Regular Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2013

President Tom DeLuca called the meeting to order. All members including Mayor Farkas were present. Minutes of the previous meeting approved Helbig/Heaton motion. A Tate/Bostek motion approved the officers' reports unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Bostek – none

Mrs. Helbig - none

Ms. Harker asked if a certificate of insurance had been obtained from Mr. Emge to insure that rental of ball fields is covered. Since Mr. Tate had missed the last meeting he wasn't aware of the request. He will obtain the insurance certificate from Mr. Emge.

Mr. Little - none

Mr. Heaton reported that the manhole cover stolen from Mayfield Village had been replaced. He spoke with the owners of the property who have no problem with a gate or barrier of some type being installed to prevent further thefts as long as they have access. There was also a discussion regarding a name change from Project Road to Village Road. Council has no objections to this and had discussed the change with the previous owners but no action had ever been taken due to lack of response from the owners. The post office, county and other organizations will need to be notified when the change occurs. Several items of business from previous meetings have been taken care of – oil purchased; fire extinguishers inspected and tagged; truck undercoated; spreader installed with lights that had to be purchased in addition to the quoted price. Mr. Heaton also noted that the price of $6998 for a 10ft spreader and other prices were incorrectly listed in last month's minutes. He did not have a chance to research ownership of the property across the street. The owner had an issue with gravel from borough property washing down onto his. Mr. Tate had spoken with the resident and told him that the borough would scoop up the gravel. Ownership is still undetermined. Mr. Heaton will try to get to the courthouse to research. The drive shaft problem with the truck was just a loose universal joint and has been repaired and the drag plate installed on the Bobcat. The park is shut down.

Mayor Farkas reported in the absence of Kevin Farkas that the web site is still doing well. Kevin has been posting something every day for Fire Prevention Week.

Mr. Tate installed the commemorative bench for George Wiltrout at the park and the family is very pleased.

Mr. DeLuca reported that the cell tower located on borough property has been de-activated but the tower would not be removed – only the building and cement pad that it was erected on. As long as the tower remains standing we will continue to receive monthly payments. Mr. DeLuca informed Sprint that Verizon has add-ons to the tower and requested that Verizon be contacted before any dismantling is begun. An ad for garbage bids has been published with bids to be opened at the November meeting.

New Business

Mr. Bostek reported on his attendance at the COG meeting. An informative meeting on the proposed Shell Oil Cracker Plant will be held on the 24th of October at CCBC. Reservations are required by 10/19. Also discussed was ACT 32 Flood Zoning and dispersing of pollution into rivers. Mr. Bostek asked about leaf collection. It will begin on November 1 and will be published both on the website and in the newspaper.

He asked if the Fire Department would also advertise it on their sign. Mr. Heaton requested that salt be ordered soon to build up the stockpile.

Mrs. Helbig - none

Ms. Harker reported a problem with a fire hydrant on Mayfield Alley. They were unable to shut off the hydrant and had to stay hooked up until Beaver Falls Municipal Authority employees arrived to shut it off. The hydrant is too low and needs to be raised. Mrs. Lansberry will send a letter to Mr. Riggio with the request. Trick-or Treat in the Borough was set for Thursday, October 31 from 6 to 7:30 in accordance with the other local municipalities.

Mr. Little reported that there is still a strong odor coming from Mayfield Alley near the Karcheski residence. There is no standing water and the drains have been cleared. Mr. Eckles will dye test some of the homes in the vicinity to see if sewage is seeping in from any of them.

Mr. Heaton had a question for Mrs. Helbig on the zoning report. Whose attorney was the notification sent to – bank holding the property or the borough attorney? It was the bank's attorney, not ours. Regarding properties that Ms. Pella has suggested be demolished, council does not agree because they do not want to lose the tax base. A discussion regarding all of the properties that are junk-infested was conducted. Mr. DeLuca suggested that the borough purchase some type of a tag that can be placed on the property owner's door notifying them of the ordinance violation with a time stipulation for clean-up included. If more information is needed, the property owner can attend a council meeting for clarification. If the property is not cleaned up in the specified time, the zoning officer will be called and further action will be taken. Mr. DeLuca will look into options for the purchase of these tags.

