

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
May 11, 2021  
Westfield Municipal Building

COUNCIL PRESENT: Gail Bollinger, Roger McCullen, Ed Rodarmel, Denis Landry, Leland Pond, and Roxann Weidman

COUNCIL ABSENT: Shaunta Vahey

OTHERS PRESENT: Dale Niles, Drew Hummel, Danielle Hummel, Nicole Hummel, Kelly Stemcosky, Laura Colson, James Streeter, Shawn Downey, Debra Werner, Constance Reed, Joan Weidman, Ed Presor, Robin Presor, Terry Wells, Jonni Behm, Taylor Easton, Lorie Card, Patricia Carpenter, and Theresa McCullen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Gail Bollinger. The pledge of allegiance was said. A roll call of members present was taken, and Shaunta Vahey was absent.

**Visitors – Agenda Items**

Shawn Downey of Larson Design Group was present to give Council updates on the wastewater treatment plant project.

- American Rescue Plan Funding

Westfield Borough is being allocated an estimated \$102,427.23 in COVID Relief funds through the American Rescue Plan. This can be used for water and sewer projects.

- Invoices Presented for Payment

Motion was made by Denis Landry and seconded by Ed Rodarmel to approve Lobar Application for Payment #9 in the amount of \$663,019.47 and Tra Application for Payment #8 in the amount of \$21,214.46. Those in favor were Landry, Pond, Rodarmel, McCullen, Weidman, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

- Consent Order and Agreement

Motion was made by Denis Landry and seconded by Roger McCullen to approve Amendment #2 to the Consent Order and Agreement. Those in favor were Pond, Rodarmel, McCullen, Weidman, Landry, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

**Mayor/Police Chief Report**

The mayor was not present, and Mr. Niles did not have anything to report at this time.

**Solicitor Report**

There was nothing to report from the solicitor.

### **Minutes**

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman and seconded by Leland Pond to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 minutes. Those in favor were Rodarmel, McCullen, Weidman, Landry, Pond, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

### **Financial Report**

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

### **Foreman's Report**

A progress report was available for review.

### **Old Business**

The Tioga County Association of Boroughs dinner meetings are cancelled for the months of May and June, 2021.

### **New Business**

Crary Hose Co. is paying to have electrical wiring installed in the fire truck room, and they wanted to make the Borough aware of it.

### **Committee Reports**

- Administrative Committee

Mrs. Bollinger brought up that a letter of resignation has been received from Council Member Ed Rodarmel effective June 10, 2021. Council members agreed to wait until the June 8, 2021 Council meeting to take action in case Mr. Rodarmel would like to change his mind.

- Streets, Sidewalks & Buildings Committee

Mr. McCullen reported that he has met with PennDOT, Dave Nudd, and the committee regarding street work for this year. The committee recommends paving Stevenson St., Mill St, and Krusen St. according to plans written up by Brian Haight from PennDOT. This will cost approximately \$85,000. Mr. McCullen explained that there is \$125,000 in the liquid fuels account, but traditionally the Borough likes to leave some in the account for the next year.

Mr. McCullen said that there is going to be a demonstration from a company that provides a less expensive material. If feasible, the committee may consider bidding out this material.

Council members agreed with the committee's recommendation for paving Stevenson St., Mill St., and Krusen St.

**Visitors – Comment Period**

The visitors were addressed. Mr. Streeter had nothing at this time. Mrs. Bollinger asked if there is a spokesperson for the large group in attendance.

Laura Clarson spoke up on behalf of several people in attendance regarding Chief of Police Dale Niles's involvement with a recent court hearing concerning Andrew Hummel. Mr. Niles was subpoenaed to appear as a character witness on behalf of Mr. Hummel. She said she has transcripts of the case.

Ms. Clarson reported that Mr. Hummel was charged with two misdemeanors and three felonies in the starvation of a steer and the fatal starvation of a horse; however, Chief Niles called him kind but misunderstood and cited two incidents where Mr. Hummel appeared to be kind and helpful. Mr. Hummel's sentencing has been delayed for 30 days (an appeal period) for his 9 month house arrest.

Ms. Clarson contends that it is very concerning how this was handled considering the crimes. Taylor Easton pointed out that it is a conflict of interest because Mr. Niles is a representative of the town. The ladies went on to point out that there have been multiple incidents involving the Hummels that have gone through the Westfield (Borough) Police Department; however, Chief Niles has defended Mr. Hummel, a convicted felon, and blames the community.

There was further discussion on whether Mr. Niles violated ethics standards.

Lorie Card read aloud a letter addressed to the Council, Mayor, and People of Westfield regarding Dale Niles. She noted that back in November, 2020 she had written to the Borough Council requesting an investigation into the conduct of Chief Dale Niles. She also provided evidence to back up the request. In her letter she reminded Council of the oath taken to protect the interests of the residents of the Borough. She alluded to activities that Mr. Niles has participated in that were outside of his jurisdiction.

Council called an executive session at 7:46 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:15 p.m. for personnel matters.

Motion was made by Denis Landry and seconded by Roxann Weidman that in the absence of the mayor the Council will reassign Officer Dale Niles from patrol duty to desk duty effective immediately until an investigation of allegations is conducted. He is not to utilize the police vehicle unless there is an emergency. His start time will be 7:00 a.m. until he completes eight hours each day and he is to work 40 hours per week. Those in favor were Weidman, Landry, Pond, Rodarmel, McCullen, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.



Page 4 – Regular Meeting  
5/11/21

The visitors thanked Council for their attention to this matter. A council member will talk with Andrew Adams about the temporary arrangement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theresa McCullen".

Theresa McCullen  
Assistant Secretary