

**MINUTES**  
**WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH**  
**BUDGET AND SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2021**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Council Present:** Vice-President Eric Lucich, Ron Preston, Robert Lark and Stacey Curry. Zoom was not available due to President Gilkey not present.

**Others Present:** Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Ricci available via phone due to illness, (Meeting was Recorded by Stacey Curry), Rebecca Marinelli, Paula Salance, Diane Tice and Ray Lucich.

**Public Comments:** Mrs. Marinelli addressed Council regarding her higher than normal Aqua Water Bill which then increased her sewer bill. She asked if Council would waive a portion of her sewer bill. Council discussed what her normal sewer bill would have been. Mrs. Marinelli said that Aqua Water has now put her on a Budget Plan. Mr. Preston asked what her sewer bill amount is at the present time. Mrs. Marinelli said \$279.68. Council and Mrs. Marinelli discussed further. Ms. Curry asked for a photo copy of her water bill for the records. Mr. Lucich stated the difference from a normal sewer bill amount is \$222.00. Mr. Preston made the motion to rescind the amount of \$222.00, seconded by Ms. Curry with all in favor.

Paula Salance addressed Council who said she works at Jones Performance. She said on September 28, 2021 a guy from the Borough Street Department was riding a tractor and shot a rock into her brand new car and broke the back window. She stated the cost for repairs are almost \$1,100.00 and is asking the Borough to pay her \$100.00 insurance deductible. Mr. Lark said the Borough will require her to sign a Release so there are no additional charges placed against the Borough. She agreed. Mr. Lark then made the motion based on that Release Agreement of the \$100.00 payment, seconded by Mr. Preston with all in favor. Mr. Lucich asked who has the Release Agreement, Mr. Preston said Attorney Tesone will have to draw it up, to the best of his knowledge. Mr. Lucich said when they have the Release in hand, Ms. Ricci will have Ms. Salance sign it and then payment can be made to her in the amount of \$100.00. Ms. Salance agreed.

**Budget for 2022:** Mr. Lucich addressed the Drafted 2022 Budget with updates from Ms. Ricci on the questions he had regarding the Fire Department Budget line items. Mr. Lucich said there were a few line items regarding the Street Department's fuel, lights and water for the garage that was Budgeted in 2021. Mr. Lucich said they seemed to have the same problem last year. Mr. Lark said Council approves the payment of these bills monthly. Council discussed the differences between Fuel, Lights and Water compared to Fuel for the trucks, not quite understanding. Mr. Lucich said they are over Budget on the line items for the repairs for small equipment and purchase of small tools with over \$1,000.00 and yet continue to buy, yet have an inventory and the borough garage should be stocked at that rate. Mr. Lucich stated that on the Sewer fund for materials/supplies for the garage, it's \$1,600.00 over budget. Ms. Curry said they are \$1,700.00 over, Mr. Lucich agreed. Mr. Lucich said some of it he can understand from the Co-Vid aspect, they weren't buying as many masks, but he doesn't understand since they went over this last year and apparently it didn't get solved.

