

WEST LEBANON TOWNSHIP
February 3, 2020

The regular meeting of the West Lebanon Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Richard Pflueger with the Pledge of Allegiance

The following were in attendance:

Comm. Richard Pflueger	Treasurer: Julie Clouse
Comm. John Brenner	Secretary: Antoinette Issis
Comm. Michelle Testerman	Maint.: John Brenner
Comm. Harry Fox	Twp. Engineer: Mr. Joshua Weaber
Comm. Phylis Dryden	Solicitor: Mr. Andrew J Race

Harry Fox made a motion, seconded by Michelle Testerman and agreed by the Board to approve the minutes with the correction under Speedwell that Robert Cummins gave the reports not Michelle Testerman January 6, 2020.

VISITORS' ADDRESS: There were 29 visitors in attendance.
No visitors addressed the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer's report: Copies of the report were given to the Board members and available to the visitors in attendance.

Total monies in all West Lebanon Township accounts as of January 31, 2020 are \$1,893,519.72.

Michelle Testerman made a motion, seconded by Harry Fox and agreed by the Board to accept the Treasurer's report.

POLICE: Chief Easter was not in attendance. John Brenner gave the report for the month of January 2020 as follows:

Total Calls for the month	23
Traffic Arrests	3
Criminal Arrests	14
Parking Tickets	3
Faulty Equipment Cards	0
Non-Reportable Incidents	13
Reportable Incidents	20
UCR Crimes	6

SPEEDWELL FIRE CO.:

Robert Cummins gave the following report for January 2020 as follows:

Eight (8) calls for the month with forty-three (43) personnel for nineteen (19) hours and thirty – seven (37) minutes.

Fire Police responded to one (1) call for the month with one (1) hour twenty-five (25) minutes.

Training for hours for the month: Four (4) people for seventeen (17) hours.

HIGHWAY: Phylis Dryden stated working on 202 paving projects, looks like most work will be done in alleys and Willow Street.

WATER: Harry Fox stated the daily average for the month was 31,419 gallons per day (GPD). The water tank is full. The total City of Lebanon Authority (COLA) water was zero (0).

SEWER: Harry Fox stated sewer system was clogged on force main on 1/22/2020. The estimated cost of repairs exceeds \$10,000.00 to date of this report.

John Brenner showed a slideshow of pictures related to the clog taken this morning. John Brenner thanked Justin Snyder for assisting by documenting and photographing while crews were working to pull rags out. As a resident of West Cumberland Street Justin had witnessed what occurred. John stated someone over there has to know what's going on or whose doing it, "I'm guessing the person might not be here tonight." The issue has not stopped, there are pictures from this morning where they are throwing them in. What is being pulled out and shown on pictures are rags and the big sanitary wipes. Do not flush sanitary wipes despite the packaging stating they are flushable. The pumps will handle them but try to avoid flushing them. Needles have also been found to getting flushed, even if someone is diabetic, needles should not be flushed. John stated: "I'm not sure if I must go through somebody's garbage Wednesday before the garbage man comes. I might go through trash to see if I can find the empty containers." The township is limited on what can be done at this point besides sit there 24/7 and watch everybody's lateral flush which will get more costly.

Justin Snyder stated it seems like someone is watching.

John stated that while crews were working to clear the rags from the sewer lateral, someone flushed a rag down into the sewer main.

Resident stated that on December 15, the board of commissioners mailed these letters out that stated between November 22 and December 2, someone was doing this, and it was narrowed down to be between 1939 Cumberland Street and 1957 Cumberland Street.

John stated that the problem is who do we point to, and he is not going to be able to get a judge to give him a search warrant to go into houses. He does have permission to go into homes to do lateral inspections which he will probably do because he wants to go into to see if someone is opening the traps in their basement. The rags are going through the 8-inch lateral and out the 4-inch lateral but not through the pumps. If it's one rag the pump will take it, but if its several the propeller will slow and then clog.

A resident asked if there isn't sediment sitting in the pipes.

