

Regular Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2021

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present including Mayor Farkas. The October minutes were approved unanimously by a Harris/Sepp motion. The Officers reports were approved unanimously by a Little/Sepp motion.

Correspondence was read including a notification for a summary hearing for a person who was strewing garbage at the West Mayfield Community Park.

A motion to hear the citizens present at the meeting was made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Ms. Harker. The motion passed all in favor.

Mrs. Nora Soos, 207 37th Street Ext. was present to voice concern over the item on the agenda to create a 1 mill tax to borough property owners to generate funds for the volunteer fire department. She also asked why the citizens were called at the beginning of the meeting when it was discussed at the last meeting that we were going to discuss business first so that the comments could be given after. We hadn't made a decision and decided that we would just keep the order of business the same as it had always been. She feels that the department gave up on fundraising since there were no more breakfasts, no more bingo. Mr. Kosanovich explained that COVID cut down on their park rentals and hall rentals. There is a shortage of volunteers and there was not enough help to continue holding the breakfasts and bingo. She was also concerned about the number of fire department people on council being a conflict of interest where any votes were concerned. The fire department personnel would have to abstain from any votes directly related to the fire department. The lack of members raised a question about the ability to answer fire calls. It was explained that we have mutual aid agreements with four different departments. When a call comes in to West Mayfield, the other departments are automatically notified so all calls are answered. West Mayfield gets between 50 and 60 calls a year. There was also a question asked about just contracting out service to another department like Beaver Falls and disbanding our department completely since there were so few members and they were having difficulty getting new members. It was explained that it would cost between 50 and 60 thousand dollars to contract Beaver Falls and when they respond to a fire, they automatically invoice the resident's home owners insurance for the call – this includes the use of the truck, the manpower, etc.

Mrs. Wanda Horvath, 3741 West 5th Avenue asked if the 10 volunteer firefighters were certified and they are not. She would like to see a report of their expenditures from the fire department. Mr. Kosanovich, fire department treasurer said that they have lost most of their income. The borough donates \$5000 per year from the budget and this year the citizens donated \$7,000. The money that they receive goes toward utility bills and maintenance of the building. The fire relief organization receives \$4000 from the state but how it is spent is mandated by the state and can only be used to purchase equipment. He will provide a report for the past year and also check with Beaver Falls to see what they would charge to contract services to West Mayfield.

Mr. Thomas DeLuca, 1125 Boden Street wanted to check on the status of his subdivision request. He has approached the water authority for tap-ins and has permission to do so. He will provide a copy of the letter. Mr. Budicak reviewed the plan and it is a standard subdivision. The borough just needs to sign off on it and submit it to the Beaver County Planning Department.

Mr. DeLuca does not want to see taxes raised to help the fire department and said that we should put it out for bid. There are grants available to fire departments. Mr. Kosanovich said that they have applied but the grants are very restrictive for equipment. We have gotten grants and used them. Mr. DeLuca said that the fire department should provide a copy of their audit to the borough.

Mr. DeLuca also lodged a complaint about property at 119 Boden Street. He has complained for years and nothing is being done with the trash, 2 junk cars on the property and they are in violation of borough ordinances. If something is not done, he will be forced to take legal action. Mr. Lemmon tagged the property today and gave them 10 days to respond to the request. Our police chief said that there is nothing they can do to help because they are not permitted to go onto private property.

Mr. Jim Bostek, 700 Rock Avenue also in in opposition of a tax increase. It should only be used as a last resort. Mr. Kosanovich said the one mill fire tax was only considered as an option. Mr. Bostek suggested that the department ask council for more money as another option. Mr. Kosanovich stated that this is simply

a desperate plea for more money and help for the department. It would be possible to cut money from another area in the budget and move it to the fire department.

Mr. Bob Tate, 3631 Ann Street also voiced concern over the fire tax because he owns a lot of property in the borough. The tax can be rescinded if it is not needed. The fire department is required to have two trucks and mutual aid requires us to go to other departments' calls and they come to ours. Regional fire departments have been discussed and we have also discussed merging with other departments.

Mr. Jake Tate, 335 Brook Street has more issues with the water flowing onto his property from White Township. White Township has now changed the path of their water flow and water is coming into his house through the walls He has to run dehumidifiers 24 hours a day at 60% and now mold is accumulating inside his home. The apartment complex that is suspected of causing the drainage problem says it is not theirs but White Townships. He has called DEP and lodged numerous complaints but still nothing is being done. Mr. Heaton will go to a White Township council meeting on his behalf and see if this can be rectified. Mr. Budicak noted that the base law states the adjacent property owner is liable unless it is the natural flow of the water. Unfortunately, there is nothing the borough can do to help because it is not their responsibility for the overflow. All the storm drains are connected to the buildings and the White Township storm drains. Carcaise/Modany created a 22 foot deep trench. Mr. Budicak also suggested that Mr. Tate consult with an attorney to try to get this rectified.

Mrs. Licia Cogley, 604 37th Street Ext. asked if citizens were permitted to attend a fire department meeting to get information. They can. She also noted that she is the head of the committee organizing the Centennial Celebration for the borough and would like help from everyone.

