

MINUTES
WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
July 21, 2020
6:05 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Others Present: Secretary/Treasurer Sandra DeSantis, Solicitor Robert Tesone via conference call, Street Department Senior Laborer Bobby Cochran, Street Dept. Laborer Scott Haddox, Police Chief Jason Newton, Former Fire Chief Don Hoover, Fire Chief Jared Clemente, Assistant Fire Chief John Clemente, WMVFD President Adam Garrett, Rodney Garrett, Richard Garrett, Tammy Garrett, Ray Lucich, Mike Williams, Leann Williams, Stacy Curry, Robert Lucich, David Moyer, Barb Lapinski, Thelma Barnes, Geri DiNardo, members of the WMVFD, Carl Hoover and many residents of West Middlesex Borough.

Due to the Coronavirus Epidemic – Vice-President Eric Lucich conducted the Council Meeting in the Garage area at 25 North Street, West Middlesex to accommodate large groups of people per CDC Guideline Requirements.

Public Comments: Mr. Moyer first expressed his disappointment that the rest of Council Members were seated in the Municipal Hall and not in the Garage area with Eric Lucich to begin the meeting. Mr. Moyer secondly said, in regards to Police Service in which they have had for twenty years, he said he is very knowledgeable in this area since he has worked for the Regional Police Department for over fifteen of the twenty years. He said to consider a proposal from an outside police agency, if any were received, is that our community would have to wait for services from any other agency other than what is our home here, is a forced idea with a minimum of ten minutes before anyone else could respond. Mr. Moyer stated in an emergency situation you cannot wait that long for police services to come in. He said if it's about finances find another way. The residents applauded.

Ron Preston stated that is a dead issue and Shenango Township will be our Police Department. Mr. Moyer thanked Mr. Preston with appreciation. The residents applauded.

Mayor Larouche asked what where they doing out here. Eric Lucich said they were to continue the meeting out here so that the public can be present.

Minutes: Mr. Lark made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 10, 2020, June 16, 2020 and July 15, 2020. Seconded by Ms. James with all in favor.

Bills: Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the Bills, seconded by Ms. James with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Preston made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ms. James with all in favor.

FNB 19 Month CD – Matures on 7/21/2020: Mr. Lark said there was no decision made, but that they can decide to continue it or to cash it in, that his recommendation later when they discuss the paving would be to put it towards the cost of paving the streets, but they do not have to make a decision now. Eric Lucich asked if they could table that. Mr. Lark confirmed.

Street Department Report: Bobby Cochran read the Street Department Report. Mr. Lucich said he received a phone call from the owners of their old street sweeper and had an offer to purchase it back for the price of \$2,500.00. Council discussed prices based on renting a street sweeper. Mr. Lucich said if they were to buy it back, a search for a title will have to ensue, since it was lost. Mr. Lucich said a call will have to be placed to Barris with a serial number or model number to access the title. Mr. Lark said when they got rid of it, it was not because of mechanical issues, but because it needed tires which would cost over \$1,000.00 each. Mr. Lucich said he would call for prices on tires for a better deal. Mr. Lark said he is opposed to the idea due to more vehicle maintenance. Mr. Cochran said the only options are to rent street sweepers from either Sharon or Hermitage at \$100.00 per hour. Mr. Lark stated they need to pave some streets before they worry about sweeping them. Ms. James addressed radar speed signs that she asked PennDOT to place on Main Street and said people liked them. Ms. James said they will only have it for one month and if they were to purchase one it would be approximately \$3,500.00.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Clemente introduced himself and told Council the reports. Mr. Lucich asked Mr. Clemente to give Council a short Bio of himself as new Fire Chief. Mr. Clemente said he has been a member here since 2007, was previously an Assistant Chief, received his Certifications and is dedicated to keeping the community safe and to protect the Borough. Ms. James asked Mr. Clemente where he resides, he said Sharon. Mayor Larouche asked Mr. Clemente how many actual fire calls he participated in this year or prior to accepting this position, how active was he? Mr. Clemente said he is pretty active and here almost all of the time. Mayor Larouche said she was not speaking about socially, but the calls, she said. He responded yes. Mayor Larouche questioned if there was documentation on who shows up for the calls for liability, we would have to know who was out under our insurance. Mr. Clemente stated he has full documentation on response calls, etc. Mayor Larouche asked if the history goes back to the former Fire Chief, Mr. Clemente confirmed. Mayor Larouche thanked him. Mr. Lark asked if the new Assistant Fire Chief was present, and if he would introduce himself as well. John Clemente introduced himself as Assistant Fire Chief. Mr. Lark asked of the relationship, John Clemente said Jared Clemente is his son. Mr. Lark asked John Clemente where he resides, and Mr. Clemente said Hubbard, Ohio. Mr. Lark thanked him. Mayor Larouche stated, does this mean we cannot recruit quality people in our own Borough to protect our own, she said she was a little surprised. Mayor Larouche stated there was nothing personal, to be understood, but she said like David Moyer was talking of the proximity of Sharon or Sharpsville Police coming to our Borough to protect us, it's the same proximity getting the Fire Chief from another Township or another State coming to protect our Borough. Mayor Larouche questioned Mr. Moyer as to what was the difference.

