

Borough Council Regular Meeting November 8, 2016

The regular meeting of Windber Borough Council was called to order by Windber Borough Council Vice President, James Spinosa at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members were present: Mike Bryan, John Holden, Pete LaMonaca, Ron Mash, Sonya Pekala and James Spinosa. James Furmanchik, Borough Manager was present. Mr. Jerley was absent.

Approval Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. Holden to approve the minutes of October 11, 2016 meeting. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

Recognition of Visitors

Mr. Paczek from EADS said a final walk through of the sewer project was held today with R & B Contracting and Windber Borough. The walk through was completed to generate a punch list of any remaining items that needed to be addressed and to determine if project permits are ready to be closed out. Only minor restoration items were added to the punch list.

Moving forward R & B Contracting will be completing a GPS survey and then providing GPS points to EADS so that record drawings can be completed. In addition EADS will be working to close out project permits and to finalize the funding process with PennVest.

Action Items for tonight:

R&B Pay Request No. 5

- a. R&B has submitted their 6th payment request in the amount of \$15,074.27 for approval by Borough Council.

PennVest Drawdown Request No. 7

- a. Total amount of \$26,312.06 is pending Borough Council's approval consisting of the following costs:
 - i. R&B Contracting and Excavation, amount listed above = \$15,074.27.
 - ii. The EADS Group, engineering, funding admin., inspection = \$10,327.30
 - iii. PennVest interest = \$710.49
 - iv. Fike, Cascio, & Boose, PennVest Closing = \$200.00

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Mash to approve R & B Contracting, pay request No. 5 in the amount of \$15,074.27. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Mash to approve PennVest drawdown Request No. 7 in the amount of \$26,312.06. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

Sewer Grant

2016 PA Small Water and Sewer Systems Grant Application. Mr. Paczek said an application was submitted to the PA Commonwealth Financing Authority for their 2016 grant program in October.

If awarded this grant would be used to fund up to 85% of a project to replace sanitary sewers on Graham Avenue, 5th Street and 6th Street. It is currently unknown when the recipients will be announced.

A moment of silence was held for David Berkey whose wife Carol is the secretary for the police department. Mr. Berkey passed away suddenly today.

Correspondence

1. Minutes of the Windber Municipal Authority's Meeting of October 4 & 18, 2016.
2. Property Maintenance Codes Inspections for October 2016.
3. PA Municipal Code Alliance Monthly Report.
4. Minutes from the Somerset County Redevelopment Authority Public Hearing.
5. Minutes from the Windber Area Authority Meeting on September 28, 2016.
6. Somerset County Borough's Association Social Meeting November 17, 2016.

Approval Payroll

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Mash to approve payroll for October 14 and 28, 2016. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

Approval of bills

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mrs. Pekala to approve bills for October 2016. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

Fire Truck

Mr. Furmanchik said he wanted to discuss the contribution for the fire company. He said if you remember back when we were approached by the chief of the fire company two municipalities Ogle Township and Paint Township were curious how Windber Borough might go. Their decision hinged upon our decision. That decision was based on a millage increase. Our budget was prepared in such a way that we did not have to have a millage increase. We were fortunate enough to include a line item. That line item in the 2017 budget is 411.500.

Mr. Furmanchik said he already spoke to Paint Township and Ogle Township and they want to know what we are doing. There is some uncertainty in their mind because Windber Borough did not prepare a millage increase. Mr. Furmanchik said it is not our fault if we have another way to incur that expense without a tax increase. Mrs. Pekala said they are still getting a mill because we were able to cut costs in other places. Mr. Furmanchik said that is correct but they are concerned about our intent in the future.

Mr. Furmanchik said that money is needed to subsidize the purchase of the fire truck. It is a half a million dollar truck. It will be a 10 year loan. He said if we did not do it, then they may as well cancel the truck and they would lose their down payment money.

Mr. Furmanchik said with council's approval he has prepared a letter to give to the Windber Fire Department to be signed by the council president and himself so the fire chief can show it to the other municipalities making them well aware that we are in this for the long haul for life of the payment. The payment term for that piece of equipment is 10 years.

Mr. Furmanchik read the letter. To whom it may concern: in lieu of a tax millage increase, Windber Borough has elected to establish a yearly budget line item under Fire; Number 411.500 in the amount of \$45,000.

