

WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH

WORK SESSION MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: Vice-President Eric Lucich, Ron Preston, Maleia James, Robert Lark and Mayor Debra Larouche. President Cyndi Gilkey was absent.

Others Present: Mike Totten from J&T Paving, Chief Jason Newton and Ray Lucich.

Discussions: Vice-President Eric Lucich addressed Street Paving Bids. Mr. Totten from J&T Paving addressed Council regarding the Street Bid Project and said there were issues involved but didn't know what the issues were. Mr. Totten said he spoke with Attorney Mirizio, who is the Solicitor for the City of Farrell and was asked about all of the specifics based on the advertising, bid bond requirements, lowest bidder, prevailing wage and he said it was all intact. Mr. Totten said everything was itemized and if there were any questions prior to bidding to see Bob Lark, which he did and he said he was very comfortable with their bid. Mr. Totten explained further. Mr. Totten said other Municipalities put the bids out themselves instead of hiring their Engineers to save money. Mr. Totten said as far as they could see there is not an issue in awarding this Contract, and if they don't award the Contract, they would request in writing stating what the problem was in not awarding the Contract. Mr. Totten said if they were awarded the Contract, they would be supplying all of the information Council needs regarding Bonding Company's Performance Bond, materials, pipes, catch basins, asphalt, etc. Mr. Preston asked what kind of proof of prevailing wage does he have. Mr. Totten said they have certified payroll, and can give it to Council on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, however they want it. Mr. Totten explained certified payroll has to be formally notarized, it is a legal document and pretty standard for a bid project. Mr. Totten discussed further regarding the project and work needing done. Mayor Larouche asked if it would make sense to wait until Spring since blacktop is much cheaper in the Spring. Mr. Totten said asphalt varies according to oil prices and if oil goes up in the Winter it will be more in the Spring, it has nothing to do with weather. Mr. Totten said all products supplied are PennDOT approved. Mr. Lark said blacktop costing more in the Fall/Winter is just an opinion. Mr. Totten explained further regarding petroleum price monthly changes. Mr. Lark spoke regarding the specifications that were drawn up and explained one person raised an issue regarding handicap accessibility which was never an issue before. Mr. Lark said issue number one, and explained handicap accessible areas needed and not needed. Mr. Lark explained foundations on streets which someone mentioned they do not have which Mr. Lark said the second issue, that streets do have a foundation and explained further. Mr. Lark said the third issue was from their Solicitor who claimed he didn't receive the paperwork, which Mr. Lark did not agree on and explained that after the meeting on July 21, Mr. Lark went to his office on July 23rd and hand delivered the papers into a grey plastic tote box and explained other offices have slots in the walls for such deliveries of importance due to the pandemic. Mr. Lark said Solicitor Tesone said he never received it, but he received stuff from that plastic tote box all summer. Mr. Lark explained finances to pay for said Street Project along with wage taxes being down.

Mr. Lark stated he would like to follow up with the issue, hopefully next Tuesday at their regular meeting and he would like to see a vote on this at that time. Ms. James asked to speak on issue number three regarding the Bonding. She said at that point and time at the last meeting she was about to ask our Solicitor if he had the paperwork. Ms. James said Solicitor Tesone looked at Mr. Lark and said he had all of the paperwork and everything was taken care of, she witnessed that. Mr. Lark confirmed and also said that was the Bid Bond not the Performance Bond, Ms. James confirmed. Ms. James again said Solicitor Tesone stated that he had all of the paperwork necessary, Mr. Lark again confirmed. Mr. Totten asked if he had to come to the other meeting and Mr. Lark said he would contact him before then and possibly meet with him tomorrow.

Vice-President Lucich addressed the Street Sweeper with Barris' requesting a letter from the Borough to file for a lost title. Mr. Lark questioned why were they doing this. Mr. Lucich said all he needs is a letter because it is still in our name and if someone gets hurt, it comes back on us. Mr. Lucich said he wants to get it out of our name. Mr. Lark and Mr. Lucich discussed further. Mr. Lucich said Barris' will pay for the cost and all he needs is a letter to get the lost title filed. Mr. Lark and Mr. Lucich discussed further regarding the Deed to property. Mayor Larouche requested the \$65.00 up front and Mr. Lucich said they will pay for it there, Mayor Larouche agreed. Mr. Lucich said all he needs is a letter on official letterhead stating he is allowed to file for a lost title, Mayor Larouche said she didn't see any problem with that. Mr. Preston said Mrs. DeSantis can type one up and asked where the letter was going to. Mr. Lucich said he didn't ask exactly where it was going to. Mayor Larouche stated it is in the best interest to get it out of our name, Mr. Lucich agreed. Council discussed further.

Mayor Larouche asked Chief Newton if it was true that he told Debra Barris that without an Ordinance in the Borough of West Middlesex that you cannot fine people from parking in a handicap parking space. Chief Newton said that Debra Barris told him that Mayor Larouche said this. Mayor Larouche asked Chief Newton why the Shenango Police did not ticket a violator. Chief Newton said you cannot ticket someone who is in a handicap spot with a handicap placard. Mayor Larouche said this person did not have a placard and that she called him numerous times and that they would not ticket them, so is that false information sir, and cannot verify that the placard is not dedicated to the person who is parking there? Chief Newton said that placard can be used for any vehicle for anybody that is handicap, whether it is their vehicle or not. Mayor Larouche asked if he suggested to Debra that she should apply for another handicap spot. Chief Newton said he told her whatever the Borough would like to do. Council discussed further. Mr. Lark stated that Ms. Barris thinks it is her personal handicap parking space and it is not, it's for any handicap person. Mayor Larouche said she understood. Ms. James said it is her landlord's responsibility if he wants to give her a personal parking space. Council discussed further.

