

## West Wyoming Borough Council Minutes - August 10, 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 present: Chairman Stavish, Councilman Colarusso, Vice-Chair Zaboski, Councilman Dolan, Mayor Herbert, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Kendzor, Engineer Amato and Secretary Jill Lukesh.

### Gary Stavish- Chairman- Personnel:

Chairman Stavish asked for a motion made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski to accept the July meeting minutes. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Stavish asked made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski to allow Chief Nocera to move forward with discussions regarding the regionalization of the police. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**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 August 10, 2020

#### CASH ACCOUNTS

#### HIGHWAY AID SEWER FUND

GENERAL FUND			
ESSA BANK REFUSE	\$147,634.92	PLGIT	\$758,035.52
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71	ESSA	\$147,634.92
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$419,697.09	M&T	\$331,641.83
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$50,175.72	FNCB	<u>\$845,472.49</u>
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$248,544.87		<u>\$2,082,784.76</u>
PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$268,736.11		
PLGIT PAYROLL *	\$(4,038.02)		
PLGIT GENERAL	<u>\$2,634.87</u>		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,139,065.77</u>		
HIGHWAY AID FUND			
PLGIT	<u>\$276,548.55</u>		
TOTAL HIGHWAY AID FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$276,548.55</u>		
SEWER AID FUND			

<b>M&amp;T</b>	<b>\$331,641.83</b>
<b>FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND</b>	<b>\$121,375.10</b>
<b>PLGIT SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS</b>	<b><u>\$214,154.01</u></b>
<b>TOTAL COMBINED CHEKING/SAVINGS</b>	<b><u>\$667,170.94</u></b>
<b>TOTAL COMBINED CHECKING/SAVINGS</b>	<b><u>\$2,082,784.76</u></b>

**Unreconciled Balances**

***\*Timing. Transfer entry not posted to Quickbooks***

A motion was made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski to approve the reading of the Treasurer's report. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso said that some of the compost was sold to Ted Harris. 153 cubic yards @ \$5.00 per cubic yards of mulch, \$765.00 and with the money we get from sale, a gate will be put in place. Compost pile is being cleared out pretty good so maybe that may deter some people from loitering. Camera system will also be put in place.

In two weeks, the grass along the back road will be cut by DPW. There is room for it in the compost yard.

Chairman Stavish asked Chief Nocera if the police could patrol by the compost yard a little more until the camera system is in place. Chief Nocera said that he has been sitting there an hour each day. Chief Nocera said that most people are from town but they have written out some citations to non-residents. DPW will open the gate from Monday through Friday and on the weekend Saturday 10am till 2pm. Chairman Stavish asked the Chief if the policeman on duty can open and close the gate. Chief Nocera said that if the officer on duty is tied up, the Chief doesn't want any backlash if this cannot be done.

A new baby swing was placed in Slapar Park. Chains and cables were also fixed in the park by DPW.

Councilman Colarusso said that he has not heard back yet from Leon from the Army Corp of Engineers about the Abraham's Creek inspection.

Chairman Stavish asked for a motion made by Councilwoman Zaboski and seconded by Councilman Colarusso to pay all outstanding bills approved by the Finance committee. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion to include any payments in the bills to be paid to Multiscape in the amount of \$39,460.50 for the roof project and seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Councilwoman Zaboski to extend declaration of emergency that was placed initially on April 1st and was for 90 days that was ended July 1<sup>st</sup> -- so we would make it

retroactive till July 1<sup>st</sup> and perhaps extend it another 90 days. Motion seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboloski said that we have the opportunity to apply for a grant to Luzerne County for Covid 19. The grant deadline is Sept 4<sup>th</sup>, so if we can get together with Mike Amato, we can figure out what to apply for. We can submit expenses on cleaning the Borough building due to Covid exposure) several times and apply for other items for which we may qualify.

A discussion took place with Mike Amato, Chairman Stavish and Councilwoman Zaboloski on this matter.

Councilwoman Zaboloski reminded residents about the upcoming Paper Shredding Event that will take place on Sept 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 till noon. Residents are allowed three boxes and proof of residency is required.

Bulk Pick-Up was scheduled for Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, but due to a problem with the truck it will be Aug 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Mike Dolan: Public Safety/Code Enforcement**

Vehicle Maintenance Car 1 - Battery, radio removed  
Car 2 - AC repaired

Regionalization: Letter sent to the Chiefs and the group will be meeting this month.

New Vehicles – Working with Bonner and vehicle upfitters to price new vehicles. Vehicles can be ordered in September.

Wyoming Area has expressed interest in purchasing the vehicles we have. We will have a price next meeting.

Traffic Complaints: Shoemaker, Upper W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. We are still waiting on a phone call about repairing the lines.

PA State Police covered 14 additional hours in July. Total now 82 hours.

July : Total calls : 92

Arrests : 1

Citations: 2

#### **Mike Amato: Engineer**

Continue the review with WVSA & PennDOT contractor on the 8<sup>th</sup> Street blockage. The sewer was cleaned out and opened up. There is an investigation into the existing conditions and the debris that was put in there. Metal was pulled out - a piece of a manhole. A discussion followed and the investigation continues.

