

Council Meeting- December 12, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of West Wyoming was called to order by Chairman Stavish. Following the Pledge of Allegiance roll call was taken by Secretary Pedley and the following were present: Chairman Stavish, Councilman Colarusso, Councilman Grescavage, Councilman Dolan, Councilwoman Zaboloski, Mayor Herbert, Solicitor Lukesh, Engineer Amato, Treasurer DeSanto absent, and Secretary Pedley.

Stavish asked for a motion made by Dolan and seconded by Colarusso to approve the previous month's minutes. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Randy Colarusso: Administration & Finance:

Motion made by Colarusso and seconded by Dolan to approve West Wyoming Borough Budget for 2017 effective December 12/13/16. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Colarusso and seconded by Zaboloski to pass an ordinance adopting the West Wyoming Budget for 2017 effective 12/13/16. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Colarusso and seconded by Grescavage to pass a resolution adopting the West Wyoming Borough Tax Rate for 2017 ( Note to public: there are no tax increase and services and fees will remain the same for 2017). Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Colarusso and seconded by Zaboloski to pay the outstanding bills approved by the Finance Committee. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Colarusso and seconded by Dolan to pay the annual Fire Relief Allocation to WWHC#1 and WWHC#2. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Colarusso and seconded by Dolan to pay the annual Borough Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief stipends. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Colarusso to switch all accounts to FNCB Bank effective January 2017 seconded by Grescavage. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Colarusso report on the COG. Right now we are looking at equipment to exalt the end of the LSA grant which is \$72,250.00. Right now they are deciding on rest of equipment that will be purchased plus the rest of the money will be used to purchase parts to repair equipment that they have. After Thursdays meeting, there will be more information on that. On the DPW workers, the plumbing is set up for the Tripp St. pumping station. They will be working on that this week if it is not too cold. We also have the anti skid for the rest of the year. They fixed the problem they had on 8<sup>th</sup> street, plow trucks were out today on the first snow storm and everything else is business as usual. Stavish asked if we received restitution on the light pole on Eighth St. Colarusso said no but stated that a letter was sent out and that we need 3 estimates.

Mike Amato stated that in coordinating with Colarusso that repairing catch basins and man holes thru out the town there are certain things that the DPW can do themselves and other things that they cannot do, in particular on the state roads, there are two on 8<sup>th</sup> street which we are going to recommend that we get proposals .

Daniel Grescavage : Community Development/Recreation

Community Development business as usual. Recreation great job on the decorating at Dailey Park.

Michael Dolan: – Public Safety /Code Enforcement / Personnel:

The police chiefs report is not in. I will report on that next month. No report on Code Enforcement . Motion made by Dolan to accept a letter of resignation from Jason Slatcoff effective December 19 seconded by Colarusso. Jason will be staying on as a part time officer 8 hours a week. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Maureen Zabolski – Public Facilities –Health & Sanitation /Finance:

Refuse payments for the new year we started collections in November and because of the letters that went out we have more people paying by mail than we had in previous years. We also have more money coming in sooner because of the reminder letters that go out in late October. We still continue to have good relations with Waste Management. We will have a leaf pick up December 15 & 16<sup>th</sup>

Mike Amato : Engineer- Routine Business

Linell Lukesh : Solicitor- Routine Business

Mayor Joseph Herbert

I do not have a report from the police it will be looked into. I do have to commend the police department on a wonderful job. If anyone knows anything about this bear poisoning please let the police department know. The toxicology tests are still being conducted. It really was a shame what happened to these bears. If you know anything please let the police know.

#### **Citizens Participation:**

James Dennis – Ferretti Drive - I set back about 8 years ago and I've seen a lot happen in this community. I see a lot of politics as usual. It broke my heart when we had people in our town go door to door in freezing weather and I took the bull by the horns as far as the Christmas lights went. I am embarrassed by it. We had beautiful candy canes and bells. When I lived in Exeter and nothing was being done at all. I talked to Archie about it and we got a Golf Tournament and with the help of the

