

Borough Council Regular Meeting February 27, 2018

The 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: John Holden, Pete LaMonaca, Douglas Ledney, Ron Mash, Joe Pallo and James Spinosa. Mike Bryan was absent. Jim Furmanchik, Borough Manager and Mayor, Scott Penrod were present. Attorney, Joseph Green was absent.

Council convened to an executive session for personnel at 7:03 p.m.

Council reconvened from an executive session at 7:20 p.m.

Approval Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. Holden to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 meeting. One absent, Mr. Bryan, motion carried.

Correspondence

1. Minutes of the Windber Area Authority January 10, 2018 meeting.
2. Somerset County Borough's Association Dinner Meeting Thursday, March 15, 2018.
3. Letter from the Windber Fire Company requesting \$11,000 of annual budgeted funds from the borough to assist with operational costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Holden and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve the request from the Windber Fire Company to give them \$11,000 as budgeted. One absent, Mr. Bryan, motion carried.

Approval Payroll A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Mash to approve payroll for February 16, 2018. One absent, Mr. Bryan. Motion carried.

PW Equip. Mr. Furmanchik said we had some stormwater management issues. A catch basin in the alley was plugged. The family living there had to vacate their house until we were able to fix it. We could not get Roto Rooter there and were sort of under the gun due to heavy rain so he had to call GAP Inc. Jim Spinosa is employed by Gap Inc. Mr. Furmanchik said he talked to Attorney Green about whether that was a conflict of interest and he felt it was extremely permissible in an emergency situation.

Attorney Green advised him to note it in the minutes that Gap Inc., was called because this was an emergency and we strived to make sure the property owner on the corner did not have basement flooding again.

Roto Rooter is supposed to be back tomorrow and camera that pipe and we will make any decision for further work once that is done.

PW Equip. Mr. Furmanchik said while working on that issue it was discovered that we have been borrowing a jack hammer, air compressor, and water pump from the Windber Area Authority. He said he would like to get quotes and purchase a jack hammer, a trash pump, and a compressor so we do not have to borrow someone else's equipment. Mr. Furmanchik said the funding can be taken from the Sewer Fund to pay for that equipment.

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Pallo to approve Mr. Furmanchik to get quotes on a jack hammer, air compressor and trash pump. One absent, Mr. Bryan. Motion carried.

Bids Old Truck Mr. Furmanchik said we advertised for bids for the 2004 Super Duty Truck w/8' plow.

<u>Name of Bidder</u>	<u>Amount of Bid</u>
Brian Fabian	\$1,000.95
Michael Veneziano	\$701.00
Kevin Krouse	\$2,656.56

A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. Ledney to approve the bid from Kevin Krouse in the amount of \$2,656.56. One absent, Mr. Bryan. Motion carried.

Council convened to an executive session for personnel at 7:25 p.m.

Council reconvened from an executive session at 7:50 p.m.

Approval Codes Officer After council interviewed and discussed the two candidates for the Codes Enforcement Officer's position a motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Ledney to approve Anson Bloom as the part-time Codes Enforcement Officer. The position will be three days a week at \$15 an hour. Roll call vote: Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Bryan, absent; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Mash, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Bloom will start working on March 19, 2018. Mr. Fischer will spend two days with Mr. Bloom acclimating him to the problem areas and concerns.

Approval Full-Time Officer Mr. Spinos said last Thursday a committee of the two union representatives, Dan Croyle and Bob Davis, the Chief of Police, Andy Frear, the Mayor, Scott Penrod and the two councilmen Ron Mash and he interviewed five candidates for the full-time officer position.

Mr. Spinos said there were five candidates and they were narrowed down to two. They discussed them for about an hour. The one chosen they felt would fit the best scenario, work out for the long term, and eventually take over Lieutenant Croyle's position some day was David Balderas.

Mr. Spinos also updated council on the School Resource Officer for the borough. It looks like the School District is going to approve to pay for Officer Wirick's hospitalization as part of the package for the School Resource Officer. They will pay Officer Wirick's hospitalization for the entire year.

Mr. Spinos said they also talked about giving Officer Meden the rank of Corporal due to his experience and the recommendation of Chief Frear. Mr. Spinos said Chief Frear will sit down with Jeff Meden, David Balderas and Kyle Wirick and explain the situations.

