

MINUTES WEST MIDDLESEX BOROUGH

WORK SESSION

APRIL 13, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Present: President Eric Lucich, Pro Tem David Moyer, Robert Lark, William Novak and Mayor Stacey Curry. Vice-President Michael Williams was absent.

Others Present: Sandra Ricci, Secretary/Treasurer, Bobby Cochran, Street Department Senior Laborer, Scott Haddox, Street Department Laborer, Mike Roknick, Herald Reporter, Ray Lucich, Paula Grimm, Judy Grimm and Chuck Haun.

Mailbox replacement: William Novak presented a Menards receipt in the amount of \$41.43 for his mailbox replacement and is requesting the reimbursement due to the accident involving the Street Department Truck. This item will be discussed further at the next Council meeting held on April 19, 2022.

Megan Wheeler - Girls Softball Team request to pay for cleaning and service of Kiwanis Park portable toilet: Megan Wheeler was not present to discuss the request. Mr. Haddox, Mr. Cochran and Council talked about different options and costs and/or donations regarding the use of the Park. Mr. Haddox said a wheelchair ramp is needed there and Mr. Novak agreed. This item will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Burning Ordinance for Commercial Businesses: Mr. Lucich looked at the Burning Ordinance and Burning Permit, which states that only residents are allowed to have Burning Permits at this time. Ms. Ricci said that T. Bruce Sales were asking if there could be a change in the Ordinance to allow for Commercial Properties. Council discussed the Ordinance and Mr. Moyer said this is a legal matter and Attorney Tesone should be involved. Council agreed.

Street Sweeper: Mr. Lucich said he received a call from Tom Hubert of Shenango Township and he said they could use their street sweeper to help keep the Borough's streets clean. Mr. Moyer said a resident called in regarding cleaning the streets. Paula Grimm and Judy Grimm spoke up stating that was their phone call. Mr. Moyer asked if they received a response from the Borough about it. Both women said they were told to come to the Council Meeting. Mr. Lucich confirmed that was right. Mayor Curry suggested looking at this after April 22nd because that's when the garbage company is doing their leaf and trash pickup. Mr. Lucich said they will work on getting the streets done. Council, Mayor, Paula and Judy Grimm and Mr. Haddox discussed PennDOT road repairs. Mayor Curry suggested contacting Representative Longietti.

Street Department Report: Mr. Cochran presented and read the Street Department. Mr. Cochran said the Lillibridge pump is still working but not sure what repairs are needed. Mr. Cochran said they will also need new float pumps as well due to flooding in the past, with explanations. Mr. Cochran said they are receiving cold patch from Gilliland's Trucking in New Wilmington. Mr. Cochran said Jeff Kordes from GPI contacted him regarding catch basins in that they didn't want to dump where the catch basins would be due to the depth where there is sediment. Mr. Cochran discussed pros and cons and asked Council to contact GPI. Mr. Lucich said nothing is going into the storm drains unless the water is high, Mr. Cochran agreed.

Paving and Storm Sewer Projects/Tar and Chipping: Mr. Lark distributed maps explaining Borough streets for considerations. Council and Mayor examined and discussed the maps. Mr. Lark said there are two issues, one regarding Storm Sewers and two regarding milling and paving with usages of the American Rescue Act monies. Mr. Lark also suggested advertising with separate Bids. Mr. Lark said estimates on Streets for milling, leveling of $\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep with rough and finished course would be: West Street estimation of the width of 22 feet, length of 198 feet at \$10,080.00; Garfield Street estimation of the width of 26 feet and length of 685 feet at \$48,525.00; New Street is 18 feet wide accessed to Garfield but then as it goes down, passes Carbaugh and comes in front of Regenex, it's wider there with width variations up to 28 feet and 400 feet long at \$22,065.00; Carbaugh Street varies in width as well with anywhere from 20-24 feet and 365 feet long going from the intersection of New Street to the property line of Regenex and the property line at Campbells at an estimated cost of \$18,015.00; School Street 28 feet wide by 245 feet long at \$14,040.00. Mr. Lark stated the aspect of this project deals with milling and paving, estimations costs of \$112,725.00 for everything minus the storm sewers. Mr. Lark said estimations for storm sewers would be \$46,700.00 which he suggested taking the \$46,700.00 of the American Rescue Fund and the \$112,725.00 from Liquid Fuels monies, and he said they also received \$17,000.00 from the Cares Act. Mr. Lark stated these estimated figures could be higher or lower but usually they are pretty close in prices. Mr. Lark addressed the letter from Mr. T. Scott Campbell regarding the significance of tar and chipping who he will be meeting with regarding huge potholes stating tar and chipping will not solve the issues. Mr. Lark explained tar and chipping procedures and he said it cannot be compared in other areas of the Borough. Mr. Lucich and Mr. Lark discussed further.

GPI Bids/Advertising: Mr. Lark suggested advertising the streets he addressed, based on the decisions of which streets they would be repairing. Council and Mayor further discussed streets and drains.

Tracks for Skid Steer: Mr. Cochran will supply quotes to Council which he said the cost should be under \$2,800.00.

Lillibridge Pump – V-Systems Invoice for Tramco Sewage Ejector Pump - \$7,255.75: Mr. Cochran said this price changed instead of the previous cost of \$6,540.00, it increased roughly by \$270.00 just for the pump itself and an extra \$440.00 for shipping costs.

GPI Invoice – Sewer Services Waste load compilation, review and approval - \$402.50: Mr. Lucich addressed this GPI Invoice questioning if this was for sewer services. Ms. Ricci explained that this invoice is for GPI's Waste Load Annual Report regarding waste load compilations and reviews based on Aqua Water readings, which are also given to Shenango Township's records.

Daman Industrial Services Pump - \$5,770.00: Mr. Cochran addressed this invoice regarding the pump house which needs approved since they already have the pump.

Jones Performance Land/Building Proposal: Mr. Lucich said Dave Jones is going to discuss this topic with Shenango Steel for prices, comparable to what they already have including the salt bin. Mayor Curry asked if the location they talked about is viable to build it there and Mr. Lucich confirmed it was.

Fire Feasibility Study: Mr. Lucich said everyone received the Fire Feasibility Study via email and asked Mr. Lark if he also received a copy, Mr. Lark said that he did. Mr. Lucich asked if anyone had any comments or questions. Mr. Lark said there are erroneous statements in it, but also said there are some good recommendations in it. Mr. Lucich asked Mr. Lark if he received the updated copy, Mr. Lark said he had. Mr. Lark said they indicated the Borough Government has seven people on Council. Mr. Lucich said that has been updated. Mr. Lark said they also called Supervisors Commissioners and then there is the statement, which was a situation here, that the Fire Department does not wish to participate in Politics and treated as such which he said is absolutely untrue. Mr. Lark stated on page 73, that they requested information about the fire station details and that there were no details provided for this facility. Mr. Lucich said the measurements were taken by Mr. Cochran and they said they never received it and somehow the communication failed. Mr. Lark said it states there is a separate fire tax, which he said they need to review that with Attorney Tesone and if that's an option he thinks they should consider that for their Budget in the Fall, to have a separate fire tax for a complete separation when it comes to money and levy mills, to just pass a separate fire tax which is a good recommendation which will clear up a lot of issues. Mr. Lucich said if there are no comments at the meeting, they could Adopt it, accept it and give to the public. Mr. Lark said they need to discuss it, Mr. Lucich agreed. Mr. Moyer said the discussion was to have all of Council present for it. Mr. Lark said out of that meeting or future meetings there ought to be a Community Meeting, that they should not pass it without the Community. Mr. Lark said they can discuss it after the adoption and they will discuss it next week if there are any changes for acceptance. Mr. Lucich said they cannot distribute it to the public until Shenango Township has approved it as well.

Snow Emergency Ordinance: Mr. Moyer requested to continue to table this topic.

Communications Board: Mr. Novak requested to continue to table this topic.

Mr. Lucich said there will be an Executive Session for Personnel matters after the Council Meeting held on April 19, 2022.

Mayor Curry said a resident contacted her regarding a tree that was in danger of falling. She checked it out and called Mr. Cochran to see if there was anything the Borough could do. She said she found out that there wasn't anything the Borough could do and that the tree was on the Wesleyon Methodist Church property which had enormous cracks in the bottom of it. Mayor Curry said the Minister's wife didn't know about it, so Mayor Curry contacted Penn Power and they came out and took care of it at no cost to the Borough or the resident and asked if anyone needs the wood contact the Church.

Mr. Novak said he won't be at the meeting next week due to a funeral but will call in.

Mr. Moyer said there was a FaceBook comment about the Memorial tree. Mayor Curry said they were contacted three times, and the first time she contacted them. Mr. Lucich said if they planted the tree that was their problem since the Borough did not plant it. Mayor Curry said they were advised before Christmas that the Borough would not be removing it and that they need to speak to the property owner, that that they are still questioning it and Mayor Curry doesn't understand why. Mayor Curry and Council discussed further.

Mr. Lark said they need to consider any Proposals that Mr. Foster is making relative to the Pool to see where that stands regarding paving and the COG building.

Mayor Curry said she spoke to Mr. Harmon regarding fencing along the back of the ballfield, that opening day is April 23rd and they really need to get prices from him and vote on it. Mayor Curry said the playground equipment is well past its liveliness and not safe for children playing. Mayor Curry stated the cement from the foundation of a past merry-go-round needs to be removed and asked if the Street Department can get that cement out of there for liability purposes. Mr. Cochran and Mayor Curry discussed these topics further. Mr. Lucich suggested a backhoe for playground repairs. Mayor Curry asked if there were any volunteers from the Community that has access to a backhoe to help.

Mr. Lucich said the Street Department trucks will need rustproofing.

Mayor Curry said she started a Grant they were talking about, she has to get a Community Board together, public meetings, hearings and such, so she reached out to two different people about joining that Board and are waiting on a couple more people.

Mr. Lark addressed Memorial Day and a parade. Mr. Lucich asked who was on the Parade Committee. Mr. Lark said he is on it, Jason Newton and Eric Lucich. Mr. Lark said they would also have to invite someone from the School since it involves the Band.

Mr. Lucich asked Ms. Ricci if the Borough is notified of the Burning Permits and the Building Permits. Ms. Ricci said she receives a copy of the Burning Permits. Ms. Ricci stated the Building Permits go straight to Jeff Richardson and they do not always notify her. Mr. Lucich said it would be good to have either a monthly report or semi-annual report of the Permits and to also notify the Fire Department of any types of fires. Mr. Moyer said he would like to see a monthly report of the Permits. Ms. Ricci said she will have to email Jeff Richardson's office for the Building Permit listings since people contact his office directly with questions and Permits. Mr. Novak said there is a pdf. of the Burning Permit Applications for residents on the Borough webpage.

Mr. Cochran said he will need flags and flag poles because the flags are getting frayed and are old. Mr. Lucich stated they need more 110 outlets for the snowflake decorations throughout town. Mayor Curry said the Women's Club would potentially supply the flags and snowflakes depending on what the price would be if it's in their Budget.

Adjournment @ 7:45 p.m.