

West Wyoming Borough Council Meeting Minutes-December 14, 2020

The monthly meeting of West Wyoming Borough was called to order by Chairman Stavish via Zoom Cloud Video Communications. Roll call was taken by Secretary Jill Lukesh and the following were in attendance: Chairman Stavish, Councilman Colarusso, Vice-Chairwoman Zabolski, Councilman Dolan, Councilman Skok, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Kendzor and Secretary Jill Lukesh.

Absent were Mayor Joe Herbert and Engineer Mike Amato.

OLD BUSINESS- NONE

Gary Stavish-Chairman-Personnel:

Chairman Stavish made a motion, seconded by Councilman Dolan to approve last month's meeting minutes. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Stavish made a motion, seconded by Councilman Skok, to purchase one police cruiser from Bonner Chevrolet. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Randy Colarusso-Public Facilities: Councilman Colarusso called upon Treasurer Mark Kendzor for the reading of the Treasurer's report:

West Wyoming Borough Treasurer's Report December 13, 2020

CASH ACCOUNTS

GENERAL FUND

ESSA BANK	\$148,573.81	PLGIT	\$911,459.17
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71	ESSA	\$148,573.81
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$160,605.49	M&T	\$301,693.25
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$50,204.93	FNCB	<u>\$550,548.27</u>
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$225,030.53		<u>\$1,912,274.50</u>
PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$405,782.83		
PLGIT PAYROLL	\$2,945.20		
PLGIT GENERAL	<u>\$2,634.99</u>		

TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS \$1,001,457.49

HIGHWAY AID FUND

PLGIT	<u>\$263,518.13</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$263,518.13</u>

SEWER FUND

M&T	\$301,693.25
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FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$109,027.61
PLGIT SEWER FREDIT CARD	\$236,578.02
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$647,298.88</u>
TOTAL COMBINED CHEKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,912,274.50</u>

Councilman Colarusso made a motion seconded by Councilman Dolan to accept the reading of the Treasurer’s report. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso stated that he spoke to DPW manager, Rick Kamus, and that he is asking if someone could post on Facebook that during snowstorms he’d like residents to park in the driveways, so that DPW can plow the snow from the storms.

Councilman Colarusso mentioned about the e-mail from the resident living on Holden St. as to the yellow paint on the corners showing not to park so close to the edges. There is difficulty getting in and out of Holden St. Chairman Stavish asked if Chief Nocera could look in this matter.

Daniel Skok-Community Development:

Councilman Skok spoke about the notice the Borough received from Planning Commission of Luzerne County on the zoning request on front yard easements up on Cooper Hill. Councilman Skok said that he spoke to the homeowner who made the request and also the Planning Commission. Councilman Skok said that he saw no problem that the Borough would have with this. Councilman Skok that he did not hear of any results yet from the County.

Councilman Skok said that he received information from Secretary Lukesh regarding the regional rail systems in different counties. Councilman Skok stated that there were recent articles in the Citizens Voice about rail service. Councilman Skok said that he did attend a webinar regarding this matter. Councilman Skok said that he would like to see the rail system back in place and would be a help to lessen traffic on interstates.

Councilman Skok said that he received a request from resident about having the road paved and traffic speeding because of children on the road.

Councilman Skok suggested that if we can get information from residents for Grants to pay for paving our streets. It would be little or no cost to us to get the streets paved for information if we could get the information.

Mike Dolan: Public Safety/Code Enforcement

A discussion followed on having residents give information on surveys for grant purposes. Councilwoman Zaboski stated that for the Tripp Street grant process, form letters were used that were supplied by the County. We mailed them out and if they filled them out and sent them back, we have to calculate percentages. It is hard to be completely anonymous, because we do have to tabulate percentages, as who is above a certain income and who is below, to make the qualifications to submit to the grant. We have to have a certain percentage of people who are low in that percentage. Some of our

residents make more money than qualified. For some streets, residents just would not complete the surveys.

Councilman Dolan stated if can do it some other way to do it. If there is another way, is it the federal government or the state? Zaboski stated it is Luzerne County Community Development Block Grant.