committee we raised another \$10,000. For those Christmas lights to be thrown in a corner and they are put up in that condition they could not even put a little pressure wash and clean them up a little and replace a few bulbs. I know we gave our street department away to Wyoming by the looks of things from what I hear, you want to give to Wyoming our police department, I don't know, and it's a shame he is the mayor of our community and can't get a police report. That's sick. Before I came here, I went on West Wyoming web site and looked up minutes for West Wyoming, there were no minutes it stops at October. That is public service. That hurts me. What really hurts me is for all you people to sit there and this does not include the Mayor by any means. I see that Tom Streicher up there & Tom. I am assuming that is Tom Loftus. Stealing \$700,000 at least and he passes, then you have to look at these older people who cannot pay their taxes because of that. How can you in good conscience have something like that in a public building. Another question – where is the press here. Is somebody going to call the press and give your view or what? This lot across the street. I knew Tom Shoemaker very well. That lot was donated for recreation not for anything else. Who's word do you guys believe. You do not know how many families that guy hurt.

Stavish stated – First of all as far as that, it was not donated for recreation. That was researched and that was never donated strictly to West Wyoming for recreation. Dennis asked researched by who? Stavish asked Dolan that it was never donated only for recreation? Dennis stated that it is being used for parking lot. We sold it – a prime piece of land and the Doctor is going to build a medical facility on it. He is going to build a medical facility on it so we should let that land stand stagnate and get no revenue or nothing on it? It should sit stagnate if we got a grant to put a senior citizen center on it. How many towns around here has a senior center on it – everyone but West Wyoming. I believe West Wyoming is saturated with senior citizens. Stavish stated – you are correct. Ok – let me ask you a question – Who would maintain the running of the building – there are other costs that are involved so don't just say we will just build this and it just happens because it does not. You said get a grant first of all a grant would not even cover the cost of building a building. There were no grants out there. We could not even get grants from the casino. We could not get grants from the LSA because we were denied every time. Dennis stated he did not mind paying taxes. It was very unfortunate with the street department – a very competent guy so he was left wayside some of the stories he told me, I get all of the bear facts from Tommy Shoemaker, his grandfather owned it, he donated it to the town. And I am sure he did not donate it into the town to put a parking lot there. And unfortunately this cannot be covered by the press. Ok we have to back West Wyoming and stick with West Wyoming. This is nonsense giving it away I am paying taxes and services from Wyoming, that's not right. Look at those lights. Our street corner had to replace the lights and put them up nice. You don't think that is embarrassing? Go take a look at the lights with the angle there with 4 Christmas lights. Grescavage stated that all the lights were checked 2 weeks ago when he took them out of the shed. Take a look at the park it looks nice. Dennis stated that is not the point when people go thru our town the main street we want to see something presentable. Not the circuits that cut this off here and a short there. Grescavage stated when you go thru our town spring time summer time it is clean it is nice. Dennis stated that he has one last question was there at any time money in a fund for Christmas lights for the rec board that money was taken out and put in the general fund? Stavish stated that is handled by the rec. board, and all the money that you donated which was a great thing James on that call center, that was handed over to rec. board. The rec

board takes care of that, they pick out the lights, we have no say in that, they bought the lights, they solicited the bids for the lights, that's what they did, all we do is put them up. As far as the lights that were down, the street dept. addressed that, in order that we had the lights here so we did not have to get a electrician. As far as the lights that up here, there was a pole that was hit, across from the park up we are waiting for restitution from the individual that hit the pole. It is \$3200.00 to put a receptacle on that pole. The rec. board does not have the money to do that. I just wish about Streicher and Tom Loftus I am appalled that he is recognized in good terms with people I don't think people comprehend the severity of what he did to this borough. Stavish stated – Oh no I agree with you. Next year rather than come here and complain I would rather go over the Christmas lights before they put them up, and they look nice. We worked hard and I remember in Feb. we did not have our \$10,000.00 goal we were all out freezing. We did a lot of work and that is why I feel the way I do. Thank You.

Patty Williams – 616 W. Sperling St. Are you guys all familiar with W. Sperling St.? At the end of the street. I live on the corner, and there is a hill that runs alongside of our home. We have been having a lot of problems with the hill. These are my questions. At one time in my understanding on top of the hill there is an industrial mining permit. What does this mean and how long is it good for. Mike Dolan stated that he did not have an answer on that. Patty asked if he can find out. Solicitor Lukush answered that she and Mike will look into this. Patty stated that if Mike would look up on that bank there about 50 tires thrown on that bank. It is not safe for all those people who live down the hill where all these tires are. My question is and I put these questions to Ron who is the coding officer and he has not gotten back to me. Here is my other question – Are you allowed to operate a commercial business off a residential area? What I am referring to is the trucks that run up and down the hill including dump trucks, and trucks with trailers attached in an unsafe manner, dropping rocks, dirt and all . It is on the street with the noise and the dirt. My other thing is in September, Matt Granteed, owner of 608 W. Sperling St. damaged the retaining wall leading up to the hill. Mr. Granteed admitted the damage to myself, my husband and Mr. Hottel , he said he would repair it and never did. The wall came down the day after election day, and fell on me and damaged my glasses and my foot. Mr. Granteed is saying that there is an easement there, so where he damaged the wall and the fence, nobody owns it. So therefore, that wall is crumbling down now onto my property. If you watched the news the last couple days if you saw how that retaining wall fell on Soloman Creek, and came down. So, where does that leave me as a resident and a tax payer, to get that wall repaired. Mr. Granteed is stating that no one owns that land. So damage was caused and cannot be repaired and I have to deal with a crumbling wall, You know Gary you live on that street, you put up with the mud, the rocks and everything else. Gary explained that as far as the mud and the rocks Matt was told about that and he was in the process of taking care of that otherwise he was going to be charged for the cleanup. Dolan stated that to back up a little bit to answer some of the questions. If it is zoned residential you cannot operate a business. If it is zoned industrial or business or mining you can do whatever is allowed. Just to mention West Wyoming does not have their own Zoning. Zoning is administered by Luzerne County. Patty said she was at the court house today. Dolan stated that Pat Dooley is the person down there. As far as rectifying the road runoff and the road issues there the town council spoke with Mr. Granteed and they did go over some things to rectify the situation. Gary stated that as far as we know the situation was addressed and was taken care of. If it should happen in the spring it will be taken care of. As far as the tires I believe they were steps that

were built in. Patty said no it was just a big mound of tires. Dolan will look in this. Patty stated to her last question is to the easement and the wall that is destroyed, and is crumbling. Dolan stated that Patty had sent a letter to the borough asking for specific information regarding ownership. I provided information what ever I could with regards to borough property, and what the boroughs right of way were and that was all the information we could provide her. Unfortunately this is a civil issue between property owners. It certainly is not a municipal road going up there. But if the property owner says with the easement and God owns it and it comes crashing down, what happens? Solicitor Lukesh stated if there is an easement and it is your property or someone elses property than they have to take care of that. We may have a right of way there but we don't take care of that. So then it is between me and Mr. Granteed then. OK you answered my questions. Dan Grescavage asked who the inspector was she spoke to and she stated it was Ron something or other. Grescavage stated that we do not have a Ron that is an inspector. Well who is it. It is Ken. Ken that is it. He came over and we went over all my questions and he would get back to me but he never did. Gary stated that he told him that he told you to take it up to the magistrate. No he said he would get back to me on all of these questions and he did not.

Tom - Narrow Street My wife and I just bought a home here about a year and a half ago. And we live next to a house that is about 30 feet from us. There is an alley between their house and ours. It is a rental property. The person who bought that house lives in Pittston. When they bought the house and they would fix it up , we let them know that it was a public alley. We were told by our realtor at the time that it was an alley way. The main problem is that their house is about 30 feet away from mine. They have been leaving their garbage out even though they have garbage cans. They leave open bags and I can see it from my kitchen window. I let their landlord about it and it got worse on Saturday, because I am looking out my kitchen window and I see a black animal about 6 or 7 inches long probably a rat I don't know, going chewing on their garbage and then going what looks like in their cellar. I let the tenant know that they should put the garbage in the can. They also have garbage from 5 or 6 weeks ago rotting tomatoes there in open containers in that alley. There is stuff all over in their back yard. I held my tongue about this and who knows what kind of animals. This is a problem. I am not from this area. This is a clean environment. We like it here. The husband and wife say such nasty things to each other so loud that I can hear it in my house, and they have young children. My wife and I got home Friday night about 11 and the father and daughter are yelling at each other. Saturday when I saw that rat I called the police and left a message. I do not know if this is the proper way to do things like this, is it code enforcement, to see what they find. They just do not care and this is a nice neighborhood. I feel funny about this and I have to leave a message on an answering machine. Maryor Herbert stated that we have been preaching for years and years not to leave messages on the answering machine. Call 911. Tell them what your problem is and they will call the police officer over the air on the radio wherever they are at in town. The officer will respond. A question was asked if that is a little extreme to call 911 about garbage? Well when you call and check out the complaint and they will call the proper authorities to address the situation that they find. We do not have someone in here to answer the phone 24 hours a day, so we go through 911, If you go through 911 they get notified immediately and two if there is an issue about it we can go down and get a copy of the tape. It will tell us that you called at this time and this is what you said, and their response back to them. That way everything is verified in case it has to

go to court. The resident stated that the problem I had with that is that I was down here about a week and a half ago and I filled out a form and I did not put my name to it because I did not want to get involved with a barking dog. It's an anonymous thing. Mayor Herbert suggested that Tom talk to the officer after the meeting and he can write some of this down and maybe get to the bottom of this. Don't call the borough building call 911. You can be anonymous on 911. No one should have to live like this. As far as filling out the form you do not have to sign it. It just advises the police officer to go and have a look and assess the situation. A discussion followed. Residence and Landlord must follow the Ordinances of the town.

John Hizney – Fairview Street - Well I guess I am the last one to speak . I was code enforcement, zoning, building inspector , Plumbing, What really gets on my nerves what I saw today was school kids in front of the bus shoveling snow up by the park. Number 2, I walked down for election and you told me the best chipper in the valley does the mulch. I walked down and there was just trees no mulch. Who is doing the mulch. No mulch is down there. Gary stated that we do the mulch once a year but we did it in two years as matter of fact and if you need mulch it is down behind in the back . John stated that he walked all the way down and did not see any mulch. A discussion followed and John asked if it would be nice for a camera to be put there. Why wasn't the sidewalk shoveled for the kids today? Right across the street a pile of stone. Who is going to shovel me out today. There was a discussion about the gravel that was put there. Gary stated that they will look into it. We will look into the sidewalks not being shoveled. If he was blocked in it will be looked into. Fairview St. being plowed will be looked into. Why don't we have a full time officer in West Wyoming. Answer was that we have a great police force in West Wyoming the way things are.

Jake Brales – 8<sup>th</sup> Street – Can't we put some signs about brake signs? Answer- We will contact Penn Dot and Kaufers office about this . We need something to be done. Can't we have police officers patrol that up there and keep an eye on this.

Lisa Pollard - I would like to know who takes care of the West Wyoming Borough Web Site and the face book page? We did have Nick Perugini take care of web site and he was a volunteer . Was he a resident of the town? Yes, he lived on Ferretti Drive and he recently moved. So that explains it. OK how about the Face Book Page that has been down. I think those are two things that should be looked into. It is a source for some of our families who use that as resources . Gary stated that we are having someone re-address this. Also someone should have the West Wyoming Boro Face Book page. Gary stated that we are looking into the web site but not the Facebook I want to go on about the Street Dept. doing a great job with the snow plow. As a parent I would suggest that they would plow the Bus Routes first. There are many streets that have bus stops on them. I live on one of the two streets were not done well past 10 o'clock. All of our kids were in snow this deep. There has to be some kind of a plan or direction given to them. Council stated, we will address that with them.

Matt Granteed – On top of the hill I bought a few properties. I said this is where I am going to stay the rest of my life. After a few years I am going to relax and take it easy. I have 900 dollars a month payment and almost 800 dollars a month for taxes. I ended up fixing a water line, and water gushing down and some of the neighbors told me it was always there. I tried to fix it and I talked to Patty about

it. There was a point that I tried to stop this and I told Mike Amato what am I going to do to stop this. Finally I got it that no more dirt is coming down and the water issue is ok . My question is if other people own property whose road is that? If we could get something legal I will like that road , I will take that road. I am going to take care of this but I do not want to get in trouble if it is not mine. He explained his problem. Solicitor Lukesh stated that every one has to go back to their deeds and take a look at it. Patti stated that she spoke to Mr. Amato and he told her that she did not own that wall that Mr. Granteed owned it . A discussion followed between Patty and Matt. A lot of other discussions followed about the police and who knows who and for how long.

Councilman Stavish asked if anyone else has anything. At that time a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Dolan and seconded by Councilman Colarusso. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