Ms. Curry stated there were extra parts for pumps and pump repairs and questioning whether it should be on the line item for parts and materials. Mr. Lucich said they should be asking Mr. Cochran, Ms. Curry agreed. Ms. Curry asked if they should call around for different insurance quotes. Mr. Lark said that most insurance companies don't want to give you their numbers until the last minute of the year when they run the whole course. Ms. Curry said she would like to check that out with how it works for the fire department and to see other companies. Ms. Curry asked if they would like to get three quotes, Mr. Lark said yes. Mr. Lark said there will be resistance from companies since they are going into the fourth quarter. Ms. Curry asked if Lackawannock officially pulled out of the Swimming Pool. Mr. Lark said they get a monthly report, and that Lackawannock pulled out of Regional Planning which is another Organization and they threatened to pull out of the pool but the last he heard it became an issue that never goes away. Mr. Lark explained. Ms. Curry said they would then need to see if they can make up their portion with Shenango Township, Mr. Lark agreed. Mr. Preston said their Zero-Turn Mower is seven years old and he has three quotes (Barris Supply, M & R, and Watson's). Mr. Preston said so far Barris' price is the best. Mr. Lucich asked what type of mower he checked out. Mr. Preston said Barris' is a Cub Cadet. Mr. Preston explained mowers and prices: Barris' at \$9,999.00, comparable with L & M's \$10,699., comparable with Watson's \$11,200.00 Symplicity's Brand Grasshopper. Mr. Lucich said they need an Industrial lawnmower. Mr. Preston said out of the three quotes Barris' was the lowest at \$9,999.00 which is twenty percent off, a \$2,500.00 savings. Council discussed further. Ms. Curry said it isn't on the Agenda for tonight's meeting, so should they wait to vote on this, Council agreed. Mr. Preston said he would get more information for the next meeting. Mr. Lucich said other than those few line items, asked if anyone else saw anything different in the 2022 Budget to fix, add, subtract, etc. Mr. Lark said reflecting on going forward the Liquid Fuels Account has been built up due to their credit which shows \$60,296.00 which doesn't take into account what they will receive in March because it's always later, after the Budget is adopted. Mr. Lark said it's typically around \$30,000.00, \$29,000.00 or \$28,000.00 and to keep that in mind that it will actually be around \$90,000.00 after the fact of the Budget, which the check comes in March or April. Mr. Lark said to be aware of that amount when they start looking at the streets. Mr. Lark said the Street Lighting Fund runs behind and the Secretary has had to transfer monies from the General Fund to pay for Street Lights which has been an issue as well. Mr. Lark said they have cut way back on Administrative line items (Dues, Dinners and Conventions) due to the Pandemic and who knows what the next year will bring, but they can potentially shift some money from there, a category they can look at. Mr. Lark said they do still need to spend these monies under the Borough's Association. Mr. Lark said some of the line items are locked into, such as Police Contracts and Salaries. Mr. Lucich stated the one nice thing is they saved money on Ads. Ms. Curry said she would like to add that the Taxpayers voice their opinions on that there isn't a lot of things for the kids to do. She would like to get the families and people more involved with Council and the Borough. Ms. Curry said when she was teaching Pre-School her job was teaching Arts and Crafts so she thought with the Mayor's position if she could do "Monday's with the Mayor", to do something where adults can drop their kids off for an hour and maybe they can get more involved in the Community Room. Mr. Lark said there's a line item labeled Parks & Recreations, Mr. Lucich agreed. Ms. Curry said it will build Public Relations and give the kids something to do to keep them out of trouble, Mr. Lark said that should be something they consider. Mr. Lark suggested placing the Dues and Conventions line items in this area of expense instead. Mr. Lucich made the suggestion that the Volley Ball Pit by the Pool which nobody uses that is grass and needs to be maintained a lot, should be taken out and put in a Basketball Court for more usage. Mr. Lark mentioned Pickle Ball for that space. Council discussed further what could be done with that area. Mr. Lucich said on the General Fund – Municipal Office page it says maintenance for the building at \$5,600.00 and he doesn't know if we ever use that. Mr. Lark said the Sewer Fund Account could also be used on that line item.

**Sewer Billing Feasibility Study:** Mr. Lark said he asked this topic to be put on the Agenda for discussions. Mr. Lark said Technology for sewer billing is something they need to look at. Mr. Lucich said he doesn't know if this is technically covered under the Grant we are getting, Mr. Lark doesn't think it would under the American Rescue's Act but that it can be explored. Mr. Lark said they have \$42,000.00 sitting there and another \$42,000.00 next year and if they don't spend it, they are taking it back, so there any many categories where they can utilize that money. Council discussed. Ms. Curry said the Diversified Billing Company would cut back on the manual part of the sewer billing. Mr. Lucich said they should talk with Ms. Ricci about this to make sure its's everything she needs and to make sure it does the job, Council agreed. Mr. Preston suggested that Ms. Ricci research this further to make sure it's what she needs. Council agreed.

Mr. Lucich said there is a request from Grace Summers for the use of Kiwanis Park Field on Fridays from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for their Traveling Team. Mr. Lark assumed that would be for next spring since this is October.

Ms. Curry, Eric Lucich and Ray Lucich discussed the time frame on cement in the front of the Municipal Building.

Mr. Lark suggested Recessing this meeting so they won't have to advertise. Mr. Lucich asked when they would like the Recessed Budget/Special Meeting to be scheduled. Council agreed on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Recessed @ 7:54 p.m.**



