Borough Council

The Workshop Meeting of the Bedford Borough Council was held on the above date at 3:00 p.m. at the Bedford Ambulance Training Room. The following Council Members were in attendance, Tim Weaverling, Sharon Turkovich, Jeff Rinscheid, John Cessna, Bill Blackburn, Patrick Neff, and Kenny Fetterman. Mayor William Leibfreid, Borough Manager Barbara Diehl, and Borough Secretary Beverly Geller, and Police Chief Craig Bowman were in attendance.

Borough Engineer Timothy Cooper, P.E. of Stiffler, McGraw & Assoc. Inc., and Solicitor Dean Crabtree were absent.

Michael Lamb and Kathleen Valentine from Wessel & Company were in attendance. A draft audit was presented. Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System, pensions for non-uniform employees, has not issued statements for 2020. Once received the audit can be completed by Wessel & Company.

Discussed were the current plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability. The Police Pension is funded at 95.72 % and the non-uniform is funded at 81.84%.

Wessel & Company noted they had difficulty reconciling interfund transfers and a Change Order was presented, but no invoice was generated for the work. The Borough Building Renovation for the Borough and the CSO Project for the Municipal Authority were large projects that were included in the audit, but not planned for in the proposal. President Weaverling asked if there was a way to build into the auditing proposal a fee schedule in case a large project is planned after a three-year agreement is signed. Mr. Lamb noted that Wessel tries to stick to the fixed fee and minimize additional time and expenses.

Discussion on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Federal Stimulus Funds approved uses for Local Governments was entered. Approved uses listed are for Water, Sewer, Storm Water, and Infrastructure projects. Additional details are to be released in the future. The Borough is to receive $280,199.48. Payments are to be released in two payments of $140,099.74 in 2021 and the same amount in 2022. The online application was completed by staff on June 7, 2021.

Discussion on purchasing an excavator to be used on Municipal Authority projects was entered. An excavator was rented recently at the cost of $4,500.00 for one month to complete small projects for water and sewer line replacement. The excavator came in very useful for a water break on E. Pitt Street. The excavator shortened the repair time to 5 hours. Water lines are generally 18 to 25 feet deep on Pitt Street and past repairs have taken over 12-20 hours. The Borough has two current employees who are certified equipment operators. Mr. Lamb noted that the equipment may be a qualifying purchase, but details of the ARPA have not been published. Manager Diehl shared that at the recent Municipal Authority meeting the purchase of an excavator with an estimated cost of $135,000.00 was discussed and quotes were requested.

Mr. Lamb and Ms. Valentine exited the meeting.

Chief Bowman shared information regarding a resident who would like charges filed against a neighbor for harassment. Chief Bowman shared that the circumstances do not warrant charges. Solicitor Crabtree shared via email a response to the resident explaining that neither Council or

the Borough's Solicitor could direct a Police Department to file charges. Solicitor Crabtree shared that a private individual could file charges with the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney would decide if the criminal complaint should be prosecuted.

Council Member Rinscheid shared that the Fort Bedford Museum meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16th.

Manager Diehl shared that a Progress Meeting for the Borough Building Reno Project will be held on June 16th at 9 am. HVAC, Electric and Plumbing Contractors will not hold the Borough to any delay, but the project will not be complete by July 9, 2021.

Manager Diehl suggested Council consider an event in September to recognize the completion of the Borough Building, the Fire Department's new building, the 225th Anniversary of Bedford Borough and the 250th Anniversary of Bedford County. Council Member Rinscheid noted that the 250th Anniversary Parade for Bedford County is scheduled for September 11, 2021, and an open house at the same time may be feasible.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and carried at 3:51 p.m.

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Borough Secretary