

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
May 10, 2022
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Lorie Card, Denis Landry, Roger McCullen, Leland Pond, Elizabeth Rowland, and Wayne Boka.

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Shawn Downey, Mayor Gail Bollinger, Andrew Adams, Theresa McCullen, and D. Renee Verbjar

Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Denis Landry. The pledge of allegiance was said, and a roll call of members present was taken. Everyone was present. There is one vacancy on the Council.

Visitors – Agenda Items

Shawn Downey of Larson Design Group gave an update on the wastewater treatment plant project, which is nearing completion. The new plant is in operation, and the substantial completion date is June 30, 2022.

Mr. Downey briefed Council on the sewer rehabilitation project. Standard Pipe Services was awarded the \$80,000 project. This includes lining sewer lines and manholes and installation of one manhole. It also includes reinstatement of ten sewer laterals.

Spot repairs will be done by Borough personnel at an approximate cost of \$32,000. The engineering fees are taken care of at this point, and there will be no further charges.

Between having the Borough staff perform the spot repairs and several other savings within the project, there is \$100,000 left to add to the project.

At the wastewater treatment plant the fencing and gravel driveway is done. Most of the water line is done. There was a small holdup waiting for the proper size fitting as the water line was not the size the crew thought. There has been a delay in shipment of a main component for the SCADA system.

- Applications for Payment

Motion was made by Roger McCullen and seconded by Beth Rowland to approve Lobar's Application for Payment No. 21 in the amount of \$35,650.00 and Tra Electric's Application for Payment No. 20 in the amount of \$3,040.00. Those in favor were Boka, Card, McCullen, Pond, Rowland, and Landry. The motion was carried.

- Materials for Spot Repairs

Motion was made by Lorie Card and seconded by Roger McCullen to approve the proposal from L/B Water Service in the amount of \$4,521.54 for the sewer line spot repair project. Those in favor were Card, McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Boka, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Mayor/Police Chief Report

Andrew Adams reported that things are moving along. He has changed many log ins and passwords within the department so Mr. Niles no longer has access. Mr. Adams has the support of other law enforcement agencies so that he is not alone in learning the reports, law enforcement programs, etc.

Ms. Card has some ideas for the Council to assist the department with the drug problem in town including problems at the recovery center, the Manor and the low income housing. She feels the department needs some reinforcement from the Council.

It was noted that Tioga County does not currently have a drug task force, and the DA is all law enforcement has at this time. Ms. Card would like to understand how everything works.

Solicitor

There was no report from the solicitor at this time. Lorie Card has been making some calls, and she has found a solicitor in Williamsport, Michael Wiley, who is currently solicitor for townships and boroughs and does labor negotiations. Mrs. Bollinger questioned if he is strictly a labor lawyer, and Ms. Card explained that he does townships and boroughs as well as contract negotiations. His rate is based on the situation but typically runs \$155/hr. Mrs. Bollinger suggested Ms. Card talk with Lori Nelson as she uses the solicitor as much as anyone. Ms. Card commented that the Borough needs better than what we've had in the past.

Mr. Landry said he is in no hurry to change solicitors at this time, but he would like to hear from Mr. Wiley before negotiations begin. Mr. McCullen would like to see a cost comparison.

Minutes

Motion was made by Roger McCullen and seconded by Leland Pond to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2022 and April 26, 2022 meetings as presented. Those in favor were McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Boka, Card, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Financial Report

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

New Business

- Memorial Day Parade

Motion was made by Lorie Card and seconded by Roger McCullen to approve a Memorial Day Parade being planned for May 30, 2022 in the Borough. Those in favor were Rowland, Boka, Card, McCullen, Pond, and Landry. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports

- Personnel Committee

Motion was made by Elizabeth Rowland and seconded by Wayne Boka to appoint Andrew Adams as Police Chief for Westfield Borough retroactive to April 26, 2022. Adams salary will be the same as Dale Niles's. Those in favor were Boka, Card, McCullen, Pond, Rowland and Landry. The motion was carried.

Council members and the Mayor congratulated Mr. Adams on his appointment.

There was discussion on a burned trailer on Stevenson St. Mr. Adams has filed a citation. Mrs. Rowland brought up that there are numerous small children riding ATVs on High St. to Stevenson St. Ext. She also pointed out that there are pickup trucks traveling at a high rate of speed on High St., and she is concerned for the childrens' safety. Mr. Adams requested that activities like this should be brought to an officer's attention *while it is happening* and not in a Council meeting.

There was discussion about ATV travel within the Borough. Council members have mixed feelings on this subject. Mrs. Bollinger brought up that the proposed ATV program within the Borough has been dropped because a neighboring municipality did not wish to participate. Mr. Adams explained that ATV riders must register their machines with DCNR, their machines must be insured, and they must wear safety equipment while riding. They cannot ride on State roads.

- Streets, Sidewalks & Buildings Committee

Gail Bollinger brought up that the brochures are out for the veterans' flags.

- Vehicle Maintenance Committee

Two bids were received for the 2012 GMC dump truck.

Mike Veneziano Bellefonte, PA	\$ 7,105.00
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Raymond Leary Swoyersville, PA	\$20,050.00 (through Munici-Bid)
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Motion was made by Wayne Boka and seconded by Roger McCullen to accept the high bid of Raymond Leary of \$20,050 for the 2012 GMC dump truck. Those in favor were Card, McCullen, Pond, Rowland, Boka, and Landry. The motion was carried.

- Utilities Committee

We are awaiting proposals from hydrogeologists in connection with the application to the SRBC. This can be postponed until the May 24, 2022 meeting.

- Grants & Loans

Mr. Boka has been looking into the tree grant program, however, it is closed now. He noted that the municipality is responsible for plantings in public spaces (replacement or a new green area).

- Planning Committee

Andrew Adams brought up the need for a stricter burning ordinance. He referred to Galeton Borough's burning ordinance which is no burning. Mrs. Bollinger questioned if they have leaf pickup and noted that many residents prefer to burn leaves.

Visitors – Comment Period

The visitors were addressed.

Council Vacancy

Mr. Landry asked Council if they wish to advertise for a new council member. Mrs. Bollinger pointed out that there is a 30-day window for Council to make an appointment.

Lorie Card nominated Renee Verbjar. Mrs. Bollinger said she has checked, and Ms. Verbjar is not a registered voter in Westfield Borough. There was a discussion about Mrs. Verbjar's residency and voter registration. She has been working on this for some time.

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Anyone interested in the Council seat must be a resident of Westfield Borough for a period of one year and must be a registered voter in the Borough.

Beth Rowland brought up that Roger Watkins is interested. Council members agreed to table this until the May 24, 2022 meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theresa McCullen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'M'.

Theresa McCullen
Assistant Secretary