Mr. Lucich addressed the rescue tools for the Fire Department to be paid from the Fire Department Account. Council discussed. Mayor Larouche said this was brought up at the last meeting. Mr. Lark questioned an invoice and Mr. Lucich said they may have a bill for the next meeting. Ray Lucich explained the rescue tools needed.

Mr. Lucich addressed the approval for additional repairs on the swimming pool where Shenango Township approved \$910.00. Mr. Lark said he stopped this afternoon and there were a couple of issues when he stopped this afternoon, what needed to be done, which Barber Chemicals is going to do which will be the third week in October. Mr. Lark said an additional expense above and beyond that is \$900.00 and a third expense as well, across the end of Barris' property. Mr. Lark explained further. Mayor Larouche asked when the cost of the pool and pool passes have increased, and that perhaps we might have to implement a small amount. Mr. Lark said they could discuss that. Council discussed further.

Mayor Larouche questioned if the pine trees were a barrier for visibility from inside or outside. Mr. Lark explained the area. Mr. Preston said they were there just for decoration. Council and Ray Lucich discussed further regarding dead trees in that area. Eric Lucich said Tim Yanak works for COG and could give them a fair price to remove the dead trees and that he would contact him regarding this matter.

Mr. Lucich addressed the Braho property. Mr. Preston said he spoke with a man who could work on the cleanup of the property.

Mayor Larouche said she wanted to recognize the Fire Department and said that Ray Lucich was the only one she knew that was there today and wanted to personally thank him for what he did with that oversized load. She said it really could have been a nightmare had he and the other firemen not been there to direct the traffic. She thanked him very much. Ray Lucich and Chief Newton explained the situation. Council discussed further.

Mr. Lark said they need to do something with the old truck and suggested selling it estimated at over \$100,000.00. Mr. Lark explained the truck with a snow plow and salt box spreader and wanted Council to come up with a suggested price, to advertise it and get rid of it. Mr. Lark explained other vehicles that sat for awhile before getting rid of them. Mr. Preston suggested accepting Bids, Mr. Lark agreed. Mr. Lark said that will be on the Agenda for next week's council meeting.

Mr. Lark addressed an incident at the traffic signal last Thursday or Friday and fortunately the kids were already at school. He said something happened with the walk part and that affected the traffic part as well. Mr. Lark said Bruce & Merrillees sent a man, he tried to work on it and had to call a technician from Erie. Mr. Lark said they need to get the follow-up on that from Bobby Joe, to make you aware of that.

Mr. Lark said some people were at Kiwanis Park and there was a bee attack, apparently there is someone who raises bees and honey at Kiwanis Park unknown to us. Mr. Lark explained the park area. Chief Newton said he received an email and forwarded it to Sandy. Mr. Lark said it is something they need to follow-up on now that we are aware of whoever this person is who is raising these bees. Mr. Lark explained the area and stated it may be in the Township.

Mr. Lark said they still need to discuss Halloween which is Saturday, October 31st and typically have Halloween from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lark said Shenango Township would like to do it same day and time. Mr. Preston said Shenango Township made their decision for October 31st. Mayor Larouche asked if they were going to hold Trick-or-Treat. Mr. Lucich confirmed. Mr. Lark said he tried to contact the Chamber of Commerce to see what the other Communities in the valley were doing. Mr. Lark said they should see what other Communities are doing and may say contingent upon the pandemic being under control and not becoming worse. Ms. James said seventy five percent of the people will be wearing masks anyway. Mr. Lark said his concern is the handling of candy. Council discussed further. Mayor Larouche suggested wearing gloves to distribute candy. Mayor Larouche asked Chief Newton if Trick-or-Treaters actually Trick-or-Treat in Shenango Township. Chief Newton said they do on certain streets. Mr. Preston said they go bath and forth, from the Borough to the Township. Mayor Larouche said 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. would be good, Mr. Lucich agreed. Mr. Lark said he felt 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. was better. Council discussed further.

Mr. Lark explained Memorial Park on Main Street regarding flowers. Mayor Larouche stated to make sure they involve Stace and the women to give them the opportunity to help, which is part of what they would like to do. Mr. Lucich and Mr. Preston confirmed.

Mr. Lark said his final issue is to suggest they go into Executive Session regarding the Police Negotiations. Mr. Lark said before Jason Newton leaves asked if anyone has any questions for Jason.

Mr. Lark said any questions regarding Jason, Mr. Hubert and Mr. Weiser. Mayor Larouche asked Jason if Mr. Hubert was willing to negotiate at all. Mr. Lark said Jason cannot speak for him. Jason said he does know the offer that is on the table is still on the table. Mayor Larouche stated she obviously thought it was a good offer because she was the one who put it out there, but she couldn't get everybody on board. Mr. Lucich said the only thing that he is going to say is that if Tom's not willing to negotiation and if we come to the meeting and we say we are willing to do this, put in on paper so that they agree to it, then it's done and it's set. Mr. Lucich said he talked with Tom and he said he is not negotiating anything unless it's a done deal. Mayor Larouche agreed. Mr. Lucich said he will not negotiate unless we are all in agreement. Mayor Larouche said this is our final proposal and he will digest it and accept it, okay since it has gone on long enough. Mr. Lark said they all deserve a discussion since all of Council was not there. Ms. James asked if the School Board pays for the Security Officer at the school, Jason confirmed and said there is a Security Officer and a Police Officer. Jason said only the Police Officer is his employee. Jason said it is a state grant for nine months our of the year the school pays for them. Mr. Lucich said but they cannot have one of their Police Officer in West Middlesex if we don't have them as Police Officer's since they don't have jurisdiction whatsoever. Mr. Preston said it has to be a Shenango Police Officer. Council and Jason discussed further.

Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

Executive Session