

MINUTES WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH

ZOOM AND REGULAR WORK SESSION

AUGUST 11, 2021

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Cyndi Gilkey, Vice-President Eric Lucich, Robert Lark, Ron Preston, Stacey Curry and Mayor Debra Larouche.

Others Present: Bobby Cochran, Adam Garrett, Rich Garrett, Ray Lucich and Mr. Harmon.

2014 Ford F550 – Repairs in the amount of \$3,411.19: Mr. Cochran explained the Repairs of the 2014 Ford F550 along with towing. Mr. Cochran stated that the recall and the warranty were not covered by the parts needed. Council, Mayor Larouche and Mr. Cochran discussed further. Mayor Larouche stated that if a recall was reported on this vehicle seven years ago, they should find out how that was implemented in a timely manner. Mr. Lark asked if it was a former employee what would they do about it. Mayor Larouche asked Mr. Cochran if he received the recall on the new truck immediately, he confirmed. Mayor Larouche said then Ms. Ricci gives him the recall as soon as they come in, Mr. Cochran confirmed. Mayor Larouche stated then she wondered what happened to the date of the 2014 vehicle. Ms. Gilkey asked if Council would like to take action on the repair amount at the Council Meeting on Tuesday. Ms. Gilkey stated the new Agenda policies would be that they need to list anything that would be voted on and taking action on the Agenda ahead of time.

Street Repairs: Mr. Lark stated he drove up to GPI one day last week regarding the street repairs. Mr. Lark also suggested to consider updating the office and the Engineers indicated it would have to be ADA in compliance with restrooms and so forth. Ms. Gilkey asked if that should be on the Agenda for Tuesday. Mr. Lark said no. Ms. Curry said she rode through the Borough looking at the alleys and questioned the care of the alleys. Mr. Lark stated the streets haven't even been paved in the past. Ms. Curry said she was addressed by a resident who asked her why her alley wasn't paved. Mr. Lucich said they couldn't very well spend \$20,000.00 on an alleyway when they need to save up for sewers and streets. Ms. Curry said that makes sense but isn't there something they can do to make them better. Mr. Lark said they can make them better, but paving would cost more. Mr. Lark stated ninety-nine percent of the water lines in the Borough are in the streets. Mr. Lark explained paving projects with Aqua water and also the sewer lines which are the Borough's responsibility. Council and Mayor Larouche discussed further. Mr. Cochran said he spoke with a company in Greenville regarding milling and asphalt for pricing information. Mayor Larouche and Council discussed high grass in the areas of the Borough.

Mr. Lark asked Mr. Cochran if there were any additional bills from the Engineers or the sewer pumps. Mr. Cochran said he only had a quote from Damian Pump for the Aurora Pump with warranties but the pumps have become much more expensive since the last meeting. Mr. Cochran suggested having a secondary pump for emergencies in case one breaks. Ms. Gilkey asked Mr. Cochran to submit that information. Ms. Gilkey stated she is waiting on information on the speed signs. Mr. Lucich asked what their goal was. Mayor Larouche asked if the Police can ticket people using the speed signs. Council members said no. Mayor Larouche said it would give security and safety of children playing on the streets and to the Community. Ms. Gilkey stated it does draw people's attention. Council and Mayor talked further about the speed signs and whether it was needed for speeding purposes.

Mr. Lucich said he has been updated on the Generator cost which is in the \$20,000.00 range which he said he doesn't understand based on kilowatts usages. More information will be forthcoming from Mr. Lucich.

Ms. Gilkey addressed the Fire Department Feasibility Study Update. Rich Garrett said on the requested information the only thing Mr. Hedden needed was information on this building. Rich Garrett said he told them that this building was owned by the Borough for financials and everything on this building. Rich Garrett said as far as he knew they had supplied everything that he needed. Ms. Gilkey said she would see what she could do on Borough's information. Rich Garrett said he had supplied Mr. Hedden with information dated back from the year 2015 on Fire Calls which he received.

Ms. Gilkey stated the Grant Writer just joined the Zoom Meeting and that the Mayor requested he be added to the Agenda. Mr. Martino was not able to connect to the Zoom link and the Mayor said she will speak with him to join them for the Council Meeting on Tuesday. Mayor Larouche explained who D.J. Martino was as a Grant Writer, that he lives in Hubbard, Ohio and employed by UPMC as a Grant Writer. Mayor Larouche said he will give them costs per project with a bit more explanations forthcoming.

Ms. Gilkey just stated there was a bad storm happening in Hermitage via her cell phone.

Ms. Gilkey said Bill Novak is supposed to give specifications for the Meeting Room to both Council and Attorney Tesone. Ray Lucich requested that when the Engineers are present the Fire Department would like to be involved in the renovation of the Municipal Building. Mr. Lark said that when the Engineers are here, we will take suggestions from anybody.

Mayor Larouche questioned Ray Lucich on the updates on the 911 Parade. Ray Lucich said the invitations went out and was just informed by the 910 Airwing that they would not be able to have the Fly By because it takes sixty days to facilitate that. Mr. Lucich said the School is on board with it. Ms. Gilkey said she would like to have more information for the public. Mayor Larouche questioned the legitimacy of closing down a PennDOT Road on Route 18 and she said she thought the Permits were submitted. Mr. Lucich said the Permits were submitted.

Mr. Lark questioned the status of the American Rescue's Act. Ms. Gilkey said she was online to the SAM's page and as of now it is pending but the Application is complete. Ms. Gilkey said she will try the help number since everyone is online at the same time.

Mr. Lark asked where they stand with the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$84,867.00 that's coming to Mercer County and to be disbursed to projects from Mercer County Regional Planning. Ms. Gilkey said she did not have that one. Mr. Lark said this is a Grant that comes from the State, but the County administrated it. Mr. Lark said the whole County will get \$286,000.00 so he is sure that Sharon, Farrell and Hermitage will have their hands out there and by the time we get it there will probably be nothing left.

Ms. Gilkey addressed the conditions with a house on Penn Avenue and she said she spoke with Jeff Richardson about it, but that he didn't think the man can be cited at this time. Ms. Gilkey suggested getting Social Services involved. Eric Lucich said it took eight people to get the man out of the house and to an ambulance. Ms. Gilkey said there is a very narrow path to get into the house. Mr. Lucich suggested a letter be sent to the house so that they wouldn't be liable if anything should happen. Rich Garrett said it is a hazard to the Fire Department Volunteers. Rich Garrett said he and Ms. Gilkey are working on a couple of avenues and she confirmed.

Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.