

West Wyoming Borough Council Meeting Minutes - September 13, 2021

The monthly meeting of West Wyoming Borough was called to order by Chairman Stavish via Zoom Cloud 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 and Secretary Jill Lukesh.

Absent: Mayor Joe Herbert

OLD BUSINESS- Councilman Dolan commented on amending the easement ordinance on Abrahams' Creek from last month's minutes. Reply by Solicitor Lukesh that it will be addressed in her report and draft will be sent to all council members.

Also, Councilman Dolan asked about the tagging of cars on whether or not execution is appropriate. Solicitor Lukesh replied that the Ordinance is fine but maybe we need to itemize the procedure on this.

Gary Stavish: Chairman/Personnel- Chairman Stavish made a motion and seconded by Councilman Dolan to approve last month's meeting minutes. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Chairman Stavish and seconded by Councilman Colarusso to approve payments of all outstanding bills. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Stavish said that on the crossing guard issue looks like the school are trying to combine two bus stops into one – Ensign Street (by the Town Hall) and Morgan Ave would merge to Gregory Street. There was a letter that was sent out from the four municipalities and one township from solicitors to the school. We will be addressing this issue about the crossing guards stating that we want the school to take on more responsibility instead of the communities. Motion was made on this matter by Chairman Stavish and seconded by Councilman Colarusso. 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. It is as follows:

WEST WYOMING BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

CASH ACCOUNTS

GENERAL FUND

ESSA BANK REFUSE	\$177,944.97
FNCB ARPA ACCOUNT	\$140,049.71
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71
FNCB ENGINE REFURBISHMENT ACCOUNT	\$17,000.14
FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$678,544.44
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$32,364.38
FNCB REFUSE ACCOUNT	\$249,992.62

AID AND SEWER FUNDS

PLGIT	\$378,610.34
ESSA	\$177,944.97
M&T	\$483,009.47
FNCB	<u>\$1,467,837.26</u>
	<u>\$2,507,402.04</u>

PLGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$63,382.44
PLGIT PAYROLL	\$2,054.11
PLGIT GENERAL	\$3,739.64
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CHEKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$1,370,752.16</u>

HIGHWAY AID FUND	
PLGIT	<u>\$301,508.11</u>
TOTAL HIGHWAY AID CHEKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$301,508.11</u>

SEWER FUND	
M&T	\$483,009.47
FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$344,206.26
PLGIT SEWER CREDIT CARD	<u>\$7,926.04</u>
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$835,141.77</u>

TOTAL COMBINED CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$2,507,402.04</u>
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Councilman Colarusso made a motion seconded by Councilman Skok to approve the reading of the Treasurer’s report. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso reported that on 9/1 when we got the heavy storm he was out with a few people and wanted to say thank you to Jimmy Ostrowski, Matt Granteed, Mike Kuharchik and Rick Kamus and DPW. Had a little bit of flood on Washington Ave and Oak Street in the Toytown section. Also, pump station on Ferretti Dr was down. Both had to be pumped out. Drain will be cleaned out by WVSA on the pump on Washington Ave. and Oak St.

Councilman Colarusso said that he spoke to Rick, DPW manager, and was told that a machine auction will be held in Forty-Fort . Councilman Colarusso told Rick Kamus that if he feels that there may be something in our garage that we know longer need to get rid of it. Rick said that there is a lawn mower that isn’t running well.

Councilman Colarusso said that Rick took care of the concern from resident living on Johnson St.

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

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion seconded by Councilman Colarusso to approve the transfer of \$63,382.44 from PLGIT EIT to FNCB General. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion to put sanitation contract out for bid and have closing date. Bids will be opened at our next council meeting, seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. Councilman Dolan asked about containers. Councilwoman Zaboski replied that the last bids that we got, one bid did have containers included, the other bid did not. A discussion followed among council members. Engineer Amato suggested doing a base bid and alternate bid.

Councilwoman Zaboski made a motion, seconded by Councilman Colarusso, for WWB to apply for an LSA Grant application for phrase 2 for borough renovations for \$593,400.00. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. Grant administrator will be Ashburn Advisors.

We have a second resolution for an LSA grant. Councilwoman Zaboloski made a motion that West Wyoming Borough would be a member of municipality for LSA grant for the police regionalization equipment whereas Wyoming Borough will be the lead along with West Wyoming, West Pittston and Exeter Township, seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboloski made a motion to approve the 2022 police MMO in the amount \$53,477.00, seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Zaboloski stated that we are applying for the 902 performance grant. That application is due late next week. We are applying for a back hoe, jersey blocks, cameras and lights.

The paper shredding that was held in September was successful. Another one will be held on October 16th at DPW building from 9 to noon.

Budgets meetings will be starting soon for next year's budget. Councilwoman Zaboloski asked Chairman Stavish if a work session can be held in November a week before the council meeting, so the budget can be presented and go over any changes and put it on the work table for 30 days. Chairman Stavish replied yes.

Dan Skok: Community Development-Councilman Skok stated the value of property improvements in town totaled \$75,020.00. Councilman Skok publicly thanked Mr. Malochefskie and his son, Nick, for painting the sign in front of the Borough building.

Councilman Skok stated that there are two members of the Boy Scouts that are reaching eligibility for Eagle scouts. They are looking for projects to do in town.

A discussion followed between Chairman Stavish and Councilman Skok regarding the projects for the Boy Scouts .