Former Fire Chief Don Hoover asked Eric Lucich if he could speak. Mr. Hoover addressed everyone stating that most of the residents know who he is and has been a member of this fire department for twenty-seven (27) years, beginning in 1993 and has been a Chief and Assistant Chief. Mr. Hoover said he was present at the council meetings and advised the issue of people responding to our fire calls, from major to minor. Mr. Hoover stated after he spoke with the council members, the following Thursday the fire department had a regular monthly meeting, Eric Lucich also was at the same meeting and advocated the same as he addressed, saying that we were having a problem with getting our own members for calls in the Borough or anywhere, for this department to respond to. Mr. Hoover said, due to the fact as almost everybody knows, they do live out of town, yes that does create a problem.

Mr. Hoover stated he came to the borough council last month to see what they can do to rectify this problem. Mr. Hoover said, the following Thursday at the fire department regular monthly meeting, they had nine (9) members present, possibly ten (10), with the two exceptions that Mr. Lark and Maleia James came to see as Council what they can do to help. Mr. Hoover said, with that being said, our President did not even let them speak when they were asking questions on what they could do to help to cure a problem. Mr. Hoover said, they received no answers and were basically pushed out. Mr. Hoover said after they left the meeting got heated. Mr. Hoover addressed the residents saying yes, the fire department does a fine job and yes, they are qualified, but yet Mr. Hoover said he was trying very hard to bring the two departments together, to make them as one because he knows the response time would be a lot better in general. Mr. Hoover said he was basically kicked out of the fire department meeting too. Mr. Hoover said this following Thursday this fire department had a special meeting with him being excluded, and everything they sent him took him straight to termination, he received three letters from the fire department along with a resignation. Mr. Hoover said he never sent a letter of resignation to Council but he has that right now. Mr. Hoover said he received a letter from the fire department of Insubordination because he stepped on their toes and went to Council to figure out what we can do to fix the problem. Mr. Preston questioned that Mr. Hoover brought a problem to Council, and the fire department charged you with Insubordination, was that correct? Mr. Hoover confirmed. Mr. Hoover passed out copies of the letters he received from the fire department addressed to him which were: Insubordination, Unauthorized use of fire department property, WMVFD Equipment, Acknowledgement of Resignation and a list of Members. Mayor Larouche asked the residents if they could hear what Don Hoover has to say. She said that they would like to share with everyone the facts and they are tired of being thrown under the bus with false information. Ms. James reminded everyone this is the man that fills your swimming pools, he is the one that works so hard for the community. Mayor Larouche said he is the only one who consistently showed up, including Eric Lucich. Mayor Larouche also stated that the West Middlesex School Board has shut everybody out of their meeting, a totally private meeting, but that she has invited everybody to come and is happy that it's time that everybody learns the truth. She said we have two men fighting fires, everybody else is in a social club, they show up for the dinner dances, the parties, but nobody does the work, you can't have homeowner's insurance proving that you have only two legitimate firefighters fighting your fires in your Borough, so consider that when you listen to all of this. Mayor Larouche said Don Hoover is one of the best people she knows, that he is honest, he has integrity and she is proud of him. Mr. Hoover explained what transpired regarding the merger with Shenango Township Fire Department and addressed everyone to Carl Hoover, Volunteer Fire Chief of Shenango Township (33 years fire service), who said he received a letter from West Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department stating they are no longer interested in the negotiations for the merger and they would like to look at it at a later time. Carl Hoover stated we went about that for about a month and he decided that training would have to be set up and that would be costly, some people showed and did not want to train with us, etc. so they dropped it. Carl Hoover asked how do you merge with a department when you have only four training sessions together in a complete year and they don't want to work with you, they don't want to set up the same way, so he said, I pulled the plug because my members are giving me static about it and it is just not worth the aggravation. Carl Hoover said they knew they were being led astray by certain individuals from the WMVFD. Carl Hoover discussed that Shenango Township was in the same position as Don Hoover addressed earlier, but Shenango Township changed the way they operated and the Township was on board with what they were doing. Carl Hoover said, the bottom line is this, I was where you guys were prior to September of 2017. Ms. James said Don Hoover did not resign and is resigning tonight and what the Herald published was not true.

