regrets. Those in favor were Boka, Landry, McCullen, Rowland, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

One other resignation has been received, but is not effective until January 24, 2023.

Connie Cummings was present and is interested in sitting on council. She gave some background information and presented council with a resume.

Mr. Landry asked if council knew of any other candidates. Beth Rowland noted Scott and Jean Tubbs would be interested. Mr. Landry asked for a motion to appoint Ms. Cummings. This needs to be done by resolution and will be tabled to the January 24 special meeting.

### Senator Yaw

Senator Yaw will meet with Tioga County Borough Officials on February 14. More information will be forthcoming.

### Committee Reports

- Administrative Committee – nothing at this time
- Personnel Committee

It was proposed to give full-time employees quarterly bonuses of \$520.00. Mr. Landry proposed these bonuses to be on the last day of each quarter.

Motion was made by Beth Rowland, seconded by Roger Watkins, to award full-time employees a quarterly bonus of \$520.00 on the last work day of each quarter. Those in favor were Boka, Landry, Rowland and Watkins. Roger McCullen and Kristen Zaidi abstained from voting. The motion carried.

Denis Landry noted an article in the Free Press Courier about the police academy. The state is paying about half the tuition fee to attend the Act 120 Police Academy with free room and board. Council discussed offering a further scholarship to pay the remaining tuition. More discussion was held.

Motion was made by Kristen Zaidi, seconded by Wayne Boka, to grant one candidate tuition to the Mansfield University Police Academy, payable upon completion of the program with the commitment to work full-time for Westfield Borough for a minimum of 5 years. Those in favor were Boka, Landry, McCullen, Rowland, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

Mayor Bollinger suggested a stipend for the cadet while attending the academy. She also suggested a member of council, the mayor and police chief interview potential candidates. Denis Landry appointed Gail Bollinger, Chief Adams, Kristen Zaidi and himself to the selection committee.

Discussion on whether to advertise the scholarship was held as there are already several interested persons.

Motion was made by Roger Watkins, seconded by Kristen Zaidi, to advertise council's intent to provide a scholarship to the Mansfield University Police Academy. Those in favor were Boka, Landry, McCullen, Rowland, Watkins and Zaidi. The motion carried.

#### Planning/Fire Committee

Denis Landry felt a sample ordinance on registering vacant properties provided by Kristen Zaidi needs further review. Ms. Zaidi explained that the program basically states any vacant building needs to be registered. There is a registration fee, but there would be a higher penalty if not registered. The intent is to discourage people from buying properties to add to assets or holding onto buildings and to encourage selling them to make the properties useful again. It is no cost to the borough. Denis Landry would like to do more research.

The travel trailer ordinance is back from the solicitor with his changes.

#### Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings Committee

Denis Landry noted some decisions need to be made on the community room floor such as whether the floor should be stripped or to cover what is there and what type of flooring should be installed.

There was discussion on the repair to a street light pole at the corner of Main Street and Maple Street. It was leaning and a hazard. Roger Watkins reported on a dangerous electric pole on Strang Street.

#### Vehicle Maintenance Committee – nothing

Grants/Loans Committee – Wayne Boka reported the grant for the police vehicle was approved. There was discussion on the vehicle grant.

Kristen Zaidi reported that she has applied for a grant for cigarette butt receptacles through the Pennsylvania division of Keep America Beautiful. She explained the grant.

Ms. Zaidi noted she is looking for a new host for the Art Mural Grant after receiving the opinion from the solicitor. Donated funds will be sent directly to the grant administrator.

#### Utilities Committee

A memo was received from Shawn Downey with updates on the WWTP project and sewer rehab project.

A change order was received as final adjustment for Tra Electric in the amount of \$3,000 for an unused allowance for Communications Provider Fees.

For the Sewer Rehab Project, Standard Pipe Services provided an updated schedule to complete the work. They will be lining the week of January 23 and doing lateral grouting the week of January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Visitors – no comments.

Executive Session

An executive session was held December 21, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss employee bonuses.

Discussion

Kristen Zaidi asked if the flower boxes could be moved from Main Street. Roger McCullen suggested storing them at Riverside Park. There was discussion on the condition of the boxes and possibly a senior project to refurbish them.

There was a discussion on the honor roll board. The American Legion is having it refurbished, and it has been down for almost two years.

Denis Landry reported he called the union concerning the bonuses; they had no problem with them.

There was a discussion on painting hydrants.

Motion was made by Roger McCullen to adjourn the meeting.  
The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Lori Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer