

West Wyoming Borough Council Meeting Minutes - October 12,2020

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 Stavish, Vice-Chairwoman Zabolski, Councilman Colarusso, Councilman Dolan, Mayor Herbert, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Kendzor, Engineer Amato, and Secretary Jill Lukesh.

Mayor Herbert swore in Daniel Skok as Councilman. Dan Skok will replace Dan Gresavage as head of Community Development and Recreation.

Mayor Herbert extended the COVID-19 State of Emergency for another 90 days effective 9/29/20.

OLD BUSINESS-NONE

Gary Stavish- Chairman-Personnel: Chairman Stavish asked for a motion made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Councilman Dolan to approve August and September minutes. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried

Chairman Stavish asked for a motion made by Councilwoman Zabolski and seconded by Councilman Colarusso to adopt the Luzerne County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**West Wyoming Borough
Treasurer’s Report
October 11,2020**

CASH ACCOUNTS

GENERAL FUND	
ESSA BANK REFUSE	\$147,684.27
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$351,355.24
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$50,191.90
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$205,614.09
PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$333,485.15
PLGIT PAYROLL	\$3,211.95
PLGIT GENERAL	\$2,634.94
_TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,099,857.25</u>

HIGHWAY AID & SEWER FUND

PLGIT	\$836,047.55
ESSA	\$147,684.27
M&T	\$305,036.58
FNCB	<u>\$722,931.38</u>
	<u>\$2,011,699.78</u>

HIGHWAY AID FUND

PLGIT	\$271,665.28
TOTAL HIGHWAY AID FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$271,665.28</u>

SEWER FUND	
M&T SEWER	\$305,036.58
FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$110,090.44
PLGIT SEWER CREDIT CARD	<u>\$225,050.23</u>
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$640,177.25</u>
TOTAL COMBINED CHEKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$2,011,699.78</u>

Chairman Stavish made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski to approve the reading of the Treasurer’s report. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso reported at the last West Side COG meeting that they will be getting LSA grant for the tub grinder attachment.

Working with Ken Shefler. Business as usual.

Councilman Colarusso also announced that Wyoming Borough has invited our town to participate with them in a Trunk or Treat event that will be held at Flack Field on October 24th from 1-3PM. This will be open to multiple towns and residents can decorate their cars. Candy will be passed out to children.

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

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion seconded by Councilman Colarusso to approve all outstanding bills approved by the Finance Committee. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski stated they we are going to apply for the LSA grant. We haven’t been notified of approval for last year’s application. Last year we applied for phase 1 of the Borough building renovation. Perhaps this year we can apply for phase 2 of the building renovation. If we receive a grant from last year, we can perhaps do a change of scope. Councilwoman Zaboski asked Engineer Amato if he can help with that in terms of updating our figures.

Councilwoman Zaboski said that the 2021 budget is underway, so we can discuss that at the next Council meeting.

We have participated in the County’s COVID Municipal program. We made purchases of a lot of cleaning items and PPE.

Our annual newsletter will be going out in a few weeks. Borough update section will be on the front page. If anyone has anything of interest that they would like to include in that section, please let Councilwoman Zaboski know.

We will be participating in the annual Electronic Recycling event that Forty-Fort Borough is sponsoring. It will be held on Oct. 22 from 3-6pm at the Luzerne County Soccer Fields in Forty-Fort. \$30.00 per car for one TV.

Voting will take place at West Wyoming Hose Co # 1 for the entire town of West Wyoming.

Chairman Stavish stated in regards to the LSA grant, we did speak to our state representative and they did inform that next year, there will be a decrease in funding, due to the casinos being closed due to COVID-19. Berkheimer gave us a breakdown on our EIT taxes. We could be down \$1900 in tax revenue per month due to COVID. This is due to people being laid off and not working. So there is that decrease and the decrease in the LSA, so hopefully, we can retain some of those funds this year, so we can move forward on the building improvements.

Mike Dolan: Public Safety/Code Enforcement

West Wyoming Borough Fire Chief's Report for West Wyoming Emergency Services is as follows:

Responded to seven incidents:

Motor Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	1
Animal Rescue	1
Good Intent Call, Other	1
Dispatched & Cancelled Enroute	2
Alarm System Sounded Due to Malfunction	1
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation, no CO	1

The Lighting for Engine 1 are scheduled to be completed for the week of October 19th.

The West Wyoming Police Report for September:

Monthly Call Report:

False Alarm-Burglary	6	Trespassing	1
Theft	2	Suspicious Activities	4
Fraud	1	Motor Vehicle Accident	1
Harassment	1	Traffic/Parking Complaints	15
Narcotics	1	Missing person Adult	1
Domestics	3	all other ord. /offenses	1
Disorderly Conduct	2	Animal calls	1
Criminal Mischief/Vandalism	1	Public service calls	2
		Misc	1

Agency Assists

Assists EMS	12
Assist Fire Dept	1
Assists Other Police	16
Assists other Agencies	1

TOTAL 81

Criminal Arrests/Warrants	1
Citations	22

On Code Enforcement – Ken Shefler did supply a report, it was 3 pages long including his invoice for the period for July 13 Thru October 12, that was emailed tonight and attachments for the meeting. If there are any question email Ken or copy Mike and he will make sure that we get some results or response from him. Since Curt is on duty, I will let him make the Police report. The information on the voting was appreciated from Mayor Herbert. Social distancing will be enforced. Voting will be at Hose Co. #1.

Mike Amato: Engineering

Routine business with the LSA Grant. AS for the sub-division with the Hose Company, we should have the deeds ready for execution on that 40 foot piece of property. Lastly, working with the DPW and WVSA getting old reports on documentation on the past blockages of the sewer.

Linell Lukesh: Solicitor

I have been gathering information about the sewer situation. I have been in touch with a resident about this and that will be discussed at our Executive session at the end of the meeting and I will be updating Mr. Simms and other residents, if they contacted me regarding additional information on these claims. Other items, I have been working on are also finishing the deeds for the Hose Company also working on the non-uniform pension plan and the results on my conversation and discussion with Mr. Wurley, who is our Pension Administrator, for the current plan and again that will be a subject for the Executive session.

Mayor Joe Herbert

A letter received by the Mayor reads: (I am writing this letter to you today to advise the Chief of Police, the Borough, and Council that I, Robert Schupp am resigning from my position of Police that I am resigning immediately for personal reasons. It was a honor and privilege to serve the Borough of West Wyoming for the past 7 years. Signed Robert Shupp.

Mayor had another letter from Carmen Insalaco –Please accept this notice as a formal notice that I am resigning from the position of police officer of West Wyoming Borough, I moved out of the area and I do not want to travel 1 hour for work. My last day will be immediately. I appreciate the opportunity that you have given me over the years This is a great police department that is run professionally I am sad to give up this position but my time has come. Please by safe out there and continue running a great department Signed Carmen L. Insalaco.

I have two immediate openings for police officers.

Police Report from Chief Nocera:

Vehicles: Obtained Lease to own proposals for 2 Chev Tahoe PPV 4WD. With a \$30,000 down payment out of the \$45,000 budget this year. Semi –Annual payments of \$10,616.07 for 4 years. I am requesting councils approval to order these tonight as they only make a limited quarterly per year. Pre-order of these vehicles started on Sept. 24.

Officers : 2 have resigned. Patrolman Robert Shupp and Carmen Insalaco. Both have sent in their resignation letters, thanking us for their employment but have sought out other jobs, both paying more than here.

We desperately need more officers. Many shifts are being left uncovered. Currently have no applications on file, last time we advertised we did not receive any. West Wyoming needs full time officers.

Patrolman Brandon Bradshaw has been hired full time with Forty Fort Police. Congratulations to him!

Regional: No updates to report. Towns should do a co-op grant under LSA for regional police feasibility survey. I am working on getting paperwork for it.

LSA grant: What are we applying for?

DUI program: We need to pass an ordinance for the DUI Task force. I will send a copy of the ordinance to Linell.

Sept 5: Officers participated in a DUI Roving Patrol

Sept. 18: Officers participated in operation Night Hawk

Both events were fully funded by Luzerne County Dist. Task Force.

Calls for service in September: 81, arrests 1, citations 22.

Questions were asked about the LSA grant and also questions were asked and answered on the police vehicles. Discussion followed.

Councilman Stavish mentioned that the compost yard has been advertised that it is for West Wyoming residence only. Thanks for the surveillance there.

Citizens Participation:

Pearl Johnson-Stanbrook—935 Narrow St. I am calling to let you know that we have a situation going on. As you are aware, at the alley between 935 and 937 Narrow St. there are tenants are flying up and down and going too fast and not stopping. We are so afraid that they are going to hit one of these little kids or somebody walking, because there is somebody walking all the time. Just want Council and police to know what is going on over here. Councilman Stavish asked Chief Nocera to address the situation. Nothing else just wanted to let you know that.

Lisa Lindquist – 431 W.4th St. I live directly across the street from the condemned house. Your last statement in September was that you would reach out to the state for grants. This was due to the high prices on bids. My question is – who placed bids to work on that house and what were their bids? Council stated all of the quotes that came in were all too high. We will be placing liens on the house. We do not know what will be done at this time. Lisa stated that she appreciated the information.

Council went into Executive Council meeting.

Motion by Councilman Colarusso to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Dolan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.