

Borough Council Regular Meeting January 9, 2018

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval Minutes A motion was made by Mr. Mash and seconded by Mr. Spinos to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2018 reorganization meeting. One absent, Mr. Holden. Motion carried.

Recognition Visitors There were no visitors at this time.

Correspondence

1. Minutes of the Windber Municipal Authority's December 5, 2017 meeting.
2. Minutes of Windber Area Authority Meeting on November 8, 2017.

Mr. Spinos asked what is going to happen with the position on the Water Authority Board. Mr. Furmanchik said he had this conversation with Mr. Green in the past and it is pretty much as is. Mr. Green said yes.

Mr. Spinos asked how long the term was for because his understanding was that someone from council always represented the borough on the Water Authority Board. Mr. Furmanchik said he thought the same but he was told that council does not necessarily have to appoint someone from this body, that they can appoint anyone.

Attorney Green said the board is a separate entity created by council but not governed by council. Once you have that authority created you no longer tell them what they can and cannot do. You will have to let the term expire. He said he did not know how long that term was for.

Mr. Spinos said he just wanted to make sure we were not skipping something because someone from council always represented us in the past. Mr. Furmanchik said yes, but his understanding is that you can appoint anyone you want.

Mr. Bryan asked how long that term is for? Mr. Furmanchik said he would check on that with Mr. Mash. Mr. Bryan asked if anyone would be interested when that position comes up? Mr. LaMonaca said he would be interested.

Approval Payroll A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Mash to approve payroll for December 8 and 21, 2017. One absent, Mr. Holden. Motion carried.

- Approval Bills** A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. Mash to approve the bills for December 2017. One absent, Mr. Holden. Motion carried.
- Unfinished Business** There was no unfinished business at this time.
- Cash Bal/Treasurer Report** Mrs. Gates said they ended the Year 2017 budget with \$2,909.58 which was good. She said if you look at all the employee expense line items, they ended under 100%.
- Mrs. Gates said we ended the year with approximately \$313,000 in the General Fund checking account. The General Fund CD with accumulated interest from 2017 is now \$101,512.33. We opened the new Recreation Bank Account and the money from the sale of the ball fields was transferred into that account. That account has \$100,804.40. We put \$20,000 back into the Capital Improvement Fund to replace the monies we used towards the purchase of the pool liner. Also the money spent for the engineer and appraiser's fees were put back into the General Fund.
- Mr. Bryan asked if some of those monies were going towards paving the park road. Mr. Furmanchik said yes and he will be advertising for bids for that paving shortly.
- Mr. Spinos said Mr. Holden is not here but he knows at one point in time we discussed meeting with someone from the Municipal Authority to see what their wish list was for the park. It is council's decision as to what we spend the money on such as the upgrading of the electric and the roof repairs on the buildings up there.
- Mr. Furmanchik said when this all began to transpire he had the chairman of the municipal authority and the recreation director up there and they walked around the park and discussed council's decision and how we were going to move forward with those improvements at the park. He conveyed to them that once everything council wants taken care of is done, they will sit down and talk about other possibilities. At this time we will have to see what we have left.
- Mr. Spinos said the buildings still belong to the borough and we have to maintain them before they get out of hand and that in his opinion is the main focus.

Council Liaison Reports

- Bryan/Fire Department** Mr. Bryan said he met with Anson Bloom and Bob Haddad and he created a summary of the meeting for council.

Windber Fire Department Training

- Regional Training Institute (Non-Profit) has been created and is in place
- Already conducted training with 12 other Departments paid for training (Keeps members local and available to respond to calls)

Current ISO 4 rating projected to go to ISO 3 by 2019

- More training opportunities
- Full safety committee Health and Wellness Officer
- Scalable efficiencies all officers are accountable and have clearly defined direction

WFD is approximately 10 yrs. ahead of 90% of the volunteer fire department within the State of PA.

Cold Weather Conditions

-Warming Huts established during recent cold snap (18 persons staffed) not utilized by any residents

Equipment

-New Rescue Engine being fully utilized
- 1993 Tanker is down (they are having difficulty in finding parts) issue is potential impact on fully functional responses dependent upon emergency situation

Windber Area High School projects:

- a) Fund raiser, large scale event planned....more information coming
- b) Camp Courage June 8, 9, and 10 @ Camp Hamilton
- c) Two age groups; 12-14 yr. to generate interest and 14-16 yr. more of a recruitment focus

Critical Needs:

Ford Expedition unlikely to pass next inspection (2010 or newer type equipment)
Letter of support for Grant (\$180k) to purchase breathing apparatus.

