

**Minutes
West Middlesex Borough
Council Meeting
July 18, 2023**

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Council Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Borough President Eric Lucich.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Eric Lucich, Mr. Robert Lark, Mr. Tim Webster, Mr. Bill Novak, Mayor Stacey Curry.

Absent: Vice President Mr. Dave Moyer

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Solicitor Attorney Robert Tesone, WMVFD President Rich Garrett, Mr. Ray Lucich, Ms. Barb Lapinski, Mr. Robert Rankin, Shenango TWP VFD EMS Mr. David Garon, Mr. Bill Rodemoyer, Mr. Harry Kornbau.

Public Comments: Mr. Bill Rodemoyer of 16 Fairview Dr asked if there are any plans to repair Fairview Dr. He added that if two vehicles are on the street at the same time, one has to stop to allow the other to pass due to the conditions of the street. All agreed repairs are needed. Mr. Lark reported last year the Borough paved 5 streets. The most ever in one year in the history of the Borough of WM, with a cost of over \$100,000. He explained that we receive Liquid Fuel money to be used towards the cost of road maintenance. The Borough is limited and we don't want to raise taxes. Mr. Eric Lucich reported that there is an issue with the Storm Catch Basin that needs to be repaired and corrected before the road repairs can be completed. The water is not going down the drain as it should. This needs to be addressed first, otherwise the problem will still exist. Mr. Rodemoyer agrees. Mr. Lark added we hope to do something before the construction time period ends. All are in agreement the repairs need to be addressed. Barb Lapinski is still questioning the EMS agreement with Shenango TWP EMS. She inquired what type of criteria we will have for the trial period. President Eric Lucich asked her if we can address this concern when we discuss the EMS Issue in order of the agenda. Barb agreed.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Lark, and seconded by Mr. Webster to accept the Minutes from June 14, 2023 Work Session and June 20, 2023 Council Meeting. All in Favor, No Opposed.

Police Department Report: No report presented, Police Chief Jason Newton on vacation.

Fire Department Report: The Fire Department Report was Read by WMVFD President Mr. Rich Garrett.

A reminder of the next Council Work Session Meeting to be held on Wednesday August 9th 2023, will include on the Agenda, A discussion between the WMVFD and West Middlesex Council concerning the Fire Operational Analysis Report.

Treasurer's Financial Report: A motion was made by Mr. Lark , and Seconded by Mr. Novak to accept the Treasurer's Financial Report. All In Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried. Mr. Novak questioned the amount that is being paid to AAA Pest Control. Mayor Stacey reported that when we received the initial quote it included Mouse control, and then added was Spiders and Bug control. They will inquire on the status and possibly downgrade.

Lilly Bridge Pump: President, Mr. Eric Lucich he is still waiting to hear from Tim concerning what is the better option, A new pump: a grinder style or the quickest solution. However, he is on vacation, will call to update. Tim asked, since we don't have a cost now, to make a decision, do we have to have a special meeting to vote on what we decide to do? Mr. Lucich asked Attorney Tesone who said No Special Meeting is required. The repairs can be ordered, and a vote will be conducted at the next scheduled Council Meeting.

EMS- 6 Month Trial Period: Mr. David Garon from Shenango TWP VFD EMS was present with information and to answer questions concerning the EMS 6-month trial agreement. He passed out information concerning EMS time response. He addressed the concerns of resident Barb Lapinski concerning the BLS and ALS response time and availability. He addressed Staffing at Shenango TWP EMS. It was questioned why there needs to be a contract between Shenango TWP and the Borough of West Middlesex and it was explained this allows for Soft Billing. Saving the Residents money. They would have to have a contract with each resident to do this, if not for the contract with the Borough on behalf of each resident. It was also questioned about having the choice to pick when 911 is called. Mr. Garon explained everyone has a choice to choose who they would like to respond when 911 is called. He explained that McGonigal offers a membership with people. The contract with the Borough is similar to that, however the Borough would have the contract on behalf of the residents. He said the biggest concern is the patients, Patient Care. Because of location, 3 minutes up the road, they are able to offer the fastest response time. Other situations were brought up, one being the Kids at School. If hurt at school or at a sporting event. Fast Response Time. **Mr. Lark Motioned to contract for the 6-month FREE Trial Period, seconded by Mr. Novak. All in favor, No Opposed, Motion Carried.**

Mr. Webster asked if we need a written contract. It was requested Shenango TWP to send us a letter of agreement, and the Borough would send a letter to 911 to request Shenango TWP as the primary carrier and the next available in rotation as second. Barb asked a question about what type of criteria would be used to evaluate how the 6-month trial period worked. A suggestion was to survey and ask the residents to respond with opinions, and feedback.

Mercer County Regional Planning Commission Grant Program: Mr. Lark reported that the request for funding has to be submitted by August 25th. He will put together a letter and ask for Ideas.

Mr. Eric Lucich presented a list of suggestions.

Sidewalks: Handicap Accessible Entries; Plum Alley & School Street; In front of the Old Garret Home on Haywood Street; All of RT 18 on both sides where sidewalks are needed.

Park and Playground Equipment

Mayor Stacey added to the list:

Hogback Banks

Mr Lark will put together a proposal letter to be presented.

Mercer County Regional Planning Committee: Subdivision: Mr. Lark informed Council this was a Sub Division for Lot 3&4 on Sharon Rd and Walnut. Owner being Kalasky Rentals. **Mr. Lark Motioned for Council to Authorize the Subdivision and Seconded by Mr. Webster. All in Favor. No Opposed. Motion Carried.** The plans were signed and dated by President Mr. Eric Lucich, and Secretary, Paula Luca.

LSWM Pool Update: Mr. Lark reported a meeting was held yesterday, July 17th. The pool is doing good financially. Attendance has been good. The next meeting will be held on Monday August 21st. The pool will be closing for the season on August 20th. A financial report after the next meeting. Mayor Stacey Curry added a Bank Account has been set up at FNB. A deposit in the amount of \$30,000 has been deposited. The bank account information and check book has been turned over to Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca to be kept with all of the Borough Account Information. She then reported that the Commissioner had concerns about giving money to the Pool. They are asking for a commitment. 3-4year plan. Council needs to determine what the long-term plan is.

New Resolution for Updated Grass Maintenance Fees: Mr. Lark Motioned and Seconded by Mr. Novak to raise the cost of Grass Cutting to \$150 an hour. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carried. This amount was calculated based on payroll rate and benefit cost for Borough Employees.

Letter Received from Mr. White concerning Donations for Fireworks for July 4th. Mr. Novak presented a request that a portion of the funding be donated to Mr. White. Mr. Lark added he is aware Local Business have donated money towards the cost of the fireworks. Mayor Stacey added that the Women's Club has donated also. However, Mr. Lark does not feel that a private party would be an eligible use for the funds. Mayor Stacey also added the issue may arise in the future of others asking for funding. No Motion was presented.

Questions for Attorney Robert Tesone:

GPI Invoices in association with the Family Dollar Combo Store: Mr. Tesone agreed Gateway Engineering would be responsible for these invoices because they are in connection with the Family Dollar Combo Store.

Walker Lane: Attorney Tesone suggests a letter be sent to each resident of Walker Lane explaining that they own Walker Lane. With information for them to inquire on the Deed to their property OR the Chain of Titles for their property. Also, with information that they can petition the Borough to adopt Walker Lane.

Richardson Inspection Invoices: Attorney Tesone informed us, due to the fact that we have contracted with Richardson Inspection, the cost of the invoices when he is requested to inquire on a property would be the responsibility of the Borough to pay. However, if the property owner does not respond and comply with the complaint, the cost of the invoices can be added to the cost if it goes to court.

New Date for Sewer Authority Meeting. A meeting for the Sewer Authority will be held on Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 5:00. It will be held before the next scheduled Borough Council Meeting.

Mr. Eric Lucich confirmed that an Executive Session was held on Wednesday July 12, 2023 directly after the Council Work Session.

Additional Comments:

Mayor Stacey reported she was contacted by Mr. Raymond Omar with information concerning a Lerta Tax exemption. The tax exemption would be for The Borough Business owners if they add on to their already existing business. This would encourage business to stay in the Borough of West Middlesex. An example was mentioned of Seth Anthony because he is expanding his business. He had presented this tax exemption to Shenango TWP also. Mr. Lark requested this be put under review with future discussion.

Mr. Garret asked for an update on purchasing a generator. Mr. Eric Lucich reported we are researching COSTARS for vendors who sell generators. Attorney asked what kind of generator, and Mr. Lucich added a Standby Generator.

Mr. Garret also reported that a Recall from Ford was issued for Engine #2. They will be taking it in for the recall service to be performed.

Mr. Garret also reported: He understands it is of no fault to anyone present, but the VFD applied for a municipal grant in the amount of no less than \$25,000 and no more than \$100,000. But was denied because the Borough Audit was not completed for last year as of yet.

President Eric Lucich announced he was stepping down for the Street Department Committee. He stated, the issue is the chain of command. He can't implement it. No cooperation, and he is not wasting his time trying any more. Mr. Lucich added he will let Mr. Dave Moyer speak for himself when he returns to his position of the committee. Mr. Bill Novak volunteered and will be added to the Streets Dept. Committee in place of Mr. Lucich.

Mr. Lark Motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Webster. All in Favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.