

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
May 12, 2020
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Gail Bollinger, Denis Landry, Roger McCullen, Leland (Joe) Pond, Edward Rodarmel, Roxann Weidman, Shaunta Vahey

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Josh Magnotta, Lori Nelson, Mayor Beth Rowland

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by council president Bollinger. A roll call of members found all to be present. The visitors were addressed.

Visitors

James Streeter approached council about the maintenance of Krusen Cemetery. He does not feel the taxpayers should be responsible for this.

Roxann Weidman reported for the library board. They are trying to open, but have not received their official letter yet. They are working on it.

Mayor/Chief Report

Mayor Rowland reported on a request from Bernita Douglass for the borough to take over maintenance of Krusen Cemetery. The cemetery association has \$5,000 and a mower they would turn over to the borough if they decide to mow it.

Minutes

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman, seconded by Leland Pond, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 and April 1, 2020 minutes as presented. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Weidman and Vahey. The motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Clean Up Day

Clean up day has been changed to June 13.

Gail Bollinger reported that recycling seems to be going smoothly at the sewer plant. It is open two days a week for two hours and one Saturday a month.

Notice to Proceed

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Roger McCullen, to issue a Notice of Proceed to Lobar Inc. and Tra Electric for the WWTP upgrade project. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Weidman and Vahey. The motion carried.

Mill Street

Gail Bollinger discussed the need to clean up a Mill Street property that burned several years ago. She suggested the borough have it cleaned up and place a lien on the property. Quotes will be obtained for the cleanup before deciding.

Memorial Day Parade

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Ed Rodarmel, to allow the Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Krusen Cemetery

There was discussion on taking over the maintenance of Krusen Cemetery. Mrs. Rowland stated there are three members left in the cemetery association and they are no longer able to take care of it. Mrs. Bollinger felt it would only have to be mowed a couple times a year. James Streeter would like the borough to ask the solicitor if it is legal. Further discussion was held.

Motion was made by Ed Rodarmel, seconded by Roxann Weidman, to mow the Krusen Cemetery for Memorial Day. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

During discussion of the motion, Mr. Landry stated he would like some kind of fee, such as \$100. Mr. McCullen noted he has concerns about how much time it may take to mow the cemetery. Mr. Streeter did not think boroughs could legally maintain cemeteries.

Resolution to Extend Face Amount of Taxes

Gail Bollinger explained that the county commissioners are proposing to extend the face amount for real estate taxes to December 31 to assist those affected by the COVID-19 regulations. She did not feel the borough would lose a lot by doing this.

RESOLUTION NO. 320 – 2020

A RESOLUTION BY WESTFIELD BOROUGH, TIoga COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA EXTENDING 2020 COUNTY/MUNICIPAL REAL ESTATE TAX BILL FACE PERIOD.

WHEREAS, Act 15 of 2020, §5711 provides temporary authority to a taxing district to deal with the taxation of all real property made taxable by the laws of this Commonwealth during the COVID-19 disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, Act 15 of 2020 §5713 (b) a taxing district may, by majority vote of the taxing district's governing body, (2) waive any fee or penalty otherwise associated with the late payment of the tax if paid in full by December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the taxing district's governing body has voted in favor of waiving any fee or penalty otherwise associated with the late payment of the tax if paid in full by December 31, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and it is HEREBY RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Westfield waive any fee or penalty otherwise associated with the late payment of the tax if paid in full by December 31, 2020.

This resolution shall take effect June 30, 2020

DULY ORDERED AND ENACTED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Westfield, Tioga County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in lawful session duly assembled the 12th day of May 2020.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded Shaunta Vahey, to adopt Resolution No. 320-2020 extending the face amount for real estate taxes to December 31, 2020. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Administrative/Finance Committee

Gail Bollinger asked council to think about how much money to give Crary Hose Co. toward the emergency vehicle. She noted there are funds in the Special Project Fund, but suggested waiting to see how much they receive in grant funds before setting a specific amount.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Bollinger stated the Teamsters has notified the committee they are ready to negotiate the DPW contract. She has contacted them to set up dates but has not heard back yet.

Mrs. Bollinger noted the police officers provide their own sidearm. The police chief has asked to use some of his uniform allowance for the purchase of a small pistol. The handgun would be registered to him and go with him when he left. She asked council's opinion. Mr. Rodarmel commented the original intent of the allowance was probably for uniforms and this would be a personal benefit for the officer; he felt it would be wise to use the funds as originally designated. Some discussion was held.

Planning/Fire Committee

Mrs. Vahey reported on a complaint on a house on Church Street. She will meet with the committee and the solicitor will be consulted.

Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings Committee

- Riverside Park

Two quotes have been received for the construction of the pavilion at Riverside Park:

1. Scooter's Construction \$15,650
2. Old Timers Wood Working \$10,000 (not to exceed)

Roger McCullen reported for the committee that they recommend awarding the project to Kevin Hurler (Old Timers Wood Working).

Motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Joe Pond, to hire Kevin Hurler, Old Timers Wood Working, to build the pavilion at Riverside Park for a price not to exceed \$10,000. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

- Streetwork

The committee will look at the streets this month. Roger McCullen noted that Stone Quarry Road needs work.

Vehicle Maintenance Committee

Leland Pond reported on the bids for the sale of the 2008 dump truck bids.

- 2008 Dump truck bids

The following bids were received for the 2008 Ford F350 dump truck:

1. Municibid – Jonah Smith \$11,600
2. Fred Marzzacco \$ 5,100
3. Roger Koski \$ 2,873

Motion was made by Leland Pond, seconded by Ed Rodarmel, to accept the high bid of \$11,600.00 from Jonah Smith through Municibid for the 2008 Ford F-350 dump truck. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Utilities Committee

Denis Landry reported the closing on the PennVest loan for \$5.8 million was held April 21. The township has agreed to the rate increase. A meeting needs to be set up with the township. Mr. Landry asked for a volunteer from the utilities committee to meet with Westfield Township. Roger McCullen volunteered. Gail Bollinger asked to be notified of the meeting so her committee can meet with them concerning the police services contract.

The memo from Shawn Downey with Larson Design Group was reviewed. Discussion on the H2O grant deadlines and eligibility was held as the approval dates were changed due to the quarantine status.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Roger McCullen to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Lori Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer