

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WESTFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
August 10, 2021
Westfield Municipal Building

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

OTHER PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth Rowland, Ed and Robin Presor, Joan Weidman, James Streeter, Shawn Downey, Andrew Adams, Kelly Stemcosky, 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; all Council members were present.

Mrs. Bollinger opened the meeting by welcoming newly appointed member Carissa Grossman.

Visitors – Agenda Items

Shawn Downey of Larson Design Group was present to give project updates.

- Route 349 Project

The resurfacing project to be done by PennDOT is scheduled for 2025.

Mr. Landry expressed his concerns with growing engineering fees as these projects go on. Mr. McCullen questioned if the SR 349 project could be tabled for now to see if the Borough will be receiving the anticipated funding. He said he hates to see the Borough spend any more on engineering fees for a project before knowing if we will receive the funding. Mr. Downey agreed that this could be tabled.

Mrs. Bollinger understands that PennDOT is supposed to repair the storm drains when they resurface the road.

- Sewer Rehab Project No. 1

Mr. Downey announced that the sewer rehab project #1 is ready to bid out next week if Council wishes. Most of the paperwork on this project is already done.

A map for dig and replace spot repairs has been submitted to the Borough. This can start at any time.

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman and seconded by Leland Pond to authorize bidding out the sewer rehab project #1. Those in favor were Landry, Pond, Grossman, McCullen, Vahey, Weidman, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The project is about two months behind. Mr. Downey noted that the contractor is continually working and making good progress. In recent months they have been able to make up some time. The original completion date was November; however, now it is anticipated to be January. Mr. Downey noted that there will be no fines until May, 2022. The Borough is currently good with DEP's requirements in the COA.

Mr. Downey noted that in his experience being two months behind is "not terrible" and could be much worse. He said they are continually working toward getting the date closer to November.

There was a discussion about engineering costs, etc. Mr. Downey assured Council that Larson Design does not bill for time not spent.

The engineering contract is due to expire this month and needs to be extended.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey and seconded by Gail Bollinger to extend the contract with Larson Design Group. Those in favor were Pond, Grossman, McCullen, Vahey, and Bollinger. Those voting no were Landry and Weidman. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Shaunta Vahey and seconded by Carissa Grossman to approve Application for Payment #12 from Lobar in the amount of \$208,036.41 and Application for Payment #11 from Tra Electric in the amount of \$77,486.46. Those in favor were Grossman, McCullen, Vahey, Landry, Pond and Bollinger. Weidman voted no. The motion was carried.

Police Chief/Mayor Report

There was no written report this month.

- Cameras

Mayor Beth Rowland reported on a discussion she had with Police Chief Dale Niles regarding cameras for both parks. There has been vandalism that has caused the staff to lock the Riverside Park gate at night. One game camera has been donated to the Borough for use in one of the parks. She would like to pursue pricing of another camera for the other park and one for Main Street near the traffic signal. Andrew Adams clarified that it would be just a camera to watch the street not a speeding camera.

Council members agreed to having Mayor Beth Rowland look into pricing of cameras for the park and one for Main Street.

- Hometown Heroes Program

Mrs. Rowland is looking into the Hometown Heroes Program for Westfield. She said there is no cost to the Borough due to a grant. The flags are \$200/each and families may purchase them to honor their loved one who served in the military. Mrs. Rowland said Knoxville Borough included the neighboring township and suggested Westfield Borough consider including Westfield Township.

Ms. Weidman wondered if firemen could be honored in the same way. Veterans and first responders are included in the program.

Mrs. Rowland hopes to have more information by next month's Council meeting.

- Police Vehicle

The police vehicle is currently in the shop. During the meeting it was learned that the vehicle was finished and being brought back to the municipal building by Dale Niles.

Minutes

Motion was made by Roxann Weidman and seconded by Denis Landry to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 regular meeting and the July 22, 2021 special meeting. Those in favor were McCullen, Vahey, Weidman, Landry, Pond, Grossman, 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 Vahey, Weidman, Landry, McCullen, Pond, Grossman, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

Old Business

There was nothing to report.

New Business

The next Tioga County Association of Boroughs dinner is September 16, 2021 in Knoxville. Reservations are due by September 8, 2021.

Committee Reports

- Administrative & Finance Committee – nothing to report
- Personnel/Negotiations Committee

Mrs. Bollinger announced that there is no ongoing investigation into Police Chief Dale Niles.

- Planning/Fire Committee

Andrew Adams explained to Council an electrical upgrade that was done in the fire hall. The electrician was able to bring the electrical lines off the floor and place them in the ceiling. The entire electrical box in the hall had to be replaced. The project came in at \$2,995. Mr. Adams reported that according to the electrician the electrical box for the rest of the building needs to be replaced as it is a fire hazard. There was discussion about the Borough contributing.

Denis Landry asked Mr. Adams to put something together for Council to consider at the next Council meeting.

- Streets Committee – nothing to report
- Vehicle Maintenance Committee

Mr. Pond reported that the water pump and timing chain were the problems with the police car, and they have been taken care of.

- Insurance Committee – nothing to report
- Utilities Committee

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

Visitors – Comment Period

Robin and Ed Presor were present regarding the paperwork connected with their purchase of property from the Borough. They are requesting a 30 day extension. They would also like to eliminate some tannery easements, etc.

Motion was made by Denis Landry and seconded by Carissa Grossman to grant Ed and Robin Presor a 30 day extension on their land purchase paperwork. Those in favor were Weidman, Landry, Pond, Grossman, McCullen, Vahey, Weidman, and Bollinger. The motion was carried.

The solicitor will be contacted the next morning regarding the easements and extension.

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Mrs. Presor brought up a dog bite situation on Stevenson Street. Mrs. Bollinger and Mr. Adams updated her on the status.

Motion to adjourn was made by Roger McCullen and seconded by Shaunta Vahey. All were in favor, and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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

Theresa McCullen
Assistant Secretary