Ms. James said consequently the fire department went around knocking on doors to put signs up and the problem is people do not know everything that is going on, but they knock on the doors and ask if people support the fire department and people say yes, then they say do you want to put our sign in our yard and they put their sign in their yard. Ms. James said she knows every time Don Hoover sees a sign in a yard it's a slap in the face after the way he was treated, so it's a misrepresentation of a lot of things to approach our residents and ask them to put a sign in your yard to support everything the fire department does when they don't know what just happened to this young man and unaware of the way he was treated. Don Hoover said he would like to have an answer, that he was a member of the fire department for twenty (27) years, and the department voted me in as Chief, I came to Council on January 3rd like we do every year when Council accepts a Chief, my question is, what they did, was it perfectly legal as a department since Council pays me? Mr. Lark said, this is under legal review since Council pays you, therefore you work for us. Don Hoover said, the second thing to ask is that you guys didn't observe the meeting of the fire department, and I was asked questions because Council provides funding for the fire department, are the fire department meetings private or open? Mr. Lark said, that is also under legal review since we own the building. Ron Preston addressed Adam Garret that if you don't have private meetings why do you tell council members to leave? Adam Garrett said, because Maleia James and Robert Lark stopped asking legitimate questions about the fire department instead pulled up unnecessary garbage for months, we saw that in the beginning of this meeting how they acted, that is all of us out here present. Mayor Larouche said that's because that was a control issue Adam and that's our whole problem, you want to control everything. Adam Garrett said Borough Council controls all of the taxes that residents pay, we have no control over that, every single penny that we have to use we have to ask them for. Adam Garrett said because Council has control of taxpayer's monies that is not a public meeting, we invited them in and asked them if they had any questions and Lark and Maleia stopped asking those questions. Adam Garrett said Maleia was there to help but Lark had no intention of helping the fire department, with comments of response times with Shenango Township, the fire department absolutely did begin negotiations with the Township in September of 2017. Mr. Garrett explained more regarding trying to merge with Shenango Township but was given a deadline and at a council meeting the President said Shenango Township does not negotiate fairly. Adam Garrett addressed Don Hoover and stated he absolutely did resign and that it's on record, you resigned to us and to Council. Don Hoover said he told them that he stepped down. Adam Garrett said, if we are all trying to work together this is not the way that it is done, we have a whole community here that is saying something is off. Adam Garrett addressed Eric Lucich stating it shouldn't be this way and you know this. Adam Garrett said that Ron Preston said I want it done quick, not right. Mr. Preston said this merger will never take place because you people don't want it, he said you have a \$36,000.00 a year social club, you don't have a fire department. Mr. Preston asked Mr. Garrett if he was black balled against getting pool water, was that true? Adam Garrett said, yes that was mostly the facts, yes absolutely because you're personally into my department. Mr. Preston stated, if my house was on fire and you don't like me, are you not going to come to put my fire out? Mr. Preston asked how single handedly can you do that, I'm a taxpayer. Mr. Garrett said that is a fundraiser. Mr. Preston said that is what I pay for. More heated discussions ensued between Adam Garrett, Don Hoover, Ray Lucich and Mr. Preston. A resident from the audience stated for thirty to forty years they have been talking about a merger and she did not feel the merger will ever work, and she also questioned if West Middlesex would have to pay Shenango Township to fight our fires. Mayor Larouche said the world is changing. Heated discussions continued with residents, Council, Mayor, and members of the fire department. Mayor Larouche stated no one was invited here to merge our fire department, we are not in the process of merging right now, that was a proposal that was made, we were exploring options and this got totally taken out of hand by somebody.