Jason Stoinoff, 904 Rock Avenue offered some suggestions for the fire department obtaining help – could they do robot calls or something? Everyone needs to be involved. He was not aware that the borough had a website. Mr. Kevin Farkas, webmaster not only updates the website regularly, but our Facebook social media page.

Cheryl Sudano, 3782 West Fifth Avenue requested a list of fire department members.

With no other citizens requesting to be heard, Mr. Little moved to return to the regular order of business; seconded by Mrs. McNeely and passed all in favor.

Old Business

Police and Fire – Ms. Harker reported that the car issues are still being resolved.

Parks and Playground – Mrs. Sepp reported that the stumps had been removed from the park and the job was well done. Where should the security cameras be placed in the park? She will take a look and bring back suggestions at the next meeting – two, possibly three cameras.

Sewers and Sanitation - Mr. Kosanovich reminded council that the \$60,000 federal grant received must be spent on storm and sanitary sewers and required bids. He got email and phone estimates plus a Costar's bid from Insight pipe. Because it is federal money, prevailing wage must be used. The bids for 990 linear ft. of 8 inch pipe and 388 linear ft. of 10 inch pipe is approximately \$50,000. The grant money for this year has to be appropriated but does not have to be spent within the year. Mr. Kosanovich moved to allow the spending of the \$60,000 grant for storm sewer work and was seconded by Mr. Harris. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes; We will have another \$60,000 grant next year for the same purpose. He also reported that he had a call from Mrs. Orłowski's son that water was backing up into her house on West 3rd Avenue. Everything is flowing from manhole to manhole.

Ordinances – Mr. Budicak will review the ATV ordinance outline at a previous meeting and have comments ready for the next meeting.

Buildings and Equipment – Mr. Harris reported that all of the camera equipment has been purchased but has not yet been installed.

Streets, Lighting and Bridges – Mr. Little reported that the GMC dump truck has been inspected and all salters and plows are ready to go.

Finance & Litigation - Mrs. McNeely – none. She did report that garbage was not picked up on Monday due to a shortage of employees because of COVID report-offs. They are trying their best to pick up on the scheduled day. She is still working on the problem with trash pick-up on West 38th Street. The ownership of the buildings has changed. The inmate community service workers are not permitted to do anything but cut grass and trim. We will see if they can be used to cut all of the overgrown grass at various properties that have been complained about for some time now. There is a concern about people not stopping at stop signs on Rock Avenue. They are going right through the ones off of 37th Street and speeding and the drivers coming up Boden Street don't have a stop sign. She suggested that a stop sign be placed coming up Boden and the one coming off 37th Street be removed. The reason that there is no stop sign on Boden is because of not being able to start again during winter weather and being stuck on the hill. Maybe we could groove the road. Mr. Kosanovich will talk with LTAP and try to get an answer for that.

Mayor Farkas noted that during his 40 years of service on council, it is apparent that everyone wants money but no one wants to spend money or raise taxes to get it. He had requested a 3 mill fire tax years ago and was shot down. Since this is his last term as mayor, he wishes to thank everyone and wish everyone good luck.

Mr. Budicak discussed the easement of the Klugh property. Curtis Klugh, executive of the estate has stated that part of the garage encroaches on the community park. Mr. Budicak spoke with his attorney. They do not have a survey, but GIS clearly shows the encroachment. A contract granting the easement permitting the encroachment for the sale of the property could be drawn up but no changes can be made once the property has been sold. If the garage is removed, the property will be returned to the borough. A survey should be done and the documents amended to allow the easement for the sale of the property only. Ms. Harker move to authorize Mr. Budicak to prepare the contract for the easement of the Klugh property only for the impending sale and was seconded by Mr. Little. A roll-call vote approved the motion as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes.

New Business

Police & Fire – Ms. Harker reported that the fire police helped with the Veteran's Day Parade and a funeral.

Parks & Playground – Mrs. Sepp - none

Sewers & Sanitation- Mr. Kosanovich - none

Ordinances – Mr. Kosanovich - none

Grounds and Equipment – Mr. Harris – none

Streets, Lighting & Bridges – none

Finance & Litigation – Mrs. McNeely – none.

Mayor - none

Mr. Budicak – none

Mr. Heaton called for a motion to accept the preliminary 2022 budget as written. Mrs. Sepp moved to accept the 2022 budget and was seconded by Ms. Harker. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes and Mr. Heaton – yes;

Mr. Budicak reviewed the resolution to the addition of stop signs at the intersection of Sand Alley and Matilda Street. Mrs. McNeely moved to adopt the resolution adding stop signs at the intersection of Sand Alley and Matilda Street and was seconded by Mrs. Sepp. The motion passed all in favor.

Mayor Farkas congratulated the newly elected council members and reminded council to treat all citizens with respect and to bring any complaints and concerns to council.

The November bills were presented to council and there were no questions or comments on the bills. Mrs. Sepp moved to pay the borough bills; seconded by Mr. Harris and passed unanimously.

Ms. Harker moved to ratify all purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed all yeas.

With no further business to discuss Mr. Harris moved for adjournment at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Sepp. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary