

**Borough of Windber Council Meeting**  
**Minutes of July 10, 2023**  
**7 p.m.**

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

The following council members were present: Pete LaMonaca, Dr. Doug Ledney, Mark Portante, Joe Pallo, and Rich Rummel. John Holden was in attendance through zoom. Ron Mash was absent. Ron Allison, Borough Manager, and Mayor, Mike Thomas, were present. Attorney Joseph Green was present.

**Approval Minutes** A motion was made by Dr. Ledney and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve the Minutes of June 12, 2023, meeting. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.

**Recognition Visitors** Dennis Domineck from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street said back in March there was a meeting here which Representative Rigby attended and after that meeting, he had made a statement that he was going to look in to getting an easement or whatever it was to have the bridge removed from historical district status. We have not heard anymore about that.

Mr. Domineck said he called Representative Rigby's office and spoke with Mr. Rigby and he said he could not tell him anymore and that he should talk to Mayor Thomas and he could probably enlighten him about that. Mayor Thomas said the last time he spoke to Representative Rigby he told him that he was having a tough time communicating with the feds. They said they do not want to hear anything about it.

Mr. Domineck questioned if we are not going to go any further with that route in getting the bridge taken out of the historical district? He said that bridge is not a historical bridge. Manager Allison said as much as we agree with Mr. Domineck every avenue we have tried comes to a dead end. He spoke with Kelly Fields who speaks with PennDot regularly and it is just not realistic, and he doesn't believe it is going to happen. He cannot just tell you what you want to hear. It is not going to happen, and he is about 99% sure.

Mr. Domineck said Jim Furmanchik, whom he spoke with plenty of times, told him don't worry, we have money for that bridge we are going to take care of that bridge. Well Jim Furmanchik is no longer here so where is the money that he said we have. Mayor Thomas said he believes Mr. Furmanchik was talking about matching funds. Manager Allison said we pay 5% towards this project, and we use our liquid fuels fund monies for that.

Mr. Domineck said the house at 316 is Robert Trevorrow's old house. He passed away and there is no one in his family to take care of that. He does not know what is going on with the house. The back addition roof is starting to cave in, and the weeds are waste high it needs cleaned up. Mr. Pallo said he will note that for the Codes Officer. Mrs. Gates said Mr. Bloom is already working on several properties in that area.

Mr. Domineck said Mr. Trevorrow was cited numerous times when he was alive and never did anything and now, we are just stuck with it. The grass needs cut, and the junk needs removed. No one has ever taken care of anything on it.

Mr. Domineck said at 216 22<sup>nd</sup> Street there is rubbish lying in the back yard, numerous vehicles parked alongside it and garbage on the front porch. They have tried to cut the grass but there is too much junk laying around. Manager Allison said we have also been citing that property owner.

Mr. Domineck said another property is Mr. Petrilla's by the bridge, the Petrunak's who have the car wash, park vehicles on it and there has been an old motor home sitting there that looks like hell, plus a second vehicle. They try to cut the grass around them, but it is high.

Mr. Domineck said another thing about Petrunak's is they park vehicles on the sidewalk. When is it allowed to park vehicles on the sidewalk? People can't even walk up or down. Chief Frear said he does not know if it is covered under the apron of the garage or on the sidewalk.

Mr. Domineck said the fencing put up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge to keep people away and from getting hurt down there is not doing any good. There are people there all the time. Manager Allison said EADS is working on a plan where we can permanently shut off that walking area but as with everything else, they must create a plan and it has to be approved by PennDot before we can move on it.

Mr. Domineck said the back of the bridge which he understands is deplorable and falling apart but if you are going to use that bridge to run traffic over while you are working on the 24<sup>th</sup> Street bridge it will be twice as bad. He said another way needs to be used than running over the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge. Manager Allison said we can still get emergency vehicles across it. We acquired 200 22<sup>nd</sup> Street which will be demolished and we will be able to create a possible access road. We will be going through that with PennDot, but our hands are tied as far as PennDot is concerned.

Mr. Domineck asked Manager Allison if he had a contact person he could talk to. Manager Allison said yes, and he will get that information to him.

**Julie  
Sulosky**

Julie Sulosky said the borough just wrote down the blight places mentioned, but she was told she would need to come down to the office and fill out a form referencing the blight issues. Mr. Pallo asked her if she was referring to the same properties. Mrs. Sulosky said no, and she wasn't sure of the house number on stadium drive but there is a blight property with two boats, a camper and the grass is high. It is ridiculous how much trash is there. Manager Allison said that is 616.

Mrs. Sulosky said the house by Rizzo's is also bad, especially for people travelling there the shrubs are so high you can't see, and the grass is high. She also believes that the same home was being talked about previously that the roof is falling in, is also disgusting. Our street used to be nice and now it is like Stadium trash.

