

WEST WYOMING BOROUGH - COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JULY 13, 2020

The monthly meeting of West Wyoming Borough was called to order by Chairman Stavish via Zoom Cloud Video Communications software. Roll call was taken by Secretary Jill Lukesh and the following were in attendance: Chairman Gary Stavish, Councilman Randy Colarusso, Vice Chairwoman Maureen Zaboski, Councilman Mike Dolan, Mayor Joe Herbert, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Mark Kendzor, and Secretary Jill Lukesh. Also in attendance were Chief Curtis Nocera and Tax Collector Bob Connors.

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

Gary Stavish - Chairman-Personnel:

Randy Colarusso - Public Facilities:

Councilman Colarusso called upon Treasurer Kendzor for the reading of the Treasurer’s report. It is as follows:

**West Wyoming Borough
Treasurer’s Report
As of July 12, 2020**

CASH ACCOUNTS		COMBINED GENERAL, HIGHWAY AID AND SEWER FUNDS
GENERAL FUND		
ESSA BANK REFUSE	\$147,609.85	PIGIT \$746,179.08
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71	ESSA \$147,609.85
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$442,465.71	M&T \$324,918.32
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$50,170.15	FNCB <u>\$883,961.56</u>
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$262,674.73	<u>\$2,102,668.81</u>
PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$253,738.63	
PLGIT PAYROLL	\$3,058.00	
PLGIT GENERAL	<u>\$2,634.58</u>	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,168,031.36</u>	
HIGHWAY AID FUND		
PLGIT	<u>\$278,845.97</u>	
TOTAL HIGHWAY AID FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$278,845.97</u>	
SEWER FUND		
M&T	\$324,918.32	
FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$122,971.26	
PLGIT SEWER CREDIT CARD	<u>\$207,901.90</u>	
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$655,791.48</u>	
TOTAL COMBINED CHECKING/SAVING	<u>\$2,102,668.81</u>	

Chairman Stavish asked for a motion made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski to accept the reading of the Treasurer’s report. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso gave a report on the annual Abrahams Creek inspection, including the channel, creek and weir performed by the ACOE. Councilman Colarusso felt that the inspection went well. There were only small issues. There was a concern from a resident living on W. 8th St. as to the condition of the bridge behind his property. He feels that it is in poor condition and may pose a safety hazard. He feels it needs to be replaced. Resident asked who will pay for the replacement. It was discussed and along with Councilman Colarusso and Leon Skinner, inspection member, it was agreed that it is homeowner who is responsible.

Also, Councilman Colarusso reported on a sewer blockage on W. 8th St between Diamond Manufacturing and Marianacci's, which seems to be the problem area. Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority is going to run a video camera on Bridge St on 7/14/20 to find out where the blockage happened.

Maureen Zaboski - Vice-Chairman-Administration/Finance, Health and Sanitation:

Councilwoman made a motion, seconded by Councilman Colarusso, to approve the meeting minutes from March thru June. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski talked about possibly purchasing computers for Administrator and the Clerks office through the Highway Aid Fund.

Chairman Stavish added that we are in the process of getting a gate between the salt shed and DPW building. It will be block the compost yard. There will be set hours and we are also looking into a camera to monitor the activity. Our Administrator will look into the particulars of purchasing a camera and will get with Rick from DPW to discuss placement.

Chairman Stavish also stated that the owner of Moon-Lite Drive-In asked if police could help with one of their events. Chairman Stavish asked Police Chief Nocera to get a figure amount together to see what it would cost and also time scheduling.

Councilwoman Zaboski asked Administrator Jill Lukesh if our Tax Collector gave her some figures. She replied that he did. Comparing what was paid to the Borough at the end of June 2020 versus what was paid in June 2019 we are only down by \$362.00. As to last year, our tax collector is on point with what he has been collecting. Jill stated that the tax collector is not concerned about extending the face time on taxes but he feels it is up to Council. Maybe tax collector was looking at it being possibly problematic if it is extended. It would give him a short window to get his reports done. Maureen checked through our figures, not just real estate but also per capita. We are actually up a bit with real estate transfer taxes. Our EIT is a bit higher than this time last year. It seems as though that we would not have to extend the payment due date to the end of the year and keep it to the current deadline of August 18.

As for County Waste, the Administrator said there were some dates that we could use for our new Bulk Pickup in August. It will be set up for the 8/3rd or 8/10th. There are a lot of complaints made to County Waste about trash not being picked up, being told we do not have a contract, and property damage. Council would like to meet with County Waste to see if these issues can be resolved.

