

Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2023

President Lou Little called the meeting to order. All members were present.

A Heaton/Tate motion approved the November meeting minutes.

A Kosanovich/Heaton motion approved the officers' reports.

Correspondence: Letter from Assessment Office listing assessed value at \$76,920.850 which would set our millage at 2.0438.

Mr. Kosanovich moved to listen to citizen comments and was seconded by Mr. Heaton. The motion passed all in favor.

Jeremy Tate 1319 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Beaver Falls wanted to let council know that there were still leaves behind 3612 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The workers are still picking up leaves. He is still having an issue with Aiken even after Mr. Little called them (as they requested) to tell them that the house is being renovated and unoccupied. He has a bill for \$400. They were extremely rude when he called. There should not be any bills sent to an unoccupied house. Mr. Tate moved that an unoccupied home should not be charged for garbage pick-up and was seconded by Mr. Heaton. The motion passed all in favor. Mr. Budicak will write another letter to Aiken and be more assertive.

Kathy Brewer, 3628 Matilda Street said that taxes may need to be raised this year.

Nora Soos, 102 37<sup>th</sup> Street asked if anything was resolved about High Street and West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue problems with speeding cars. Bob Tate talked to Patty at BAR Associates and she told him that if someone gave her the license number she would take care of it. There was a discussion about placing a stop sign where High Street meets High Street Extension. It could be a 3-way stop sign that says opposing traffic does not stop. We will check to see if a traffic study needs to be done before a stop sign can be placed there.

With no other citizens wishing to comment, Mr. Heaton moved to return to the regular order of business, seconded by Mr. Tate and approved unanimously.

Old Business

**Streets, Lighting & Bridges** – Ms. Harker – the boom mower has been repaired and is back. Mr. Heaton reported that the road has been painted for the speed hump but signs still need done.

**Fire & Police**- Ms. Harker-none

**Buildings, Grounds & Equipment** – Mr. Kosanovich reported that Mike Ceravolo is still waiting to hear from Code.sys for information on whether or not a sprinkler system is needed. He also reported there is a grant available for attracting small business. There is no minimum or maximum amount. Paving West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue would help to reduce developmental risks but some assistance from the purchaser would be needed – a main plan, and an amount; and an estimate from the paving company would also be needed. If the grant was pursued and does go through a resolution has to be done.

**Sewers & Sanitation** – Mr. Heaton – the sewers are all good for now. The MS4 permit has been approved and Widmer will get bids for us. Bill will check with Widmer – have to have DEP knowledge because protected wetland has been designated. Prevailing wage may apply.

**Finance & Litigation** – Mr. Little reported that two workers had been hired – Brian McNeely and James Buckenheimer. They seem to be working well together and they are getting a lot of work done.

**Ordinance** – Mr. Seybert – The letter to Patty from BAR regarding tearing down the old building has been sent. The fire department has decided to keep the building and using it for training purposes. Mr. Seybert said that repairs are needed and he would like to have them done.

**Parks & Recreation** – Mr. Tate – spoke with Jeff from Top of the Line Fencing and they are still behind. They are hoping to get it done by the end of the year.

Mayor Cogley – reminded that the Christmas Party was tomorrow and she hoped that council members would attend.

Mr. Budicak – discussed the lawsuit with Aqua and it has been resolved. An agreement was signed months ago and a service agreement of 3 years with wastewater between all parties had to be entered into. This is contingent upon the sale of the system from the city of Beaver Falls to Aqua. We need to sign the agreement. The water coming in from White Township – 1 is metered and 2 are not. Jake moved to authorize executing the service agreement with Aqua PA Wastewater Inc. effective when the system is sold by Beaver Falls. Mr. Seybert seconded the motion that passed all in favor. It is time to put the money earned by the Centennial Committee to rest. The money was from donations and is the borough's money. The committee cannot spend the money without borough approval because the borough's EIN number is attached to the bank account. All the Committee has to do is place a request to council and let them know how the money is going to be used.

Mr. Little – the adopting of the 2024 budget will be put on hold until the real estate tax millage and the new Beaver Falls police contract can be discussed.

Police Captain – none

Mr. Tate – There are 3 cars not inspected on High Street. He tried calling and they won't answer. He hung a tag and sent a certified letter but still didn't get a response. A citation has to be issued before we can get any fines. He is going to get tow tags. The Mayor's neighbor has finally removed the sign from his yard. A.J. wants to put a 30 x 48 sign on Tru Plumbing building. This is between 37<sup>th</sup> Street and Nora's house. There is no problem with the sign. The billboard sign on 37<sup>th</sup> Street should have a renewal fee paid to the borough. Joe advised that the ordinance has to be amended to require a yearly renewal. If other sections need to be changed a list should be compiled so that every one of them can be amended all at once. A hearing has to be held for a zoning ordinance to be changed so look over the ordinance and see what all council would like changed.

#### New Business

**Streets, Lighting & Bridges** – none

**Fire & Police** – Ms. Harker has a new contract from the police department requesting an increase from 3% to 5%. Mr. Budicak looked over the contracts. Our original contract has an auto renewal at the end of the year with a 3% increase. It also states that if any party wishes to change the

contract a request needs to be made by 9/30. Since we were not notified we could actually say no. The new contract has a 5% increase for the 1<sup>st</sup> term which would be \$72,672.27 for 2024-2025, 2026 and a 5% increase at the end of the term. Mr. Tate moved to accept the new police contract from the Beaver Falls police and was seconded by Ms. Harker. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Mr. Heaton – yes; Ms. Harker – yes; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Seybert – yes; Mr. Tate – yes and Mr. Little – yes. Mr. Budicak will notify the city manager.

**Buildings, Grounds & Equipment** – Mr. Kosanovich - none.

**Sewers & Sanitation** - Mr. Heaton – none but he reminded council that all new members and those members who haven't yet completed IS 100 and IS 700 that it has to be done or emergency management will receive no money.

**Ordinance** – Mr. Seybert – none

**Parks & Recreation**- Mr. Tate – none

President Little – Kathy Brewer, tax collector feels that the taxes should be increased by the 10% that is allowed after the reassessment. There is going to be a time when taxes will need to be raised so we should take advantage of the opportunity now. Mr. Kosanovich moved to increase the taxes by 10% which would bring our millage to 2.2482 from the 2.0438 calculated by the reassessment. Mr. Heaton seconded the motion. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Mr. Heaton – yes; Ms. Harker – no; Mr. Kosanovich – yes; Mr. Seybert – yes; Mr. Tate – yes; and Mr. Little – no. Mr. Little discussed the yearly bonuses given to council and the borough employees – a ham to all council members, the tax collector and solicitor. The employees were always given \$100. All council members, with the exception of Mr. Little and Ms. Harker as well as the tax collector and solicitor declined the bonus. Mrs. Lansberry and Mr. Tate refused theirs also. The two street department employees have only worked for a month so they were not included. New shirts – 2 hoodies per employee and 5 shirts per employee with West Mayfield Street Department on the shirts will be purchased for the new employees.

Mayor Cogley – welcomed all new council members.

Mr. Budicak – none

Police Captain – none

Bob Tate noted that there had been a shooting in Mayfield Village – the person was evicted and has to vacate by 12/24. The tree blind has been removed.

Mr. Tate moved to pay the bills listed on the bill list and was seconded by Mr. Kosanovich. The motion carried.

Mr. Heaton moved to ratify purchases made by committees and was seconded by Mr. Tate. The motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Kosanovich moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Heaton at 8:22 with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry  
Borough Secretary