Mayor Larouche stated, there is an issue with the leadership when they cannot recruit in our own area and when we have only one or two people coming we have issues, why is there so much animosity, these people don't want to give up their control, we are moving on an independent objective evaluation of our fire department, that's all that we want. Mayor Larouche said Council is trying to decide if we have qualified fire protection to protect our Borough.

Ray Lucich spoke to Mayor Larouche saying she was given an application at the beginning of her position to join and have yet to see it and said, thank you for your support. Mayor Larouche said she decided to give a monetary donation because she does not want to be one more person on the workmen's comp. insurance claim. Ray Lucich said they could have six hundred people on it and it doesn't cost a dime more. Ms. James talked about a fire call where Ray Lucich was present and took the Street Department worker, which is a personnel matter. Ray Lucich and Council discussed heatedly. Robert Lucich said the motion was properly moved, seconded and voted on back around 2003 or 2004 where Council approved all employees of the Borough including the Secretary, were able to respond to fire calls due to the fact there are 987 people that live in the one square mile of West Middlesex Borough, it is extremely difficult to get enough people to make a fire department, why do you think we've gone outside, people came in from Lackawannock Township. Robert Lucich said he doesn't like it either, but said guess what, who else is stepping up. Heated discussions continued. Ray Lucich stated a negative remark directed toward Mrs. DeSantis' secretarial skills.

Police Department Report: Chief Jason Newton read the Police Department Report. Mr. Preston said for the record they are having a meeting Monday night at 6:30 p.m. at their facility to negotiate for the next five (5) year contract with the Police Department. Eric Lucich and Mayor Larouche will also attend.

Street Paving Bids: Mrs. DeSantis gave Eric Lucich the Bids received. Mr. Lucich read the Bids aloud:

- (1) J&T Paving: Phase I - \$39,962. , Phase II - \$28,927. , Phase III - \$22,184.
- (2) Kirila: School St. - \$24,250., Garfield St. Phase I - \$42,135., Garfield St. Phase II - \$29,050.
- (3) Sharon Paving: School St. - \$29,500., Garfield St. Phase I - \$45,200., Garfield St. Phase II - \$37,950.

Mr. Lark kept the Bids and will show them to Solicitor Tesone for his review before any decisions will be made. Mr. Lark said they can either advertise a Special Meeting or have it advertised and vote at the Work Session in August so that it is not delayed.

Purchasing Street Department Truck Equipment: Mr. Lark explained at the Work Session last week that Council discussed the purchase of the salt box spreader and snow plow. Mr. Lark made a motion to make those purchases, seconded by Mr. Preston. Roll Call: Mr. Preston-yes, Maleia James-yes, Mr. Lark-yes, and Mr. Lucich-yes.

Financing Street Department Truck and Equipment: Mr. Lark said he spoke with FNB of West Middlesex in regards to rate quotes with the most recent at 2.99%. Mr. Lark explained two different ways of financing, one is to buy the truck and finance the truck with a typical five (5) year loan, and then the salt box spreader and snow plow we could pay from the General Fund, he said. Mr. Lark said the other way would be to finance the whole thing. Mr. Lark stated on both loans the rate is 2.99%. Eric Lucich said for your reference Mrs. DeSantis had included the bid quote list from PSAB at the Work Session due to the pricing facts regarding bids, unless it was a CoStar's Program. Mr. Lark said he believed it was a CoStar price. Mr. Lucich stated if you add the amounts together it would be approximately \$11,000.00 and would have to be in a bid. Mr. Lark said, there would be circumstances such as this.

Mr. Lark said is not like going to Lowe's or Home Depot, this company, Zoresco in Pittsburgh has a franchise if they buy the snow plow and salt box spreader it's not like I'll buy from Ford McCandless or Ford Preston, there aren't any other businesses to bid on this other than someone in Philadelphia or Cleveland.

