

White Haven Borough Council meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Vice President Charles Best. Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Charlie Best, Tim Janosco, Patty Horn, Bob Lamson, Rose Swerdon, Zane Writer and Mayor Meier. Absent John Klem. Also present was Borough Manager Linda Szoke, Attorney Sean Lodgson, and Police Chief Thomas Szoke.

After Roll Call, Mayor Fred Mayor swore in the new Police Officers Josh Lowe and Nick Ross to the police department.

**Minutes** from the September 2017 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Horn and seconded by Writer to approve minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Petitions and Complaints**

- Mr. Pete Melynck was in attendance to ask for further update on allowing Chickens in the borough and create an ordinance change. First do we want to permit it? And if we do how do we want to permit it? More discussion from both council and various members of the audience regarding the change in the ordinance to allow chickens in town. Both advantages and disadvantages were discussed. The ordinance cannot be made so limited because it becomes discriminative. The concern is the lots sizes in the borough. Most of the lots are 40x200. With homes so close how would this affect the community or residents. Right now, the ordinance completely prohibits chickens in all zoning districts but open space. There are costs affiliated with changing all those ordinances. It needs to be reviewed by Planning commission for an informal opinion. Lamson asked if most of the board was interested in moving forward. More discussion continued with questions from council to the Melynck's on how this would be regulated. Lamson suggested a public hearing to get input from residents about any concerns or issues about allowing this in a residential area. At this time, council is on the fence in deciding. Lamson suggested we have a hearing, have it well advertised and get universal opinions from all the residents to be sure we get the input from everyone. A date will be selected, and the hearing will be held to get additional input from the residents.
- Terrance McDermott Towanda street resident – complaint about the railroad tracks on Berwick Street and how they are continually getting worse in condition. Attorney Lodgson gave him an update on where the borough is with the process. The borough has filed the formal complaint with the PUC for answers on the repair.
- Verbal complaint from 17 Peace Lane and when the rest of the road would be opened. They felt with all the construction on Susquehanna street is limiting their access to their homes and what would happen in the event of the emergency.

**Engineer** – report is on file

## **Attorney**

- Weekly rental home draft of the ordinance is ready for advertisement Sean reviewed the draft with council. A motion was made by Horn and seconded by Lamson to advertise the hearing and send to planning for comments. Questions on how we deal with the ones in existing zoning districts. Sean would look into this and they may have come in for a pre-existing use. Best has for a vote on motion all in favor to proceed, motion carried.
- The ordinance for changing the noise ordinance for working with heavy equipment is ready to review and advertised. Motion by Lamson ad seconded by Writer to advertise the ordinance for public hearing at the November meeting. All in favor, motion carried.
- Updated council on deed and surveys for property for the Fire company. Questions on cost and how it will be paid for still need to be determined. Council members asked attorney to work up a price for the title search, survey and legal fees and bring to the next meeting in November. Show an itemized cost list for them.
- Meeting with the 911 center regarding the upgrade of the tower. Sean reviewed the discussion and enter it a new lease with them. They are willing to assist us with the cost of the road to help maintain it. They will be making the tower taller which they are hoping will help with the radio signal to the officers cars. Radios will also be changing over to digital with the new system. A resolution will be used to start the process so improvements can continue until the final lease is signed. Resolution 5 of 2017 to allow 911 to pursue construction was presented with a none compete clause for no other rentals to be allowed on their tower. A motion by Janosco and seconded by Lamson to pass resolution 5 of 2017, all in favor, motion carried.

## **Managers Report**

- Presented the first reading of the trash account budget for 2018, with \$132,308.00 for income and for expenses. It's a balanced budget with no increase to the residents for trash collection. Motion by Swerdon and seconded by Horn to approve the first reading of the budget, advertise and made available to the public for inspection. All in favor, motion carried.
- Presented the first reading of the liquid fuels account budget for 2018, with \$75,549.63 for income and for expenses. Its a balanced budget. A motion for Janosco and seconded by Swerdon to approve the first reading of the budget, advertise and made available for the public inspection. All in favor, motion carried.
- Presented the first reading of the general fund budget for 2018, with \$627,070.00 for income and for expenses. It's a balanced budget with no tax increase. Lamson asked if we anticipated any tax increases on income from Standard Farms. Linda said she was not sure what they will be. No one from the county has come out to even look at the site, so that increase is in the budget Motion made by Writer and seconded by Horn to approve the first reading of the budget, advertised and made available for public inspection. All in favor, motion carried. Best reminded everyone that it's a tight budget and we are going to have to really stick to it and watch our expenses.
- Letter received from Jamie Hayhurst requesting to serve on the recreation board to fill a vacant term to December 31, 2017. A motion was made by Writer and seconded by Horn, all in favor, motion carried.
- Penn Dot Street sign inventory will be worked on with Linda and Tim Janosco.
- The census project will be worked on with Patty Horn, Rose Swerdon and Linda.

- The property in foster township that the borough owns is still taxable. Request that council apply to make the property tax exempt saving us \$1000.00 a year to the budget. A motion by Janosco and seconded by Writer to have the attorney file for exemption status. All in favor, motion carried

**Tax Collector** – report on file

**Code/zoning/building** – report on file

**Fire chief** – report on file

**EMA Coordinator** – nothing to report this month

**White Haven Ambulance** – report is on file. George Wood also asked about the LSA grant for the borough to apply for 2017. Also requested that this year's budget amount \$3400.00 be put in a savings account to be used as some of the matching fund on the grant application. A motion by Lamson and seconded by Writer to move the funds to the saving account to help pay for the elect stretcher.

All in favor, motion carried.

A motion made by Horn and seconded by Lamson to approve resolution 16 of 2017 for application of the Ambulance for LSA Grant

**Mayor/Police Chief** – Halloween is 6-8 and safe house will be at ambulance house, also have the safety lights at the corner and the military trucks again this year.

**Public Works** – Les is absent from tonights meeting. Interviews are underway for plow drivers.

#### **Committees Reports**

- Public works – estimate for \$850 to change the locks at the fire house. We will need probably 10 keys instead of 5. Janosco made the motion and seconded by Swerdon, all in favor, motion carried. Scheduled a committee meeting for November 13, 2017 at 3:30pm
- Recreation – held their meeting getting ready for the tree lighting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and they picked March 24, 2018 for the egg hunt. Working on needing a bucket truck to hang light in Pine Street Park. Next meeting is November 8, 2017
- Planning – nothing to report
- Parade Committee – next meeting January 10, 2018

Bills were presented for payment, motion by Janosco and seconded by Swerdon to pay the bill, all in favor.

A motion was made a 9pm to adjourn the meeting by Horn and seconded by Swerdon.

Respectfully Submitted

Linda Szoke

Borough Secretary