

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
For General Business Purposes
July 28, 2020
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Gail Bollinger, Denis Landry, Roger McCullen, Leland Pond, Shaunta Vahey, Roxann Weidman

COUNCIL ABSENT: Ed Rodarmel

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Beth Rowland, Sgt. Andrew Adams, Chief Dale Niles, Kelley Niles, Douglas Jackson, Doug Rowland, Terry & Paula Dunham, James Streeter, Lorie Card, Terry Wells, Jonni Behm, Colleen Ward, Geff Sweet, Laurie Lockett, Joan Weidman, Tom Freeman, Lori Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by council president Bollinger. The Pledge of Allegiance was given. A roll call of members found Ed Rodarmel to be absent. The floor was opened for public comments on agenda items.

Tom Freeman was present representing Blue Ridge Cable. He spoke on the franchise agreement and introduced the company. It will be a fiberoptic system to the home. He gave a history of the company and how they came to Westfield, noting that Westfield Community Antenna Association decided to go out and chose Blue Ridge to come in. Blue Ridge is asking for a franchise agreement to operate in the streets and rights of way of Westfield Borough. There was a question on what packages and options Blue Ridge would offer.

Mayor/Chief Report

Mayor Rowland gave an update on the bill in the state senate that would allow fracking waste water to be dumped on secondary roads. The bill is in a moratorium and there will be no action for a year.

Minutes

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Leland Pond, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting as presented. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Denis Landry questioned the bill for building permit inspections and noted the borough is also paying someone to oversee the upgrade project. Further discussion was held. Mr. Landry objects because the permit fees are paid upfront when the work will not be done for a year. He asked when it was submitted and why there was a delay in getting the permit. Denis Landry noted that he would like to keep all expenses together, so the bill for the building permit will be submitted for PennVest funding.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Roxann Weidman, to approve the financial report. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Old Business

- Crary Hose Request

Gail Bollinger reported on the fire company's request for funds for a QRS truck. She has met with Brookfield Township, and they will give \$10,000 toward the truck. Mrs. Bollinger recommended giving \$10,000 from the special project fund. Westfield Township said they would give what the others do.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to give \$10,000 to Crary Hose Company for the purchase of a QRS truck. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

- Tracking Device

Denis Landry brought up a tracking device for the police car that was discussed several months ago.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Roger McCullen, to purchase a tracking device for the police vehicle to enable the mayor to know where and when it is at all times. Those in favor were Landry, McCullen, Weidman and Pond. Those voting no were Bollinger and Vahey. The motion carried.

During discussion of the motion Mrs. Bollinger noted they did not feel it was fair to get a tracking device for one department and not the other. Mayor Rowland felt we should buy for all vehicles.

Blue Ridge Cable Franchise

Denis Landry asked a question about the non-exclusive section of the franchise agreement. Mr. Freeman noted that another qualified company could be granted a franchise.

Mr. Landry also asked what happened to the shares in the WCAA. Mrs. Bollinger answered that all funds have been used and the old equipment still needs to be taken down.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Roxann Weidman, to accept the franchise agreement with Blue Ridge Cable. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Committees

- Personnel

Gail Bollinger reported that employee David Nudd is injured and will be off work for four months. Mrs. Bollinger explained that Doug Jackson has been here two years and is still at the Laborer 1 rate; she suggested he be moved up to Laborer 2. He will have more responsibilities while Mr. Nudd is off.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Denis Landry, to move Douglas Jackson from Laborer 1 to Laborer 2. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

There was discussion on wage rates and the possible need to hire a part-time temporary worker while Mr. Nudd is off. This topic will be discussed at the August meeting.

- Planning/Fire Committee

Bids were received for the Mill Street house clean up. Geff Sweet approached council about the property; he has been working hard on the clean up. He stated it needs to be completed to settle the estate. Mr. Sweet gave a background of the issues with the property. Mr. Landry asked for a time line on completion, and Mr. Sweet stated his goal is October. Council felt it has been long enough.

Quotes were obtained for the cleanup of the property:

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|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Chad Smeltz | \$4,500 |
| 2. Ackley Construction | \$4,710 |

Motion was made to hire Chad Smeltz to clean up the property and fill the foundation at 213 Mill Street for a cost of \$4,500. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Mrs. Bollinger noted that the Duley/Hoyle funds could be used and then repaid once the lien is satisfied.

Quotes were obtained for garbage clean up on a property on Church Street. Only one responded, Terry Dunham with a price of \$1,550.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to hire Terry Dunham to clean up the grounds at 318 Church Street for a cost of \$1,550. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Roxann Weidman questioned what the clean up entails; it is to clean the grounds and cut the grass.

Streetwork

Roger reported on the paving bids that were received for Stone Quarry Road and the parking lot; they were opened by the committee on July 14. The bids were:

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| 1. Big Rock Paving, Lewisberry, PA | \$43,883.00 |
| 2. Nelson & Streeter Construction Co., Pine City, NY | \$49,717.00 |
| 3. G. O. Hawbaker, Inc., Turtlepoint, PA | \$45,270.00 |

Motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Roxann Weidman, to award the bid for 2020 streetwork to Big Rock Paving in the amount of \$43,883.00. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Roxann Weidman asked about the status of garbage at a residence on Main Street. Beth Rowland asked about a garbage situation on Maple Street.

Visitors

Lorie Card reported on a clean up on East Main Street. She called DEP as it did not seem the borough was making progress. He was cited, and it is to be cleaned up. She also has been working with DEP on a burning complaint at the beer store. They are trying to encourage recycling rather than burning.

Ms. Card asked about updating town ordinances and if there are any plans to do so. She plans to look at this. She is also looking at grants to try to clean up Main Street. She hopes to have a list for the next meeting.

Ms. Card also had several items regarding the police department. She would like to see a link to sex offenders' registry for this area on the police page. For calls to the police she asked if there is an option to remain anonymous. This may make people more willing to report crime. She would like the police to make more money, and she will have ideas for this. Also to improve community relations. She felt the police have been "pretty good" with animals lately. She discussed animals and the heat. There is an animal training for law enforcement available, and she would like to see the police take this training. There is no longer a humane officer in the area.

Utilities Committee

Denis Landry asked about contracts on the sewer plant project dealing with deadlines. He is concerned about meeting DEP deadlines and asked if the contract documents could be amended to meet all time lines. Mr. Landry would like to push the contractor to get the work started; a lot of time has been lost already.

Vehicle Maintenance Committee

Mr. Pond reported he observed the tires need to be replaced on the police vehicle. Chief Niles reported he is making arrangements to have them replaced.

Visitors

Jonni Behm asked if there is an ordinance against fireworks in the borough. There is no borough ordinance so this falls under state regulations. Further discussion on fireworks was held.

Ms. Behm commended James Streeter on the maintenance of Krusen Cemetery. It looks better than she has ever seen it.

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Lori Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer