

**West Middlesex Borough  
Council Meeting  
August 20, 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, Police Chief Jason Newton, Mr. Harry Kornbau, Mr. Brett Smith, Mr. Bobby Cochran, Mr. James Guttman

**Public Comments:** Mr. Brett Smith spoke to Council concerning an abandoned car at 18 North Street. No inspection, and no plates. It is a black ford truck. Mr. Smith said it has been there for 5 years. Mr. Webster said that we can contact Mr. Richardson, or have the Police Force look into it. Chief Newton added that he will look into the truck situation, and the Police Dept will handle it. Mr. Smith also is concerned with trees that were cut down, and left in the alley way. Also poop from Dog left on sidewalks. Mr. Kornbau added that the shrubs in front of Verizon needs to be cut. A letter has been sent to them.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by Mr. Lark, and seconded by Mr. Bollinger to accept the Minutes from the July 10, 2024 work session Meeting and July 16, 2024 Council Meeting. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. Mr. Webster abstained from voting because he was not present for the March Meetings.

**Police Department Report:** Chief Newton read the July Police Report. Chief Newton also updated Council on the Bridge Replacement Project. Estimated date of completion is Mid-October. Council thanked Chief Newton for the update.

**Fire Department Report:** Chief Garret was unable to be at the meeting. The report was emailed to the office and read by Mr. Webster.

**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. A list of current bills to be approved was presented to Council. Mr. Lark made a motion to accept the Treasurers Report, Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in favor, no opposed, Motion Carries.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Webster updated all present that The Council will go into an Executive Session for Personnel Reasons.

The Council Meeting Continued after the Council returned from the Executive Session.

**Personnel:**

- **New Senior Laborer Position.** Mr. Webster updated all on how many candidates were interviewed. Mr. Lark Made a Motion that the Borough of West Middlesex hire Mr. William Schwartz based on the Union Contract between the Borough of West Middlesex and the Teamsters. Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. No Questions. Roll Call Vote:  
Mr. Webster YES  
Mr. Lark: YES  
Mr. Rankin: YES  
Mr. Bollinger: YES  
Mr. Novak abstained from the vote because he did not participate in the interview process.
- **Retirement Benefits for Past Senior Laborer.** Mr. Novak made a motion to sign the authorization form once we are notified by PMRS that everything is in order, Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

**North Street Pump Station:**

- **Refurbished Pump:** Mr. Webster updated all on the Pump and Motor situation at the North Street Pump Station. It is currently running on One Pump and One Motor. Normally it would run on two Motors and two pumps. The second Pump has been refurbished by Daman Industries, and is ready to be delivered. It was decided when contacted by Daman that the pump was refurbished and ready to be delivered, since all is running well, it would be cost efficient, not be delivered until the back-up pump is refurbished. The quote for the back up pump is \$6,373.00. A motion was made by Mr. Novak and Seconded by Mr. Rankin to have the back up pump refurbished by Daman. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. Daman will be notified, and once completed, both pumps will be scheduled to be delivered and installed.
- **New Motor:** A quote was received from A. Servedio Electric Motors Inc in the amount of \$2,031.50 for a New Motor to be used as a back up Motor. A Motion was made by Mr. Novak to purchase the New Motor, and seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries. The new motor will be ordered and should be available to be picked up mid-November.
- **Professional Cleaning of North Street Pump Station:** A decision to possibly locate a company that does professional cleaning of Pump Stations to have the North Street Station Cleaned. Mr. Lark made a Motion that once we are able to locate a company that provides this service, to have the work completed but not to exceed \$3000. Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**WM Estates:**

- **Pre-Fab Wet Well:** Mr. Webster updated all on the situation at the WM Estates and the sewer pump station. A pre-fab pump station will be less expensive than doing a whole new pump station. Mr. Lark did not have any additional information from GPI. Mr. Bollinger said that he will get additional information online from Companies who offer this type of service.

