

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Dave Hess, at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Council members George Hinton, Joyce McGarry, Mike Laudano, David Manzo, Jeff Yob, and Steve Bender. Also, in attendance were Borough Solicitor Ronald Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysher and Borough Manager Louise Firestone. Absent was Mayor Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Verizon Cell Tower Land Lease Agreement Questions / Concerns – Representatives from Verizon Wireless came before Council proposing the installation of a cell tower on the municipal complex property. They discussed why this location would be beneficial to both Verizon as well as Wind Gap, and the height and type of both the tower and all the associated equipment. Verizon showed a concept drawing depicting a fenced in compound and explained how maintenance of the tower would be achieved. Council asked the representatives questions and expressed concerns regarding the site and the surrounding properties. Verizon will review all options and forward any other documentation necessary to allow Council to continue discussions on the proposed lease agreement associated with the cell tower on borough property.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion** by Dave Manzo to approve the October 4, 2021 minutes and seconded by George Hinton. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Male Road Speed Limit Study – Brian Pysher reported that he was contacted by the engineer for PennDOT District 5. PennDOT is doing a traffic study on their portion of Male Road, which is a state road, but only the section in Plainfield Township which ends at the intersection of Old Allentown Road. Wind Gap Borough accepted the portion of Male Road in the borough as part of the Shopping Plaza development in the 1990s and is now responsible for both the road and the bridge. We are in the process of doing research trying to locate any documents or agreements entered into with PennDOT as part of the State Turnback Program when the borough approved accepting ownership of Male Road and the bridge. Brian advised PennDOT that the borough did not have a speed study completed nor does he believe that the speed limit is posted. In order to enforce the speed limit, we would need to conduct a study and post the speed limit. Brian asked Council if there is an ongoing speeding issue on Male Road within the borough. There was a sign by the warehouse that reads Reduce Speed Ahead going

eastbound towards the 33 overpass, it was reduced to 35 m.p.h. PennDOT stated that they have no information in their files even though it was originally a state road.

**On motion** by George Hinton to authorize the Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, to notify PennDOT that Wind Gap Borough will not be conducting a speed study on our portion of Male Road and seconded by Jeff Yob. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

2. Approval 2022 Slate Belt Police Department Budget

Wind Gap Borough - 2022 Police Service Fee - Dave Hess reported that the proposed budget was prepared by the Chief of Police, the three Managers and presented to the Slate Belt Regional Police Department Commission for their approval. Louise Firestone went over the formula used and how the amounts in the budget were derived. The SBRPD Commission approved the budget to be sent back to the three municipalities for their approval.

**On motion** by Dave Manzo to approve the Slate Belt Police Department Budget for 2022 and seconded by George Hinton. Roll call vote taken. Council agreed unanimously.

3. Dave Manzo said that it is the time of year when municipalities put out an advertisement or bid for new professional services and he would like to do so now.

**On motion** by Dave Manzo to advertise for all professional services, Solicitor, Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, Engineer and seconded George Hinton.

Attorney Karasek said that under the new Act 65 of 2021, local municipalities are not permitted to add things on the agenda once it has been posted. Attorney Karasek stated that he does not believe there are any time constraints to act upon this motion tonight, so it is his recommendation is to put this on the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting agenda.

Original Motion was rescinded by Dave Manzo and agreed upon to move onto the November agenda.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no outstanding items listed under Old Business and nothing was discussed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. EMS – George Hinton reported that for the month of September the Ambulance responded to 145 calls, 13 ALS calls and 16 BLS calls in Monroe County, 14 ALS calls and 40 BLS calls in Northampton County, 62 non-emergency transports with an average response time of 2.42 minutes from dispatch to response. Their monthly meeting is tomorrow night and they will be having further discussion on the purchase of the new ambulance.

2. Fire Co. – George Hinton reported that they will be doing some landscaping at the Social Hall.

3. Regional Police – Dave Hess reported that for the month of September, the Police Department responded to a total of 420 calls for service, 95 were for Wind Gap.

John Vargo is scheduled to appear before the commission on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> to present information regarding the pension mortality tables.

Officer Shannon Young received recognition from a parent regarding his commitment to being a School Resource Officer (SRO) at the Elementary School.

Chief Hoadley wanted to take the time to recognize each of the Municipal Managers for their knowledge, guidance and patience with assisting him on the 2022 budget. They are truly assets to their individual municipalities and he appreciates their time with the budget preparation.

The Officers began wearing new uniforms this week which are designed to be safer and more flexible because all of the weight is now off of their waist and distributed on their torso area to reduce back and hip injuries.

