

White Haven Borough Council was called to order by President John Klem at 7pm with roll call taken. The following council members were present: Charlie Best, Tim Janosco, Patty Horn, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Rose Swerdon and Zane Writer. Also, present, Attorney Karpowich, Martin (quad 3 group) Casey Cawley, Reilly associates, Mayor Fred Meier, Gerry Feissner, Standard Farms, Police Chief Thomas Szoke and Borough Manager Linda Szoke

Minutes from the July 24, 2017 were presented for approval. Motion made by Best and seconded by Swerdon, all in favor, motion carried.

Petitions and Complaints

- Pete and Amanda Melnyk of Buffalo street, request Borough Council to consider an ordinance change to allow Chickens in the back yards. No Roosters and only a limited number of them in cages or pens. Councilman Janosco asked for some more research on this request and how we arrived at no chickens in a residential area. Councilman Lamson asked if the Melnyk's would get copies of ordinances from other towns about allowing chickens in the borough. Someplace within a close proximity of White Haven Borough. Melnyk's agreed to do so and Lamson said that would be just to say we would consider it.
- Letter from 22 Peace Lane wants to be exempt from paying garbage bill. Because they suggest litigation we will discuss this in an executive session after our meeting.

Engineers Report

- Planning review for Standard Farms for Land Development, they have responded to all the comments provide by White Haven Planning and Luzerne County Planning. They are ready for approval by Borough Council.
- Bids were opened for the Community Block Grant paving on Susquehanna and Elmira Streets the lowest bidder with all three add alternatives was Pennsy Supply at \$142,797.80 Motion to accept Pennsy as lowest bidder contingent upon attorneys review that bid is in compliance by Best and seconded by Writer, Roll call vote taken, Best-yes, Janosco-yes, Horn-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, Swerdon-yes, Writer -yes, motion carried.
- Tap grant update, Don Totino is handling this and we are still on track for submitting on September 25th and currently working on meeting with Penn Dot to review project.
- Looking for old building plans for the borough building to work on the drawings for phase two grant of the borough building.
- DEP was updated on spill way that vegetation was cleared and valve opens. They stated that the spillway is a category 4 and it will be inspected every 5 years. We will still work on repairing the cement slab at the top of the spill way.
- President Klem asked if we want to address Standard Farms land development, any questions from council? It's up for final adoption from council. A motion to grant preliminary land development approval to Standard Farms addition and site improvements associated with the improvement contingent upon review of borough attorney made by Lamson and seconded by

Swerdon. Roll call vote, best – yes, Janosco -yes, Horn – abstain, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, Swerdon-yes, and writer -yes. Motion passed with 6 yes and 1 abstain. Horn abstained and provided in writing per borough code, reason conflict of interest.

Attorney Report

- Railroad crossing formal complaint will be filed by the end of this week with PUC. Any questions will be discussed during executive session since its litigation.
- Gallagher property is in final stages for closing.
- PPL Resolution for the additional lights at the library, need council to adopt resolution 12 of 2017, a motion made by Janosco and seconded by Lamson to adopt resolution 12 of 2017 for new lighting at the library located on Towanda Street, roll call vote, Best -yes, Janosco-yes, Horn-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, Swerdon-yes and Writer-yes, motion carried
- Discussion on rental units has come up in the borough. People are taking their home and they put it out on Air B&B and rent it for weekends in residential zoning. Complaints include excess vehicles, dogs, people coming all hour's parties, etc. Neighbors are not happy with how it disturbs the peace in the neighborhoods. Courts are saying that it's a rental unit and not a motel, inn or bed/breakfast so we can make them a use that they are not. The courts are saying you can give it your own classification and then regulate it. Then you can place it in zoning districts where multi-use residential is allowed, you can place it in the zoning districts you deem appropriate. The borough currently has two units, one is in a commercial district and one is a residential area. Discussed supplemental regulation for insuring enough parking maybe no more than 9 people and no more than two people in bedroom, offer off street parking. Swerdon asked if we could have them put a sign up so they know which house it is. Looking to draw up an ordinance to help regulate this further. Consider R3 with special exception in R2. Council asked Attorney to draft for next meeting for possible ordinance.
- Luzerne County 911 has requested to construct a tower at the existing cite and we need to discuss in executive session about the negotiation of the lease

