

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
October 13, 2020
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Leland Pond, RoxAnn Weidman, Roger McCullen, Denis Landry, Gail Bollinger and Edward Rodarmel

COUNCIL ABSENT: Shaunta Vahey

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth Rowland, James Streeter, Dale Niles, Victoria Magnotta, Ed and Robin Presor, Shawn Downey of Larson Design Group, Tammy Baker, Mike Baker and Theresa McCullen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Gail Bollinger. Mrs. Bollinger called for a moment of silence in memory of former Borough employee Clyde Bailey who passed away recently. The pledge of allegiance was said. A roll call of members present was taken and found Shaunta Vahey to be absent.

Visitors – Agenda Items

Shawn Downey of Larson Design Group was present to give updates on upcoming projects. The State Route 349 project has been changed from a full-depth reconstruction project to a mill and overlay. There will be no conflicts with PennDOT's work and Borough utilities. The Borough is pursuing CDBG funding for sewer line rehabilitation on SR 349.

Change Order #1

Some delays have been experienced with the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The work crew encountered some asbestos piping that had to be removed by an asbestos removal contractor. This was not foreseen by the engineering firm or the Borough, and it has caused a three week delay in construction. The cost to remove it is \$4,984.55. A change order needs to be approved for a time extension due to the asbestos removal and the Penelec delay.

Motion was made by RoxAnn Weidman and seconded by Edward Rodarmel to approve Change Order #1 increasing the contract price by \$4,984.55. Those in favor were Landry, Pond, Rodarmel, McCullen, Weidman and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

Emergency Generator

It was explained that a temporary generator is needed as the current generator cannot be plugged into the new electric that was installed. There are three options:

1. Rent a generator
2. Wire the existing generator into the existing motor control center.
3. Relocate existing transfer switch plug.

Tra Electric has given a price of \$2,795.00 to relocate the existing transfer switch plug. A local electrician quoted \$4,420.80.

Roger McCullen pointed out that it is often difficult to get a generator in an emergency especially if the power outage is widespread. He is recommending accepting Tra Electric's quote to relocate the existing transfer switch plug.

Motion was made by Denis Landry and seconded by Roger McCullen to accept the proposal from Tra Electric in the amount of \$2,795.00 to relocate the existing Manual Transfer Switch and generator receptacle at the wastewater treatment plant. Those in favor were Pond, Rodarmel, McCullen, Weidman, Landry and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

There was a discussion about the delays in the project which has put it behind schedule and the need for a 90 day time extension. There was a holdup of three months with Penelec in relocating a pole, and it took three weeks for the asbestos pipe removal. Mr. Landry feels some work could have continued in spite of the delays. However, Mr. Downey said that the headworks structure has to be constructed first before anything else. He reported that the crew did get some other site utility work done, and they did as much as they could do.

Mr. Downey outlined the applications for payment. Mr. Landry had questions on differences in the figures.

Motion was made by Denis Landry and seconded by Roger McCullen to approve applications for payment:

Lobar – Application for Payment No. 2 - \$112,117.91

Tra – Application for Payment No. 2 - \$24,494.03

Elcon – Application for Payment No. 2 - \$33,007.50 (contingent on confirmation of delivery)

Those in favor were Rodarmel, McCullen, Weidman, Landry, Pond and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

Police Chief/Mayor Report

DRE Training

Dale Niles is requesting to attend a training to be held November 17 – 19, 2020 at Seven Springs Resort. Mr. Niles is required to attend a number of trainings to recertify his DRE (drug recognition expert) status. The estimated cost is \$750 and Mr. Niles pointed out that there is \$2,000 left in the budget. Mr. Niles gave an account on how beneficial his certification is to the department and the county.

Mr. Rodarmel asked how this training would benefit the other officers in the department and requested that Mr. Niles pass on the training to the other officers.

Motion was made by Ed Rodarmel and seconded by Leland Pond to approve the DRE training for Dale Niles to be held at Seven Springs Resort November 17 – 19, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$750. Those in favor were Rodarmel and Bollinger. Those voting no were Pond, Landry, McCullen and Weidman. The motion was not carried.

There was discussion during the motion about how much time would be spent outside of the Borough and how the Borough is reimbursed. Mr. Niles's time is submitted to the State and the Borough is reimbursed. It operates very similar to the DUI task force, which the Borough has been involved with for many years.