Mr. Lucich said he just wanted to make sure of the financing. Mr. Lark said he will speak to Solicitor Tesone to confirm. Mr. Lark passed paperwork around to Council regarding the financing. Mr. Lucich said for legality issues they need to make it contingent upon Solicitor Tesone's approval. Mr. Lucich asked if these prices include the bed liner, Mr. Lark confirmed. Mr. Lark said if they are waiting on Solicitor Tesone and they have already voted to purchase the truck, then maybe what they should do is simply approve the lesser loan and go forward with that and can deliver the dealership with a check. Solicitor Tesone spoke to Eric Lucich via phone regarding bids vs. CoStar's financing and if it was not CoStar's, they would have to put it out for bid due to the prices. Mr. Lark suggested to move things along, let's go with the lesser amount and we will work on the equipment later. Mr. Lark made a motion to finance the purchase of the truck from West Middlesex Branch FNB at 2.99% with a total of sixty (60) monthly payments of \$555.35, the first payment would be the 17th of August of \$555.35 and the last payment would be July 17, 2025 of \$554.81, seconded by Mr. Preston. Mr. Lucich stated the total price of the truck is \$30,911.50. Mr. Lark said the total amount is \$30,911.50, the finance charge is \$2,408.96 for a grand total of \$33,320.46. Roll Call: Mr. Preston-yes, Mr. Lucich-yes, Ms. James-yes and Mr. Lark-yes. Mr. Lark stated FNB needs a copy of the Minutes from June and July.

Truck Purchase Resolution: Mr. Lark made a motion to approve the Truck Purchase Resolution, seconded by Ms. James with all in favor.

Police Proposals: Mrs. DeSantis presented Eric Lucich with the Police Proposals that were sent to the Borough Office. Mr. Lucich read the City of Sharon letter stating they regret to inform you that the City of Sharon Police Department will not be able to provide services at this time. The same letter from the City of Sharon was received Certified Mail. Mayor Larouche questioned a letter from Sharpsville that Cyndi Gilkey received. Mr. Lucich said he believes Cyndi still has that letter and he said he has a feeling of what it entails due to speaking to a secretary from Sharpsville. Mr. Preston confirmed that Mr. Lucich was right.

Fire Department Feasibility Study: Mr. Lucich said there was one person he contacted, there are other multiple sources and some of the organizations do it for free. Mr. Lucich said more discussions will follow pertaining to said study. Mr. Lucich asked if Council accepts the resignation of former Fire Chief Don Hoover. Mr. Lark said he moves with regret to accept said resignation and also moves that they recognize him for his service as a fire department member and as Chief, seconded by Mr. Lucich. Mr. Lucich asked if all was in favor. Ms. James said no. Two Council Members voted no, two voted yes, with Mayor Larouche breaking the tie vote at no, stating he might rescind since he was fired illegally if we are his employer. Mr. Lucich asked Mr. Hoover if he would ever take that position back, Mr. Hoover declined. Mayor Larouche then changed her vote to yes to accept said resignation which passed. Mr. Preston said he did not change his vote. Mr. Lucich thanked Mr. Hoover for his service. Mr. Hoover requested that Council Members and Mayor witness himself turning in his equipment so that it is all completed.

Braho property: Mr. Lark said Mr. Preston, Mr. Cochran, Jeff Richardson and himself met at Braho's property two weeks ago and Mr. Richardson is of the opinion that they can take action with proper notification to clean up the property, not tearing down the house due to debt against the house.

Mr. Lark said Mr. Richardson said what they need to do is send Mr. Braho a letter with a thirty (30) day notice stating that he has the opportunity to remove anything that is of monetary value or sentimental value to you, at the end of the thirty (30) days or sometime thereafter the Borough will take action to clean the property.