Mrs. Sulosky said the other thing is the road sign at 2306 about slowing down. They asked the police the other day, people are flying down their street, and it is ridiculous. She said she has two dogs and seriously if someone kills one of her dogs they will end up in jail.

Mr. Pallo asked if she was referring to the sign by the high school? Mrs. Sulosky said no, on stadium drive going down past her house. Even people that live on that street have yelled at them to please slow down and they still drive fast. One of the neighbors has their own personal slow down sign and the people still fly by.

Mrs. Sulosky said they had had people from Stadium Terrace trespassing through yards and they called her husband the F word. They tried to go through their yard and her husband asked them not to walk through their yard. The police have been called for them and supposedly they are going to up the police patrol on their street.

They walk through the streets at all hours of the night. Her father-in-law saw two girls out on the street at 3 a.m. in the morning. She said they put up no trespassing signs in their own yard, but this should not be happening. It is bad on their street.

Mr. Pallo asked if there was a specific time, they are noticing these people? Mrs. Sulosky said no it is all hours of the night. She works from home, and she sees them all day. The other day she was in her garage and a boy came and said excuse me and all she could think of was I have a house phone and a cellphone to call 911. It's all different hours. There are all different ones coming from Stadium Terrace. Even the traffic coming through is different. She said they have blink cameras up and want to get more.

Manager Allison asked if any crimes have been committed during all this activity other than trespassing. Mrs. Sulosky said last year someone stole a Christmas decoration out of their yard and they drove up to Stadium Terrace to look for it themselves. She does not know if anyone else on the street has had anything stolen but would you want anyone to walk through your property. Manager Allison said he said trespassing, but it is not illegal for someone to walk up and down a street. He understands trespassing and people committing a crime he just doesn't want to blur the two with walking down a street.

Mrs. Sulosky said the police did say that after 10:30 the kids have a curfew and can be cited for that and if they are going through your property at a certain hour they can be cited. The other night someone was at JoAnn Steven's back door pounding on it and she is an elderly lady living by herself, so there is an issue going on.

Mrs. Sulosky asked what it is going to take for someone's child or elderly person to be killed. What is it going to take to stop these Stadium Terrace people and drugs and what not to be stopped. Mr. Pallo said for them to utilize the police, that is what they are there for.

Mrs. Sulosky asked Mr. Pallo if he wanted her to go there. He said go where? Mrs. Sulosky said she lives across from the football field and a couple of months ago night after night police officers sitting there sleeping in their cars. Do you know when it stopped when she called and reported it. Mr. Pallo asked who was sleeping in their cars. She said the police of Windber. Mr. Pallo said he found that hard to believe. She said really, she wishes the other people were here to tell you. Mr. Pallo thanked her for her time.

- Jackie Pietron** Ms. Pietron said she came to support the people who live on Stadium Drive. She also had something taken from her yard and drove up to Stadium Terrace and there it was sitting in someone's yard and there were a bunch of people sitting on the porch and the lady asked her what she was doing there, and she said this is mine. She said her son had found it and Ms. Pietron said yes, he found it in my yard.
- Ms. Pietron said she was scared. She did not know what could be done about the stadium people walking down through their yards. Mr. Pallo said you need to utilize the police department and not put yourself at that risk. She said she knows but she was just so mad. Look at all those properties, what a mess there is down there. She is backing up what Julie and Denny had to say. She wishes someone would take care of those dilapidated properties. Mr. Pallo thanked her for her time.
- Ron Sulosky** Ron Sulosky said every morning he leaves the house and heads out to Eastern Elevator. The red light at 24<sup>th</sup> Street and 56 has not worked properly and when it does it barely gives you enough time to get through it. Manager Allison said he would contact our electrician and have them look at it.
- Tom Panetti** Mr. Panetti from 408 Graham said he was there for the same old stuff, high grass. The people around the corner have high grass and it has been going on for three years now. He feels bad, he knows they have problems.
- Mr. Panetti asked the council if they have specifications for the bridge on South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mr. Allison said that the bridge is out of his control. PennDot, they came here they proposed it and it is right here on paper. Mayor Thomas said they have tried various different avenues to get help for this. Mr. Panetti said there must be someone from Windber that can help with this. Mr. Pallo said if you have any suggestions, we are willing to hear them. Mr. Panetti said he used to know people but now they are all dead.
- Todd Koehler** Mr. Koehler had no comments at this time.

## **Correspondence**

1. Minutes of the Municipal Authority's Meeting of May 9, 2023.
2. Conemaugh Valley Conservancy Newsletter.

- Approval Payroll** A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve payroll for June 16 and June 30, 2023. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.
- Approval Bills** A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Dr. Ledney to approve the bills for June 2023. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.
- Cash Bal., Treasurer Report** There were no questions at this time.

## **Council Liaison Reports**

**WAA/  
Ledney** Dr. Ledney said there was a water main break up by 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Graham. There will be a meeting on Wednesday.