Mr. Heaton also reported on the sign class that he and the borough employees attended. Most of the signs in the borough do not meet the specified code. The street signs should have white or black lettering, not gold; any street that exits onto 37th Street requires a stop sign; in a couple of years all stop signs will have to be increased from 24" to 36". By 2014 we should have a plan in place to replace signs or bring them up to code. We need to find out exactly when this is going to come into law but our plan is to purchase signs that are up to code from this point forward. Mr. Bostek will find out when the law is coming into effect.

The Ford truck needs a water pump at the cost of $159.00. Oil seals also need to be replaced because oil is pouring out.

The sand being used to mix with the salt is uncovered and getting wet. The roof over the bin will be extended at minimal cost to keep it dry. This produced a discussion on the benefits of mixing sand with the salt. Mr. DeLuca spoke with a PennDot engineer and PennDot uses a half & half mixture. This is exactly what the borough does. Mr. Bostek does not see the benefit in this. It was also discussed to contact someone to see what the state would pay us for maintaining 37th Street in the winter. Beaver Falls is paid to maintain Route 18 so Mr. Heaton will contact Bruno Gratteri to see what they are paid and look into West Mayfield taking over 37th Street. He will report at next month's meeting.

The playground equipment donated to West Mayfield is still dismantled and exposed to the elements. The borough employees will try to put it together as a winter project but some type of picture is needed to see what it's supposed to look like. Any parts that could be affected by the weather will be stored indoors.

Mr. Farkas commented that stop signs are supposed to be a certain height and not placed on telephone poles. Beaver Falls has stop signs on poles. He inquired about the Craig Street property and Mrs. Helbig talked with the owners. They have a couple more days to complete the clean up.

Parking on the road in the area of the soccer fields is breaking down the road. Mr. DeLuca noted that this is not strictly at the soccer fields but rather the entire length of the road. The borough employees will put down some stone and try to build the berm up. Mr. Little asked that people using the fields be reminded to stay away from the buildings because it's tripping the alarm system.
Mr. Curry complained about taxes and sewer rates being raised. Mrs. Helbig told him that he needs to contact the courthouse about the taxes because council has nothing to do with the county or school taxes being raised. It was explained that because the Beaver Falls Sewage Authority raised its rates we had no recourse but to raise ours because we were going to be unable to pay the users fees.
Mr. Tate reported that Mr. Emge wants to erect a fence along the creek. He needs to present some type of drawing to council to make sure that our employees will have access to trim, cut grass and clean out the creek as needed. It was decided that Mr. Eckles and Mr. McNeely need to meet with him to discuss what would work for them. The foot bridge at the upper end of the park needs to be repaired. Mr. Tate asked that we wait till next year and he will talk to Pam at Home Depot about donating lumber.
Mr. DeLuca reminded council members that a budget meeting needs to be set up before the November 14 meeting. Members will meet on December 7 at 6:30 to have the budget workshop meeting.

Motion to pay bills Little/Helbig carried.
Motion to ratify purchases made by committees Tate/Bostek carried.

Mr. Eckles reported that due to the high volume of children playing on West 8th Avenue, the police should be notified. Mr. McNeely has a bucket truck that can be used by the borough employees for trimming tree branches if they will agree to purchase the gasoline. Council has no problem with this and Mr. McNeely was instructed to make sure that "bucket truck" use was written on the purchase order. Mrs. Lansberry also needs the make & license plate for the bucket truck so that she can include it on the report for the gas tax rebate from the state.

Mr. Tate moved to adjourn to an executive session to discuss litigation issues and was seconded by Ms. Harker. The motion carried.
Following the executive session Ms. Harker moved to adjourn at 8:45. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bostek and passed all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Lansberry
Secretary