

Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021

President Bill Heaton called the meeting to order. All members were present including Mayor Farkas. A video from Mayor Farkas was played in which he highlighted his years as a member of West Mayfield council and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve our borough. Mr. Jim Marshall, State Representative of our district spoke on behalf of the House of Representatives recognizing Paul's contributions to local government and his years of service. Accolades from Senator Vogel and the Beaver County Commissioners were also read. The November minutes were approved unanimously by a Harris/Little motion. The Officers reports were approved unanimously by a Little/McNeely motion.

The only correspondence was a notification from Mr. Jim Riggio that the Beaver Falls Municipal Authority has decided that it will not begin monthly water and sewage billing to its customers. It will continue with quarterly bills. This was made possible through the sale of the water treatment plant.

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. Wanda Horvath, 3741 West 5th Avenue again asked how many volunteer firefighters there were and are they certified as fire fighter one. There are 10 active members and they are not certified as fire fighter one. They all have NFPA certificates and are qualified to fight a fire. Sha asked how many fire calls they answered in a year and the response was that they didn't have that information on hand. The calls are not only for fires but as mutual aid for other departments and those departments also respond to our fire calls. There may have been 2 or 3 actual fire calls. She is still waiting to see a report of their expenditures from the fire department. Our firefighters are covered under workmen's comp and liability insurance. She also asked how much gas the department uses that is provided by the borough – they used 107 gallons of diesel fuel for the entire year. The 1 mill fire tax is completely off the table. It was also explained that the building and all of the equipment is owned by the fire department and if it is shut down, there are procedures that need to be followed that are mandated. All equipment must go to non-profit organizations so there would be no revenue generated for the borough. Mrs. Horvath feels that our department should close and contract services from Beaver Falls because we need to look out for the safety of our residents.

Mrs. Nora Soos, 207 37th Street Ext. was present also to voice the same concerns as Mrs. Horvath – requesting the names of all members; the number of fire calls and a full expenditure account. She agrees that we should contract our services from Beaver Falls.

Another concern for Mrs. Soos is the semi-trucks on 37th Street exceeding the 10 ton weight limit. Chippewa gets fines from the state for overweight vehicles. Why is West Mayfield not enforcing this? The police chief said that they have had details but it is actually a nightmare to enforce because of local delivery being permitted. 37th Street is a state maintained road and permission is given by the state.

Mr. Thomas DeLuca, 1125 Boden Street again 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. Tagging the property is not enough. The owner of the property needs to be notified, not the renter. Mr. Buddy Knox is the owner. Mr. DeLuca said the only way there is going to be results is to fine the owner. Mrs. Sepp will work with Mr. Lemmon to try to resolve this issue. Mr. DeLuca also does not want to see a tax increase or the addition of a fire tax to keep the fire department going.

Mr. Bob Tate, 3631 Ann Street wanted to know if the 1 mill fire tax was going to be voted on. It is completely off the table. Have other fire departments been approached to contract services? Chippewa won't quote because they are mostly a volunteer fire department also.

Mr. Randy Hayward, 810 Lennox Avenue also voiced concern about the fire department. They are in dire need, why can't we come up with some way to help them. He said the fire department does a very good job and we should be able to take money from the General Fund to keep them going. Mr. Little said that we have 10 active members but have 4 applications of interested parties. Every fire department is hurting for members and funds. Mr. Hayward said to just give them the money they need.

With no other citizens requesting to be heard, Mr. Harris 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 none

Parks and Playground – Mrs. Sepp suggested that the cameras in the park be placed on the concession stand, 1 facing shelter 2 and one facing shelter 3.

Sewers and Sanitation - Mr. Kosanovich reported that Insight Pipe has begun the work on the lining project by videoing the area to be lined. The 902 report on Recycling is still pending final review and will be about \$55,320.

Ordinances – none

Buildings and Equipment – Mr. Harris reported that one side of the salt shed needs to be repaired. Permission has already been given to make those repairs and they will be done as time allows.

Streets, Lighting and Bridges – Mr. Little reported that this is the last week for leaf pick up. New tires are needed for the vehicles and equipment and \$6,000 has been budgeted for the purpose. He may be able to purchase them for \$4650. The boom mower needs repaired and can be done in house for about \$500.

Finance & Litigation - Mrs. McNeely – none. She did ask for a follow-up on the stop sign situation on Rock Avenue and if rumble strips could be installed. Mr. Kosanovich spoke with PennDot and was advised that rumble strips should only be installed on new asphalt - concrete is preferred. They also must be used from center line to shoulder line. To put concrete down and add the strips ahead of both stop signs would need to be a contracted job and not feasible. Mr. Budicak also noted that to use a device for other than its purpose could open up the borough to liability should an accident occur. A traffic study would also have to be completed. The police chief reported that traffic details at the intersection produced no violations. Following more conversation, it was decided that we should paint STOP on the Rock Avenue for now and also on West 4th Avenue and Harbison Road.

Chris Lemmon has been brought in to follow up on the complaint about the garbage on West 38th Street and he will meet with the owner of the property to try to get this issue resolved.

Mayor - none.

Mr. Budicak – none

Mr. Heaton wanted to know what contracts were going to be up in 2022. The refuse contract is up at the end of 2022 and the contract with the Beaver County Traveling Baseball League expires in April. Mrs. McNeely said that Barry Emge is not renewing the baseball contract and is turning the fields back over to West Mayfield baseball. Kip Richeal, West Mayfield Baseball League, would like to know if we would take care of mowing and dumpsters. Mr. Heaton suggested that we meet with Mr. Richeal just so that everyone knows what is expected of everyone. Our police contract is a revolving contract that continues each year with a 3% increase unless one of the parties (either West Mayfield or Beaver Falls) notifies the other in writing within 90 days that they do not want to renew the contract.