This amount will be dedicated to the purpose of purchasing a fire truck for the Windber Fire Company. The payment will last for a period of 10 years and can be revisited at the conclusion of that period.

Mr. Furmanchik said he thought this would protect the borough from any confusion. Mrs. Pekala said we had agreed whenever they purchased the building to do it for a certain amount of years but never put it in writing and it never came off the books. Mr. Furmanchik said we will have this on file for our protection plus it will appease the other municipalities to chip in and pay their fair share of the loan agreement as well.

A motion was made by Mr. Holden and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the letter to the Fire Company that Windber Borough has established a yearly budget line item number 411.500 in the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$45,000 for 10 years dedicated to the purchase of fire truck. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

**Purchase
Truck**

Mr. Furmanchik said we discussed purchasing a truck at the last budget session. The white F350 that we use mostly for cold patching but most of all as a plow truck will not make it through another inspection. It is mechanically sound but the body is rusting. We had to put about \$700 into it to pass inspection. During winter we need to have four trucks with plows on them.

Mr. Furmanchik said his opinion was to stay away from diesels. It is \$7,000 or \$8,000 cheaper. The bad part about it in our locale is there is no one to work on a diesel and once the warranty is out they are very expensive to repair.

Mr. Furmanchik said he decided to go with the largest V8 possible and a smaller truck of some sort. Basically the same size but a lower gross vehicle weight package, an F250 instead of an F350 with a gear ratio that would be right for plowing, what's known in the automobile industry as a steep set of gears. It is not a big deal because those trucks are hardly on the highway and used for running around town but it would give us the opportunity to have a lot of torque between horsepower and the gear ratio for moving snow.

Mr. Furmanchik said we decided the best route to follow is not to just take something on the lot but to order a bare bones truck with the bare necessities on it that we need. He received four bids from Suppes Ford, Laurel Ford, Tri-Star and Memorial Highway Chevrolet. The lowest bidder was Laurel Ford at \$24,933.00. He said in order to take special pricing on this vehicle it would have to be ordered by the end of the month. If you don't order by the end of the month it was another \$1,500. That comes out to our liking too because of our budget situation for this year we do not want to take anything out this year and so we can take this out of our sewer fund from next year's budget. They are agreeable to ordering it now and paying for it the first of the year.

Mr. Furmanchik said the plow will cost \$5,000. We will not need to order it until the end of next year. He said we can use the CD for 2017 to pay for the plow. Mr. Holden asked if the truck was going to be used this winter. He said it will just be sitting there, what if something happens and we need to use it. He said put the plow on it at the beginning of the year. Mr. Furmanchik said that is fine he can order it for January.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pekala and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve ordering the F250 Truck for \$24,933 by the end of the month. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Holden and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve ordering the plow for the new truck by mid December. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

**New
Police
Vehicle**

Mr. Furmanchik said they priced out the Explorers and the Taurus and again Laurel Ford was the low bidder. The Taurus was \$25,026 and the Explorer was \$27,941 which is a difference of \$2,915. To outfit the Explorer the total would be \$9,973. Some of the items in the old Chevy Impala could be moved over to a Taurus with different mounting brackets that price comes to \$9,383.

Mr. Furmanchik said he spoke to some of the social clubs in the area and his understanding is they would donate to the purchase of a new cruiser so that is seven clubs that would be receiving letters and that would soften the blow if we went in that direction.

Mrs. Pekala asked which one the police would rather have, the Explorer or the Taurus? Chief Frear said the Explorer. Mr. Spinos said the Explorer is bigger and the officers are more comfortable in them. Mrs. Pekala asked how long these prices are good for. Mr. Furmanchik said the same as the truck. Mr. Spinos said we are better off ordering the 2017's than a 2016. Mr. Furmanchik said if you buy something off the lot now there are options on there we do not need so you're wasting money. He said this is a promotion to entice the buyer.

Mrs. Pekala asked if the one he priced out has everything the police department needs? Mr. Furmanchik said it does and Chief Frear showed interest in having a back up camera. Mrs. Pekala said it's in the 2017's. Mr. Furmanchik said no, it's not. He said he talked to Mike at Team Force and he gave him direction for little things like wiring to hook up lights in the grill. The Explorer we have now we had to cut into that this new one all we will have to do is plug into it. Everything plugs right in.