Mr. Niles said he would attend the training on his "off-duty" time. He emphasized that he will lose his certification if he does not attend and questioned why Council said no if the money is there.

Mr. Niles also pointed out that there are other trainings involved besides DRE that would be beneficial to the department.

Solicitor's Report

There was no report at this time from the solicitor.

Minutes

Motion was made by RoxAnn Weidman and seconded by Roger McCullen to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 council meeting. Those in favor were Weidman, Pond, Landry, McCullen, Rodarmel and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

Reconsider Training

Motion was made by Ed Rodarmel and seconded by RoxAnn Weidman to reconsider the vote on Dale Niles's DRE training request in executive session. Those in favor were Pond, McCullen, Rodarmel, Weidman and Bollinger. Landry voted no. The motion was carried.

Ambulance Association

A letter has been received from Clymer Township regarding training for EMTs. They are requesting that each municipality in their district contribute 1/6 of the cost of training one EMT. The cost of training is \$346/student.

Motion was made by Ed Rodarmel and seconded by Roger McCullen to approve payment of 1/6 of the cost of training one EMT as described. Those in favor were McCullen, Rodarmel, Weidman, Landry, Pond and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

TCAB

Mrs. Bollinger announced that there have not been any Tioga County Association of Boroughs meetings since March, 2020 due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The PSAB conference is being planned for next October.

Committee Reports

Administrative Committee

Mrs. Bollinger said Council will talk about the budget at the next meeting and either approve it at that meeting or in December. Figures have been worked up for raising sewer rates.

Planning/Fire Committee

The 2021 fire protection agreement has been submitted by Crary Hose Company. Mrs. Bollinger noted that there is a very small increase from last year's agreement amounting to about \$100.

Motion was made by RoxAnn Weidman and seconded by Denis Landry to approve the 2021 fire protection agreement with Crary Hose Company. Those in favor were Rodarmel, Weidman, Landry, McCullen, Pond and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

Vehicle Maintenance Committee

There has been a request to purchase pallet forks for the Skidsteer in the amount of \$550. Mr. McCullen asked why we need two sets because the backhoe has forks and could be used in the same manner. This was tabled until more information is available.

Insurance Committee

Quotes are available in November, and the committee needs to meet soon.

Utilities Committee

Everything was taken care of at the beginning of the meeting.

Visitors – Comment Period

Bakers

Mike and Tammy Baker were present regarding the status of the Baker building adjacent to their hair salon. Mrs. Bollinger reported for Shaunta Vahey. Mrs. Vahey has been making phone calls to various agencies including Representative Clint Owlett. What she is finding is that Mr. and Mrs. Baker should file a civil suit against the property owner. Mrs. Bollinger suggested getting in touch with Mrs. Vahey for more details.

James Streeter

James Streeter asked if the Council is going to consider the Hummel suit. Mr. Streeter is saying that the property was never blocked to begin with. He is requesting that the Council discontinue this complaint. Mr. Rodarmel asked Mr. Streeter how emergency vehicles would have access when that area is blocked with a tow truck. Mr. Streeter feels the suit is unjust and that the Hummels have not blocked anyone.

Mr. Streeter asked the status of the debris clean up at 213 Mill St. Mrs. Bollinger reported that it was awarded to a local contractor; however, it has not been done yet. There was no stated time to have it completed by.

Mr. Streeter is urging the Council to approve the training for Mr. Niles to keep his certification.

Water Conservation

Tioga County, Pennsylvania is currently under drought watch. Borough water customers are encouraged to conserve water.

Covid-19 Task Force

Mrs. Bollinger reported that there was a Covid 19 Task Force meeting today and gave statistics on positive cases. People should continue to social distance and wear masks.

Executive Session

An executive session for personnel was called at 8:27 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

Motion was made by Ed Rodarmel and seconded by RoxAnnWeidman to grant Dale Niles approval to attend the DRE and police training at Seven Springs Resort November 17, 2020 through November 19, 2020 at an estimated cost of \$750 with the expectation that a presentation will be given to the community and other police officers no less than 60 days after the training on Mr. Niles's own time (off duty). Those in favor were Weidman, Pond, Rodarmel, McCullen and Bollinger. Landry voted no. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.



Theresa McCullen
Assistant Secretary