- **Legal Agreement Between the WM Borough and the Owners of the WM Estates:** Before investing the money in a new Wet Well, an agreement needs to be in place that if an issue happens with the sewer system at WM estates caused by more than regular use, there will be a charge to West Middlesex Estates. An agreement needs to be in place.

**Street Repair Project:** Mr. Webster updated all that PennDOT will provide a bid package free of charge for Street Project. PennDOT was notified and a meeting was held because if Liquid Fuel Money is used, we do need the approval from PennDOT first. A meeting was held with Mr. Josh Montgomery from PennDOT. He reviewed all the streets needed for repair and he sent the Borough Office a Cost Break Down. Mr. Webster reviewed the report of all Streets and Cost. October 15 is the last day for Street Repair of this year. The biggest concern is Penn Ave. Also mentioned by Mr. Lark, there is a storm sewer issue at the bottom of Penn Ave. He reminded all that we still have American Rescue money remaining that can be used towards the storm sewer issue. Mr. Lark made a Motion to contact Mr. Montgomery to put together a bid package for Penn Ave. Seconded by Mr. Novak. All in Favor, No Opposed, Motion Carries.

**Donation from Barb Lipinski of the Library to be installed at the Gazabo:** Mr. Webster Made a Motion to accept the Donation, Seconded by Mr. Rankin. All in Favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**Mr. Guttman Business Plan for Charging Station:** Mr. Webster moved up this topic on the agenda because Mr. Guttman is present. Mr. Guttman updated all on the Electric Charging Station and Grant Request he is interested in. The application for the grant would be completed by the Borough. The grant would provide 80% of the funding, Mr. Guttman would invest the remaining money needed for the project. His plan would be to put in 4 stations that would provide 8 charging ports. The deadline to apply is August 28<sup>th</sup> at midnight. In the past, there were no recipients for this grant. This is the second round of funding. He is not able to apply for the grant on his own, as it has to be applied through a Municipal Government. It would be located at the location of his old gas station. There are questions concerning the original station. If it would remain. Mayor Stacey asked if he is planning on also adding a convenient store? He will have to bring the land in compliance, from the last station that was located there years ago. Mr. Guttman added that the station will be unmanned. Mr. Webster also suggested that the Borough needs a convenient store. He asked is there any vision to add that to the plan. Mr. Guttman added there is plenty of room in the future for additional business. Mayor Stacey gave information of the gentleman who stopped into the office and is interested in opening a convenient store in the Borough. Mr. Webster also spoke with Mr. Guttman concerning the issue of the Solar Plan that Mr. Perry presented to the Council. Mr. Guttman did say, he has discussed that with Mr. Perry. Mr. Webster feels that is something the residents would not be interested in. It is a concern due to the fact that the Borough would be the one applying for the Grant. The Borough will have the Solicitor review the agreement that was presented by Mr. Guttman. A Motion was made by Mr. Novak upon approval of Attorney Tesone concerning the agreement, the Borough will apply for the grant. Seconded by Mr. Bollinger. All in favor, No Opposed. Motion Carries.

**Questions for Attorney Tesone concerning Sharp Collections:** Secretary Paula Luca updated all that we do have an agreement with Sharp Collections dated back to the 1990's. Attorney Tesone questions what do they do? He feels the agreement needs to be cancelled. Attorney Tesone will review the agreement and see what needs to be done to end the agreement.

**Potential Loan for Capital Improvement:** Attorney Tesone updated Council on the process that needs to be followed before applying to borrow money. There is also paperwork that needs to be completed, with help from the accountants. Attorney Tesone can email us the needed paperwork. He made a suggestion of no more than \$125,000 or not to borrow more than 30% of the average of the last 3 years of revenues.

Mayor Stacey Curry updated all on the Pool and an update on the Gas Line being installed and the Heater.

A motion was made by Mr. Novak and seconded by Mr. Rankin for adjournment. All in favor No Opposed. Motion Carries.

Adjournment: 8:45 pm.