

**West Middlesex Borough
Work Session Meeting
February 14, 2024**

Call to Order: The West Middlesex Borough Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Borough President Tim Webster.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Public Comments: Mr. Dale Perry spoke to the Council, as he stated, not as a Representative of Shenango TWP, but as a long-term resident of Shenango Valley. He reported he has lived in Shenango Valley all of his life. He addressed the Council with what he called an opportunity for our community. He stated that West Middlesex and Shenango Twp. does not have the tax money that Hermitage has. He feels we need population growth. He feels if West Middlesex and Shenango Twp work together, we can make it happen. He feels with the 7 hotels in Shenango Twp, and the 3 interchanges coming through the area, we need to make a long-term plan. Mr. Perry then passed out a handout of his meeting with Mike Kelly, who is running for re-election. Mr. Perry reported, that Mr. Kelly is coming to Shenango Valley at the end of February to tour the area. All are invited to be a part of the tour. Mr. Perry feels there is a lot of funding available, we just need to ask for it. He realizes now that the highway from Hermitage cannot continue into West Middlesex. He would like to see improvements to Rt. 18, including 5 ft. walkway coming into town. A study can be conducted to see if this is feasible to do. He once again stated that there is a lot of funding available. He will forward funding information via email to Paula and ask that she will forward it to all Council Members. Mr. Webster added that he does not feel we have the allowed space for 5 ft. walkways coming into town. Possibly new sidewalks can be an option. Mr. Lark asked Mr. Perry when is Mr. Kelly coming to tour the area? Mr. Perry responded, at the end of February. Mr. Webster thanked Mr. Perry for coming to the meeting. Mr. Perry again stated that he does not want to be a bother to the Council, or to the residents of West Middlesex. He just wants to help the community grow. Mayor Stacey also thanked Mr. Perry for coming to the meeting.

Streets Department Report: PUMP HOUSE: Bobby reported that on January 26th the pump at the Pump House was changed. The new pump was installed with no issues. The old pump has been sent out and currently he is waiting on a bid to have it refurbished for a backup. **LILLY BRIDGE/ WM ESTATES:** We have two bids from V-Systems for the backup pump at Lilly Bridge/WM States. The first bid is to refurbish the pump that was taken out when the new pump was installed. The second bid is for a New Pump to be purchased as the backup pump. Bobby

reported that the New Pump installed at Lilly Bridge/WM Estates is working well. He does need to make some minor adjustments to the floats. The floats are what tells the pump to turn on and off. He also reported, the refurbished pump will be available in 1 month. The new pump will be available in 3 months. Mr. Lark asked about the warranty on a refurbished pump. He also asked Bobby what his opinion was. Bobby reported that a refurbished pump would be the fastest action. Mayor Stacey asked what was the grand total when we had issues in the past at Lilly bridge. Mr. Lark added about \$27,000. Mr. Webster requested that the Pump be added to the Council Meeting Agenda for February 20th. A decision cannot be put off. **NATIONAL FUEL:** Bobby reported he has contacted National Fuel concerning Erie Street. There is a gap in the road where National Fuel dug up for Seth Anthony Plumbing. He also reported that on Penn Ave near the S Bend, there is a smell of Natural Gas. **Aqua Water:** Bobby reported that the water meter was changed out at the Walnut Street Garage. Paula updated the Council on the situation of Aqua Water. Many residents have reached out to the office concerning the raise in Sewer Billing. It was determined that New Meters were updated. Aqua reported that no residents received a credit adjustment due to new meters being installed. So, no credit adjustments can be added to the Sewer Billings. **Cold Patch:** Bobby reported that Cold Patch was placed on Penn Ave, Erie Street, & Walnut Street. He added that Penn Ave is the biggest issue. More Cold Patch Material will be needed. Residents stopped him voicing their opinion concerning Cold Patch. They would like the road repaired completely. **Stop Signs:** 2 Stop signs were hit. Once on Carbaugh, and one on Garfield Street. Both have temporary signs up now. Bobby reported we now have 2 new Stop Signs available. **Millings:** Mr. Novak asked if there are any millings available? Bobby added we do still have some millings available. Mr. Novak then requested the alley that runs behind the houses on Main Street be repaired. Large Holes causing damage to cars. Bobby will work on the alley tomorrow. **Locks for Borough Building Main Door and Garage Door:** Bobby reported that the cost to be \$150 per lock but he does not have a quote as of yet. Mr. Webster asked that he have a quote available for the February 20th Council Meeting. It will be placed on the agenda. Mr. Webster then explained why new locks need to be placed. Mr. Webster spoke about the Work Order that is included in the packets. This is a sample, and asked Council to add any suggestions. **Walker Lane:** Bobby asked Council if he is to continue any type of repairs to Walker Lane. Mr. Lark Added: Yes, they are residents who pay taxes. Mr. Lark then requested Bobby to place stakes on Penn Ave and Fairview showing boundaries. Mr. Lark also said that the new work report that Bobby has submitted is good. Mr. Novak thanked Bobby for his report and updates.

