

Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2024

President Bob Tate called the meeting to order. All members were present. Bill Heaton moved to approve the October minutes and was seconded by Jake Tate. Bob Tate added rentals to the agenda. Jason Heaton moved to accept the agenda with correction and was seconded by Janet Helbig. Both motions were passed all in favor.

At this time, Ryan Soission who submitted a letter of intent to council to fill the vacant seat left by the resignation of Lou Little after the October meeting was adjourned, was introduced and Bill Heaton moved to have the vacant seat filled by Ryan. Jake Tate seconded the motion which carried. Mayor Cogley swore him in as a new member of council.

**Correspondence**

Three people have submitted appeals to the court for their real estate reassessment. Joe Budicak noted that it is not necessary to have representation by an attorney for council.

**Citizen's Comments**

Ryan moved to hear the citizens present and was seconded by Jason. The motion carried.

Cheryl Sudano, 3782 W 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue called Bill Heaton to attention about a letter written in 2022 regarding the fire department and nothing was ever mentioned. Just wanted to note transparency.

Janet Jurich Pico, 3767 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue followed up on her request about the pile of brush on her neighbor's property. The fire department was supposed to come and burn it but they never did and she called Lou Little. He said that is was not going to be done. The borough can't do it so they will have to now try to find some other way to get rid of it. Tiger Paws will pick up at a fee of \$85.

Randy & Debby Hayward, 810 Lenox Ave wanted to know if the party they scheduled at the fire department on December 28<sup>th</sup> would still be honored since the fire department would no longer be servicing West Mayfield. As far as he knew, Bill said that it should be honored.

Jeremy Tate, 1004 High Street is still having problems with Aiken. He has rental property that has been empty for two years and still received bills for service. Called Aiken and they said that council would take care of it. We have been trying to get this resolved for as long as our contracted has been signed with not luck. Jeremy now has another property on Rock Avenue that was vacant and the new tenants tried to get service. Aiken said that \$1200 worth of invoices needs to be paid before they can begin service. Tom Deluca is another rental property owner with the same problem. The new tenants tried to get service but there is \$500 in outstanding invoices when the property was empty. Sharon Toy's daughter moved into the house next door that was vacant and there is the same issue. Joe will look to see what he can do about it.

Arlene Catarcio, 686 Harbison Road wanted to let council know that the leaf pick-up crew has been doing a great job.

Motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Bill Heaton and seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

**Streets, Lighting & Bridges; Building, Grounds and Equipment** – Jake Tate – Leaves are being picked up but when the workers went to Brady’s Run to recycle them, they were closed for Veteran’s Day. The park is closed for the year; the streets are done and the berms are filled back in.

**Fire & Police** none

**Sewers & Sanitation** - Bill Heaton – Craig Alley is getting worse. Tru Plumbing had the low bid of \$11,600 to do the repairs. The other two bids were \$17,000 and \$26,000. Jake moved to accept Tru Plumbing’s bid of \$11,600 and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The bid passed all in favor. Two storm basins were installed on West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue free of charge by Tru-Plumbing. The borough paid for the storm basins.

**Emergency Management** – As stated in last month’s meeting, Eli Kosanovich’s appointment is now in the governor’s office for approval.

**Finance & Litigation** – Jason Heaton has quotes for medical insurance for the street department employees - \$1031 per person per month was one bid and another was \$500 per person per month. That is something the borough just can’t afford.

The preliminary budget was reviewed and some changes were made. Bill moved to accept the preliminary budget with changes and was seconded by Janet. The motion passed all in favor. We are still waiting to hear about the money to be paid by the purchase of the Beaver Falls Water Treatment Plant by Aqua. Joe said it has not been completed yet due to the PUC. It will be at least until June of next year before we know anything.

Jake had done some checking on different phone companies. Deals are really good right now and Verizon can provide 1 phone & 1 tablet for almost \$100 less per month than Comcast. We do not need the phone or internet at the borough building because everything can be done on the phone and tablet. Jason moved to approve dropping Comcast and take the deal for 1 phone and 1 tablet from Verizon. Ryan seconded the motion that passed all in favor.

Jason had a question about the proposal for fire service from Beaver Falls. Why was this proposal posted on Facebook after the meeting? Chippewa Township who had expressed interest on bidding for providing service changed their mind after seeing the proposal because there was no way they could provide what Beaver Falls could. The proposal will be reviewed every year. Joe feels that it is not a violation of the bidding. Services do not actually have to be bid. Jason feels that public records should not be placed on social media.

**A CORRECTION WAS MADE TO THE NOVEMBER MINUTES AS FOLLOWS AND WAS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT THE JANUARY MEETING: ~~RYAN'S MOTION WAS NOT TO HAVE ANY PUBLIC NOTICES PLACED ON SOCIAL MEDIA.~~**

Ryan moved to approve the service proposal by the Beaver Falls Fire Department and was seconded by Janet. A roll-call vote passed the motion as follows: Ryan – yes; Bill – yes; Janet – yes; Bob – yes; Jeff – yes; Jake – yes; Jason – yes.

Jake asked what will happen if the contract is going to be reviewed every year and we have no money to pay the contract 10 years from now. There would be a consolidation. The contract presented by Beaver Falls Fire Department will take effect the beginning of January 2025. Janet moved to discontinue West Mayfield Volunteer Fire Department as first responders on January 1, 2025. Ryan seconded the motion that passed all in favor. Mark Stowe will get with the secretary to get non-emergency numbers, etc.

**Ordinance** – Jeff – Tina has letters ready to be sent to the foundry. They are still looking into codes.

**Parks & Recreation** – Janet - none

Bob - none

Solicitor – Joe Budicak – none

Mayor – none

Chief Johnson – none

### **New Business**

**Streets. Lighting & Bridges; Buildings & Equipment** – Jake Tate – We need to look into the possibility of raising taxes because our expenditures are more than the revenues we currently generate. Bob mentioned that we could have landlord registration. He pays \$25 per unit for property he owns in Patterson. Jake was asked to look into getting citizens involved in council by forming committees for economic development, resource and grant, budget, etc. He has not had any response.

**Fire & Police** – none

**Sewers & Sanitation** – Bill Heaton – none

Michael Baker has a copy of all storm sewers & drains.

**Finance & Litigation** – Jason Heaton – none.

**Ordinance** – Jeff Seybert – none

**Parks & Recreation** – Janet Helbig – 2 people have shown interest in joining the rec board.

**Mayor** – reported on attending the Beaver Falls Neighborhood Watch meeting – It covered possible code issues with Air B & B's; Renters with Pit Bulls – call police if there is a problem;

There is nothing that can be done with RV's boats, trailers and cars on private property if they are registered.

People are asking if the Library is coming back to the park. There is going to be a sports complex open house in January.

**Solicitor** – none

**Bob** – none

Approval was given to pay bills and ratify purchases made by committees.

Bill moved to adjourn at 8:00 pm and was seconded by Jason. The motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia J. Lansberry  
Borough Secretary