

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
Westfield Municipal Building  
March 12, 2024

COUNCIL PRESENT: Constance Cummings, Roger Watkins, Roger McCullen, Holly Zengerle, and Elizabeth Rowland (Rowland participated over the telephone)

COUNCIL ABSENT: Zachary Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Edward Rodarmel, James Streeter, Nate Duffy (National Fuel), Chris Barber, Robert Zengerle, Andrew Adams, and Theresa McCullen

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Council President Roger Watkins. The pledge of allegiance was said. A roll call of members present was taken; Zachary Smith was absent and Elizabeth Rowland participated over the telephone.

**Visitors – Agenda Items**

- National Fuel

Nate Duffy from National Fuel was present to make the Borough aware of a proposed pipeline project in our area. The project will take place just outside the Borough in Westfield Township in 2026. The project has not been approved yet; however, there is 25 miles of pipeline being proposed. Mr. Duffy provided maps for everyone's perusal. This will provide work for approximately 600 to 700 workers. National Fuel is in the process of applying to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), PA DEP, and the Tioga County Conservation District.

Mr. Duffy wanted to make everyone aware that there will be a lot more activity in town once the project is underway.

- Septage Hauling

Chris Barber was present to see if the Borough will accept septic waste at the wastewater treatment plant. All Council members were in agreement to saying no to the request.

During discussion Constance Cummings reported that there are no regulations on the contents of the trucks, which she noted are highly concentrated. She said it would be very risky for the Borough to accept it especially since the plant is relatively new. She noted that the Borough has to be careful not to kill the "bugs" used to treat the wastewater. Mr. Barber said the only other option would be to sample the contents before dumping.

Council also discussed that other septage haulers are going to Galeton Borough and Elkland Borough to dump. Mr. McCullen noted that the Borough just put \$8 million into our plant, and it would be better not to disturb it. Mr. Barber said he understood and will look elsewhere.

### **Mayor/Police Chief Report**

Mayor Gail Bollinger is ill at this time, and Council wishes her well.

Police Chief Andrew Adams gave a short report to Council noting that property damage is down within the Borough due to the added coverage.

### **Solicitor Report**

There was no report from the solicitor; however, Constance Cummings said she has notes from their recent meeting with the solicitor.

We are awaiting information from the solicitor regarding a right-of-way/easement situation.

### **Minutes**

Motion was made by Holly Zengerle and seconded by Constance Cummings to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2024 meeting. Those in favor were Cummings, McCullen, Rowland, Zengerle, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

### **Financial Report**

Motion was made by Constance Cummings and seconded by Holly Zengerle to approve the financial report. Those in favor were McCullen, Rowland, Zengerle, Cummings, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

### **Old Business**

- Council Vacancy

A letter of interest has been submitted by Edward Rodarmel for the open seat on the Council.

Motion was made by Holly Zengerle and seconded by Constance Cummings to appoint Edward Rodarmel to the Westfield Borough Council. Motion also includes approving Resolution No. 2024-350. Those in favor were Rowland, Zengerle, Cummings, McCullen, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

- Schifty's RV Park Plans

The solicitor is going to write up an easement. The condition of the roadway will be addressed. Roger Watkins said he has talked with Michael Ackley regarding the easement. His easement goes back to before Fitzwaters owned the property. Mr. Ackley said he will continue to maintain the roadway.

- ATV/UTV Request

There was discussion about allowing ATV/UTV travel within the Borough. Mr. Adams said the ATV groups usually police themselves and understand that it is a privilege. It was noted that PennDOT has to approve the travel for Route 49 and Route 349 first before the Council could approve it for the Borough streets. An ordinance for the street signage will be required. Mr. Adams noted that the ATV groups not only police themselves but they would also do the signage.

There was discussion about limiting the months for ATV travel such as Memorial Day to Labor Day and possibly limiting which streets would be permitted.

More work needs to be done before Council approval.

- Roof Over SpiralTech Unit at Wastewater Treatment Plant

The work crew had requested approval to build around the pumps at the sewer plant; however, they have already built roofs over them without sides. Ms. Cummings would like to know if one or two roofs were constructed.

### **Committee Reports**

- Administrative – nothing to report

Mrs. Cummings feels the committee should meet to come up with a complaint form.

- Personnel/Negotiations

A meeting with the solicitor needs to be scheduled.

- Planning – nothing to report
- Streets, Sidewalks & Buildings

Mr. Watkins said there is no word on the sidewalk grant. There has been no movement on the building ordinance.

There is \$76,000 in the liquid fuels account; however, Mr. Watkins would rather not spend it all and leave some “seed” for next year. The committee met with Brian Haight from PennDOT and Mr. McCullen reported that the committee recommends the following:

Upper Maple Street  
18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Walnut Street

The street work was tabled until next month’s meeting.

- Vehicle Maintenance

Ms. Cummings brought up that the backhoe is up for replacement soon. Dave Nudd has been getting prices. Prices of trucks and backhoes have “skyrocketed”. Ms. Cummings has been researching the funds and feels that not enough money has been put into the vehicle funds each year. She noted that there is not enough money in the account right now for a backhoe. She did an analysis of the funds and suggested raising the water rate \$1.00 and the sewer rate \$1.00 for just one year to raise the money needed to afford the vehicles.

Mr. Nudd has been pricing out a backhoe with a different bucket and hook, and there is a \$15,000 difference with these options.

Council members agreed to keep the current backhoe until 2026.

- Utilities

There was a discussion about extending the sewer line on Stone Quarry Road to the Borough/Township line. It would be an extension of approximately 30-40 feet and a cleanout would be installed at the end of the line for future maintenance. Mr. McCullen estimates the work should take one day.

Motion was made by Holly Zengerle and seconded by Constance Cummings to approve extending the Borough’s sewer line on Stone Quarry Road to the Township/Borough line. Work is to be done by the Borough crew and a cleanout is to be installed at the end of the line. Those in favor were Zengerle, Cummings, McCullen, Rowland, and Watkins. The motion was carried.

- Grants & Loans – nothing to report


**Visitors – comment period**

The visitors were addressed. Robert Zengerle said he would like to see Council approve the ATV/UTV travel within the Borough.

Ms. Cummings referred to memos she has received from Lori Nelson regarding the bond amounts and also code enforcement information.

Motion to adjourn was made by Roger McCullen and seconded by Holly Zengerle. All were in favor; motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
Theresa McCullen, Assistant Secretary