

**West Middlesex Borough  
Council Meeting  
April 16, 2024**

**Call to Order:** The West Middlesex Borough Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Borough President Mr. Tim Webster

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Others Present:** Attorney Robert Tesone, Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca, Streets Department Senior Laborer: Mr. Bobby Cochran, WMVFD Chief Rich Garrett, Police Chief Jason Newton, Mr. Ray Lucich, Mr. Harry Kornbau, Ms. Barb Lapinski, Ms. Thelma Barnes

**Public Comments:** Police Chief Newton asked is there are any updates on the Tri-State Appeal Board. Mr. Novak informed Chief Newton that he spoke with Mr. Richardson earlier in the day, and Mr. Richardson did report he is working on reorganizing the Tri-State Appeal Board. Mr. Novak added that he will keep in touch with Mr. Richardson to follow up. Mr. Ray Lucich announced that there will be a meeting on Monday, 4/22/2024 at 10:30 with PennDOT at Scotty Campbell's Office. This meeting is concerning the project in front of the school.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Lark, and seconded by Mr. Novak to accept the Minutes from the March 13, 2024 work session Meeting and March 19, 2024 Council Meeting. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. Mr. Webster abstained from voting because he was not present for the March Meetings.

President Mr. Webster changed the order of the meeting and moved up the Street Department Report to allow Mr. Cochran to present his report before he needed to leave.

**Street Department Report:** Bobby updated Council: April 3<sup>rd</sup> back up on Chestnut Street. He called DeLong to clear out the blockage. It was discovered the blockage was caused by grease that a resident must have disposed of down the drain. On April 10<sup>th</sup> there was an issue on Plum and Erie Street. De Long was contacted again to jet the lines. No Blockage. At that time, they also went back to Chestnut Street to check the Lines and re-jet. Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> Bobby Had Seth Anthony check the Lines on Chestnut Street. No Blockage. Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> there was a power outage at the Pump House on North Street. There was an issue with the back up generator and flooding to the pump house. Slye sewer was called to pump out. A new battery and battery tender was purchased to fix the issue to get the generator to run properly. Mr. Robert Rankin was present to help in the situation. Cummins Sales and Services was also called to replace the switches that needed replaced. All is well as of this morning. No issues. No problems to report at WM Estates Pump Station or Campbells. Sunday there was an issue with flooding on 318 down near the Bus Garage. A car traveling down the road did not slow down, and totally flooded Scott. Other then being soaked, he is fine. Mr. Novak added, if that happens

again, the road will need to be closed at the blinker light to the Bus Garage. Mr. Novak will work with Chief Newton concerning closing down a state road. He does not want to have a worker at risk. Both catch basins were cleaned out. Bobby updated Council also on renting the bucket truck. He will install all of the new flags on Main Street and also remove all of the Christmas decorations at the same time. Cold Patch: Bobby reported on the areas that cold patch has been placed. He will need to order another load soon. LSWM Pool: He spoke with Brian Foster from Cog concerning the clover at the pool He will be purchasing a gallon of the concentrate to keep the clover under control. He spoke with Mr. Lenzi who maintains the Little League Fields concerning the clover control. Mayor Stacey Curry added that there is a hornet nest at the pool and Mr. Novak added there is also one in the Power Meter Box. They will contact AAA to spray to remove. The mayor also added, AAA was spraying on a regular schedule at Kiwanis Park but we can stop that since the park is closed. We can have them do the pool in place of the park. Bobby stated he will start painting the Gazabo when the weather allows. Street Signs: Bobby reported that he has a list of signs needed in the Borough. Bobby reported that the Borough will be maintaining the grass between the daycare, and the gazabo. Bobby spoke to Kevin from Core of Engineer concerning the report of Hogback. We should have the report back soon. Mr. Novak reported, Kiwanis Park fence is down again. Signs on the ground and a neighbors' property signs are down. Bobby will repair fence tomorrow. Mr. Novak has questions about the air compressor. He feels we should place the air compressor on Municibid to sell it. He will price new air compressor this week. Mr. Webster added that the purchase has already been voted on and passed. Selling of the Back Hoe: Mr. Novak also suggest the back hoe be placed on Municibid also. He feels we should buy a new back hoe, however he feels it should be tabled until the Borough sells the back hoe. Mr. Novak made a motion to clean up and put the back hoe for sale on Municibid with the reserve of \$3000. Seconded by Mr. Bolinger. All in favor, no opposed. Motion carries. It does not have to be advertised if selling on Municibid.