Mr. Heaton discussed what the fire department talked about at their meeting. They do not want the fire tax to happen, and we could move a line item from another area in the budget into the fire department line. Because the citizens requested information about what Beaver Falls might charge for contracting their fire department, Mrs. Sepp obtained a quote from the Beaver Falls Fire Chief. The cost for 2022 would be \$19,164 with a 5% increase for 2023 and 2024. This would include unlimited fire response with a response time of approximately 5 minutes; unlimited rescue services, hazardous condition incidents such as downed wires, gas leaks, etc. and EMS services when requested by county dispatch. Questions that arose from our department were things like closing down 37th Street when icy conditions prevent safe travel, pumping out resident's basements, cutting down trees. Mr. Little talked to Chief Stowe and he wanted us to keep doing rehab and highway control but if our department is shut down, we can't use our building or any of its equipment. There was also some discussion regarding charges that Beaver Falls makes to homeowner insurance policies for services that they render. The West Mayfield Department does not charge anything for the services it provides. It was brought up also about the lack of volunteers and the fact that fundraising has

ceased to exist. Part of the reason for the fundraising efforts stopping was the lack of help but also because COVID basically shut everything down. The department wants to begin fundraising again – breakfasts and maybe even a carnival at the park. Kathy Brewer suggested that if the citizens knew what was being planned, they might be more willing to help with fund raisers. She feels that help would be available if the residents knew what was going on. Jake Tate noted that many of the volunteers have left West Mayfield and gone to Chippewa and other departments. That is because they want more action than we have. This is not just something that happens here in West Mayfield, it is ongoing in many other departments. It was also suggested that we should give the department a year to see if they are sincere in trying to make the department work for the residents of West Mayfield. Mrs. Horvath would like to have a representative from Beaver Falls available at the next meeting to ask questions. She also wants the information requested from our department available at that meeting. Mrs. Lansberry asked that because of the holiday season and the fact that our next meeting is for reorganization on January 3 that this item be tabled until the February meeting so that all of the requests can be taken care of. We will reopen the discussion at the February 2022 meeting.

New Business

Police & Fire – Ms. Harker none

Parks & Playground – Mrs. Sepp there are some tree limbs down that need to be removed, the garbage cans need emptied at the ball fields, there is fencing that was removed around the memorial that needs put back up and siding is down on one side of the storage shed exposing wood. There is also a lot of debris in the creek between the second and third shelters that needs to be cleaned out or there is going to be a real mess. Mrs. McNeely provided pictures. Because of DEP regulations we are not permitted to make any changes to the waterways but Mr. Heaton will try to find out what we can do to remedy the issue. The caps on the memorial are also broken and Mrs. Sepp would like to get bids to replace them and have the plaques redone.

Sewers & Sanitation- Mr. Kosanovich - none

Ordinances – Mr. Kosanovich reviewed the resolution in recognition of Paul Farkas’s lifetime of service to the community. Mrs. Sepp moved to adopt the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Harris. The motion passed unanimously and a framed copy of the resolution was presented to Mayor Farkas.

Grounds and Equipment – Mr. Harris – the cameras are up and running

Streets, Lighting & Bridges Mr. Little reported that the brake lines need replaced on the GMC truck and the emergency brake is not working. The repair of the emergency brake will need to be sent out. Ms. Harker moved to permit the repair of the emergency brake and was seconded by Mrs. Sepp. The motion passed unanimously. The GMC 5550 dump truck needs the arm lift welded where it overlooks the cab and the bed is starting to rot out. We should consider a new truck sometime in the future.

Finance & Litigation – The upcoming hearing for the illegal dumping on Rock Avenue is scheduled for December 16th at 11:30 at the magistrate’s office. We need to make sure that there is someone from the borough at the hearing. Mr. Kosanovich and Ms. Harker will attend the hearing.

Mrs. McNeely asked if Christmas bonuses are being given to the street department employees, the code enforcement officer and borough secretary as well as hams being given to all councilmembers, tax collector and the solicitor. Ms. Harker moved to authorize a \$100 bonus to the employees and the purchase of hams for council, tax collector and solicitor. Mr. Harris seconded the motion which passed all in favor.

A motion to purchase candy and treats to be distributed by Santa Claus to the borough children up to \$500 was made by Mrs. Sepp and seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed unanimously. Santa will be visiting the borough children on Sunday, December 19 from noon until 3p.m. The Beaver Falls parade committee donated about 100 toy bags to the borough to also be distributed by Santa Claus.

Mayor Farkas requested that a handicap parking sign be installed in front of his house. Mr. Harris moved to adopt a resolution to place a handicap sign in front of the Paul’s residence. Mrs. Sepp seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

Mr. Budicak reviewed the tax resolution keeping taxes the same for the year 2022 at 13.75 mills. Mr. Harris moved to adopt the 2022 tax Resolution and was seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion passed all in favor.

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

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

At this time Mr. Budicak called for an executive session. Mr. Kosanovich moved to enter into executive session to discuss possible litigation at 9:00 p.m. and was seconded by Mr. Little. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon the conclusion of the executive session Mr. Heaton reminded council that the 2022 budget had to be adopted prior to December 31. The budget was reviewed and Mrs. McNeely moved to adopt the 2022 budget in the amount of \$415,234.00 which includes a .50 per hour raise for the 2 street department employees. Mr. Little seconded the motion which was approved by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Little – yes; Mrs. Sepp – yes; Mrs. McNeely – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Harris – yes; and Mr. Heaton – yes.

With no further business to discuss Mr. Harris moved for adjournment at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McNeely. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Borough Secretary