

West Wyoming Borough Council Minutes– February 10, 2020

Roll call was taken by Chairman Stavish and the following were present: Councilman Randy Colarusso, Councilman Dan Grescavage, Vice Chair Maureen Zabolski, Councilman Mike Dolan, Mayor Joe Herbert, Solicitor Linell Lukesh, Treasurer Mark Kendzor. Absent was Mike Amato.

Old Business: A motion was made to approve the minutes for December and January by Councilman Mike Dolan and seconded by Councilman Randy Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Stavish - Personnel: Police Chief Curtis Nocera advertised for a police officer. It should have been in the paper and should have gone out last week. We are also interviewing and taking applications for a Borough Administrator.

Councilman Colarusso – Public Facilities: Councilman Colarusso asked our Treasurer Mark Kendzor for the Treasurer’s Report.

Treasurer Kendzor stated, because of the departure of our Administrator, not all entries have been posted for January. While there is no reason for concern, some of the cash accounts are not reconciled for January. Because some of the unposted entries are cash receipts, some balances presented in the report are lower than what is reflected in the actual bank statements:

GENERAL FUND

* ESSA BANK REFUSE	\$115,963.92	PLIGIT	\$459,333.52
FNCB DEBT SERVICE ACCOUNT	\$5,679.71	ESSA	\$115,963.92
* FNCB GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$422,594.35	M&T	\$259,020.74
FNCB PROPERTY PROCEEDS	\$67,995.01	FNCB	<u>\$949,595.60</u>
* PLIGIT EARNED INCOME TAX	\$85,236.54		\$1,783,913.78
PLIGIT PAYROLL	\$3,844.73		
PLIGIT GENERAL	<u>\$2,017.03</u>		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND			
CHECKING /SAVINGS	\$1,010,773.61		

HIGHWAY AID FUND

PLIGIT	<u>\$208,594.84</u>
TOTAL HWY AID FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	\$208,594.84

SEWER FUND

* M&T Sewer	\$259,020.74
FNCB SEWER OPERATING FUND	\$145,884.21
* PLIGIT SEWER CREDIT CARD	\$159,640.38
TOTAL SEWER FUND CHECKING/SAVINGS	<u>\$564,545.33</u>
TOTAL COMBINED CHECKING /SAVINGS	\$1,783,913.78

* *Unreconciled Balances*

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written by Councilman Colarusso, second by Councilman Dan Grescavage. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Councilman Colarusso stated that he was at a meeting of the West Side COG. It was suggested that Representative Aaron Kaufer would like to get together with all the towns with the COG. There about 13 towns that are in it. He would like to get us together to pave some of the roads. Rep. Aaron Kaufer said he is going to push so we can get the equipment for paving with the LSA Grant that is coming up.

As for the DPW, we took care of the pump station on Tripp Street.

Councilman Grescavage – Building Permits: This year, 2020, we still need zoning approvals for West Wyoming. The zoning approvals are issued by Luzerne County. There is a hearing before they issue an approval. Zoning approvals are necessary for new construction, decks and porches, swimming pools, any additions, car ports, retaining walls, sheds, spas, hot tubs, gazebos and signs. In addition, applications for building permits are to be submitted to the Borough.

Mike Dolan – Public Safety / Code Enforcement: I have the reports for December and January: Emergency Services reported 13 alarms for December. For January, Emergency Services responded to 16 alarms.

The Fire Department will be holding a Ziti Dinner on Feb. 22, at the fire house on Shoemaker Ave. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased from any member or at the door.

Councilman Dolan said he would like to read a letter we received from our Borough Fire Chief, Matt Granteed:

“...As of this date, I am stepping down as West Wyoming Borough Fire Chief, after 20 of volunteer service as Borough Fire Chief. I wish to thank Mayor Herbert for having great faith and trust in me and my decision-making capabilities regarding emergency services during my tenure as Chief.”

“Thank you to current and former members of Council for working together with the Borough fire departments and our former EMS service, so that we could provide the best possible emergency services to the community. It has been my pleasure to serve the Borough of West Wyoming as Borough Fire Chief throughout these years.”

Councilman Dolan, as well as the Mayor and the members of Council, thanked Chief Granteed for his 20 years of dedicated service.