Mr. Lark said when that is done, the Borough will turn a bill over to the use of the cost of cleaning the property and the neighbors are becoming very irate indicating that several people have contracted Lyme disease since the property is a jungle. Mr. Lark said he and Mr. Preston went onto the property, which he said you are not allowed to normally do, but they were there with Mr. Richardson. Mr. Lark described the deplorable conditions of the property. Mr. Lark said they will have to obtain bids for said clean up. Mayor Larouche said she spoke with a resident and also researched online saying you cannot say the Lyme disease is from that, but based on her inquiries in the Borough of the cut lawns, they are very comparable to the Lyme disease that are infecting people and animals on Braho property. Mayor Larouche said the resident is thinking about legal action and this resident spoke with Attorney Tesone. Mayor Larouche told her they are doing everything they legally can to get this done, but the resident wants a better timeframe. Council discussed which Judge would be hearing the case. Solicitor Tesone spoke per conference call stating one thing Mr. Richardson left out is that Mr. Braho has the right to appeal in front of a Civil Board, so you can give him thirty (30) days but that doesn't mean you have thirty (30) days. Solicitor Tesone said he spoke to said resident and she took excellent pictures, and Solicitor Tesone said he was thinking of filing for an Injunction. Mayor Larouche and Solicitor Tesone discussed further with legalities. The residents seating outside of the Borough garage started speaking about their neighborhood saying this has been going on for ten (10) years and it is just terrible. Mayor Larouche said Solicitor Tesone was speaking and she wished they had a speaker for everyone to hear. Mrs. DeSantis suggested to Mayor Larouche to take the phone to the residents and the public seating outside of the Borough garage for them to hear what Solicitor Tesone has to say. Mr. Lark made a motion that the Borough Government contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health and declare there is a health emergency in the Borough of West Middlesex, the Health, State and Welfare of people in Pennsylvania are being affected and we want Pennsylvania Department of Health to give us the authority to tear it down. Mr. Lucich asked if they were allowed to do that, Mr. Lark said yes. Mr. Lark said he will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health tomorrow and he stated they might even come in since this is a health emergency and people should not have to put up with it. Mr. Lucich said the current motion is on the floor with Mr. Lark motioning. The public applauded. Ms. James seconded. Mr. Lucich requested a Roll Call: Mr. Preston-yes, Mr. Lucich-no, based on Solicitor Tesone's advice, Ms. James-yes, Mr. Lark-yes.

Old Business: Mr. Lark explained the Wessex situation. Mr. Lucich said he spoke with the gas station owner and he said Mr. Kerlek tried to organize the vehicles. Ms. James said anyone who owns the lot should be able to do whatever they want to. Mr. Lark stated within reason of the Borough Code and said there are cars there that are not operational. Mr. Lucich said they are all operational vehicles, licensed, registered and insured. Council discussed further. Mayor Larouche asked the public's comments regarding the gas station vehicles. The public spoke stating the businesses pay taxes and to leave them alone to make a living.

A resident addressed everyone that it came to his attention that children are not allowed to ride their bicycles on the sidewalks and asked if that was true. The resident said a man that lives on the corner of Erie Street and Garfield Street told his six (6) year old son that it is illegal to ride a bike on the sidewalk and told him to ride on the street, which the resident said is unsafe. Mr. Preston said that was incorrect. Robert Lucich said this subject came up when he was Council President and he said there is an Ordinance on the books pertaining to this subject and the Ordinance needs to be changed.

