

**West Middlesex Borough
Work Session Meeting
March 13 2024**

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by the Borough Vice President Mr. Robert Lark.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments: None

Council Present: Vice President Mr. Robert Lark conducted the meeting, Mr. Bill Novak, Mr. Robert Rankin, Mr. Dennis Bollinger, Mayor Stacey Curry. Mr. Tim Webster was absent.

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer: Paula Luca, Streets Department Senior Laborer: Mr. Bobby Cochran WMVFD President Rich Garrett, Ray Lucich

Street Department Report: Road Repair Report: Mr. Bobby Cochran reported he is getting caught up on Cold Patch. He will need to order another load. Mr. Lark asked about the condition of the roads, and what roads are in the worst condition? Bobby reported: The worst conditions are, Penn Ave, Oak Hill ext., Walnut is terrible, South Street, more near Eris Street. The North Side of Garfield, Carbaugh, and also Fairview. Mr. Novak asked a question concerning Carbaugh Street. What is the PennDOT Right of way? Bobby replied, possibly 7 feet. Mr. Novak then added that he feels PennDOT should be contacted for Carbaugh Pot Holes and also in front of Vince's Shoe Store where all the trucks turn. Bobby was not familiar with the website to submit to PennDOT, and Mr. Novak said he would send the Web portal Link to Bobby to submit the information. **Kiwanis Park Update:** Bobby reported that they have reinstalled the gates to Kiwanis Park. They have also fenced off the park, and posted Danger, Park Closed, and Construction Area Signs. The Park is now closed. **Sewer Pumps:** Bobby reported that all pumps are running fine. No Issues. **Pool Parking Spaces:** Two Parking Spaces have been added for the Community Pool Parking. There may be space to possibly add a third additional Parking space. **Borough Door Locks:** The locksmith has come and changed out the chambers on the Main Door to the Borough Office, and the Main Door at the Borough Garage. **No Parking Signs.** Mayor Stacey Curry added that Council needs to decide all of the locations that New Signs will be placed, so we know how many need to be ordered. Mr. Lark asked Bobby to get a quote on the cost of the signs. Also Stop signs. Mr. Novak added that in the past we received two quotes for signs in the past, and he recalled that they are less expensive.

Selling of the Back Hoe, Scrap, Air Compressor and any other items: Mr. Lark reported that in our storage we have several old typewriters and misc. Items that can be added to the items to be scrapped. Mr. Novak added, concerning the Back Hoe, where he works, they deal with equipment similar to the back hoe. His Boss suggested that the Back Hoe is possibly worth up to \$5,000. But Mr. Novak wanted to be on record that He is Employed there. Mayor Stacey

asked what would be the next step if we decide to sell it. Mr. Novak reported based on information when this was discussed last year, the Resolution from 1996, states it is valued over \$2000 it would have to be put up for bid. As for the scrap, because it is not of that much value, it would not have to be put up for bid. It could just be sold/recycled and the money deposited so we would have a record of the sale. Mr. Lark suggests we hold off on the Back Hoe until we decide what we want to do with it. But to go ahead with the selling of the Scrap.

Purchase of New Air Compressor: Bobby reported the air compressor that he had previously found is no longer available. The sale has ended. It was discussed that we no longer need the compressor that we have. It is a large size compressor that requires inspection yearly. A smaller one would meet the needs and no need to be inspected, saving the Borough money. Secretary Paula Luca asked if it can be put on the agenda to be voted on, but not to exceed a certain price. Mr. Lark agreed and instructed the vote to be put on the Tuesday Council Meeting Agenda.

Renting an Excavator: Mr. Novak updated the council that he and Bobby went to inspect the area near the bus garage to see if it needs dug out. It does, however the Council needs to inquire on the owner of the property. Mr. Novak also added that both the storm sewer grates, one at Sweesy Road and the other on Wheatland Road, need to be dug out. He will get a quote in writing on the cost of the rental of an excavator. Possibly we can get the Shenango TWP Sewer backhoe since we are part owners of the plant. Mr. Lark did not think we would be able to have use of the Shenango TWP Backhoe.

Sewer Authority & Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy: Mr. Lark inquired to Secretary Paula Luca if anyone has shown interest in the board vacancies. Mr. Chris Webster would be interested in the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Luca is interested in being part of the Zoning Hearing Board, and the Planning Committee.

2023 Audit: Secretary Paula Luca updated that the Audit is complete. It was a clean audit. It will be added to the agenda to vote to accept the audit. Mr. Lark asked if we had received the invoice for the Audit. We have not as of yet. Paula also reported that the Borough received a letter from the IRS that we may have underpaid our payroll taxes in 2021. Paula will give the information concerning the IRS to Jack from Black Bashor and Porsch.

Water Treatment Plant Sign: Mr. Novak updated the Council that a couple of months ago, the Shenango TWP Sewer Authority posed a NEW sign. It only shows Shenango Twp, not West Middlesex. Mr. Rankin added that we can bring up the sign at the new 2 on 2 meeting. Mr. Novak feels it is disrespectful to the residents of West Middlesex who pay the sewer bills.

Information Items:

1. Mr. Lark updated the Council that Zach Miles is the new PennDOT representative in our area. * Also, the Council was informed that the Borough has received the Liquid Fuel Funding check.

2. Borough Planning Committee upcoming meeting: Wednesday April 10th and Wednesday May 15th. All Committee members will be invited to the next Council Meeting to receive the information concerning the two upcoming meetings.

3. GPI Engineers: Mr. Lark updated the Council that GPI Engineers will be meeting on Thursday March 14th to visit the sites. He then passed out maps to all of the Council highlighting the stops on the tour. The map is color coded to highlight all of the different projects. He updated the Council on all issues: Sanitation Sewer issues: Storm Sewer issues; and the road repair project issues. He has invited all residents involved so they can also be present when the engineers visit their place of business and or residents. Mr. Novak asked if we can add to the agenda to vote on how to use the American Rescue Money. Mr. Lark suggested we take out a loan for Street Repair, or a Line of Credit. Mr. Lark also went over the loan payments that the Borough pays at the current time. They are, The Streets/Sewer Dept truck, and the Fire Truck. Treasurer Paula Luca inquired if because the truck is being paid ½ from the General Account, and ½ from the Sewer Account. However, in the past it was only paid out of the General. Is it possible to pay off the truck payment from the Sewer Account. Mr. Lark, suggest we add to the agenda to question Mr. Tesone.

4. Swimming Pool Updates: Mr. Lark updated the Council concerning the Swimming Pool. Results of the Pancake Fundraiser, and also the repairs to the Pool. Mayor Stacey updated the Council on an update of the pool. The mayor suggests that according to Attorney Tesone, the Council should have on the agenda to allow the Mayor to pay bills concerning the Swimming Pool when they are due. The bills are to be paid from the Pool Account. Mayor Stacey also updated the Council on the pool funding and grant update. The pool received a grant for \$20,000 from the County Commissioners.

Update on Snyder Brothers/National Fuel: Paula Updated Council that after speaking to National Fuel, the quote from Snyder is a consistent cost. After speaking with a representative from National Fuel, we were able to obtain more informative information. Paula informed the Council that she will be comparing last year's billing. The information received today from National Fuel, rates typically change every 2-3 months and in the past the average has been more than the cost quoted by Snyder Brothers. It was requested by Mr. Lark to add to the Agenda to Vote to approve the quote from Snyder Brothers to extend our contract for 3 more years.

Residents Request Updates from Paula Luca/Secretary: Paula updated Council on request that were received in the office from Residents.

1. Mr. Jeffrey Peters, 36 Erie Street requested to sell Baseball cards from his home. He will need to reach out to Mr. Richardson for an Occupancy Permit.

2. Andrew Johnson 9th Alley called inquiring if he is able to have Chickens and honey bees. He was informed that other residents have both, and as long as they are not an issue or disturbance to neighbors there should not be an issue.

3. Jennifer Christy contacted the Borough. Her husband has a tattoo shop on Main Street. She would like to set up a table to generate business for her Scentsy Business. She has already spoken with the other businesses in the area. They do not feel it will be an issue. She will need to complete and have approved a solicitor's application.

4. A resident on 40 Haywood Street called to inquire on having a greenhouse built in his backyard. Stacey added that anything over 10x10, he will need to contact Mr. Richardson concerning a building permit. If smaller, he can go ahead with the project. He will also need to contact Mr. Richardson to obtain a Zoning Permit.

Days Off Requested by Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca: Paula Luca requested upcoming days off: ½ day of Thursday April 11th and full day on Friday April 12th. Mr. Lark requested that it be placed on the Agenda on Tuesday to be voted on.

PennDOT Updates: Mr. Lark supplied Council with handouts of the Agenda for the March 12th meeting and Minutes from the December 12th meeting of the Shenango Valley Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization. He then updated Council on the updates from PennDOT concerning the 318 Bridge- The bridge should be completed by the Fall of 2024. The Route 18 project is due to begin in the Summer. He also said there is talk for upcoming Rout #80 improvements. 10 miles from the Ohio line to the 5-mile mark. Mr. Novak asked to have an Executive Session added to Tuesday Night's Council Meeting. He also requested to be added to the agenda to have a Legal Notice Sent.

Additional Items:

1. Mr. Novak updated the Council that this past week, Rt 80 was closed down and traffic was routed through West Middlesex. He added in the future, we will need to have an officer present to help with traffic.
2. Chief Garrett from the VFD updated Council that grant money was obtained to be used towards the purchase of an UTV. He also requested to receive a cashier's check from the Fire Department Account to be used as a portion of the purchase. The purchase was already approved at the November 21, 2023 Council Meeting. It will be added to the agenda to distribute the Check.

Animal Shelter: Mr. Rankin updated the Council that he has pictures of the plans for the New Animal Shelter. That they will soon be breaking Ground for the New Animal Shelter.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:08 pm.