4. Emergency Management – Dave Hess reported there have been meetings regarding flood reporting and disaster assistance that both he and Louise have attended both in person and virtually.

5. Zoning – Tina Serfass presented her monthly report to Council via e-mail prior to the meeting and stated that she has nothing additional to report.

Dave Manzo asked Tina if she remembered that she said the IPMC Appeals Board could be done with three members, do we need more than three members on the board and do we need anyone special on the board? Tina said no, not for the property maintenance, for the UCC Board of Appeals specific contractors are required. Dave Manzo asked if this could be on a rotating basis with the Council or does it need to be permanent? Tina responded that she does not know, she knows that you can appoint three members of Council and not name specific people. Most of the Municipalities that she deals with have appointed three or five people, but it was a Council decision as to who they wanted to appoint.

6. Planning – Dave Manzo reported that the Planning Commission met on October 7<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Male Road Billboard relocation. This item will be on the November 1<sup>st</sup> Council agenda seeking approval of SALDO Waivers.

7. Municipal Authority – Dave Manzo reported that the WGMA discussed new healthcare coverage, Water's Edge Escrow going to Dream Lehigh Valley, the large amount of rainfall that led to overflow and Terry dealing with DEP, Peter Albanese is still waiting for power to put in poles and waiting for Met Ed, the Solicitor sent out the same agreement to JERC and to Green Knights regarding one EDU per lot, and discussion of possible development at the Travel Inn of either a Wawa or a Sheetz.

8. Streets – George Hinton reported that the Street Department will be picking up leaves. The Street Department, Rich and Jeff, spent a considerable amount of time down in Plainfield paving roads. The Park project walking trail is the biggest thing that the Street Department is assisting with currently. Rich added that they milled and put down paving on Water Street today. He also reported that the snow blower is in, they will pick it up tomorrow. Dave Hess asked about the signage for the snow emergency. Louise said that Rich has the signs, but we need to get together to draft a letter to the residents informing them of new routes.

Louise reported that leaf pick-up will be on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning on October 25<sup>th</sup> and running through November 23<sup>rd</sup>, this information will be in the newsletter.

Louise reported that we have a new PennDOT Representative who stopped by last week. They had a lengthy in-depth conversation about Wind Gap's ongoing issues with the hill during the winter months, our manpower, supply of salt, time, etc. He recommended that we get into the Agility Program. Many years ago, we did participate in the Agility Program with PennDOT, which allows them to either pay the municipality for our services or do in-kind projects. The borough would be interested in continuing those discussions.

9. Park / Athletic Fields – Dave Manzo reported that the Athletic Association met. He thinks that things are moving along in a positive direction . They are planning the car show for May of next year.
10. Tipping Fees – Louise Firestone had nothing to report.
11. Slate Belt Council of Governments – Mike Laudano reported that they had discussions regarding the budget. He did ask about the IPMC Appeals Board and was informed that the COG does have a board that we could potentially use for appeals. They are working on getting other Municipalities in the COG that have not been in it before. They spoke about where the leaf vac will go, they are looking to store it outside potentially putting it outside the Chamber of Commerce office and they are pricing a boot for the wheel so they can store it outside.
12. Slate Belt Rising – Louise Firestone reported that the major topic of discussion was through the Grow NORCO Funding. Slate Belt Rising received another \$50,000 for façade and mural projects. The Slate Belt COG also received money. Wind Gap Borough received \$30,000 that will be passed along to the Slate Belt Regional Police for a new a 2022 Durango SUV police vehicle and Wind Gap Borough also received \$35,000 for paving our Municipal Complex, the front and the west side of the building.
13. Multi-Municipal Plan – Louise Firestone reported that she sent out a link for a survey. She asked all of Council and those in attendance to please participate.
14. Mayor’s Report – Mayor Mogilski was absent.
15. 2022 Budget – Louise Firestone went over the budget and answered questions from Council. Council will review the draft budget with recommendations to be discussed at the November 1, 2021 Council meeting.
16. Dave Hess informed Council that discussions have to occur to move the Tax Office to this property. The Borough currently provides general liability insurance for the Tax Collector’s property because it is a public office. All of the tax documents are stored in the house and if something happens, the borough would need access to them. He asked Council to think about practical ways to provide a secure place for the tax collector in the municipal complex.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion** by Steve Bender to adjourn the meeting of October 19, 2021. Council agreed unanimously. The meeting of October 19, 2021 adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Borough Manager