Long range project partner with WAHS summer 2019 event at REC PARK (refer to WFD Facebook Page).

Mayor's Report

Mayor Penrod said he gave a copy of Officer Edward's Resignation letter to council and he asked if council had any questions about it.

Chief Frear said they are looking at putting someone on in Officer Edward's place. Chief Frear said he posted for the full time position and resume's are to be turned in by February 12, 2017. He said he received two so far and expects to receive a few more.

Manager's Report

Little League Fields - We have successfully closed on the property. Engineering and appraisal fees have been paid and we have reimbursed the general fund account with the monies that were used for installation of the new pool liner. This leaves us with a balance of \$100,808 for improvements at the Recreation Park

Aspire Grant Writers -A contract is now in place with Aspire for the "PA Small Water and Sewer Grant". Mr. Furmanchik asked council to approve a resolution for the grant. It would be Resolution 2018-1 for grant funding in the amount of \$500,000 from Commonwealth Financing Authority.

A motion made by Mr. Spinos to approve Resolution No. 2018 to approve the grant funding amount of \$500,000. Motion seconded by Mr. LaMonaca. One absent, Mr. Holden. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Officer - I have placed an ad in the Tribune Democrat for January 5th, 6th, and 7th. The same add will appear on Monster, as well. The deadline to make application is January 31st. I will keep you informed, as this unfolds.

Full Time Police Officer - Chief Frear will post the position and applicants will be able to declare their interest by February 12th. There will be more information to follow at our February 13th meeting. Mr. Furmanchik said according to the contract there will be a peer panel which will consist of two members of council, two union representatives from the police department, the mayor and the Chief of Police.

Mr. Furmanchik said Article 4, Section 4 of the contract states that a part time employee must have at least 13 months service to apply for a full time position. If there were no applicants for the full time position than a part time employee with less than 13 months service could apply.

Seese Run Clean Up - I have made arrangements with Eric Stoltz Inc. to clear the banks of vegetation, trees and dangerous limbs from 21st Street to 700 feet beyond the 24th St. Bridge at a cost of \$2,404. The area in question not only is unsafe and unsightly, but could cause serious issues during extreme amounts of rain. This is at an estimated three days of work. If the project requires less time the amount will be adjusted. This project would be too involved for Public works a SCI to deal with. I have received approval from Kotzan CPA and Associates to subsidize the project from the sewer fund.

NIMS Qualification - As discussed in the past, all municipal elected officials must be compliant with the National Incident Management System. Members of Council, myself and Public Works all have current certification on file in the Borough office. I will be assisting Doug Ledney and Joe Pallo to gain their certification, so we comply with FEMA regulations if an unexpected disaster would occur and we are pressed into service.

Windber Borough's 125th Anniversary. Noretta Haydu from W.A.V.E. asked us about what we are going to do to prepare for the 125th Anniversary in the Year 2022.

Mr. Furmanchik said he believes we should start by sending letters regarding the anniversary to all the organizations and churches in town to see if they are interested in volunteering their help and in turn they can send us a letter if they are. We can then contact them and ask them what committee they would be interested in participating on.

Scalp Level Abandoned Vehicles. Councilwoman Noretta Haydu asked Mr. Furmanchik if the Police Department could enforce their abandoned vehicle ordinance in the same manner they did Windber Borough's.

Mr. Furmanchik said this would be something above what our contract for police services is between Scalp and Windber and he does not feel that would be an issue if they pay for the officer who would be out for two days or so handling that. He said Officer Balderas did Windber Borough's and he already has a prepared letter. He would just have to change the letter to fit Scalp Level's Ordinance.

Mr. Spinos asked if their Ordinance is similar to ours. Chief Frear said it is identical to ours. Attorney Green said he would like to review it first.

Chief Frear said he did not have a problem doing it but when he talked to them originally about it they said they were going to get us a list of the abandoned vehicles and they never did.

- Solicitor's Report** Attorney Green said there are three property maintenance court hearings coming up in February. He guarantees one will be the last time it will be in court. The one has been filed to Superior Court.
- Resignation Officer Edwards** A motion was made by Mr. Spinos and seconded by Mr. LaMonaca to accept the resignation of Officer Bethany Edwards effective November 30, 2017.
- Next Meeting** Next Council Meeting will be on February 13, 2018 at 7 p.m.
- Adjourn** Meeting was adjourned by Council President, Mike Bryan at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates