

BOROUGH OF WILMERDING
MINUTES FROM JANUARY 7, 2025, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOROUGH

Meeting was called to order by President Kelly Maxwell at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

ROLL CALL: JOHN MARCOZ, present; TURNER SEIBLES, present.; JOE HARTZELL, present; STEVE VOLPE, present; LEAHMANDA BARNES, absent; JOHN THOMAS, present; KELLY MAXWELL, present; MAYOR GREGORY JAKUB was also present.

J. HARTZELL/S.VOLPE TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2024, MEETING AS PRESENTED. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

PETITIONS & MEMORIALS:

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE:

a. Ratify an email vote to have Likar Roofing repair our roof at a cost of \$2,475.00.

G. JAKUB: do we know how much we have put into the repairs of this roof?

J. MARCOZ: No but they have said that the roof needs replaced.

C. LANG: they told me that the flashing is not connected to the outer walls anymore.

B. BRANTHOVER: we can apply for a grant to do that repair. I will look into getting some information together for you.

S. VOLPE/J. HARTZELL TO APPROVE THE ROOF REPAIRS FROM LIKAR AT A COST OF \$2,475.00. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

b. Approve the 2025 Sewer Operation and Maintenance Budget with the user fee remaining at \$3.50/1000 gallons.

C. LANG: I did request an updated budget since the fees were different but have not received that.

J. THOMAS: I brought it up last year to raise the fees to \$4.00 but I think we should do a percentage and then it will change from year to year.

J. THOMAS/ TO RAISE THE SEWER RATE TO 30%.

S. VOLPE: can we table this till workshop?

C. LANG: determination needs to be sent to ALCOSAN by the 15th of the month.

J. HARTZELL: I think we should just stay the same.

J. HARTZELL/T. SIEBLES TO TABLE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

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J. MARCOZ – NO
T. SIBLES – YES
J. HARTZELL – YES
S. VOLPE – YES
J. THOMAS – NO
K. MAXWELL – NO
G. JAKUB – YES

K. MAXWELL – MOTION TO TABLE PASSES.

- c. We have received information from Cohen Law and they are requesting that we hold a public comment hearing. This can be held at a regular council meeting.
- d. We received an increase of \$5.00 per hour for services from Glenn Engineering

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO APPROVE THE INCREASE OF \$5.00/HR FROM GLENN ENGINEERING. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

- e. We have again been designated as a 2025 Banner Community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC SAFETY – T. SIBLES: EMS responded to 40 calls with 23 transports. The average emergency response time was 9.2 minutes, and the average non-emergency response time was 12.5 minutes. I have not received a fire report or a police report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT –

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ENFORCEMENT – M. SNYDER: see report

J. HARTZELL: What days are she in?

C. LANG: it changes but she was in today and will be in tomorrow.

J. HARTZELL: Someone put a tree out on Saturday, and they are still putting garbage cans out early.

PUBLIC WORKS – J. MARCOZ: we did have some issues getting ahold of them, but it seems to be getting better.

K. MAXWELL: can we give them a boro phone during the winter or does that mean that they will be on call, and we would need to pay them.

G. EVASHAVIK: You can give them a phone and that does not mean that you have to pay them.

S. VOLPE: is someone keeping track of how long they are working?

C. LANG: the law states that they can work 16 hours with 8 hours off and there has been no issues.

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S. VOLPE: have we worked out something with East McKeesport, I know there have been complaints on Facebook about garbage not being picked up.

C. LANG: I just learned about the garbage issue and called Big's immediately. As for salting, they have been up there taking care of it. I actually received a call from another resident up there stating that it has been kept up on.

K. MAXWELL: Also, the school is shoveling their snow directly into the street. The boro guys came through and had to plow again. Then the school requested that we plow all of the parking stalls for the students. Our employees need to focus on Borough Properties before they do parking spaces.

J. HARTZELL: they also still have our sidewalks and public steps to do.

K. MAXWELL: there are still a lot of businesses that have not done their sidewalks yet, like the clinic on Westinghouse and the church.

J. MARCOZ: the lights in the park are tripping the boxes and some of the plugs were unplugged. They will need a rubber blade for the pick-up next year and the dump truck will need new tires.

ENGINEERS REPORT – B. BRANTHOVER: We were awarded \$133,044.00 for the fire department driveway and wall but we are still waiting on the grant contracts to be signed. The 2023 GEDTF catch basins were supposed to begin in December but then we had winter, so they are waiting for some decent weather now. The Keystone Community Initiatives program grant is giving us \$150,000.00 for demolition. We will need to get asbestos reports done and figure out which homes we would like to do. My suggestion would be that you choose 6-7 of them to put on the main bid then the remainder can be placed on a secondary bid. The street openings have been addressed, and they will be permanently repaired in the Spring. There is also a temporary patch on the hump in the 300 block of Welsh so I will be keeping an eye on that. The salt bin looks good, whoever did that work did a nice job but you may want to carry the downspouts a little farther away from the structure.

J. HARTZELL: COG had some resolutions for demolition, are we going to keep that same list for this demolition.

B. BRANTHOVER: that was just the applications, we were not awarded anything yet.

C. LANG: that was the demolition of 412 Airbrake.

B. BRANTHOVER: There have been some water issues at Westinghouse, and I want to talk with WPJWA so I will give you an update on that when I get it.

SOLICITOR - G. EVASHAVIK: Nothing

COG – J. HARTZELL: during the 1st quarter COG will be moving to the old Monroeville Water Authority building.

BOROUGH PROPERTIES – S. VOLPE: I will look into the downspouts at the salt bin. Do you know if Likar checked out the whole roof? Maybe we can start to look for grants to cover that cost?

FINANCES – J. THOMAS

J. THOMAS/S. VOLPE TO PAY BILLS FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,801.19. MEMBERS VOTED APPROVAL, 6-0.

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J. HARTZELL: Are we going to take anyone to court?

J. THOMAS: You have the list so look it over and give me some suggestions.

G. JAKUB: can we remove the useless properties?

J. THOMAS: The council can remove uncollectable taxes; we would just need to get a list together for council to vote on.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

MAYOR JAKUB: Mr. Marcoz and I have been working together, and we are going to do a ride along with them both so they know what they should be doing.

J. HARTZELL/S. VOLPE TO ADJOURN MEETING 8:01 p.m.