

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

June 8, 2021

Westfield Municipal Building

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Leland Pond, Ed Rodarmel

OTHERS PRESENT: James Streeter, Donald Tubbs, Tom Hurler, Edward Riley, Beth and Doug Rowland, Dale and Kelley Niles, Thomas Cooper, Ed and Robin Presor, Patricia Carpenter, Angela Carpenter, Lorie Card, Heather Doran, Michael Doran, Joan Weidman, Deb Werner, Kelly Stemcosky, Lori Nelson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by council president Gail Bollinger, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call of members found Leland (Joe) Pond and Ed Rodarmel to be absent. The visitors were asked if they had comments on agenda items.

Visitors

James Streeter asked what property on Walnut Street is to be advertised for sale. Mrs. Bollinger answered the old reservoir on the hill. He also asked about the issue with Harvey Avenue. It was explained that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission is requiring all water sources to be registered. It was hoped Harvey Avenue would be grandfathered for the registration but did not meet the time requirement. The SRBC is asking for a consent order and agreement for the well.

Mayor/Chief Report

Mayor Beth Rowland reported on a presentation of bat houses from Brownie Troop 60213 she attended last month. Westfield, Sabinsville, and Knoxville were presented with bat houses made by the Brownies. She read the informational speech given at the presentation.

Gail Bollinger noted that Chief Niles would like to look into doing fingerprints for non-criminal issues. Chief Niles explained the closest place to get fingerprints right now is Smethport or Williamsport. He would like to see if they could partner with Identigo; currently the department does paper fingerprinting only. He would like to see this service to be free for residents and charge a fee to non-residents.

Minutes

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman, seconded by Roger McCullen, to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 council meeting as presented. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Roxann Weidman, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2021 council meeting as presented. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, Vahey, McCullen, and Weidman. The motion carried.

Financial Report

Denis Landry asked about the mileage charges on the Larson Design Group invoices, mileage was charged for several individual at different rates. This will be verified.

Denis Landry asked about the bill from Summit Risk Services for deductible charges. Mrs. Nelson answered that this is for the assault case against Chief Niles; the insurance company provided legal services and the borough had a deductible under the coverage. Roxann Weidman asked about the insurance package; payments are made quarterly.

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

Old Business

- Sale of Property

Gail Bollinger reported that the paperwork for the sale of real property has been received from the solicitor. She noted that a motion was made to sell the High Street property but not the Walnut Street property.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Roger McCullen, to approve to sell the 3.07 acre lot located at the end of Walnut Street. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

New Business

Pennsylvania Rural Water Association is asking members to oppose Senate Bill 597. This bill would put municipal systems under the regulation of the PUC.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Roger McCullen, to send a letter to oppose Senate Bill No. 597. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

A note was received from Sen. Dush asking if anyone wished to participate in seminars to learn about funding opportunities. Let the office know if you are interested. If there are trainings on grants Denis Landry recommended Lori Nelson and/or Theresa McCullen attend.

Resignation

A resignation letter was received from Ed Rodarmel.

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman, seconded by Denis Landry, to accept the resignation of Edward Rodarmel as council member with regrets. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Denis Landry asked what would be done to replace him. Letters of interest were sent in the past. Denis Landry suggested that letters of interest be sent in by the next regular meeting.

Personnel Committee

Gail Bollinger announced that council will meet with the solicitor Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. This will be an executive session for personnel.

Streets, Sidewalks, Buildings Committee

Roger McCullen reported that the street work has been advertised. Council will need to meet June 22 to award the bids.

Utilities Committee

Denis Landry suggested council do nothing as far as the consent order with the SRBC. He is not sure what it will say, and the borough is already under a COA with DEP.

Mr. Landry went through the schedule for the WWTP upgrade project; it is close to being on schedule. He noted that Shawn's memo has billing for Lobar. Mr. Landry would like to ask Shawn Downey if the contingency limit is reached does the borough stop paying those charges.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey, seconded by Roxann Weidman, to pay the application for payment #10 for Lobar in the amount of \$957,937.49 and payment application #9 for Tra Electric in the amount of \$110,297.85. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Visitors

The visitors were addressed. Mr. Donald Tubbs was present as an observer.

James Streeter stated he was deceived about the May 25 meeting. He inquired of both secretaries and both said there would not be a meeting. Mr. Streeter asked who the secretary at the May 25 meeting was; it was Ms. Weidman. Mr. Streeter noted a temporary secretary was appointed by resolution in the past and did not feel it a council member could be secretary. He asked council to keep the secretaries informed if there is to be a meeting.

Tom Hurler was present representing the Westfield Ball Association. He explained that the junior league no longer uses the larger field on Walnut Street; they use the high school field. He asked to change that to another little league field. Mr. Hurler explained that a concession stand has been built between the two fields so that parents can watch the games while working. There is no water to the new building. He asked if the borough would donate the use of the backhoe to put in a water line. David Nudd has volunteered his time to run the equipment and the ball association will buy the materials and maintain the area. Roxann Weidman asked about maintenance. Shaunta Vahey noted a situation with broken water pipes and asked to have the lines winterized. Mr. Hurler and Mr. Riley agreed.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey, to donate the use of the backhoe for the Westfield Area Ball Association to run a water line to the new concession stand with David Nudd donating his time to operate the equipment. Those in favor were Bollinger, Landry, McCullen, Vahey and Weidman. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Denis Landry, seconded by Shaunta Vahey to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Lori Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer