

Regular Meeting Minutes

West Mayfield Borough

January 9th, 2025

4609 W 8th Ave, Beaver Falls PA 15010

President Bob Tate called the meeting to order at 6pm followed by the pledge of allegiance. Roll call:

Mayor: Licia Cogley Secretary/Treasurer: Jenna White Council

President: Robert Tate Solicitor: Joe Buldiak

Vice President: Bill Heaton Absent: Ryan Soisson (excused) Council

members: Janet Helbig

Jeffery Seybert

Jacob Tate

Jason Heaton

Jake Tate moved to have the November meeting minutes approved due to further changes needing to be made and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion was approved without objection. Janet Helbig moved to have the December meeting minutes approved and was seconded by Jason Heaton. The motion was approved without objection. Jake Tate added needing estimates for the vandalism that occurred at the park. Bill Heaton added that we need to discuss the cell phone tower and added that we needed to add an executive session at the end of the meeting regarding a personnel matter. Licia Cogley added an announcement. Licia Cogley also added to discuss about the fire department sign that was brought up at Decembers meeting, there was no further updates regarding this because the fire departments meeting had not happened yet. Bill Heaton made a motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Janet Helbig. The motion was approved without objection.

President Bob Tate then asked secretary/treasurer Jenna White to read the officers reports.

Correspondence

Licia Cogley received two emails. One email received was from Eric Brewer, the director of Beaver County emergency services, regarding the copy of the agreement signed with BFFD wanting to know if they were still to call for mutual aid. Licia

responded and said we'd send a letter if needed but he said no the agreement was enough. The second email was from

Garin Fidelus, the solicitor of Beaver County, regarding if the WMFD is still in existence and if he needed to hear from the municipality or the solicitor. Licia passed along the information to Eric Brewer. Both parties had heard on social media that the fire department or going to sustain themselves. They also were curious about the insurance on the fire department. Licia had no answers regarding the insurance. Solicitor Joe Budicak agrees that Licia has done everything she's needed to so far. Licia Cogley put on record that the WMFD does not contact her regarding anything with insurance or updates on the fire department's status in general. Joe Budicak questioned if the WMFD was going to continue offering mutual aid and Bill Heaton stated as far as he knew they planned to just run REHAB on calls, and he also stated to WMFD that no insurance nor expenses would be covered by West Mayfield. Bill also double checked that the insurance on the fire department's vehicles was dropped as of January 1st. Also, to his knowledge there was insurance on the building until June of 2025 for them to continue doing rentals through that time.

Jake Tate received an email from someone interested in purchasing property in West Mayfield and building a modular home on the property. He was looking for information regarding a tap in. Jason Heaton stated it is \$3,500 to tap in. Jason also stated it is \$500 for street opening if you build. Jake Tate also had someone reach out about a pothole on Rock Ave.

Citizens Comments

Mark Stowe – 1719 5th Ave, Beaver Falls PA 15010 – informing the BFFD has been riding the streets to familiarize themselves, they've also been receiving emergency contacts from businesses, only area of concern is Sand Alley to get the fire trucks through, reaching out to the mill for a walk through.

Kathy Brewer – 3628 Matilda St, Beaver Falls PA 15010 – looking for updates regarding baseball, also suggested charging for teams for field usage and tournaments

Nora Seuss – 102 37th St, Beaver Falls PA 15010 – looking for information on Elite Athletics wanting a contract for the field

Kevin Farkas – 3706 W 8th Ave, Beaver Falls PA 15010 – asking if anyone on council wanted updates on the borough website, looking for updated zoning map to post

Old Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges, Building, Grounds & equipment – Jake Tate – chainsaw is fixed by Brian for under \$100 saving the borough roughly \$1,400 - replaced all the stolen/damaged stop signs - road crew fixed all potholes on Rock Ave where a complaint was made – address vandalism issues at park and getting an estimate to BFPD for court case – looking for estimate to replace little library from Janet Helbig – looking for bids to fix roofs of dug outs

Fire & Police – Ryan Soisson – none

Sewer & Sanitation – Bill Heaton – informing not being able to fix Craig Alley as planned due to weather and making sure we could still pay it out of last years budget as agreed, which was done.

Finance & Litigation – Jason Heaton – successfully got ADP set up - discussed having road crew clock out for lunch with options of tablet at borough building or app on cellphones, it was decided to not have them do this at this time - update employee handbook with any changes – creating a google drive for all of council to have access to all documents - engineering firms bids have deadline of next week to get them in, meeting will be held with Janet & Ryan after all bids are received

Ordinance – Jeff Seybert - none

Parks & Recreation – Janet Helbig – training Gerald, Jake states Gerald is simply not prepared to be called out for overtime for plowing he needs more time and training on it but he will be ready eventually

Bob – none

Solicitor – none

Mayor – none

New Business

Streets, Lighting & Bridges, Building, Grounds & equipment – Jake Tate – reorganization of council, Jake wants to step down from streets and be replaced by Jeff Seybert, he will continue being on streets/lighting/bridges/grounds & equipment, but not the primary person, that will be handled by Jeff, Jake will also continue being on ordinances, parks & recreation and sewers & sanitation – addresses snow removal procedures regarding backlash on social media, they follow the guidelines for plowing procedures - gathering a list of roads that need paved, looking to outsource to smaller companies for bids as well, Jason will be looking for grants for street projects – Jeff states the public stairs need to be maintained by the road crew for safety of children at the bus stop at the bottom, discuss putting up “use at own risk” sign on stairs to alleviate liability in case of incident, Jake reached out to bus garage to change bus stop to top of hill to avoid use of steps altogether and they said they will not change it, Joe says to possibly temporarily close the steps and have the kids walk down the hill to the

bus stop until a more permanent solution can be reached, Joe says he can write a letter to the bus garage to officially change the stop for safety of the children

Fire & Police – Ryan Soisson – none

Sewers & Sanitation – Bill Heaton – road crew fixed sewer line on 37th st, DLC installed a telephone pole a year and a half ago and it went through the sewer line causing a break, Bill called for estimates to fix sewer line and got estimates of \$8,000-\$10,000, they decided to fix it through the road crew with the help of Jake Tate which saved the borough a significant amount of money, Bill filed a claim through DLC to get refund for damages, Bob states Jake should be paid for his help which is agreed upon unanimously and he will submit a bill to the borough to be paid street wages at \$17.50 an hour for 8 hours which is \$122.50 - logging is being done at Walnut Bottom Run possibly causing more flooding issues in the park, talk of grant money for a small lake at park to help with the flooding – Bill received a phone call and an email wanting to purchase our cell tower contract which currently we receive roughly \$18,000 a year and they want to purchase the contract for \$331,000 which would significantly reduce our budget yearly, Kevin Farkas states if you invest the \$331,000 you could possibly make more then we are currently receiving yearly and take the interest out to make up the budget, Joe suggests asking to negotiate the offer in our favor, Kevin suggests speaking to wealth manager for what could be beneficial to the borough if we sell the contract and invest the money

Finance & Litigation – Jason Heaton - Jason will be reaching out to waste management companies for bids, multiple bids are desired for vacant houses, rental houses, etc., Joe states we need to ensure all terms desired are included in bid requests – Jason states a quarter of our budget is going to BFFD and BFPD, possibly reaching out to other departments for bids

Ordinance – Jeff Seybert - none

Parks & Recreation – Janet Helbig – Janet wants 5 members for the rec board – Janet spoke to Scotty McGee from West Mayfield Baseball and Libator and they're setting up a meeting to discuss plans for the fields

Bob Tate – meeting with sports complex regarding taking over the fields, should be able to vote next meeting on baseball fields

Chief Johnson- ensuring communication with Jenna White, Secretary, is correct due to Novembers police calls being read rather than Decembers – concern of issues at Patterson Ave., police are handling it appropriately

Solicitor – none

Mayor – received an email regarding new MS – January 27th is a community watch

program for Beaver Falls regarding community items – Pennsylvania is wanting to be involved in national holocaust day, Mayor was informing if the borough wanted to do anything revolving around that they could – Jake brings up flag being flown at half-staff for Jimmy Carter until January 28th

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

The meeting then was called into executive session regarding personal matters. There were no motions made after the executive session therefore the regular meeting can be adjourned.

Jason Heaton moved to adjourn at 8:30pm and was seconded by Janet Helbig. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna White

Borough Secretary