Mike Dolan: Public Safety/Code Enforcement- West Wyoming Emergency Services Monthly Chief's Report. West Wyoming Emergency Services responded to fourteen incidents in August:

Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1
Medial assist, assist EMS crew	2
Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	1
Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1
Power line down	2
Assist police or other governmental agency	- 1
Good intent call, other	4
Dispatched & cancelled en route	1
No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	- 1

In regards to Code Enforcement, our Code Enforcer said that he has complaints on high grass. Also, that he had a court date with Makarewicz and has another court date on Sept 22nd.

In regards to the Lighthouse, Ken will submit a report next month on this and also he said that he spoke to Zoning.

West Wyoming Police Department report was given by Chief Nocera. Vehicle Maintenance: Car 1: Needs inspection/emission Car 2: N/A. On Regionalization, Chairman Stavish has the latest update.

Chief Nocera stated that he has received notice that the new cruiser has been built and is awaiting delivery to the upfitter. He spoke with the sales person and was told that the window to purchase a new Tahoe for the year 2022 has already closed, but they have (1) 2021 Tahoe in stock that we could lease, if council approves. Chief Nocera told them to see if they can hold it until after this council meeting tonight and he would get back to them. Chief Nocera said that he has been approached by another department in which they are inquiring if they could purchase both cruisers we have now, as a package deal, if the approval for the second Tahoe is approved.

Officers will complete their mandatory firearms requalification this week.

Officers handled approximately 92 calls for service in the month of August 2021. 3 criminal arrests were made. 3 citations were issued.

Officer Sequine is being deployed overseas and our police department will be in need of a part-time replacement.

Mike Amato: Engineer- Engineer Amato stated the he followed up with Councilman Colarusso on the pump station situations that developed due to the rain storm on 9/1.

New pumps for the Sanitary Sewer Project are in production.

Multiscape did get to look at the Borough Building roof. Multiscape did put some effort into where the rain was coming from. Due to the last storm, another leakage was found, so that will lead into the restoration project that has been funded by the recent LSA grant award. We will start proceeding with that project.

We will be meeting with the contractor about Brady St. Crews will be there next week. It should take two days to fix.

Linell Lukesh: Solicitor- Going back to the question that Councilman Dolan asked concerning the Abrahams Creek Channel. Solicitor Lukesh said she has a draft of the amendment to the Ordinance #4 of 2018 regulating access to the easement. Section 2 will be added to the ordinance to summarize the property owner's shall keep the easement free of any vegetation which could obstruct access to the Channel including high grass and weeds and free from any structure that could obstruct entry.

The ordinance now has provisions along the channel to make sure we have no gates that are locked at the time that access is needed. As stated in the current ordinance, there will be penalties for violations including the property owner having to pay for any expenses or costs that may be incurred if department of public works or any other governmental agency as to actually physically remove weeds or any other vegetation to get to the channel. Along with that and consistent with the other parts of the ordinance, we can decide to also cite the property owners that are in violation of this with a fine of up to \$300.00. Council can direct what that fine can be, but has to be \$300.00 or less and that any failure to pay fines, costs and expenses can result in a lien being placed on the property owner's property. This will be on the table for 30 days and any revisions, corrections can be made during this time and then we will finalize for a vote or final adoption at the October meeting.

Chairman Stavish made a motion, seconded by Councilman Skok, to lay the amendment to the changes on the Abrahams Creek channel easement ordinance on the table for 30 days. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor Lukesh also commented on the police regionalization meetings. Solicitor Lukesh said that she, along with Chairman Stavish and Councilman Colarusso, have been participating every two weeks. The last meeting was on last Thursday. Aaron Kaufer, our representative, has been organizing the meetings and obtaining a lot of information and securing consultants, who are overseeing police regionalization in their own communities. There are proposals that the entire committee, with all representatives from townships and boroughs are working on. We will eventually be addressing an agreement among the solicitors and probably will happen soon. We will be meeting to go over a sample agreement and make sure we are covering all of our concerns. Solicitors will be meeting with the Fraternal Order of Police because all the townships and boroughs have a collective bargaining agreement with the FOP. We will also be examining whether we will be following the Police Tenure Act versus the provisions of the Civil Service Commission. The majority of the regionalizations that have been enacted throughout the Commonwealth of PA are following the Police Tenure Act, which is protective of police officers and their years of service on the force. The difference with the Civil Service Commission is more testing and, additionally, a commission has to be formed for hiring. That may not fit into the way this commission is going to be set up because the commission itself, once its formed, will be performing those duties. It is up in the air as to using the old state police barracks. Rep. Kaufer is keeping in touch with Congressman Cartwright as far as any federal aid. As far as the location on where the headquarters will be is still in question. The barracks needs a lot of improvements. Wyoming Borough will be heading up the LSA grant for the other Boroughs including West Wyoming. We are getting a lot of support from Aaron Kaufer's office. Information is being communicated so that all will know what is going on.

Citizen's Participation

Scott Mecca- Swetland Lane- 10 years ago parts of Swetland lane was hit by tropical Storm Lee. Flooding was from Creek and runoffs. Levy system protects from Susquehanna but it causes problems for the creek and runoffs. Spoke to flood protection authority. Flood gates are permanently closed. In order to correct issue, the County and Borough should work to get a grant for a flood mitigation system.

Council went into Executive Session.

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