

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
November 10, 2020  
Westfield Municipal Building

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Ed Rodarmel (arrived 7:35 p.m.)

OTHERS PRESENT: Shawn Downey (LDG), Chief Dale Niles, James Streeter, Lorie Card, Kelly Stemcoski, Tammy Baker, 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; he arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Executive Sessions

Gail Bollinger announced that executive sessions for personnel were held on October 19, 2020 and October 26, 2020.

Larson Design Group

Shawn Downey, LDG, gave updates on the Route 349 project and the CDBG grant application. PA DOT has notified the office that the Route 349 project is no longer a total reconstruction but a mill and pave project. The CDBG application has been submitted for Project 1 in the buried asset plan and could possibly have the Church Street work added in a subsequent application.

As far as the COA, an updated schedule was been received from Lobar at the project update meeting and is under review by LDG. If everyone is comfortable with the time line it will be submitted to PA DEP. The current milestone for substantial completion is March 2021, so any request must be submitted before that deadline. Project updates from Lobar and Tra Electric were given. A change order for the Penelec and asbestos delays has been drafted and is being reviewed by the solicitor. This should be ready for the next meeting.

A request for payment from Lobar Inc. has been submitted. Denis Landry noted that this bill includes over \$100,000 in engineering fees, but Shawn Downey has explained this to him and Mr. Landry is okay it.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Leland Pond, to approve Application for Payment #3 from Lobar Inc. in the amount of \$222,641.05. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Shawn Downey informed council of the USDA Community Facilities Grant Program. It can be used for any community facilities, sewer lines, police vehicles, generators as well as other items. It will cover 65% of the project cost up to \$50,000. He noted you can apply once a year.

Minutes

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020 as presented. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey, and Weidman. The motion carried.

#### Financial Report

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

#### Old Business

- Pallet Forks.

Gail Bollinger reported that pallet forks are needed for the skidster to move chemicals and the backhoe will not fit in the new building. She noted they can be purchased now or be put in next year's budget.

Motion was made by Leland Pond, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to purchase pallet forks for the skidster. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. Mr. McCullen voted no. The motion carried.

#### 2021 Proposed Budget

Denis Landry felt there was enough money in this year's budget to purchase a lawn mower, and possibly the weed eater.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to purchase a lawn mower this year and remove it from the 2021 proposed budget. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Gail Bollinger reported that three computers are needed. One was budgeted for this year. Denis Landry felt the police still had money in their budget for this purchase. Mrs. Bollinger would like all of them to have the camera for Zoom meetings.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to purchase two computers in 2020. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Mrs. Bollinger reported the truck and backhoe replacement is behind schedule. Gail Bollinger reported that David Nudd would rather replace the truck in 2021 and wait on the backhoe.

There was discussion on the speed sign. Mr. Landry asked if it is needed and suggested looking for a used one. There was discussion on the effectiveness of the signs. The purchase will be left in the budget. Lori Nelson and Dale Niles researched it and found one for \$2500.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to accept the proposed sewer rates and advertise the rates. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Leland Pond, to advertise the 2021 proposed budget for review. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

There will be no real estate tax increase for 2021 so the rate can be adopted by resolution.

#### Training

The foreman will be back to work next week.

Motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Leland Pond, to allow David Nudd and Donald Wescott to attend an on line class November 18, 2020 on Activated Sludge. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

#### Administrative & Finance Committee

Gail Bollinger reported on direct deposit for the employees. The bank charge will be approximately \$44 per month.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Leland Pond, to move to direct deposit for employee paychecks. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

CDBG Update: Lori Nelson gave an update on the CDBG grant application. The income survey was completed in time, with 61% found to be low-moderate income households. It needed to be over 50%. The application is for \$250,000 toward sewer line replacement in the buried asset management plan Project #1. We hope to apply again next year for a total of \$400,000 so that Church Street sewer lines can also be done.

#### Personnel Committee

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Denis Landry, to settle the police grievance and refund the money. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. Roger McCullen voted no. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Ed Rodarmel, seconded by Denis Landry, to approve a payment to the Department of Public Works and Lori Nelson who were employed from January 1, 2018 through October 4, 2018 in an amount equal to that being received by the employees of the Westfield Borough Police Department to settle the Grievance that was filed on or around February 1, 2019. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. Mr. McCullen abstained from voting. The motion carried.

Planning Committee – nothing.

Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings Committee – nothing.

Vehicle Maintenance Committee – nothing

#### Insurance Committee

A quote from Gannon Associates for the 2021 insurance package was received. It is down \$344 from last year.

Motion was made by Roger McCullen, seconded by Ed Rodarmel, to accept the insurance proposal from Gannon Associates. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Rodarmel, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

#### Visitors

James Streeter asked council why the beauty shop people were told the borough could not enforce the building code on the Baker building. Shaunta Vahey explained that she spoke to Erb Inspections about the property. Mr. Streeter mentioned the soffit board is loose on the Baker Building. The DPW will look at the soffit to see if they can repair it. Further discussion was held.

Tammy Baker asked why there are no ordinances for buildings that are falling down. There was discussion on the conditions of buildings in town. Mrs. Baker also noted there are houses with garbage on porches and on properties.

Lorie Card noted there is a drug problem in town, a heated discussion followed. She says there are grants out there to clean up the town. Extensive discussion was held.

Ms. Card had a letter she sent to the mayor on September 8 and asked if council has seen this letter. Council had not seen the letter, so she read it. It pertained to Chief Niles. She stated she is contacting the Board of Ethics on the issue. Ms. Card elaborated on the drug problem and other issues.

Utilities Committee – nothing.

#### Executive Session

An executive session for personnel negotiations will be held following adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Lori Nelson  
Secretary/Treasurer