We do have the Document Shredding coming up in September. If there are Borough documents to be shredded, we need to gather them and get them ready. They need to be documented before they are shredded.

Chief Nocera has documents to be shredded, and the closet upstairs needs to be cleaned out to make room for the new documents.

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion to pay any outstanding bills that have been approved by the finance committee, second by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Chief Nocera

June Report—Vehicle Maint: Car 1 – Battery dies frequently, will go into garage once # 2 is done.
Car 2 : Battery issues, A. C. issues, currently in garage.

Still having issues filling the schedule, weekend P.S.P. has covered our borough 8.5 shifts to date for a total of 68 hours. A full time officer would alleviate these scheduling issues. Patrolman Drew Malvizzi stated if appointed full time immediately he would work the remainder of 2020 at the current part time rate and would also defer the health care to a later date.

Contract: Union Representative stated letters of intent to negotiate were sent out to council President and Mayor. Current contract expires 12/31 of this year and a new contract needs to be negotiated.

Traffic complaints: West 8th St., West 6th St., speed timing lines not replaced after paving.

School is coming up. We need to advertise for substitute crossing guards.

FEMA Reimbursement: Need a main contact for the Borough. Could vote for the Police Chief to be the contact.

Mayor Joe Herbert

The breakdown for the calls are as follows:

False alarm – Burglary 4	Assist EMS 15
Attempted Burglary 1	Assist Fire Dept. 4
Theft 2	Assist Other Police 21
Harassment 3	Assist Other Agencies 2
Domestics 3	
Disorderly Conduct 1	
Suspicious Activities 3	
Traffic/parking complaints 5	
Animal Calls 2	
Public Service calls 4	
All other Ordinance/Offenses 5	
Misc. 2	
Total 77	
Citations 3	

Mayor wanted to know about the full time police issue. Chairman Stavish stated salary is not the issue, the MMO is. We need to resolve the MMO issue. A discussion followed.

Mike Dolan – Public Safety and Code Enforcement:

Fire Chief's Report: There were 20 alarms in May, including animal rescues, police assists, public service, 7 Dispatch cancelled, 3 authorized controlled burning, smoke scare and C O activation. There are no current fire department fundraisers.

Code Enforcement report: Ken Shefler checked out a lot of complaints. Ken Shefler wants to check the new business registration ordinance and when it will be in effect.

There was a discussion between Bob Connors and Council concerning taxes.

Linell Lukesh - Solicitor:

The fire chief has brought to our attention that we have our 'no burn ordinance' in about three different places spread throughout three different ordinances. Solicitor Lukesh said that she has drafted a consolidated burning ordinance. Again, just to emphasize, there is no outdoor burning in our town with exception to the fire department when they do practice burns. People can still have their grills and fire pits as they do not come under this ordinance. For safety reasons, pits and grills should be placed 15 feet from any property. Solicitor is asking Council to put the new burning ban and anti-pollution ordinance on the table for 30 days.

Chairman Stavish asked for a motion to table the Burning Ordinance for 30 days made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Vice Chair Zaboski. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor also said that she spoke to our new Pension administrator and that our Borough Administrator and the Solicitor will have to work on some reports that are needed by the actuary.

Mike Amato - Engineer:

Engineer Amato reported on the sewer blockage on Saturday. There was a big slug on 8th St that WWSA got open and blew free. What we will do is have WWSA clean and flush 8th Street, 6th Street, Bridge Street up to 5th Street. This seems to be the problematic area that we have been experiencing for the past few months and Amato said he will co-ordinate with Tony Cooks from WWSA. Whatever the findings are he will share with Council.

The new Borough Roof project is completed. There was some additional repairs necessary for the fascia and decking. Water and structure problem should be resolved.

He had some calls regarding the back road patch repairs being completed. Engineer Amato said that he has yet to receive a firm date when it will occur.

Speed Timing lines will be done. He will come out and will check in the next week or two.

Citizens Participation:

John Simms—21 Bridge St. Question about the sewer back up. I was effected by this and was am asking who is going to pay for my damages.

Solicitor Lukesh answered that she was in touch with the Sanitary Authority. They stated, as our Borough Engineer reported, they will be investigating the source of the blockage and what really occurred. Until we get the findings from that investigation, then we will be able to answer your question. It is important first to have the investigation and see what their findings are. They are doing the investigation tomorrow and hopefully by the end of the week we will know something. We will be getting back to you and any other people affected.

Mr. Simms stated that he is over \$20,000 at this point and doesn't plan on spending a dime on anything. Chairman Stavish stated that as soon as the investigation is done Mr. Simms will be contacted.

A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Colarusso, seconded by Mike Dolan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.