**WMA/  
LaMonaca** Mr. LaMonaca said the Windber Municipal Authority received a grant of \$7,500 from the Community Foundation for the Alleghanies. This money was earmarked for a new LED sign at the entrance of the park. The total cost of the project to be \$12,700.

Windber Municipal Authority was also awarded a grant in the amount of \$3,000 to be used toward the purchase of an ADA chair lift for the pool.

Six new fryers were purchased to replace the old ones for the bars to use at the wing offs at the park.

**Library** Mrs. Gates said she did not know if all of council was aware that the borough stores our records at the Windber Library. During the last trip down there when she was looking for some paperwork, she found it to be very damp and musty. The folder was damp that she removed. Josh, the director of the library, called her today and asked us about moving our things because they are going to do some work in that area. I told Josh that I was thinking about relocating those records due to the dampness of the basement. Josh then went down there later on today and he said that he would feel better if we could move the records down there because when they get a rainstorm, they do tend to get moisture down there and he could see and smell the dampness in that area.

Manager Allison said after a discussion with Robin regarding this issue D. Edwards has metal storage containers we could purchase. A 20-foot unit should work for us, and we can place it up at the shed. A 20-foot unit goes for about \$3,000. We simply do not have any other place to store our records right now.

Mr. Allison said we can take the money from the Capital Improvement Fund, and we will proceed with getting the unit and approve payment at the next meeting.

**Mayor's  
Report** Mayor Thomas attended the Somerset County Borough's Association meeting at Somerset Country Club on June 29.

The speakers were Ret. Officer Dan Marguccio and Tom Bender from the Laurel Highlands CIT team. They explained what the program was all about and asked that borough officials consider sending their officers to the weeklong training.

Also presenting were two representatives from the Somerset County Humane Society. They spoke about their work and the needs of the shelter.

The concert on July 1<sup>st</sup> by the Somerset County band was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The concert on July 4<sup>th</sup> by the Johnstown Symphony Brass Quintet, was held with an attendance of approx., 100 people. Weather conditions weren't ideal and probably cut down on attendance.

**Manager's Report**     **Ballroom-** The DOC will be in the Ballroom Monday, July 10 to begin staining the raw wood on the structure. The current natural state will be preserved and only change with age. It will most likely need to be re-stained every three to five years. (Sherwin Williams product) The DOC will begin at the front of the building. When they are completed with the front the Landscaper (Yoder) will begin immediately with the landscaping plan. I anticipate both projects to be completed by July 18.

**Stadium Drive/22<sup>nd</sup> St-** The property at 200 Stadium Drive is now the property of Windber Borough. I spoke to Stephen Spochart (Director of the Redevelopment Authority) and the property is being bid out for demolition and hopefully completed by end of August.

**BELLAS-** Barclay scheduling to make corrections.

**Road Crew-** We have a full-time employee out on workmen's compensation and there is no determined return date. I have Cody Weaver filling in as needed.

**Solicitor's Report**     There were no questions at this time.

**Codes Report**     There were no questions at this time.

**Event Coordinator Report**     There were no questions at this time.

**Ratify Payoff loan**     A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Portante to ratify approval to pay final payment to Somerset Trust Company for the one-million-dollar loan in the amount of \$23,286.73 from the General Fund. Following audit of RCAP Grant payment will reimburse General Fund. Roll call vote: Mr. LaMonaca, yes; Mr. Portante, yes; Mr. Holden, yes; Dr. Ledney, yes; Mr. Mash, absent; Mr. Pallo, yes; and Mr. Rummel, yes. Motion carried.

**Approval Donation**     A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Dr. Ledney to approve donation of \$21,000 (as budgeted) to the Windber Fire Company. One absent. Mr. Mash, motion carried.

**Approval Donation**     A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Portante to approve the donation of \$4,000 (as budgeted) to the Windber Museum. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.

**Approval To Aide**     A motion was made by Dr. Ledney and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve to aide Gregory Smith regarding the benefit/fundraising motorcycle/classic car run/ride on Saturday, July 15, 2023, leaving the VFW. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.

**Approval Street Closing**     A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Portante to approve "Crowds Windber Twilight Cruise" event and to grant permission to close area of 15<sup>th</sup> Street between Graham Avenue and the railroad tracks from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. pending a letter from Barry Jerley. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.

The council convened to an executive session at 7:35 p.m. for personnel issues.  
The council reconvened from an executive session at 8:12 p.m.

**Sponsor  
Cadets**

A motion was made by Mr. LaMonaca and seconded by Mr. Rummel to approve to sponsor Gavin Pacewicz and Chloe Grace Shaulis through the police academy at an initial cost of \$6,500 with 75% to be reimbursed through MPOETC along with a contractual agreement of required stay as part-time police officers for Windber Borough Police Department. One absent, Mr. Mash. Motion carried.

**Next  
Meeting**

Next council meeting will be Monday, August 14, at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by Council Vice President, Joe Pallo at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Robin S. Gates  
Administrative Assistant