**Police Department Report:** Chief Newton read the Police Report for the Month of March, 2024: 2 Alarm, 10 Assists, 1: Suspicious person, 23 traffic and with the other misc., there was a total of 96 incidents. Mr. Webster presented a question to Chief Newton. "You said there were 23 traffic stops, if you give out a citation, does the money go to Shenango Twp, or does the money go to the Borough?" Chief Newton replied: "It goes to the Borough; we give a check every month to the Borough". Mr. Webster replied, "Ok, that was a question someone had asked me, and I didn't have an answer to give them, now I have an answer to give him, so I'm in good shape." Mayor Stacey asked Chief Newton a question also: "What was the outcome of the car parked on Erie Street?" Chief Newton answered. "it is moved". Mr. Novak then stated, on the agenda, the topic listed pertained to Parking Ordinances and Fines and it is for Chief Newton. Bill stated in the Ordinance Book that is in the office, the parking fines are \$7.00-\$12.00. Mayor Stacy added that she read \$2.00 - \$5.00 or if not paid up to 5 days in jail. Mr. Novak asked if we can update our fees to match other local municipalities? He informed all, that he emailed Sharon, and has not heard back yet on their fine schedule. He then asked Attorney Tesone, are we able to impound cars? He does not want to do this, but has been asked this question from residents. Mr. Tesone stated the problem with that is, "where are you going to keep them?", and "what if you cause damage to the car?". Why would you want to impound over a parking violation? Mr. Novak replied because the owners of the car do not listen to the officers. He

suggested using the court rooms and judges. Mr. Webster added, he feels that is a little severe. Mr. Webster added he feels that the worse thing you can do is to fine your own residents. Chief Newton added he personally knocks on people's doors to ask them to move their cars. Mr. Novak will put more information together.

**Treasurer's Financial Report:** The Treasurer's Financial Report was read by Secretary/Treasurer Paula Luca. All bills paid were reviewed, and the Real Estate Tax Reports was updated. We have received 4 checks to date for Real Estate. Mr. Novak asked a question concerning the LSWM Pool Account total. Paula added, due to the fact that the Borough is the deed holder of the pool, all banking information and statements are received by the Borough. However, the Borough has no access to the SLMW Pool Account, only the LSWM Pool Committee. Mr. Novak also added that the Street Lights that have been out for several years have recently been repaired. Mr. Lark made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report, Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in favor, no opposed, Motion Carries.

**Renting Equipment and selling of the Back Hoe:** Previously discussed earlier in the Streets Department Report

**Air Compressor:** Mr. Webster reviewed that at the March Meeting it was approved to purchase a New smaller Air Compressor. A motion was made by Mr. Novak to place the air compressor to be placed on Municibid with a reserve of no less then \$500, seconded by Mr. Bollinger, all in favor, no opposed, motion carries.

**Kiwanis Park Update:** Mr. Webster updated Council that the Park is already rented in August. He questioned, should we notify the resident that has it rented that it is currently closed. This is one issue. Second issue, the current condition at the park. it is not getting better. The water is washing away the ground. The Borough is not sure who's property it is. It is determined that the survey need to be completed so we know who owns the property in question. Mr. Webster stated that we need to know the property line between the Borough and the Richardson's property to know who owns that area of land. Possibly share the cost of the survey with Mr. Richardson. Mr. Novak read an email that was received from Shenango Twp concerning the pipe they replaced. Mr. Bollinger made a motion to get a cost to survey the park if under \$1000 to precede with the survey, and seconded my Mr. Novak, all in favor, no opposed, motion carries. Mr. Lark passed out the finding from GPI concerning Kiwanis Park. Mayor Stacey Curry gave an update of a conversation she had with Mr. Dale Perry. He suggests our Solicitor contacts Shenango TWP Solicitor concerning the Park.

