


Bellefonte Boro honors retiring police officer

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Local news

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BELLEFONTE — Police Officer Robert Igoe was honored at a recent Bellefonte Borough Council meeting for his years of dedicated service to the community.

Igoe was first employed by the Bellefonte Police Department in April 1997, and spent years faithfully and conscientiously serving the borough and the community as a patrol officer.

“Robert consistently performed to the best of his ability during his tenure as a member of the Bellefonte Borough Police Department... we extend to Robert and his family our best wishes for many years of happiness in the future,” said Mayor Gene “Buddy” Johnson.

Council also discussed what should be done with the leftover funds from the \$1.1 million grant Former Pennsylvania Senator Jake Corman helped secure

The grant allowed for improvements and renovations to the borough’s baseball field, including a state-of-the-art turf infield, a natural grass outfield, a drainage system, signage throughout, two new dugouts, stadium-style seating, bleacher seats and a new press box among other upgrades.

Of that \$1.1 million grant, there is around \$155,000 leftover.

One of the initial plans for the money was to add a second batting cage along with completing repairs on the current cage. Another idea had been to upgrade nearby bathrooms for the convenience of the community.

As of their meeting in August, council didn’t have an official estimate regarding the cost of what these projects would be.

Don Holderman, assistant borough manager, noted during this week’s work session that they consulted with the architect and contractor who previously worked on the baseball field.

“The price came in a little bit higher than what everybody anticipated,” said Holderman. “(He) submitted the drawings for a 70 x 50 batting cage and the estimate was \$210,000.”

On top of the leftover \$155,000, Holderman noted that the Rotary Club was going to donate \$25,000 towards the restroom project and the Bellefonte Baseball Booster Club was going to donate \$8,700 towards the batting cage.

With costs removed for the architectural engineering and design contract, this results in approximately \$164,700 for the two projects.

“Some of the reasons (are)... prices were a lot higher than (we) anticipated for materials. On top of that, this is a grant so you have to use prevailing wage,” said Holderman.

The idea was tossed around that the restroom be upgraded and one batting cage as opposed to building a whole new cage in order to save costs.

There were no decisions made during the work session, but council is actively searching for solutions.

The hourly fee has been set for the Governor’s Park Baseball field. A \$100 hourly rate was suggested to cover the cost of the field as well as the administrative costs for scheduling and communication.

In other news:

— A work session regarding CATA Service Fee Increases/changes with federal, state and local representatives to seek solutions will take place on Monday, March 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the large meeting room at 301 N. Spring St.

— The borough has three shade trees available. If you’re interested in receiving one of these trees contact Assistant Borough Manager Don Holderman at either dholderman@bellefontepa.gov or 814-355-1501.