

West Wyoming Borough Council Minutes - May 10,2021

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, Vice-Chairwoman Zaboski, Councilman Dolan, Councilman Colarusso, Councilman Skok, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Kendzor, Engineer Amato, and Secretary Lukesh.

Absent: Mayor Herbert

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

OLD BUSINESS-NONE

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
AS May 9, 2021**

CASH ACCOUNTS	COMBINED GENERAL,HIGHWAY AID AND SEWER FUNDS		
GENERAL FUND			
ESSA BANK	\$148,573.81	PLGIT	\$600,309.65
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71	ESSA	\$148,573.81
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$ 718,512.86	M&T	\$436,332.65
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEDS	\$50,215.58	FNCB	<u>\$1,161.339.73</u>
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$307,798.72		<u>\$2,346,555.84</u>
PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$10,316.64		
PLGIT PYROLL	\$5,224.42		
PLGIT GENERAL	<u>\$3,245.05</u>		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,249,476.79</u>		

HIGHWAY AID FUND	
PLGIT	<u>\$312,040.29</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$312,040.29</u>
 SEWER FUND	
M&T	<u>\$436,332.65</u>
FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	<u>\$79,222.86</u>
PLGIT SEWER CREDIT CARD	<u>\$269,483.25</u>
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$785,038.76</u>
TOTAL COMBINED CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$2,346,555.84</u>

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 gave his monthly report on DPW services for the month. New parts needed on equipment. DPW requesting West Wyoming to get a trailer and completion of man-hole covers on W. 6th and W. 8th St.

Councilman Skok wanted it noted that the ring is missing around the manhole cover on corner of Shoemaker Avenue by 6th St., which was brought to his attention by resident living on Shoemaker Ave.

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

Councilwoman Zaboski made the motion to approve the transfer of \$10,316.64 from PLGIT EIT to FNCB General Fund, seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski stated that the American Rescue Plan is going to allow municipalities to receive funds from the government. Councilwoman Zaboski asked Engineer Amato if the Borough is in good order to receive the funds. Councilwoman Zaboski noted that we did hear from PSAB that we do not have to file an application to receive the funds. It says on the US Treasury website that we need to have a Duns number. Engineer Amato replied that the Borough will be okay. The funds that the Borough would receive would come to our bank account in late May or early June. The guidelines on what we could spend the funds on are rather vague and we should be getting \$100,000 this June and \$100,000 next June. They talk about replenishing revenues that have been lost due to covid. We could also spend it on projects involving water, sewer, and infrastructure. Perhaps maybe paving of streets. Engineer Amato responded that street paving is not an eligible item. A discussion followed between council members and Engineer Amato.

Secretary Lukesh asked if the funds we would receive would act like a grant. Councilwoman Zaboski responded that we would have to provide some type of documentation on what the funds were being used for.

Councilwoman noted that we did receive bids from the sewer. Councilwoman Zaboski said that if we want to take Penneastern recommendation and go with Derstine & Co. for the \$146,000, then a motion could be made. Motion was made by Chairman Stavish and seconded by Councilman Skok to accept the bid from Derstine & Co. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski noted that Ashburn Advisors would be the grant administrator for that grant.

Also noted is the Paper Shredding event that is scheduled for August 28 from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Councilwoman Zaboski commented on the street signs noting that in 2014 new street signs were put in place from Atherton Section up to Swetland Lane to make them meet federal regulations. So now, the other side of town needs 60 set of signs that we should replace with green signs instead of white signs and larger lettering. Will need to have Secretary Lukesh look into the pricing of signs.

Mike Dolan: Public Safety/Code Enforcement-

Councilman Dolan read the West Wyoming Emergency Services Monthly Chief's report. West Wyoming Emergency Services responded to five alarms in April:

Outside equipment fire 1
Power line down 1
Unauthorized burning 1
Dispatched & Cancelled en route 2

Engine One is currently out of service and at McCarthy's for repairs. We expect to have it back in service by week's end. Waiting on estimate.

The department is beginning to rent out both facilities on a limited basis. Please call 570-693-3660 for rental information.

On Code Enforcement no report has been submitted by Code Enforcer. He is staying on top of things. Complaint on W. 3rd St is pending. There are 4 non-payments on trash. Also, hearing date is scheduled for complaint on Carolina Ave.

Councilman Dolan asked Chief Nocera for the reading of the police report.