**Chestnut Street and Erie Street Sewer Updates:** Previously discussed earlier in the Streets Department Report

**Signs in the Borough Needing Replaced:** A list of signs that need replaced was presented from Streets Department Senior Laborer Mr. Bobby Cochran. Mr. Novak discussed the cost of the signs. Sign cost range between \$14-\$20 per sign. Total estimated cost around \$600. Mr. Novak made a motion to get all of the signs listed plus two extras of each, not to exceed \$1000.

The motion did not get a second. Mr. Webster also suggest we do not buy two extras for each. Mr. Webster made a new motion to purchase the signs plus two additional of each type not to exceed \$1000, Seconded my Mr. Lark, All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

**Bucket Truck & Replacement of Flag and Poles:** 10 Flags, 8-10 Poles and Brackets are needed. A motion was made my Mr. Rankin, seconded by Mr. Novak, to purchase the needed flags and poles and to rent the Bucket truck to install and remove the Christmas Decorations. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**Parking Ordinance & Fines:** Previously discussed earlier in the Streets Department Report

**Yellow Curb No Parking decision:** Previously discussed earlier in the Streets Department Report. Mr. Novak added this topic is done because the Borough will be putting up signs. The curbs will however be repainted as always done each year.

**Memorial Day Parade:** Mr. Lark gave an update on the Memorial Day Parade. The Permit will be requested my Secretary Paula Luca. Memorial Day is Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The park will need to be cleaned up before the Parade.

**Preliminary report from GPI:** Mr. Lark gave a hand out that summarized the Storm Sewer Issues, The Kiwanis Park Issues, and the Paving of the Road Projects. He updated Council on the above issues in connection with the GPI Report. Mr. Novak asked concerning the storm sewers and he updated the issues at O'Neill Coffee: They have not had any additional issues since the lines were jetted out. Mr. Lark added, GPI reminded us, to be careful what is being done, there are other agencies involved, that will need to be contacted. Mr. Novak also updated Council that the streets dept dug out the wet area behind Sweesy field, and all seems to be running smother.

**Sewer Authority Meeting:** Mr. Lark passed out the information received from GPI concerning the issues at WM Estates. Mr. Lark updated Council on the cost to date this year of how much we have paid GPI, and what amount we have budgeted. We need to be aware.

**Flooding on Sharon Rd:** There was flooding, and Mr. Lark wrote a letter concerning the upcoming milling and paving project upcoming this summer, and the concern with the flooding.

**Shenango Valley Animal Shelter:** Mr. Rankin updated council of the upcoming Fundraiser Craft Show Sunday April 21. Also, a golf outing in the future. Mayor Stacey asked if the Borough would like to donate a basket for the fund raiser. Mr. Novak made a motion that a basket be made for the Animal Shelter not to exceed \$50. Seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in favor, no opposed, motion carries.

**VFD: Purchase of Trailer for UTV:** The purchase of the trailer was discussed. Mr. Lark made a motion to issue a check for the purchase of the trailer in the amount of \$7500.00 seconded my Mr. Webster, All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**SLFRF Report:** Mr. Webster updated the Council that the report for the American Rescue Money, now known as SLFRF will be due to be submitted by the end of April. This report will state the monies that have been used to date, and the remaining amount on how it will be used. The money has to be used by 2026, but the money has to be allotted on how it will be used in 2024. It was discussed that the remaining money will be used towards Storm Sewer projects.

**Other Business:** Mr. Lark passed out LSWM Pool information Income and Expenses. The reports were obtained from COG. Also, the income and expense on the Bucket Truck.

Mayor Stacey updated Council on the grant money for the LSWM Pool. The money will be issued to the Borough of West Middlesex because the Borough is the deed holder, then the money will be forwarded to the Pool Committee.

**Fire Department Report:** The Fire Report was Read by Chief Garrett. The VFD was called out earlier on a call so the Report was moved to the end of the agenda. Chief Garrett updated all that the Dinner Dance was cancelled due to lack of sales. They were notified from the State that they are no longer allowed to do the online FB raffles due to the fact the money collected was done through Square Payment using Credit Cards. It has to be cash or checks, no credit cards. The raffles were one of the biggest fundraisers for the VFD, so this is a disappointment.

The Council went into an Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. after the conclusion of the Executive Session.