Mr. Furmanchik said in regards to the police vehicle right now we can basically afford it and in a couple of years now you don't know if you will.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pekala and seconded by Mr. Mash to order the Explorer for the police department from Laurel Ford for \$27,941. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

Mr. Furmanchik said this should put us into pretty good shape as far as the fleet and the building. The roof is near completion, probably another day or two till it will be finished. He said we have a new heating system in the building and windows and other than small repairs here and there we should be in good shape for a while.

Mr. Spinos said we need to look into fixing the air conditioning in the building in the upcoming months. Mr. Furmanchik said we will look into that down the line.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pekala and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to install the equipment needed for the Explorer by Team Force in the amount of \$9,973. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.

Council convened into an executive session at 7:30 for purposes of personnel.

Council reconvened from executive session at 8:03 p.m.

**Cash Bal./
Treasure Rpt** There were no questions on the Cash Balance or Treasurer's Report.

Council Liaison Reports

**Holden/
Municipal
Authority** Mr. Holden said he had run into Tim Tokarsky from the school board and he invited council the mayor and the new police chief to tour the new facility on the Monday the 14th at 7. Mrs. Pekala asked if that was 7 in the morning or evening. Mr. Furmanchik said he would find out and let them know.

Mr. Holden said that Winter Wine fest is this Saturday at the Community Building.

**Bryan/
Fire Co.** Mr. Bryan said he has a meeting tomorrow at the fire department.

**Mayor's
Report** Mayor Penrod said next year we need to start thinking about the police department building whether or not we want to continue renting or purchase it. Mrs. Pekala asked if we could pull the contract for the next meeting. Mr. Spinos asked if we want the responsibility of owning the building and maintaining it. Mayor Penrod said we have the option of purchasing or renting so we just need to review the agreement. Mrs. Pekala said she likes the location of the police station. It is centrally located and easy to get to.

**Manager's
Report** **LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS** - I have been informed that Mr. Tunstall has not filed for a variance with Richland Twp. and he has not returned my calls.

SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT - All construction and restoration has been completed. I will have a final walk through with the contractor and engineers on November 8th.

ROUTE 56 PROJECT - ongoing with no issues

1321 MIDWAY- The sale and demolition will be completed in the very near future.

POLICE CONTRACTS WITH SCALP LEVEL AND PAINT BOROUGH - These contracts have been negotiated, signed and completed. The topic will need to be revisited in late 2019.

NEW VEHICLES - As directed, I have obtained pricing for the possible purchase of a new truck for public works and a new police patrol car.

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS - I have contacted all of our community's social clubs and have composed a letter requesting donations for a new police vehicle, if that is the direction that council wishes to proceed.

TOWING ORDINANCE - As I mentioned in the budget workshop, I recommend that we enact an ordinance with a \$25 fee attached for all vehicle tows and that charge be submitted to police training.

Council agreed to review the ordinance and include a \$50 fee instead of \$25.

- Tentative Approval General Budget** A motion was made by Mr. La Monaca and seconded by Mr. Bryan to advertise and tentatively approve the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,498,277.27 for the Year 2017. Roll call vote: Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Jerley, absent, Mr. Mash, yes; Mrs. Pekala, yes and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.
- Tentative Approval Sewer Budget** A motion was made by Mrs. Pekala and seconded by Mr. Mash to advertise and tentatively approve the Sewer Fund Budget in the amount of \$222,705.00 for the Year 2017. Roll call vote: Mrs. Pekala, yes; Mr. Mash, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Jerley, absent; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.
- Tentative Approval Liquid Fuels Budget** A motion was made by Mrs. Pekala and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to advertise and tentatively approve the Liquid Fuels Fund budget in the amount of \$143,095.58 for the Year 2017. Roll call vote: Mrs. Pekala, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Bryan, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Jerley, absent; Mr. Mash, yes; and Mr. Spinos yes. Motion carried.
- Approval Delegate Tax Committee** A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mrs. Pekala to approve Jamie Kosh Windber Area School Districts, accounts receivable clerk to serve as the delegate for Windber Borough on the Somerset County Tax Collection Committee. One absent, Mr. Jerley, motion carried.
- Meeting** The next council meeting will be held on December 13, 2016.
- Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned by Council, Vice President, James Spinos at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates