

**West Middlesex Borough
Work Session Meeting
November 15, 2023**

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Borough President Eric Lucich.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Mr. Rich Garrett, Mr. Ray Lucich

An outline was provided for the items that we had questioned at the last meeting: Real Estate Update: As per Tax Collector Cheryl Babcock, she advised us to use the Tax Less Discount total to estimate the Taxes to be collected. An estimate was calculated on what monies we may still collect for this year to date. Updated payroll: added another line item to show the Gross Pay and the Overtime pay. Breakdown on Solicitor Fees: Break down of Premium and bonds. Rodent control updated, monthly cost staying the same. They also presented us with a quote to maintain the gazebo and park control. Street dept/Sewer Dept Truck. Maturity date 8/15/2025. Truck payment added to General account and also sewer account. Will pay ½ from each account. The account prefers not to have transfers. Police Department Contract: 3 % increase. We pay a monthly bill, and an extra \$1000 in the first month for the Officer Wellness Fund. Will make a new line item for \$1,000.00. Insurance: Reinhart suggests calculating a 7% increase on all policies. They provided us with a breakdown of our current policies. Currently the workmen's comp is paid partially from General Account and partially from Fireman Account. It was explained why the Fire Department pays a portion of the Workmen's Comp. Mr. Lark suggested making a note that the General Account pay the full amount of the workmen's comp., and not have the Fire Dept. Pay their portion. As of now, the General Account will pay 12,039.39 and the Fire Department will pay 4518.86. General Account: Total Insurance with increase: 76,016.13.

A breakdown of the Telephone accounts was provided. Street Lights: Will pay more out of Street Light Accounts. The reason it is in General also is because monies may not be available in the Street Lights account. The allowance will remain in the General if needed. Mr. Lark provided the updated expenses from the Mercer County Planning Committee and Mercer County COG. Mr. Lark stated the unknown in the General Account Budget, is the insurance increase, and the telephone that are still pending. We will not know the increase from the insurance company until the policies are renewed. Mr. Lark asked if Bobby had any other information to add. It was reported that the refurbished pump was delivered. President Lucich added that he spoke to Bobby to make sure if a new air compressor was purchased it qualified for not having to be inspected. It was discussed if possibly the Borough pays a portion of the workers cell phone and just uses personal phones. Mr. Moyer said he spoke with the Union Rep

and that is something they are not interested in. It was discovered that there may possibly be two lines on the AT&T bill.

Sewer Budget: All estimated revenue totals are verified and are carried over to the 2024 Budget. Expenses: Hours with Tammy. It was requested that hours be added to the budget for the W-2 forms and reports. \$2000 was budgeted in the 2024 budget. Engineer expense was increased to \$20,000 due to the increased work planned at the West Middlesex Estate Sewer pump. Attorney Tesone was contacted concerning the Sewer Account. Storm sewer repair cannot come out of the Sewer Account. Only sanitary Sewer repairs. Mr. Webster discussed needing a spare pump for West Middlesex Estates. A decision needs to be made. Sewer Account Total Expense: 485,209.95. Sewer Ending Balance: \$403,879.57.

Fire Department Account: The totals from the Actual Account Revenue are carried over to the 2024 Budget. Expenses: Chief Rich Garrett confirmed the following totals to the 2024 budget: The Chief and Assistant Chief are separated on the budget. \$2000 each. Gas and Oil: estimated carried over. Vehicle maintenance increased to \$3000. It was discussed to change Howell to just equipment on the budget. Mr. Garrett said the insurance total was fine, but there was more discussion about the insurance payment. Mr. Lark once again suggested having the Borough General Account pay the insurance. The General Account was adjusted to include all of the workman's comp insurance. Insurance has changed to \$0 for the Fire Department. Mr. Garrett had a question concerning the Fire alarm in the Fire Department. It was explained the Fire Alarm in the General account was a Penn Power invoice. In the Fire Department it was Lowery. It was explained by Mr. Garrett, that in the past, Council voted to get rid of the fire alarm that sounded for a fire. It is now only used as a weather siren. The \$500 fire alarm from the Fire Department is to be moved to the General Account for next year. It will be taken off of the Fire Department Budget. Total expense for the Fire Department: \$26,738.96. Fire Department Ending Balanced Budget: \$69,844.38.

Liquid Fuels Account: \$28,030.50 is the amount that we will receive in March. Interest for checking and savings are carried over from the 2023 budget. Total Revenue is: 28,150.05. Total revenue and balance: 56987.54. Total Expenses: \$6500.00. Liquid Fuel Ending Balanced Budget: \$50,487.54.

Street Light Account: The Actual Revenue from 9/30 is carried over. Interest rounded to even numbers. Total Revenue is \$13,402.52. Total Revenue and Balance: \$23,262.70, Total Expenses: 16,500.00. Street Light Ending Balanced Budget: \$6,762.70.

Road Tax Account: The Actual Revenue from 9/30 is carried over. Interest rounded to even numbers. Total Revenue: \$8,975.02, Total Revenue and Balance: \$21,973.16. Total Expenses: \$15,000.00. Road Tax Account Ending Balanced Budget: \$6,973.16

Pension: The Actual Revenue from 9/30 is carried over, minus the interest Total Revenue is \$ 8389.10. Total Revenue and Balance: \$10,357.10. Total Expenses: \$6,903.60. Pension Account Ending Balanced Budget: \$3,453.50.

An update was given by Secretary Paula Luca. She spoke with Jonathan from Gateway. He reported that the Family Dollar is still interested and that he forwarded the invoices on to them. Mr. Lark reported that our Dollar General is currently closed. It was also reported that the High School was closed today due to a water problem.

Adjournment: 8:45 pm.