List of Streets in Need of Repair: Mr. Webster updated the Council, at the last meeting Mr. Lark had asked Council to drive around the Borough and make a list of streets in need of repair. Mr. Webster added the streets that were last repaired are naturally in the best shape. Mr. Lark updated the Council on the Streets and a list in need of Repairs: The Borough has 21 Streets. So far 11 have been repaired. There is a total of 10 left in need of repair. The remaining 10 are in three categories.

Category 1: In the most need of repair are Penn Ave, Fairview, Oak Hill EXT, and Walker Lane.

Category 2: Next in need of repair: Walnut Street, Erie Street, North Street (From Erie going West).

Category 3: The last in need of repair: Garfield Street, South Street and Oakhill.

Mr. Lark once again asked Council to drive around and check out the streets. The next step will be to get bids. In the future they can discuss how the Borough will pay for the repairs because we do not have enough money for all the repairs in need. The engineers will need to do an assessment also. Possibly it can be discussed at the March Work Session. Repairs to the streets to be completed late summer or possibly early fall. Mr. Novak suggested we contact the engineers ASAP. The Council needs to be in agreement on what streets need to be repaired. The topic will be added to the Tuesday Council Meeting Agenda for more discussion, so the Engineers can be contacted.

Bobby brought to the attention of the Council a topic he had forgotten to add to his report. The condition of the Back Hoe, the air compressor, and the scrap at the garage. Mr. Lark added that we need to ask Attorney Tesone what can be done legally so we are in compliance. Mayor Stacey added that she found an alternative to the back hoe. It is a Kubota. It is privately owned. The cost is \$18,000.00. The owner may be interested in discussing an offer. Mr. Novak asked her to get a model number. Mr. Bollinger added that the concern would be the depth that it would dig down to. Some of the smaller models do not dig down as much as possibly needed. Mr. Webster added that we would also need to ask Attorney Tesone if the Borough would need to advertise before a purchase can be made. He also asked the fire department if they would be interested in the air compressor. Chief Garret added, if you can sell it, then go ahead and sell it. This will be added to the Council Meeting Agenda to ask Attorney Tesone.

GPI Engineering: Mr. Lark added if we approve a list of streets to be repaired at the Council Meeting, we will advise the engineers. At that time, when they come down to do the report on the streets, they will include a study of the Pump Station, and the Storm Sewer Issues.

Planning Commission: Mr. Lark updated the Council that he presented the list of our Planning Commission to Mercer County Planning Commission at their last meeting. He would like to organize a joint meeting with Our Planning Commission and with Lisa Holmes from the Mercer County Planning Commission. He will reach out to her and come up with a date that works for all. Possibly April 10th. More updates to follow.

Board Vacancies: Announcements of the vacancies on the Sewer Authority and the Zoning Hearing Boards were both advertised in the Borough Newsletter. We have not had anyone contact us as of yet. Mr. Webster reported his brother Mr. Chris Webster would be interested in the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Webster and Mr. Lark both mentioned Mr. Incerto for a possibility. They will reach out to him.

Generator: The quote from Laverty Electric for the Generator was presented to the Council for consideration. The total of the quote is \$17,500. At this time, the generator is to be put on hold due to lack of funding. The Borough will need to organize the EMA. Mayor Stacey will reach out to the EMA Director. Chief Garret also updated the Council that all Council Members need to be Nimes Certified. May possibly contract out if available.

Shenango Valley Animal Shelter: Mr. Ranking updated the Council on the Shenango Valley Animal Shelter. New Officers have been elected. They are waiting on a water test before they can begin construction of the new Building. Mr. Rankin also added that the Director of the Animal Shelter has recently resigned, and they will be advertising for the Director Position.

Parking Ordinance: Mayor Stacey reported to the Council that she did research when an Ordinance for parking is required. To the best of her understanding, if it is a PA Law concerning Parking, no special ordinance is needed. Ordinances are needed for special circumstances. It was decided that this would be put on the Agenda for Council Meeting on February 20th for advice from Attorney Tesone.

American Rescue Fund: Mr. Lark addressed the Council as a reminder that the Council needs to at least document what the remaining funds will be used for before the end of 2024. That does not mean they have to be used by that date, however that is the deadline to allocate what the funds plan to be used for.

160th Celebration: Mr. Lark addressed the Council to be considering if there will be some type of Celebration for the 160th Celebration. Mayor Stacey suggests possibly an Ice Cream Social, or Town Picnic. She also mentioned the Girls Scout would like to do some type of project. This will allow them to earn badges also. Misti Parshall is the Troop leader. Possibly a float in the Homecoming Day Parade. The dates to be considered are Saturday or Sunday August 17th or 18th. More discussion to follow.

Update on Real Estate Tax 2023: Treasurer Paula Luca updated the Council on the amount of outstanding Real Estate Tax for 2023. Going forward, all funds collected will come from the Mercer County Courthouse.

Borough Magazine: Secretary Paula Luca informed the Council of the Borough Magazine we receive from the PA Borough Association. Currently we received 1 FREE copy but additional copies can be purchased if they are requested.

Other Business: Mayor Stacey informed the Council that the Swimming Pool committee will be holding an upcoming meeting on Monday February 26th at the WM Community Hall. Also, the softball would like to use the Community Hall on February 23rd for an additional sign-up date.

Adjournment: 8:15pm