Manager's Report

- Standard Farms public meeting will be this Wednesday for Council to please consider attending.
- Discussed pricing to remove trailers in Lehigh park and at the Library first quote in was \$8600.00 we will keep looking for other options.
- Discuss the act that was put into place for volunteers for emergency services to receive a break on their property taxes. Please review the act and see if there is interest in adopting this for our borough.

President Klem discussed the White Haven Fire Departments plans for a new building. He said they are making progress but they failed to ask council to ask for the land officially at the meeting. The Mayor asked if that the original location was given back to the borough. At this time it has not been conveyed back to the borough. Lamson inquired about the time line and that there was no rush. Klem stated that they are to the point that they would be applying for the loan. The Mayor asked if the attorney would do the paper work for both pieces of property. Lamson asked how much of the land are we giving to the fire company. The deed needs to be obtained to find out what pieces that the borough owns to subdivide off the vacant land from the existing building to Elmira Street. A motion was made

by Janosco that the land on Susquehanna Street owned by the Fire company revert back to the borough since they are not building there and the borough will convey to the Fire Company to empty lot next to the fire house as the future site of the new fire house. This motion give permission to Attorney Karpowich to start to work on the process. This would include in the new property by the fire house should the fire company fold that the land return to the borough. This motion was seconded by Swerdon, Lamson said at some point we need to define where the division line is between the municipal property and the fire department. The property may need to be surveyed. The council can dispense with the land development items but we need to know where the lines. The financing company will request it. Klem stated he is not sure they will need financing but it's a possibility that the Fire dept will need it. Klem proceed with the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Klem then asked if the fire company could retain the old property for practice. Linda asked if we could hold off because we need a location to move the Public work supplies from where they are at the vacant land and move it to the other location.

Tax Collector – Report on file

Code/zoning/Building – report on file

Fire Chief – report on file, boot drive and fishing derby went well. Unfortunately not as well at the Bazaar due to the weather during the event. Also chamber fire work events went well too.

EMA coordinator – report on file, Dean asked if the emergency plan current. Linda said there are a few items should be updated with contact names.

White Haven Ambulance – report on file

Mayor/Police Chief Report - All is going well, nothing further. Lamson asked if there is anything that can be done at with the traffic at Berwick and Church street. Chief Szoke putting an officer there is hard because you don't know when the traffic will stop on 80 to keep an officer on the schedule. It may be time to consider looking at that intersection for a traffic light. Can a sign be put at the top of Berwick Street ask people not to stop but to keep going? Chief spoke to Penn Dot about it but they are not sure what would be the best solution there either.

Public works – Les Saxon was unable to attend meeting. Linda provided a brief report on grass cutting by adding Pete Swerdon to the cutting crew as Patrick has left to go back to school. They purchase a few piece of equipment with Zane's assistance. They are working on storm water inlet boxes and cleaning them out. While they are working on it they will take an inventory of them. Main Street had two inlet boxes that had to replace for a bike safe grate from what was there.

Committee Reports

Public works – nothing further

Police Fire – Looking at increase at Penn Lake Park Borough via letter it will come before council to vote on it.

Finance – Best reported that we were in good shape. All but 18,000 are in from taxes

Recreation – next meeting is 9/5/17

Building and Grounds – rose reviewed her meeting notes with public works and a Dumpster is coming in

December and clean out the fire house

Planning - nothing further

Parade Committee – next meeting 9/20/17 to start plans for 2018

Water – report on file

Best presented the bills for payment, motion to pay the bill made by Best and seconded by Lamson, all in favor motion carried.

A motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm by Janosco and second by Best, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Borough Secretary