John said no, it's a force main. Josh Weaber stated there's always sediment associated with them, but they are designed in such a way that you have to maintain a certain velocity in order to not clogged.

Andrew Race stated that the reality is we are talking about how many times the township has cleaned out the rags in the past year and it is still clogging, so even if we are talking about stuff sitting there, this has been cleaned out again and again.

Another resident asked do you have a timeline on how long this has been going on.

John stated it started 2 years ago and then it stopped. It started again in August 2019 and then it stopped for about a month and a half. The township put traps with barbwire to catch them. Once the traps were taken out they are starting to come again. It seems like someone is watching and they know when to do it.

A resident asked if the township could pinpoint that time with any residence?

John said no because when you flush and it gets to the pump station, it could be about 4 to 5 minutes and someone else could have flushed in that time.

A resident asked how about new residents?

John stated there are definitely new ones there. The home at 1937 Cumberland Street was condemned, when someone from public safety went inside, it was noted the pipes were clogged from the inside.

A resident asked was Maguire's ever contacted relating to the sewer?

John stated it's not coming from the car dealership; it's coming from the block the township narrowed it to. Traps have been placed in the manholes so that's how we figured out where it's coming from.

The neighbor of 1937 Cumberland Street stated she was told there was needles in 1937 Cumberland Street due to being rented out to drug addicts and there were needles all over the place.

John stated not that he is aware of, but public safety was in the house "but maybe you know more than I do." The needles only started showing up in the past month and a half.

The neighbor of 1937 Cumberland street stated, the one new family has a baby there. Is it possible they are responsible for the wipes?

Justin Snyder asked, is it possible that the vent caps in everyone's yards, someone is shoving through there?

John responded yes that's another quick way to get them down. Someone could pop the cap and force the rags with a bucket of water and that will go right down.

In August 2019, in 1937 Cumberland Street, the house that got condemned, had a plumber there that day into the night had the outside cap open trying to unclog that whole system and the plumber was inside the house trying to unclog it from inside.

John stated that's probably where the commodes weren't put on and the pipes were broken. No one is living in 1937 Cumberland Street and no one has been there for the past month. It has to be someone whose still living in that section of Cumberland Street.

Justin Snyder asked if this would be considered a federal offense at this point since it is clogging the force main and costing the township thousands.

Andrew stated we must prove intent to clog.

A resident stated the pump house in Cleona had issues, was that related to this?

John stated the Cleona pump house had a failure and no one was none notified, however this is not connected to our system and will not affect the township. John stated he is open to suggestions for help on preventing future incidents.

A resident once again suggested going through resident's trash. John stated he will do that, along with starting to watch laterals however that will take time. John stated he is looking around the room and it is showing who is concerned and who isn't. That is also giving him some suggestions to and he is back in the same range of houses again. A resident asked if the township can put a trap in each individual lateral? John responded with he thought about it but if he blocks the lateral, it could cause a sewage backup in the houses. He would have to get it where it's coming down into the main. Then the township just bites off another liability. John doesn't want to cause someone to have an issue into their house.

Barry Hair asked if you could put a soluble dye in the lateral and it would dye the rag to determine where its coming from? You could pick one or two houses over a 2-week timeframe. John Brenner stated the problem would be the substance would have to hit the item while its coming through. It's not going to work because as soon as that substance hits water it will start to break down. If someone is flushing the toilet without any rags, it will dissolve. They don't make big enough blocks, that he is aware of, that will last that long enough for him to put a red block, yellow block, etc.

STORM SEWER/MS-4: Harry Fox stated nothing to report.

Josh Weaber stated there will be a meeting with DCNR walk through the township to explore more grants. Rutter's is getting work done with issues.

TOWNSHIP BUILDINGS: Michelle Testerman stated the hallway and restrooms were all repainted.

RECREATION: Michelle Testerman stated Marcellas Grant was applied for a walking path, trees, landscape improvements.

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT/SANITATION: John Brenner stated nothing to report

GREEN WASTE/RECYCLING: John Brenner stated New pads and both new recycling containers were installed as per grant.

Zoning: Nothing to report.