#### **Linell Lukesh: Solicitor**

On following up with blockage issue, I am working with the claims manager for the PennDOT contractor. The PennDOT Contractor met with West Wyoming officials last Thursday July 30. I am also keeping our own insurance company apprised of the sewer blockage and the potential claims. I am trying to put those claims through the PennDOT Contractor. We believe that they may be the cause of the blockage.

When we were getting our insurance renewals, to remind you that we had issues, that we are trying to get coverage for the sewer blockages and we contacted several companies. The most they would insure us for was up to \$50,000. So that would have to include any Borough property. I will have more information at the next meeting. We will advise the residents that have been effected and those who have contacted the borough and discussed their claims. I have nothing else and we will be discussing the issues on 4<sup>th</sup> street, and other issues that may come up.

**Mayor Joe Herbert:**

We had a total of 92 calls:

False Alarms-Burglary -4, Theft-1, Fraud-2, Assault-1, Harassment-1, Domestic-4, Disorderly Conduct-1 Suspicious Activities -6, Motor Vehicle Accidents-5, Traffic/Parking Complaints -4, Animal calls -1, Public Service Calls -6, All other Ordinance/Offenses-6, Misc. -3, Assists EMS -17, Assists Fire Dept-3, Assists Other Police -26, Assist Other Agencies -1, Criminal Arrests/Warrants -1, Citations-2.

**Chief Nocera: Report**

Vehicle Maintenance     Car 1 - Battery, radio removed  
   Car 2 - AC fixed

Regionalization: Letter sent to the Chiefs and the group will be meeting this month  
New vehicles – Working with Bonner and vehicle upfitters to price new vehicles. Vehicles can be ordered in September.

Wyoming Area has expressed interest in purchasing the vehicles we have. We will have a price next meeting.

Traffic Complaints: Shoemaker, Upper W. 8<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Street . We are still waiting for a phone call to repair lines.

LSA Grant: Do we have any word on the status of the LSA Grant? Maureen Zabolski replied that we have not heard anything yet.

PA State Police Coverage: Covered 14 additional hours in July. Total now 82 hours.

July ----- Total calls: 92  
                         Arrests: 1  
                         Citations: 2

**Code Enforcement:**

436 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street—right now we are meeting with the people to clean it out. What we are doing as well is trying to clean up the brush as well. I have a handle on that and we will be there this week. I have three other meetings to clean the property up. I intend to talk to the brother of the owner. I left messages that it is important for him to contact me. As of today, I have not heard from him.

Solicitor Linell Lukesh spoke about the updated burn ordinance. It should be ready for the September meeting. A discussion was held about the rules and regulations. Code Enforcement wanted to look over the ordinance before it is posted.

### **Citizens Participation:**

Mark Ostrowski—437 W. 4<sup>th</sup> ST. across from the house in question. Could you elaborate on the time frame, what transpired after the quotes were received, and who was going to pay for that? Councilman Stavish stated that we do not have a time frame, what we do have – once we get our bid we are going to go in there and have a company clean up, and exterminators. As for who is paying for that – it is the tax payers of West Wyoming. We will be filing a lien against the property, and when we could get the time line when they can get in and do the work.

Mark asked –Will there be any recourse against the owner?

Solicitor Lukesh answered that we will be filing a lien on the property and before that can be sold ---- the property owner would have to satisfy the lien. Because the property owner has not come forward, we are taking steps to make sure the property is cleaned, and the exterminator is taking care of the pests. Beyond that, the property owner still owns the property, and until the time that we can have communication with that property owner... that is all we can do. I think what we are doing is appropriate and we have followed our legal time line.

Mark stated that pictures have been presented and have they been recorded? Answer- yes.

Mark also asked Ken Shefler to please ask the people not to leave their Haz Mat suits in the garbage. Can they be removed? There was a discussion about them leaving their trash and Ken Shefler said he would speak to them about that.

There was a question about the gas and electric, as well, and that was taken care of, also.

Ken Shefler stated that things were done as best as we can. He was thanked for all of this.

A very long discussion followed.

A lot more questions were asked and answered. Questions about the children that lived in that house. Children and Youth have been notified and are aware where these children are now.

Neighbors, Deanna Orzel, Denise Plis and Justin, asked questions and Ken Shefler answered all of them. A question that was asked if the outside of the house would be sprayed? Ken answered and said that is part of the estimate. A question was asked if this property will be cleaned up regardless if the owners do it or not. Chairman Stavish answered: that is the plan – if the owner comes and shows responsibility for the house and he comes and does nothing, then we go back to square one. The taxes are up to date and the lien goes against the property. If he does not pay, the property goes for tax sale. A discussion followed as to what will go next.

There was a concern about the tall grass and bushes to be taken care of and Ken Shefler assured them that will be taken care of, as well.

A very long discussion followed about this property. We know the taxes are paid on this property. We are looking into the sewer bills. All other bills are being addressed. All these things will be taken care of in due time.

A motion made by Councilman Mike Dolan to adjourn the meeting, second by Councilman Randy Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.