Chief Frear said they all came to the conclusion together on David Balderas that he was the best choice for the full-time position. As far as Officer Meden goes, he has been involved in police work for about 16 years. He pretty much works steady 3 to 11 shifts. He is kind of constantly leading the other officers as it is, and has been basically supervising them for about the last year.

Chief Frear said the Corporal's position is about a \$500 a year increase, which is paid once every year. Even though Officer Balderas is full-time he is not ready for that yet. Down the line a year or so he will be.

Mr. Holden asked if there would be additional compensation for Officer Meden's position. Chief Frear said the \$500 a year would be it. Mr. Spinos said we allotted \$36,000 in the budget for the full-time position and the full-time officer will be paid \$34,528. It will leave us enough money to pay Officer Meden \$500 for the Corporal rank.

Mr. Spinos said with Officer Wirick's position as the School Resource Officer he will still receive his stipend of \$500 a month and so there is not that much of a difference between wages. Council had agreed that we wanted the full-time officer out on the streets to learn and shadow Lieutenant Croyle to prepare him to replace the Lieutenant some day when he retires.

The school district is very happy with Officer Wirick. One of the things Officer Wirick said was when he started as the School Resource Officer the parents and the children were against the police. Now he has formed a bond with the kids and the parents.

Mr. Pallo asked if by giving a part-time officer a rank do you think that will create a rift between him and the full-time officer. Chief Frear said they talked about that and when he worked in the City of Johnstown, rank was based on their experience. Officer Balderas is just not ready for that and Officer Meden is already doing that. He does expect Officer Balderas to do that in a year or so once he receives more experience and training. Mr. Spinos said Chief Frear and Lieutenant Croyle will sit down and talk to Officer Balderas.

Mr. Spinos said everyone who interviewed stated their opinion and then we took the suggestions of the three officers; Bob Davis, Dan Croyle and Chief Frear. We took their suggestions because they knew the officers better than anyone. Mr. Spinos said we hired Chief Frear and we should not micro manage someone who was hired to do that job.

Mr. Ledney asked if all the background checks and references were good. Chief Frear said as far as he knows, he was not involved in their background check; they were already hired when he started. Mr. Spinos said they were both hired by Chief Skiles and they should have had a background check done then.

Mr. Ledney said you want to hire someone to be a good employee and a good officer, so we are not revisiting this a year from now and have to do any type of discipline. Mr. Holden agreed because of the issues in the past.

Mr. Spinos said both of these officers have worked here for four years. David Balderas also has a lot of experience working with the Lieutenant already and has computer experience. His resume spoke for itself. Chief Frear said Officer Balderas has a Bachelor's Degree and wants to make his career here.

Mr. Holden said he has no questions about their certifications but has there been research into their backgrounds? Mr. Spinos asked him if he wanted the Chief to do another background check. Mr. Holden said that Officer Wirick probably had to have clearances to work at the school. Chief Frear said he does not believe there is anything on these officers.

A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve to hire Officer David Balderas as a full-time police officer for Windber Borough Police Department. Remarks: Mr. Furmanchik said to add that it will be at a salary of \$34,528.00. Roll call vote: Mr. Mash, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Bryan was absent; Mr. Holden, abstained; Mr. Ledney, abstained.

Mr. Spinos asked the two council members for a reason for their abstention. Mr. Holden said he appreciates Officer Balderas' service to the borough but we should have the proper paperwork on file in case something comes up in the future. Mr. Ledney felt the same. Mrs. Gates asked what kind of paperwork Mr. Holden is asking for? She said the officers files are here. Mr. Holden said disciplinary or back ground checks. Mr. Holden asked Chief Frear if they were in their folders. Chief Frear said he hasn't seen them.

Council recessed at 8:30 p.m. as Mrs. Gates and Chief Frear went back to review the officer's personnel files. Chief Frear said if they are not there he can make a phone call and have them faxed here.

Council came back into session at 8:50 p.m. Chief Frear said that both Officers Balderas and Officer Meden cleared their background checks. Mr. Holden then changed his vote to yes followed by Mr. Ledney. Mr. Pallo and Mr. Spinos also voted yes. Motion was carried to approve Officer David Balderas as a full-time police officer for Windber Borough Police Department starting April 1, 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to approve Officer Jeff Meden to the rank of Corporal with an additional \$500 a year to begin April 1, 2018. Mr. Mash, yes; Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Bryan, absent; Mr. Holden, yes; Mr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Spinos, yes. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next council meeting will be on March 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Council Vice President, James Spinos at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates
Financial Secretary