FINANCE: Harry Fox made a motion, seconded by Phylis Dryden and agreed by the Board to pay all the bills as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary stated no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

John Brenner made a motion, seconded by Michelle Testerman and agreed by the Board to adopt Ordinance 521 requiring all persons, partnerships, businesses, and corporations to obtain

a permit for any construction or development; providing for the issuance of such permits; setting forth certain minimum requirements for new construction and development within areas of the township of West Lebanon which are subject for flooding; and establishing penalties for any persons who fail, or refuse to comply with, the requirements or provisions of this ordinance.

John Brenner made a motion, seconded by Michelle Testerman and agreed by the Board to adopt Resolution No. 2020-01 for an increase in sewer rates for the residents and commercial properties to the Spring Street Pump Station due to Sewer system being clogged at the Spring Street Sewer Pump Station.

John Brenner stated with this resolution, if the issue stops, then residents' rates will go back down with a new resolution.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received checks as follows:

Lebanon County Recorder of Deeds- \$2,153.06 for local realty transfer tax distribution for the period from December 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

Alarm Permits- 4 at \$20.00 totaling \$80.00.

Rental License- 14 at \$50.00 totaling \$600.00.

Public Partnerships- \$12.00 for Delia Vargas-Martinez 4th Quarter LST.

Public Partnerships- \$14.00 for Virginia Heise 4th Quarter LST.

Lebanon County Probation Services- \$0.35 for Vehicle, Crimes Code and Miscellaneous Income.

Paycom Payroll- \$98.00 for Jack Williams Tire Company INC 4th Quarter 2019 LST.

Rental License- 31 at \$50.00 each totaling \$1500.00.

Everlast- \$18.00 for 2019 4th Quarter LST.

North Lebanon Township- \$101.16 for public safety.

Paylocity Corporation- \$502.00 for Maguires Ford Inc. 4th Quarter 2019 LST.

Paytime Harrisburg INC- \$1,380.00 for Henry Molded Products, INC. 2019 4th Quarter LST.

Miller Logistics & Heavy Equipment Transport INC- \$ 12.00 for 2019 4th Quarter LST.

People 2.0 Global LLC- \$13.00 for 4th Quarter LST.

Rental License- 10 at \$50.00 each totaling \$500.00.

LBrands- \$188.00 for 2019 4th Quarter LST.

Paychex Inc./ Taxpay- \$116.00 for Lebanon Chicken LLC. 2019 4th Quarter LST.

ADP- \$1062.00 for Brentwood Industries 2019 4th Quarter LST.

Heavy Equipment, Loaders, & Parts- \$316.00 for 2019 4th Quarter LST.

North Lebanon Township- \$55.00 for Traffic Violations.

Rescue Hose Company No. 4- \$42.00 for 2019 4th Quarter LST.

Payroll Tax Filing Services- \$158.00 for Schuylkill Valley Sporting Goods Inc. 2019 4th Quarter LST.

GMRI INC.- \$702.00 for 2019 4th Quarter LST.

DJ-52-3-03: \$464.14 for January 2020. Local Ordinance (\$414.14), Title 18- Payable to Municipality (\$50.00).

Received letters as follows:

Storb Environmental Incorporated- downstream notification and public notice for: PPC Lubricants, INC.

Storb Environmental Incorporated- downstream notification and public notice for: Meyer Oil Company.

Lebanon City Police Department- requesting assistance from the West Lebanon Township Fire Police for the following events: Memorial Day Parade, July Fourth Celebration, Holiday Parade, and New Year's Eve Bologna Drop and any other special events.

Comcast- Xfinity TV Updates.

Erie Insurance- Certificate of Insurance for insured Shuey Excavating LLC.

Accord- Certificate of Liability Insurance for producer Strickler Insurance Agency for insured TNT Sanitation.

The next meeting of the West Lebanon Township Board of Commissioners is March 2, 2020 7:00 p.m. at the West Lebanon Twp. Bldg., 322 North 22nd Street.

Michelle Testerman made a motion, seconded by John Brenner and agreed by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Issis, Secretary