The Fire and Rescue Emergency Services report, provided by Fire Chief Len Hromek, states that there were 14 incidents for last month:

Building fire 1
Medical assist, assist EMS crew 1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG) 1
Animal rescue 1
Assist police or other governmental agency 1
Public service 1
Good intent call, other 2
Dispatched & cancelled en route 4
Sprinkler activation due to malfunction 1
Special type of incident, other 1

With regard to the Monthly Police Chief's report—

False Alarms – Burglary	4
Theft	1
Narcotics	1
Domestics	2
Trespassing	1
Suspicious Activities	5
Motor Vehicle Acc.	2
Traffic/Parking Comp.	1
Animal Calls	2
Public Service Calls	2
Assist EMS	20
Assist Fire Dept	2
Assist other Police	22
Total	67
Citations	4

No Code Enforcement—Ken has been out sick. All has been quiet. There are some cats on 6th Street and there has been a complaint. Other than that, it has been quiet.

The Mayor is not here and the Police Chief is not here. Congrats to Police Chief Nocera on his baby girl being born today, is the reason he not in attendance. His wife and baby girl are doing great.

Council Stavish stated that they have not heard any thing from the FOP for the last and final proposal for the contract. Just to acknowledge that we were all in agreement.

Maureen Zaboski-Administration/Finance and Health/Sanitation:

We have an increase to pay to our Uniform MMO this year due to interest. If you remember, last year we had to pay \$47,000 and change, due to a 2008 deposit that was not made, so with interest that came to \$87,000. At the last minute, Conrad Siegel said they re-calculated the interest and they lowered the interest to \$65,000 and change. It probably would have been better if we had paid the \$87,000, because our pension administrator ran more calculations and we now have to pay \$26,891.00, in addition to the \$69,941.00 MMO this year. That makes a total of \$96,832.00. We talked about moving some funds for the police cruiser for next year. We would move this year's amount to the 2021 Budget and put a down payment for one cruiser of \$30,000. We need to postpone the purchase of the second vehicle for a while.

A motion by councilwoman Zaboski was made to pay the revised amount for Police Pension MMO plus previous years interest in the amount of \$96,832.00. Seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion by Councilwoman Zaboski was made to approve all outstanding bills approved by the finance committee. Seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

There was a question about the trash contract for next year. The matter will be looked into.

A motion by Councilwoman Zaboski to pass the 2021 Budget Ordinance which includes General, Highway Aid and Sewer Accounts, second by Councilman Dolan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion by Councilwoman Zaboski to pass the resolution Adopting the 2021 Tax Rate, which states the tax rate will stay the same, at 1.5 mils. Seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion by Councilwoman Zaboski to transfer \$405,782.83 from PLIGIT EIT to FNCB General account. Seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Stavish mentioned that the compost yard is closed for the season. Cameras are in place and the gate was closed.

Linell Lukesh-Solicitor- Solicitor Lukesh stated that she submitted all the information she received from WVSA with respect to the sewer blockage claims, along with information from residents and submitted it to our insurance agent and they in turn submitted it to the claims adjuster. Solicitor Lukesh said that she did hear back from Joyce Insurance and the claims adjuster and there was a thorough review. Their conclusion is that the sewer claims would not be covered with our insurance coverage because the Borough was not negligent. Therefore, those claims will be denied by our carrier. A discussion followed between Councilman Dolan and Solicitor Lukesh on this matter.

Citizens Participation: John Morgan - 666 Shoemaker Ave. A resident was crossing Shoemaker Ave to get to his car parked on E. Sperling St when he was hit by another car. The resident is now in the hospital. The reason he was crossing the street is because parking was banned on his street and he was denied a handicapped space in front of his house. Blaming council for this incident. The caller turned out to be Ryan Pecukonis, who resides on W. Sperling St. He had given a fake name and address.

Councilwoman Zaboski asked if the person that was hit was Mr. Pecukonis. Thoughts and prayers go out to the family. A discussion followed on this matter.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Stavish and seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.