Mayor Larouche said she thinks it should be discretionary even if there is an Ordinance on the books based on ages. Mr. Preston told the resident that his son is allowed to ride his bike on the sidewalk, it won't be enforced. Jason Newton reverberated the questions regarding a Police Proposal, and they did not receive any. Mr. Newton asked if they could move on to continue their services with the Borough. Eric Lucich said a negotiation meeting is set for Monday and he will make sure he is there along with Mr. Preston to continue the negotiations. Mr. Lucich said they still do not have the correspondence from Sharpsville. Mr. Preston said we don't have one for Sharpsville. Mr. Lucich said they did, but President Cyndi Gilkey has it and we have to open the letter and acknowledge it. Mr. Newton said he doesn't know how this all happened since they did not have one legitimate negotiation meeting and his opinion is this didn't really make sense and we just want to move forward. Mr. Newton said he wanted a pathway and veer off somewhere else, I know we are talking about prices, but without negotiations we don't have a price. Mr. Newton explained negotiation procedures. Mr. Lucich said they never received paperwork on the first rates. Mr. Lark said, Mr. Preston advised and told Council not to do that, Council went against his wishes and got these proposals. Mr. Lark explained further regarding past police services and past deadlines. Robert Lucich thanked Council for moving the meeting to the Municipal garage and he said he believed a lot of the people in the public learned a lot tonight, himself included. Robert Lucich said Council is supposed to represent the taxpayers and the Borough and he said it doesn't seem like we are being represented. Mr. Preston and Mayor Larouche questioned what he meant. Robert Lucich said Council cannot arbitrarily do what they want, that Council has to represent us, there's too much going on and in his sixteen years he never saw this kind of disrespect and is embarrassed to be a member of the Borough of West Middlesex. Ms. James said they have covered everything that they wanted addressed, and to sit there and say we aren't doing anything. Mr. Lucich discussed the open Council seat earlier this year and questioned why the five people who applied weren't voted on and Maleia James has that seat. Heated discussions ensued with the public and Ms. James. Eric Lucich said he can only answer that he voted to interview the other people. Robert Lucich and Council discussed heatedly. Rodney Garrett asked Mr. Preston if he made a motion last council meeting regarding ending the fire department, Mr. Preston confirmed and said he would do it again. Mr. Garrett asked if at any time, did they ever set up a meeting or anything with this fire department to discuss it, it's time these tax payers know what's going on, he said. Heated discussions followed. Mr. Preston said he made a motion to dissolve and go into an Intergovernmental Agreement and he said he will do it again. Mr. Garrett asked if they had a meeting outside of this public meeting with three other council members. He said, you also told the Vice-President that, did you hold a special meeting and not notify your taxpayers, you told us you had three votes to disband us, did you? Mr. Preston confirmed. Mr. Garrett asked why does he want to disband the fire department. Ray Lucich said because he hates us. Mr. Preston said no, because you aren't a fire department, you are a \$36,000.00 taxpayer funded social club. Mr. Garrett responded that everything is in black and white. Heated discussions ensued by all. Eric Lucich said the two credible firefighters went to Council to ask if there was anything they could do to help, not to ask to shut the fire department down, and it wasn't to ask them to contact Shenango Township, the whole role of those meetings was to figure out how to better the fire department with talks of a merger that everyone says it would be the best if we could figure out what to do on the correct terms. Everyone agreed. Rodney Garrett said there was also an article in the paper from Tom Hubert, two requirements for this merger to take place, first the Borough gives all of their equipment to the Township, second Justin Barnes is in charge, how is that a merger, that's a takeover. Mr. Garrett said you guys want to listen to Shenango Township, it's all in it for them, they have the most to gain by telling you whatever you want to hear.

Mrs. Barnes talked about groundhogs and Mr. Lucich suggested that she call the Game Warden. Ms. James said she would research for her.

Ray Lucich stated since he is the President of the Fire Relief Association, the paperwork has not been completed by the Borough and he wants to be assured that it has been sent in. Mrs. DeSantis said it has been completed and emailed with an explanation of what transpired between herself and the Borough Auditors. Eric Lucich confirmed.

Robert Lucich asked about signature cards for Eric Lucich. Mrs. DeSantis said she spoke with FNB regarding signature cards and that Eric Lucich will have to make arrangements at some point, since he also works during the day, to sign his signature cards. Eric Lucich made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lark with all in favor.

Stacey Curry spoke to Council to work and beautify the Borough and she has heard nothing about them wanting to accept their gifts since they need to spend their money by a certain point. Mayor Larouche said she told her there was a misunderstanding because when they let her speak, which they never do at a workshop, we welcomed you and made an exception, we said thank you very much we are so grateful for the offer you made. Ms. Curry said Ms. Gilkey told her that Council would talk about it and send me an email. Mayor Larouche apologized and said she did not know that. Ms. Curry said they need something formal to go forward from Council with the Borough's permission. Mr. Preston made a motion to accept, seconded by Mr. Lucich with all in favor.

Mr. Williams said his wife has constructed the Blessing Box with her own money and initiative. People applauded. Mr. Williams said the Texaco sign coming into the Borough looks bad. Mr. Williams said if he gets permission, he will weed wack the area with a chainsaw if he has to. Mr. Lark said that property is owned by Guttman, Rod Garrett told him to write him a letter and Mr. Lark said he has written letters to him.

Adjournment: 8:10 p.m. Mr. Lark made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lucich with all in favor.