Vehicle Maintenance: Car 1: N/A Car 2: N/A

On Regionalization: Regional Police survey was completed by DCED. On April 23rd, Council President Stavish and Chief Nocera attended an on-line regional police meeting with members from Wyoming Borough, West Pittston Borough, Exeter Borough, Exeter Township, DCED, Rep. Kaufer, Sen. Yudichak's office and other local officials. The regional police consultant gave us his findings and a guide for staffing, coverage zones, new police headquarters, along with a ball park figure of what each town will be paying. West Wyoming will be greatly benefiting from the regionalization, tentatively, 2 officers will be assigned coverage in West Wyoming 24/7, along with dedicated members for investigations for a cost of around the same of which West Wyoming's police budget is at now. The staffing numbers need to be re-addressed, salaries have not yet been finalized and we are still waiting on some grant information so a definite budget has not been initialized yet. A resolution to accept the regional police study and proceed with post-study negotiations and meeting has been requested.

Speed timing lines have been surveyed by Penn Eastern and M. Mayo Striping has painted them. All 3 State routes now have speed timing lines.

A recent burglary/theft/criminal trespassing spree hit West Wyoming and surrounding towns. Chief Nocera along with Ptlm. Josh Seguine investigated these incidents. On 4/17, after a brief pursuit, one of the males committing these crimes was apprehended which led to the arrest of other males. Mostly, all items stolen from West Wyoming and other towns were recovered. West Wyoming Police in conjunction with Swoyersville Police and the Pa. State Police worked hand in hand to apprehend, identify, and locate the individuals, recover the stolen property and bring justice upon these individuals.

Chief Nocera thanked Diamond Mfg. for donating \$2,500.00 to the police department.

No applications received for part-time police at this time. Still looking to hire an officer.

Officers handled approximately 106 calls for service in the month of April. 2 criminal arrests were made. 15 citations issued.

A discussion followed between Chief Nocera and Solicitor Lukesh regarding the resolution on regionalization to accept and continue formulating a plan for the regionalization.

Councilman Dolan recommended Executive Session to discuss issues on the regionalization. Chairman Stavish said that one will be held to discuss personnel matters also.

Daniel Skok: Community Development

Councilman Skok commented on the improvements on residents homes. Gave a total of \$305,421 on building permits for month of April.

Also commented on voting that will take place for West Wyoming residents at Hose Co # 1. The town of Exeter will be voting at St Monica's Parish.

Councilman Skok also stated that he has walked the Abraham's Creek Channel. Inspection will take place on July 7th at 10:15-12pm. Councilman Skok said that he will be sending letters to residents to remind them on opening their gates.

Councilman Skok also wanted to thank DPW for the wonderful job they are doing and also to our Police department for their dedicated service to our town.

Councilman Skok also reminded residents to have a visible address on their homes.

Chairman Stavish brought up the hearing that will take place on May 12th concerning the situation on Carolina Ave. Councilman Dolan will not be able to go, so Councilman Skok will take his place.

Linell Lukesh: Solicitor

Solicitor Lukesh presented a draft resolution whereas council will vote on to accept the findings for the regionalization study for police departments including West Wyoming, Wyoming, West Pittston, Exeter, Exeter Twp and to move forward by appointing a representative to serve on commission to further explore combining all the departments.

Chairman Stavish made a motion to accept the regionalization study, form a commission and to move forward in the study of the Greater Wyoming Area regionalization, seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor Lukesh commented on the sewer blockage that affected the home on Ferretti Dr. WVSA was working nearby and did not notify the Borough. Resident from Ferretti Dr notified Solicitor Lukesh. Solicitor Lukesh said that she did discuss the issue with WVSA Solicitor. This issue was turned into our outgoing insurance company. Maximum amount to be reimbursed was accomplished.

Solicitor Lukesh is also working on liens and lien satisfactions.

Mike Amato – Engineer:

Engineer Amato is waiting on some pricing so we can pull together the budget cost for the sewer maintenance.

Also mentioned that he and Secretary Jill Lukesh meet with representatives from Transco gas pipeline. Their project is in 2023. Representatives still do not have all the required permits, but they are on track and showed us the location on where the new lines will be running and they will be putting together some agreements for our Solicitor to review.

Robert Connors- Tax Collector:

Mr. Connors commented that the school tax bills will be coming out in July. Asked if the Borough building will be opened only because he will have to fill out an information form. Wants to know if he will be collecting at the borough building or not. Will need to set up hours or if he will be going through the mail. Solicitor Lukesh said that it will be discussed when we go into executive session. Solicitor Lukesh said that Council will have an answer within a week.

Second issue is the parade is coming up and W. 8th St., Connors noted, only has five American flags. Been on the Rec Board for over 30 years. Asked if some money can be taken from Rec Board fund to purchase some flags. A discussion followed between Mr. Connors and council.

Motion made by Chairman Stavish to approve the extension of DPW contract with Forty-Fort effective April 17 to January 1st and as of Dec 31st, then in January it will be on a yearly basis from January 1 to Dec 31, seconded by Councilman Dolan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to do Brady St. projects made by Councilman Colarusso and seconded by Councilwoman Zaboski. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

After the executive session, there was no audience participation.

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