A motion by Councilman Dolan to accept the resignation of Borough Fire Chief Matt Granteed. Second by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

Councilman Dolan also read another letter from Chief Granteed. It states:

“This letter is to recommend a new Borough Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Second Assistant Fire Chief from within the ranks of our fire department, since West Wyoming Hose Co. #1 and Hose Co. #2 are now merged under one roof.”

“Based on experience, leadership skills and training, the following people are recommended:

Len Hromek, Borough Fire Chief

John Baker Sr., Borough Assistant Chief

Lee Hampton, Borough Second Assistant Chief

This team of volunteers has been elected recently as West Wyoming Hose Co. #1. Collectively, they have decades of experience.”

“Len Hromek has served as Borough Assistant Chief for many years. He will make an excellent Borough Chief.”

“John Baker and Lee Hampton are former leaders of West Wyoming Hose Co. #2 and work well already with Len Hromek.”

“Respectfully, these are my recommendations...”

A motion made by Councilman Dolan to appoint Len Hromek as Borough Fire Chief, John Baker, Sr. as Borough Assistant Fire Chief, Lee Hampton as Borough Second Assistant Chief. Second by Councilman Grescavage. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

The Police Chief report for February: Normal vehicle maintenance for the month and the officers completed a Buckle Up Grant. We lost a patrolman – he resigned and we are in the process of looking for a replacement.

On Code Enforcement – Some issues that have been pending have been taken care of, except one, where the property has been taken over by a bank. If anyone has any concerns about violation in their neighborhood, a complaint can be filed. We will have Ken Shefler look into it.

Maureen Zaboski – Administration/Finance, Health and Sanitation: A motion was made by Councilwoman Zaboski to pay all outstanding bills approved by the Finance Committee. Second by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion was made to pay the final Belles bill for ADA project \$7,527.10. Second by Councilman Grescavage. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made to place the purchase of new sewer pumps for the Brady Street pump station out for bid. Second by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

A motion was made to make a Request for Proposals for Borough Insurance. The proposals will be due by April. Second by Councilman Dolan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Linell Lukesh-Solicitor:

At the beginning of the year we put out a Request for Proposals for a new Pension Administrator. All the proposals were due for this meeting. We have only one response. This is to administer our Police and Non-Uniform Pension Plans. The reply is from PSAB Municipal Retirement Trust. There is an extensive report and proposal made. Included are new actuaries, which may be included with the new pension administrator. I would recommend that we would take and review it along with the Finance

Committee and the Treasurer. Then we would make a recommendation for Council's approval. When our present Pension administrator learned about the proposals, they turned in their resignation effective March 2. We would have to have a special meeting to decide to select this one or put it out for bid again.

Mayor Herbert:

The 2019 year of police calls is posted on the board in Council Chambers. Thanks to our Police Department for doing a great job for our community. The officers handled 138 calls for the month of December. Criminal arrests were made and 69 citations were issued. Our officer handled 1369 calls for 2019. 45 criminal arrests were made and 393 citations were issued. 70 calls of service were handled in the month of January 2020, so far. 5 criminal arrests were made and 4 citations were issued. Thank you Chief Nocera and thanks to all the men who work for us.

Citizens Participation:

Ray Saporito 6 Bridge St.:

I know you do not know me I have lived about 30 at this property. I am here tonight about the Foundry on 6th St. I have tried to contact the Borough by signing a complaint sheet with other names on it. I have not heard anything about it yet. It is in deplorable condition, windows and doors are missing. The back of the area has junk vehicles, including dump trucks, old tractors, heavy duty construction equipment. They are all along the Creek. We are just curious. It looks to me like a junk yard is starting. If it is a junk yard should it be zoned as a junk yard. If it is not a junk yard, should these vehicles be allowed to be there? There is all sort of activity going on. There is body work being done. I noticed vehicles going in the buildings and coming back out. Not sure what is going on at this property. This goes on and we see all of this, because it faces our backyard. We just would want this cleaned up because we all keep our properties cleaned.

Council discussed the complaint and will review the matter. George Nickoloff seems to be the person who owns the property.

Joseph M. Piskorek 322 W 6th St.:

Asking about the sewer fee. Wondering what it will drop to after the loan is paid in November of 2020. Council stated they have not determined that yet. There is going to be a fee but, we don't believe it will be what it is now. The fee will be determined during the budget process, which will be in the Fall.

A motion was made by Councilman Colarusso to adjourn, second by Councilman Dolan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion Carried.

